

The Bell-Ringer

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, MA 02331

 **NOVEMBER 2016** 

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

This Month's All-Church Theme is "Story"

Nov. 6 -- "Rediscovering Our Hopes and Dreams" -- What were the hopes and dreams that brought you to this church? What are the hopes and dreams that will carry us into the future? Come and explore these questions with Catherine and Ruth as we tell one another our stories of hope and renewal.

Nov. 13 -- "The Past in the Present: Learnings from Our Story" Thanks to FPC's Historical Committee, Patrick Browne, former executive director of both the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society and Pilgrim Hall Museum, will once again join Catherine to unpack a special piece of our history. Patrick Browne is a speaker/preacher who is not to be missed!

Nov. 20 -- "A Grateful Heart: The Pilgrim Story and the American Experience". As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, let's consider how this holiday is at the center of our experience in our American religious and social lives.

Nov. 27 -- "Science, Technology and Faith...Essential Elements in Fighting the Addiction Epidemic" -- In the face of the devastation wrought by the scourge of addiction in our communities hope still exists for the resurrection of lives, futures and families...How we can make this possible? Is faith necessary? **(Mark Dunay is in the pulpit)**

COMING EVENTS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1

RE Meeting 7:00pm
Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2

Building & Grounds 9:00-11:00am

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3

Book Club 9:00am
Alliance Sewing Grp. 10:00-2:00pm
Worship 7:00pm

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4

Yoga 10:30 – 11:45a.m.
Committee on Ministry 5:00pm
COFFEEHOUSE 8:00p.m.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5

DIC – First Parish Church 9:00am
Child Dedication 11:00a.m.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Sabbatical Committee – 9:30a.m.
HIP 6:00-7:30pm

Buddhist Group 4:00-6:30pm

MONDAY NOVEMBER 7

Book Club 3:00 – 4:00p.m.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8

ELECTION DAY!

Memoirs 7:15 pm
Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9

VETERAN'S DAY

Kindred Spirits 9:30 -11:30am
Alliance Potluck – 6:00p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...

"I respect and value the ideals of rugged individualism and self-reliance. But rugged individualism didn't defeat the British, it didn't get us to the moon, build our nation's highways or map the human genome. We did that together...This is the high call of patriotism. Patriotism is love of country. But you can't love your country without loving your countrymen and countrywomen. We don't always have to agree, but we must empower each other, we must find the common ground, we must build bridges across our differences to pursue the common good.....Love recognizes that we need each other, that we as a nation are better together, that when we are divided we are weak, we decline, yet when we are united we are strong.We are not a zero-sum nation, it is not you or me, it is not one American against another American.. It is you and I, together, interdependent, interconnected with one single interwoven destiny."—

Senator Cory Booker

Each year on the anniversary of my late husband's death (February 28th), I try to do something special--something that renews my faith and hope. Last February, as I was trying to decide what "special" thing I would do, an invitation popped into my inbox. The Edward Kennedy Institute was hosting a talk by Senator Cory Booker---and I was invited to attend (must have made a contribution to the Institute at one time!)

(Continued on page 2)

First Parish Church

Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts

P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331

842 Tremont St. (Route 3A)

Email: uuduxbury@verizon.net

Telephone: 781-934-6532

Website: www.duxburyuu.org



A liberal religious community dedicated to nurturing individual spiritual development, promoting understanding and working for social justice.

We welcome people of all races, backgrounds and sexual orientations.

Rev. Catherine Cullen, Minister

Ruth Owen, Interim Director of Religious Education

Edwin Swanborn, Music Director

Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director

Alex Pevzner, Jr., Junior Choir Director

Rev. Robert R. Walsh, Minister Emeritus

Jackie Smith-Miller, Director of Religious Education, Emerita

Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education, Emerita

Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator

Minister's Message continued from page 1 . . .

Senator Booker was planning to speak about his new book, "*United: Thoughts on Finding Common Ground and Advancing the Common Good*." I knew the book drew on the Senator's personal experience to issue a stirring call to reorient our nation and our politics around the principles of compassion and solidarity. He writes about rising above despair to engage with hope, pursuing our shared mission, and embracing our common destiny.

What a perfect way for me to spend the afternoon on that anniversary!

As luck would have it, I had a single seat in the front row of the balcony. The woman who sat next to me and I got talking--it seemed she and Cory had attended high school together. I learned how Booker's family had moved into the New Jersey all-white suburb only after an all-white couple, friends of his parents, "represented themselves" as the Bookers and negotiated the purchase. Cory was the only black kid in his high school--but, born a "bridge-builder," he ended up class president. He subsequently attended Stanford University on a football scholarship, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and studied at Yale Law School. Graduating from Yale, his options were limitless: He chose public service.

He moved to a rough neighborhood in Newark, New Jersey, worked as a tenants' rights lawyer before winning a seat on the City Council. He was elected mayor in 2006. In 2013, Booker became the first African American elected to represent New Jersey in the U.S. Senate.

In the wake of the most contentious presidential election in our nation's history, I find Cory Booker's vision of "unity" inspiring--*people like Cory Booker give me great hope!*

My spiritual friends, the Fifth Principle of our Unitarian Universalist tradition affirms and promotes "*the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large*." In writing about our Fifth Principle, my colleague Parisa Parsa says: *In our religious lives, the democratic process requires trust in the development of each individual conscience—a belief that such development is possible for each of us, as well as a commitment to cultivate our own conscience. We could call it a commitment to the value of each person. In the words of Theodore Parker, 'Democracy means not "I am as good as you are," but "You are as good as I am."* My connection with the sacred is only as precious as my willingness to acknowledge the same connection in others.

After the chaos and contention of this election season, I am left with only two things I know for sure: I still believe deeply in our democratic process--like every other human institution, our democracy is NOT perfect, but it is "good." And I also know that Cory Booker is right when he says, "*Love recognizes that we need each other, that we as a nation are better together, that when we are divided we are weak, we decline, yet when we are united we are strong.*"

These days I am dreaming about the end of this bad election season--and how it might beget a new beginning for our country, a new "unity" anchored by the spirit of LOVE that Booker describes. (*I'm also doing a little shopping for ball gowns, since there's an outside chance I might get to attend one of the Inaugural Balls--a girl can dream, can't she!*) And whatever happens on November 8th, on November 9th I intend to do all that I can to rebuild bridges, because, my fellow Americans, I believe with every cell in body, mind and spirit, **WE ARE ONE ANOTHER'S LAST BEST HOPE--and TOGETHER we are the hope of the world.**

May it be so.....

Catherine 



DUXBURY INTERFAITH COUNCIL
THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thursday, November 24th
7:30 a.m.
Bumpus Park



Our Theme for November is “Story”

The church has a different theme each month. We build worship, children’s RE and other activities around this theme. I really like the feeling that we are all on the same page, upstairs and down, young and not so young. Our themes come from a new UU service called “Soul Matters.” Many UU churches have adopted the theme-based approach.

When I saw that November’s theme was to be “Story” I was so pleased. I love to tell stories. I think it is so much easier to remember a story that teaches a lesson, than a lesson that teaches a lesson. But I also love to listen to stories. It is by listening to others’ stories that strangers become not-so-strange. It seems especially important in these highly partisan and polarized times to take the time to listen to the stories others tell. It can be hard to really hear the story of someone who is different or doesn’t agree with you. But it is the only way we can ever heal this country or come together. I am taking it as a personal exercise in spiritual growth to seek out and really listen to the stories the people I disagree with tell. If you decide to try this exercise too, perhaps we can talk about it.

Ruth Owen

Interim Director of Religious Education

Activities

Come and Enjoy Some “Spooktacular” Halloween Fun Sunday, October 30, 4-6 PM

Join us for pumpkin carving and painting (free pumpkin for each child), “tricks for treats,” Halloween crafts, a scary-but-in-a-fun-way Haunted House, a bake sale (sponsored by HIP) and, at 5 PM, the traditional Ceilidh featuring singing and story-telling. The event is free. Bring a friend and wear your costume.

Holiday Feast & Guest At Your Table Kick-Off Sunday, Nov. 20, after church

The R.E. kids will be offering the Holiday Feast to all at coffee hour after the service on Nov. 20. Come enjoy home-made cornbread, soup and fresh churned butter in the Hall. We will also be hosting the kick-off of the popular Guest At Your Table program benefitting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Come support the kids, learn about UUSC and pick up your Guest At Your Table box for the holidays.

Kindness Paper Chains for Advent
Sunday, Nov. 27
All children welcome!

On the Sunday after Thanksgiving the kids will be making special Kindness Paper Chains for Advent. These are lovely decorative paper chains that function as an Advent calendar. Each day, from Dec. 1 until Christmas, you remove a link and perform the act of kindness written on the inside. It is a way to spread holiday love and joy. We welcome any children or grandchildren you may have visiting over the Thanksgiving weekend.

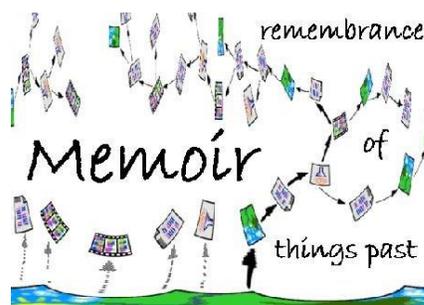
Adult R.E./Programs Survey

Please fill out the Adult RE/Programs survey. There is a link to the electronic survey in your weekly email newsletter. We also have paper copies if you'd prefer. Please return paper surveys to the church office. Nov. 1 is the last day to fill out the survey. We really need to hear from everyone as we re-think and re-imagine our programming for adults. Thank you!



Coffeehouse

November 4th at 8:00pm
 Catie Flynn



Memoirs: Writing your Life Story

The next meeting of the Memoirs group will be again on **Tuesday, November 8th at 7:15 p.m.** in the Marion Fletcher Room. **The topic will be "High School Memories"**. Hope you'll join us – all are welcome! *Leader: Jackie Smith-Miller.*



Ring Out Justice!
News of Social Justice Activities at First Parish Church

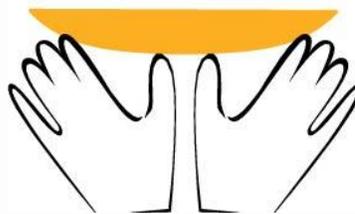
Social Justice Committee Members:

Carrie Meier, Carol Nappellio, Peter Nappellio, Callie Brandeis, Andrea Brandeis, Mary Flanagan, Donna Savicki, Cindy Wilson, Bob Hughes, Nancy Nowak, Sally Delisa

Meeting: second Sundays 12 noon to 1 PM

Please Join Us! All Welcome!

Share the Plate



Share the Plate Ministry is off to a Great Start!

Once each month First Parish gives our Sunday morning collection to a member-nominated non-profit whose mission and values align with those of our church. In October \$1192.25 was collected for **Doctors Without Borders**. Going forward, look for Share the Plate offerings to occur on second Sundays. In November our recipient organization will be **Sandy Hook Promise**, which works to prevent gun-related deaths due to crime, suicide and accidental discharge.



Nature Walk to "1623 Trail"

Join us for a one hour nature walk on the conservation trails behind First Parish Church on November 13. We will explore a section of the "1623 Trail" and discuss a little of the related history. Meet at 12:00 by the large shed. We will stay on the trails, but it is recommended that tick habitat precautions be followed. Please stop at the Social Justice Table following the service on November 6 for more information.



2016–17 UUSC Guest At Your Table focuses on DEFYING HATE

It's almost THANKSGIVING! A time to express our gratitude for life and our many blessings; a time to give to others, who, far or near, are oppressed, unwelcome or marginalized. This November the Social Justice Committee will conduct its annual Guest At Your Table program with the theme: Defying Hate—Offering Hope and Justice through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, our UU mission organization.

Beginning at our Intergenerational Harvest Festival meal after Church on Nov 20 (Plan to Attend!), you'll receive a GAYT Box to share your gifts at meal times in support of UUSC and its Partners. You and your family can ponder the Stories of Hope that defy hate and advance human rights. Then you can place UUSC envelopes with your contribution in our FPC Sunday offering plate. The Dec 11 Children's Pageant will be our last GAYT Sunday.

UUSC builds Justice through social change for marginalized and oppressed people in the United States and abroad. This year's Stories of Hope (which will be located in the pews) highlight the work of UUSC through its Partners in Africa (LGBTQ), Haitian los afectados, and with refugees and asylum seekers.

Your donation of \$40 or more offers you and your family annual UUSC membership benefits. In addition, all individual and family unrestricted contributions of \$125 or more will be matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in NY. Please give generously!

Become an SJ Advocate for UU Values

Would you like to help with SJC Advocacy bringing greater systemic justice to MA? Please contact SJC co-chairs: Carrie Meier, Carol Nappellio or a SJC member.

UU Mass Action: Learn more about our shared work through our weekly newsletter, <http://www.uumassaction.org/2016-2017-newsletters/>.

UUSC: Visit uuscs.org/action for Action Alerts you can easily respond to online.

Letter from Bob Hughes
Father Bill's and The Table

To my friends at FPC:

Once again, the fall harvest and our ways of showing good fellowship and thanks are upon us.

With the holidays around the corner, we at Father Bill's and The Table have put together a wish list consisting of the following needs:

1. Non-Perishable items such as Stuffing, canned vegetables and fruits, boxed cereals, tea bags, ground coffee, cranberry sauce, salt and pepper and sugar.
2. Supplies such as sponges, scouring pads, paper towels, plastic wrap, aluminum foils and pans (rectangular 12 x 18 x 3" deep).

I will supply a large box or two from 07 November through the 21st of November for any donations.

I would like to thank everyone for their generous support over the years helping us meet our goals in this community effort to help those in need of food and shelter.

Nobody should be homeless. Nobody should be hungry.

Many thanks to this caring congregation for the support you've given us.

Bob Hughes



Continued Calendar from pg 1:**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10**

Book Club 9:00am

Alliance Sewing Grp. 10:00-2:00pm

HIP Overnight – Cedar Hill**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11**

Yoga 10:30 – 11:45a.m.

Owl Overnight – Cedar Hill**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13**

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Social Justice Meeting 9:15a.m.

Share The Plate**Intro to UU****No Hip****Buddhist 5:00 – 6:30p.m.****MONDAY NOVEMBER 14**

Agenda Setting 7:00p.m.

Book Club 3:00 – 4:00p.m.

Welcome Congregation 7:00p.m.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15

Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17

Book Club 9:00am

Historical Committee 9:00am

Alliance Sewing Grp. 10:00-2:00pm

Governing Board Mtg. 7:00pm

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18

Yoga 10:30 – 11:45a.m.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20**HOLIDAY FEAST****BOX PROJECT DUE DATE**

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30pm

HIP 6:00-7:30pm

MONDAY NOVEMBER 21

Book Club 3:00 – 4:00p.m.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 22

Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23**OFFICE CLOSSES 12:00pm****THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24****OFFICE CLOSED****THANKSGIVING DAY****Bumpus Park Service 7:30am****FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25****OFFICE CLOSED****SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26**

Community Table 9:00am

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30pm

HIP 6:00-7:30pm

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28**BELL RINGER DUE DATE**

Building Use Meeting

Book Club 3:00 – 4:00p.m.

PFLAG 7:30 – 9:00p.m.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29

Bell Choir 7:00 – 8:30p.m.

**CARING CONNECTION:**

There are many caring members of our church community who are willing to lend a hand to those having a difficult time! The Caring Connection can coordinate meals, transportation, babysitting or visits to shut-ins. For the month of **NOVEMBER**, the contact is, **KIM WYMAN**, 781-834-4728, kwyman44@verizon.net.

**Minister's Office Hours:**

Catherine's regular office hours are **Mon., Wed., and Thur.** from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Tuesdays are her days off and Friday's are her sermon writing days. She may be contacted by cell at (781) 635-5906. If you need to schedule an appointment during office hours or any time after office hours, please feel free to contact Catherine at TheRevCatherine@aol.com, at her cell number, or by leaving a message at the church.

Church Office Hours

The FPC church office is open **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Tuesdays 8:30-11:30am.** Please call Lenore, **781-934-6532** or email at uuduxbury@verizon.net if you need anything.



ON-GOING CHURCH MEETINGS

SUNDAYS - Family/Child Sunday (1st Sun. each month)
 Joys & Concerns (2nd Sun. each month)
 Announcement Sunday (1st & 3rd Sun. each month)
 Silent Joys & Concerns (4th Sun. each month)
 Membership 9:00am (3rd Sun. each month)
 Music Committee (1st Sun. each month) 12 p.m.
 Social Justice 9 a.m. (2nd Sun. each month)
 Buddhist Meditation 5-6:30p.m. (weekly)

MONDAYS – Building Use 10 a.m. (4th Mon. each month)
 Finance Committee 7 p.m. (2nd Mon. each month)
 Welcoming Congregation 7:00pm (2nd Monday of each month)
 PFLAG – 7:30-9:00pm (4th Monday of each month)

TUESDAYS - Hand Bells 7 p.m.
 Memoirs 7:15p.m. (2nd Tues. each month)
 Communications 7:00pm (2nd Tuesday of every month)

WEDNESDAYS – RE Committee 7 p.m. (1st Wed. of each month)
 Staff meeting 11:30 a.m. (weekly)
 Buildings & Grounds 9-11 a.m. (1st Wed. each month)
 “Kindred Spirits” 10:00 -11:30 a.m. (2nd Wed. each month)

THURSDAYS - Book Group 9 a.m.
 Sewing Group 10 a.m.
 Worship Committee 7:00 p.m. (1st Thurs. each month)
 Agenda Setting 7-8 p.m. (2nd Thurs. each month)
 Governing Board 7 p.m. (3rd Thurs. each month)
 Historical Committee 9:30a.m. (3rd Thurs. of each month)

FRIDAYS - Committee On Ministry 5 p.m. (1st Fri. each month)

SATURDAYS – Community Table 9:15 a.m. (4th Sat. each month)

**Are You New to First Parish?**

You are invited to come to an Introduction to UU presentation led by our minister, Catherine Cullen, on Sunday November 13, after the church service at 12 noon. It is an overview offered to newcomers as part of their exploratory process and will provide an opportunity to share in a dialog with our minister and to get to know others new to the First Parish

Community. Please contact Jean Baker jdaybaker@verizon.net to reserve a place.

A light lunch will be served. Childcare is available.

Next Bell-Ringer Deadline:
Tuesday, November 24th, 9:00 a.m.





Troubadours Concert Dec. 10 will Raise Funds for the Church

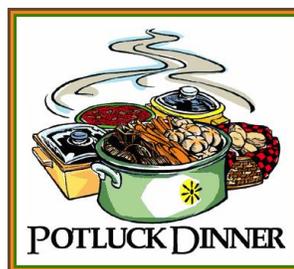
A concert of Renaissance and Medieval music and verse will be presented in our sanctuary at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, by the early music trio We Minstrels 3. The concert is a fund-raiser for the church, and all proceeds will go to this year's church budget.

We Minstrels 3 are guitarist Eric Johnson, woodwind player Ed Merck and spoken word performer Niki Patton. They specialize in the music and poetry of the troubadours, minstrels and courtly entertainers who roamed Europe and England from the 12th through the 17th centuries.

The intimate, candlelight concert will recreate the informal spirit of the troubadours, with songs on themes of love, war and peace. Among the composers represented will be the medieval master Bernard de Ventadour and the Elizabethan poet and composer Thomas Campion. There will also be a set of pieces by J.S. Bach.

Ed Merck, who plays recorders, has been an early music performer for the past 50 years, as well as having been chief financial officer at several universities and colleges. Guitarist Eric Johnson trained as both a classical and jazz guitarist. He was an assistant professor at Berklee College of Music for eight years and has recorded numerous jazz albums. Niki Patton has been an actress and spoken word performer for two decades.

Tickets are \$20 per person, plus bring a friend for an additional \$10. Tickets for teens and students are \$10, and children under 12 are free. For FPC families, admission will \$30 for the entire family. Tickets will be available in advance during coffee hours and online at Eventbrite.com. A reception with the musicians will follow the concert. Please plan to attend this unusual holiday-season event. You'll enjoy some little-known music by outstanding performers and will help us balance the church's budget at the same time.



Evening Alliance Program

Wednesday, November 9th

6:00pm - POTLUCK Supper

7:15pm - Program

Speaker: Judge Rosemary Minehan

Retired Judge of the Mass. Trial Court, Rosemary Minehan, will give a brief talk about behavioral health issues in the court system.



Cell Tower Social Justice Grant Applications

The fall deadline for grants is Nov. 1st. Applications are available at the office and on the Website. We accept applications from friends and members of SJC for the purpose of promoting social justice at the local, national, and international levels. Grants should not be for the purpose of present FPC programs.

Carrie Meier, facilitator of the CTF Social Justice Grant Committee



Saturday, November 26th - Father Bill's Community Table

Please consider signing up to serve with your family, friends or small group for **Saturday, November 26th** (the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend).

We are in need of the following:

Five Servers

Eight Casseroles (pan and recipe available @ the Social Justice table @ coffee hour) Four Salad

Fixings Four Desserts

Please stop by the Social Justice table at coffee hour or email Callie Brandeis @ calbrandeis@gmail.com to sign up.

Thank you.

Callie Brandeis, Youth Leader for Father Bill's Community Table and Social Justice Committee Member

Gentle Yoga

Free Yoga Class at FPC!
Friday Nov. 18th, 10:30 – 11:45

TRY YOGA FOR WITH THIS FREE CLASS!

Come and explore how this ‘Nurturing Yoga’ will offer an opportunity for renewal, basic poses and exercises to open the body and release stress. Breathing and meditation are also part of this 1 1/4 hour class. Come to our Nov. 18th class. It is FREE!



John Murphy Available to Perform

John Murphy is available to perform at parties and other events. An accomplished guitarist and singer with FPC references, John plays professionally at local venues and will develop a playlist tailored to your event. Rate is \$200 for 3 hours. Call or text at 781-561-5013

