

THE WAYLAND UNITARIAN

MARCH 2022

Reflections from Rev. Stephanie Finding Our Old Selves Again



Later this month, I will be away for two weeks. One week has long been planned, but I recently added the second week. In conversation with the Ministerial Relations Committee and then the Parish Committee, I expressed a need for a longer period of renewal — a mini-sabbatical to help ground and sustain my ministry in the coming months. Although I could have “hung on” and “powered through,” I realized two things that changed my mind.

First, I realized that I wanted to do better than just hang on and ‘survive.’ For two years, since the first shutdown in March 2020, helping First Parish survive this crisis has been a primary driver of my energies. While meaningful to do, it has not been easy. Then, a couple of weeks ago, I noticed myself happily humming a hymn. Fun fact: I mindlessly hum hymns when I’m happy! Realizing I was humming hymns again brought me to tears. I could not recall when I had last hummed a hymn, when I had last felt that deeply, unselfconsciously happy. After two hard years, I felt like I was encountering an old friend and, well, I would like to become more acquainted with that person again. That moment of calm happy has left me hopeful for a return to a way of being that is not driven merely by the fears about survival. My hope for my time away is to intentionally grieve the difficulty of these two years and to let go of that drive to ‘survive’ as I make my way back to a wider embrace of life.



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From the Parish Committee Return to the Sanctuary, Visioning and More

Perhaps the most exciting news from our Parish Committee meeting this month is the recommendation of the Covid Task Force that we relax our protocols to a level consistent with the downgraded Covid risk. This change allowed us to return to in-person services and limited use of the buildings beginning mid-February. Online services will continue, SEEK classes will return to the Vestry, and small groups may meet. By the time this article is published, many of you may have returned to the Sanctuary for a service and enjoyed our beautiful space.

Final assignments were made to help facilitate the Visioning focus

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This Issue

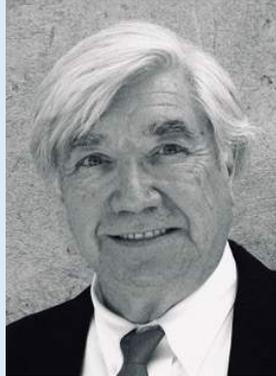
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FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Guest Minister March 27 Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs

The Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs is a Unitarian Universalist minister who served congregations in Indiana, Quebec, Massachusetts, Texas, Florida and California. He is a practicing Spiritual Director. He participated in Rev. Stephanie's installation service here at First Parish in 2014. Clyde honors his family's Texas Cherokee traditions, which inform his spiritual understanding, and practice, and his anti-racist understanding.



Lay Minister of the Month

February's Lay Minister is Helen Green. Please contact Helen if you need a ride, a meal, a friendly, confidential visit or chat. We don't publish parishioner contact information in the Unitarian. Contact [the office](#) if you'd like to reach the Lay Minister, or if you need the password to the Parish Directory. The link to the Directory is available on our website [home page](#).

A Month of Sundays

The morning worship service begins at 10 a.m.

March 6

In Memory of Her

Rev. Dr. Stephanie May
SEEK Class, Youth Group

March 13

Faith in Numbers

Rev. Dr. Stephanie May
SEEK Class, Youth Group

March 20

You Are Enough

Alyssa Lee
SEEK Class, Youth Group

March 27

Indigenous Wisdom

Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs
SEEK Class, Youth Group

March's Worship Theme

Renewing Faith

How to Attend Sunday Services

You may attend Sunday services in person, via Zoom, or by watching on Facebook Live. Currently, in-person attendance is limited and requires social distancing, masks, and signing an attendance sheet. An overflow room will be available if we exceed capacity in the Sanctuary. Zoom links are in the Thursday and Sunday morning eblasts. Or find us on Facebook at First Parish in Wayland either live at 10am or watch the posted video later.

Some weekday events are also available via Zoom. If you are not on our eblast mailing list, call the First Parish office at 508-358-6133 or [email us](#).

Stewardship

A New Horizon

Welcome to Stewardship season! This year's campaign kicks off on March 13 with the theme of *A New Horizon*. We look towards the horizon, ever hopeful, yet not sure what it will bring. It is full of possibilities: cloudy skies; crystal clear sunshine; gentle rain. It's impossible to know, yet we have faith that whatever it gives us, we can and will manage, and even thrive. It's remarkable that it has now been two full years since life as we knew it changed due to Covid. Two full years since the Parish Committee made the difficult but necessary decision to hold remote services. And so much has happened since.



We've all benefited from the perseverance of the First Parish staff and volunteers to get us on line for remote services as we embraced technologies we never knew we'd need. We now know that in many ways this has been a gift. Zooming has allowed us to continue to worship together, has allowed those near and far who might not otherwise have been able to attend, to stay connected and supported by our intrepid First Parish community. It is likely that an on-line option for worship will be available to us for many years to come, and for that we are grateful.

We have chosen to use this time to look at our own congregational horizon, with the visioning exercises that we have undertaken over the last months. We look toward our future with strength and certainty that ours is a beloved community that we'd like to make even stronger, more welcoming, and ever-lasting.

This will take all of us and we thank you in advance for your generous pledges to this Stewardship campaign. We all depend on one another's time, talent and treasure to make this spiritual community what it is and will be. As we move toward a new horizon, we are all asked to consider as generous a commitment as we are able to make in order to plan for our upcoming year from a place of abundance. In mid-March, you will be asked by phone and/or by mail to make a financial commitment to this community that gives us so much. And we ask you, humbly and with gratitude, to respond quickly and generously to ensure a future of which we can all be proud—indeed, a new horizon.

Annie Stubbs, Stewardship Chair

Mid-Week Check-In Concludes March 9

In March 2020, we instituted a MidWeek Check-in for folks to connect with one another between Sundays. Amidst the turmoil of the emerging pandemic and the toll of isolation from social distancing, these weekly gatherings have been a lifeline for some. Now as more people are seeking time away from computers and/or home, the need for the Mid-Week Check-In has waned. Our last gathering will be Wednesday, March 9, 4:30 p.m. Thank you to everyone who has participated, helped to host, and been a part of these sustaining gatherings. The staff are busy planning for new ways to get together in similar, casual ways. Stay tuned for more information soon!



Rev. Stephanie

Visioning Report: February Focus Groups

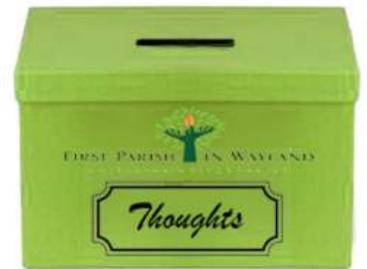
In December, an online survey took stock of the congregation's well-being, our level of engagement, and commitment to the future. 114 of you responded, making clear that you are invested in the future of First Parish and look forward to creating a congregation that is strong, relevant, welcoming, and driven by our principles and shared values. ([Click here](#) to revisit the full survey report.)

On February 13, more than 60 people joined via Zoom for follow-up Visioning Focus Groups. We broke into small groups to dig deeper into what connects us to First Parish, then brainstormed ways to strengthen our connections, deepen our spirituality, live our values, and reach out to the larger community. We gathered more than 85 suggestions ranging from grand and ambitious to small and easily implemented. Here are a few:

- Open the curriculum, *Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education*, to the community
- Support area minority-owned businesses
- Incorporate elements of other religions into Sunday service more often
- Make our building more of a focal point in town, e.g., annual May Day celebration
- Offer regular social activities for younger parishioners (30 to 60-somethings)

Next up on the visioning calendar:

Your ideas and suggestions from the focus groups will appear in an upcoming report that will summarize efforts so far and will guide us to actionable work. Look for the report in the upcoming months. We encourage everyone to join in taking important first steps to put these ideas into reality. If you have additional thoughts about our future or if we haven't yet heard your voice, please click on the link beneath the suggestion box and drop us a line.



[Click here to send us your thoughts and ideas](#)

Your enthusiastic participation has brought us a long way toward envisioning our future. Thanks to all for your engagement.

Lynne Lipcon, on behalf of The Visioning Committee and The Parish Committee: Deb Stubeda, Co-Chair, Annie Stubbs, Co-Chair, Heather Felton, Nan Jahnke, Ted Barnes, Larry Green, Barb Heffner, Nathalie Thompson, Jay Woodruff, Rev. Stephanie May, ex officio



Reflections from Rev. Stephanie

Reflections, continued from p. 1

Second, I realized that if I let go for a couple of weeks, everything will be fine! First Parish has survived this crisis. We are here and we are doing quite well. Yes, there are folks we miss and even some who may not come back. And, yes, we are still facing Covid safety protocols and, as we've learned well, variants can send us backwards. Even so, each Sunday for 48 months we have gathered online, in-person, or both. During these two years, we have welcomed in new members and friends to our community, we have discovered new ways of connecting online, and we have created meaningful new programming. In recent months, we have seen significant engagement with the Visioning process, including the Focus Groups on February 13. As I listened to the Focus Group discussion, I not only heard some really great ideas, I also heard a group of devoted people who love this community and remain committed not only to its survival, but to its thriving. I suspect that when we look back, those focus groups will be seen as the incipient beginning of a new chapter in our congregational life.



And so, I am taking this mini-sabbatical so I can be ready to partner with you as we move beyond surviving a pandemic and toward a new horizon. We may not know all that is to come but I have faith that First Parish will still be here, caring for one another, searching for meaning, and working together for a better world.

In faith,

Rev. Stephanie

Parish Committee, continued from p. 1

groups. They took place on February 13 and were very successful, with a good turnout thanks to many of you who participated.

Recruitment for both a Winter Fundraiser and this year's Stewardship Campaign has proved more difficult than in past years. Although I am often heartened by how resilient our community has been during these 23 months of pandemic, it is no surprise that generating the "can do" spirit for a large volunteer job is more difficult when we do not benefit from the energy, the momentum, and the joy that gathering in person has so often brought us. But have no fear, you will be invited to make your annual pledge to First Parish. Annie Stubbs has generously stepped forward to lead this spring's Stewardship campaign. Thank you, Annie!

The rest of our meeting this month was routine in the sense that we were moving forward on multiple projects rather than breaking new ground. Jay Woodruff reported on continued progress with the ventilation of the Sanctuary. Alyssa is working to form a task force to look at our Safe Congregations Policy and Procedures, which date from 2009. Ted Barnes continues his effort to move important First Parish documents to the cloud to keep us all better informed.

We are so grateful for your support of First Parish this year and always. Please be in touch with ideas, questions or concerns. Your Parish Committee wants to hear from you.

Nathalie Thompson on behalf of the Parish Committee: Deb Stubeda and Annie Stubbs (Co-Chairs); Heather Felton (Treasurer); Nan Jahnke (Clerk); Ted Barnes, Larry Green, Barb Heffner, Lynne Lipcon, Jay Woodruff, Rev. Stephanie May (ex officio).

Happenings



WK?FP@FP

Who Knew? Fascinating People @ First Parish

Susie Keyes

Friday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

This month, **Susie Keyes** will talk about managing a radically diverse workforce. Watch the weekly eblast for the Zoom link. Contact [Kate Holland](#) with any questions.



Virtual Poetry Evening

Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Intern Minister Alyssa Lee is hosting another poetry night! Bring any poem that you love, it can be silly or serious, and share it with your fellow members of First Parish.

Contact [Alyssa Lee](#) to sign up or ask questions, or watch the eblast for the Zoom link and just show up.



Spring Festival

Sunday, March 20, after the service in the Commons

Join us in the Commons for a fun hands-on exploration of spring celebrations from around the world. We will have stations that offer information and activities for spring celebrations including Easter, Earth Day, Diwali and more. Stop by and join the fun!!



Sip 'n' Seek Returns!

Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m., Outdoors at First Parish

Please join Rev. Stephanie and others for an evening of sipping, socializing, and seeking. Discuss the monthly theme or other topics of interest to the group. Bring a beverage and a chair. We will gather in the parking lot between the Carriage Sheds and the Commons. Please park in the rear lot. Cancelled in the event of rain. Questions? Contact [Rev. Stephanie](#).

LGBTQ+ Seminar with Planned Parenthood March 6 and 13, 11:00 a.m. – 12 noon on Zoom

The Welcoming Congregation Committee will be hosting a two-part online educational program on March 6 and 13 immediately following the worship service on Zoom, led by a facilitator from Planned Parenthood. The March 6 session will cover the scope of LGBTQ+ terms and concepts. The March 13 session will offer opportunities to practice using pronouns and to ask follow-up questions as a step toward becoming LGBTQ+ allies.



As a member of the Welcoming Congregation Committee and a former Director of Religious Exploration, I have seen first-hand the challenges, microaggressions, and misery experienced by many LGTBQ+ children, youth and adults. As a UU, I feel a responsibility to raise awareness of these injustices, help build competencies for allyship, and actively work towards dissolving stigmas and achieving equity and dignity for all.

First Parish in Wayland became a Welcoming Congregation in 1996. Since then the congregation has embraced being welcoming as a core part of its congregational identity and mission. Welcoming activities and attitudes certainly support Principles 1, 2, 3 and 6 (Kid's versions: Each and every person is important. All people should be treated fairly. Our churches are places where all people are accepted. We should work for a peaceful, fair, and free world.) We hope you can join us for these two helpful learning opportunities! Watch the weekly eblast for details.

Laurel Whitehouse for the Welcoming Congregation Committee

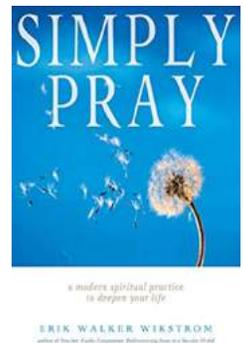


Winter Writing Group Thursdays March 3 and 10, 10 a.m. on Zoom

As winter gives way to spring, join Rev. Stephanie for a time to write and share briefly about our writing. Writing prompts provided or bring your own project. These will be the last two sessions of this winter activity.

Simply Pray Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m. in the Vestry or on Zoom

Join Kate Holland for a discussion inspired by the book *Simply Pray* by Erik Walker Wikstrom. Is the concept of prayer difficult for you? Or appealing? Does prayer have a place in spiritual practice for Unitarian Universalists? Reading the book is not required for participation. Contact [Kate Holland](#) to sign up.



Mass. Climate Legislation Overview and Update

In March, MetroWest Climate Solutions will offer a two-part, online series featuring the Senate and House Chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy (TUE) at the State House. The Committee's jurisdiction covers a range of issues including cell phones, alternative energy, public utility reform, and carbon pricing. These sessions offer a unique opportunity to hear from some of the State's most influential legislators on climate legislation. We anticipate robust Q&A periods at the conclusion of these programs.

Which climate bills have the best chance of becoming law and what provisions are stimulating debate? What are the potential impacts on low-income communities? What does our state, region and country need to do to address the growing threats of a changing climate?

On March 2 at 7 p.m., State Senator Mike Barrett and Professor Chris Knittel from MIT Sloan School of Management will present an overview and discussion of proposed climate and energy legislation being considered during this session at the State House. To register, visit: tinyurl.com/maclimatelaw

Sen. Barrett is the Senate Chair of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. He represents the 3rd Middlesex District in the Massachusetts Senate, including Bedford, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Lincoln, Waltham, Weston and large parts of Lexington and Sudbury.

[Prof. Christopher Knittel](#) is the George P. Shultz Professor and a Professor of Applied Economics at the MIT Sloan School of Management. His research focuses on industrial organization, environmental economics, and applied econometrics.

On March 15 at 7 p.m., we'll hear the House perspective. Rep. Jeffrey Roy and Rep. Alice Peisch will discuss several bills in process including Rep. Roy's bill, H.4348: An Act Advancing Offshore Wind and Clean Energy. To register for this free event, visit: tinyurl.com/MAClimateLawHouse .

Rep. Roy serves as the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. He represents the 10th Norfolk District, which includes Franklin and parts of Medway. Rep. Peisch represents the 14th Norfolk District, consisting of Wellesley, Weston and a portion of Wayland. She is the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education and will serve as moderator for this program.

Diversity Town Hall Tuesday, March 29, 7 - 9 p.m. at First Parish

Build cultural competency, cooperation and community belonging. Participants will have the opportunity to listen and learn, exchange ideas and perspectives, and create a space where differences are respected and valued. Space is limited. For more information or to RSVP, email Dovie King at dovieking@gmail.com.



Presented by One Wayland, co-sponsored by Re-Envision Consulting, the Wayland Human Rights, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and the Wayland Interfaith Leaders Association

Exploring Spiritual Practices Together



Each month I meet with my spiritual director. I do this to keep myself rooted in my own spiritual exploration and stay faithful to my own spiritual practices. Sometimes when life is very busy I wonder how I can possibly have time for a

“spiritual practice.” But I know that when my life feels over-full of tasks to get done, I need this more than ever.

Some of you may be thinking that after 16 years working at UU churches I should understand that. But, as I am human, I can forget that when life is busy or hard I need to lean into my faith, too. As a matter of fact, this is why I see a spiritual director each month.

Over the next few months I want to create some programs that will invite us to explore spiritual practices together as a community. As Unitarian Universalists, we are seekers. Our third principle calls us to “Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.” Exploring spiritual practices seems like a great thing for us to do together. This month we will explore something that may be a bit hard for some of us to try or even to talk about.... prayer.

Some time ago I participated in a small group in which we shared our spiritual practices. As a group of eight it was wonderful that there was such a beautiful variety of practices that people used to center and ground themselves.

As part of the same group, we were asked to read the book “Simply Pray” by Erik Walker Wikstrom. As I grew up Catholic and left that faith because I didn’t find that it fit my beliefs, I found the idea of prayer a difficult one. How could I pray if I didn’t believe in God? While the idea of prayer made me very uncomfortable in some

ways, I also remembered the comfort I found in prayer as a child and young adult. I wanted to look again at the practice of prayer. Is prayer a thing that both atheists and theists can do?

Let’s gather on **March 22 at 7:30 p.m.** either in person in the Vestry or on Zoom to wrestle with the topic of prayer. I hope you will join me.

If you would like to explore meditation as a spiritual practice, please join the mid-day meditation group on Mondays at noon. Also, if you have a spiritual practice you would like to explore let me know and we can set a time to dive on in together.

Kate Holland

Director of Education and Engagement

Midday Meditation is Back, Mondays at 12:00 noon

Join together on Zoom for an hour to gather in community and meditate. All are welcome whether you meditate often or are new to the practice. Contact [Kate Holland](#) if you have questions.



Who Is Invited to the UU Party?



I don't know about you, but sometimes explaining what a Unitarian Universalist is and what we believe in can be a little tricky for me. As a student going into ministry, I am sometimes asked if Unitarian Universalists believe in the Bible. My answer always starts with, "Well..."

One of the things I love about the UU faith is how wide and varied it is, but that also makes it difficult for many of us to be in agreement regarding what we generally believe or find sacred. Perhaps it is because I am in seminary, but I have been thinking quite a bit lately about what exactly is in our UU canon — the texts or books that, as a religious community, we regard as sacred. What are our sacred texts, is it different for everyone, or are there some texts we can all agree on? With respect to sacred texts, the UUA website states:

One might say that life is our scripture. While Unitarianism and Universalism both have roots in the Protestant Christian tradition, where the Bible is the sacred text, we now look to additional sources for religious and moral inspiration.

I think many of us can easily point to some common sources from which we draw inspiration, such as James Luther Adams, William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and maybe even Mary Oliver, but who else?

Are we being mindful enough regarding who else we are inviting to our UU party? Are we reading the works of bell hooks, adrienne maree brown, and Howard Thurman? Perhaps Joanna Macy, Ursula Goodenough, Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, and Joy Harjo should be additions too? I

recently asked a BIPOC [Black and Indigenous People of Color] ministerial intern friend of mine who is creating her own BIPOC canon and she recommended: Staceyann Chin, Claude McKay, Kamau Brathwaite, Mayra Santos-Febres, and Michael Anthony – all authors and poets I need to add to my list.

As part of my seminary courses, I have been required to take a New Testament course and a Hebrew Scriptures course, and I have been struck by the beauty of the language, particularly in certain books of the Hebrew Bible, such as Psalms and Isaiah. I am still unsure how or if I will incorporate the Bible into my spiritual practices, but I hope I find a way to expand my mind into including it while at the same time holding space for the oppressive ways in which it can be interpreted and utilized, particularly against members of marginalized communities.

I would love to hear who is in your UU canon. Which authors, poets, and philosophers do you turn to for spiritual renewal and reflection? Who are you inviting to the UU party?

Alyssa Lee
Intern Minister



Music for Awhile....



"Music for Awhile...Shall All Your Cares Beguile"...a setting of a *da capo* aria by Henry Purcell of the poem by John Dryden.

As a singer, I would often open a program of early music with this haunting and reflective aria, and later, as a teacher of piano, singing and harpsichord I often entitled my students' recitals "Music for Awhile"...leaving the remainder of the phrase..."Shall All Your Cares Beguile" to the imagination of the listeners.

Music for its own sake, whether it be of the genres of pop, folk, jazz, the classics or opera has the property of calming, soothing or exciting the senses. We are moved to join in on a familiar chorus, get up and dance to an entrancing or boisterous rhythm, to clap our hands in syncopation.

Familiar music, beloved harmonies...new and captivating sounds...and what is music but the organization of rhythm, tone and harmony into captivating, scintillating sound!

In past Music Sundays, our Church Choir's offerings have consisted of major works such as liturgical masses and oratorios by the great and familiar baroque and classical composers or folk/earth masses such as Paul Winters' "Missa Gaia" or Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies."

Recent Music Sunday themes have tried to follow seasonal motifs, or as last spring's service offered, a collection of anthems based on the texts of American poets.

This spring's Music Sunday will bring the surprise of music from the realms of opera. Our choir, vocal and instrumental soloists plus our Bell Choir will offer "Music for Awhile...Shall all Your Cares Beguile."

Please enjoy while you hum or sing along to a familiar operatic strain. When Verdi was rehearsing his new opera "Rigoletto," the cast and orchestra were forbidden to sing "La donna e mobile" outside of the opera house in Venice.

After the first performance, people were singing it in the streets!

Polly Oliver
Music Director



Meeting Turning Point's Self-Described "Mom"

I met Renee Hicks, the Turning Point Director, for the first time today (February 17) to give her another Target gift card as the First Parish "meal" for February. Renee is an amazing person — warm, dynamic, and somehow able to be aware of everything that is going on around her while still completely engaging the person in front of her. She packs a lot into a few minutes of seemingly casual conversation. Melinda Morgan, who met her for the first time in January while delivering last month's gift card, was equally impressed.

Renee greeted me with thank-you's, first for our outreach to homeless men, a group that, she said, are often overlooked by churches like ours, and second for the help we had already given them. Renee told me that the January gift card had been helpful in many ways. The first thing she bought was more pillows. The shelter is over capacity now, because of the weather; she has added four residents and set up cots in the halls. Renee doesn't waste words explaining the obvious — it was nine degrees yesterday morning, not for the first time this winter, and the wind chill made it colder. But she did ask if I had heard the forecast for that night. "Rain?" I ventured, likely sounding as puzzled as I felt. It was 55 degrees and sunny in the Turning Point parking lot. She frowned at the clear sky and moved on to other challenges. I went home to check the weather report: 50-mile-an-hour night winds that would drive the rain vertically at unprotected people, then dropping temps. Oh! And I learned, on the National Forest Service website, that most deadly cases of hypothermia happen when the temperature is 30-50 degrees, but the person gets chilled by wind or wet, and especially both. I never realized that hypothermia could be a year-round issue among the homeless. Renee doesn't preach at all, but I got the impression that she was gently teaching all the time.

As we were talking, residents and staff were coming in and out of the parking lot, on errands or enjoying the warm weather. Each one greeted Renee eagerly, paused a beat, and broke into a smile as she greeted them in return. One resident stepped closer, and gave her a small, crisp salute as her head turned. He beamed when she high-fived him. She told me that shelter residents are becoming increasingly diverse. She said it used to be very rare to see a homeless man under 25 years old. Right now, the shelter is housing four of them. She mentioned that Turning Point was housing some residents with disabilities, who needed extra help, another issue she was working on. But this was said with the kind of smile I could feel through the mask.

Renee told me about some of the changes she had made to make Turning Point feel more like a home. She requires that every resident be out of bed and moving by 9 AM. She said that homeless people don't always respond well to rules but being a woman seemed to give her an edge — somehow, she was seen not as a dictator but as "Mom," and you listen to "Mom." She said that Turning Point used to use a lot of paper plates, but she had insisted that there be real dishes, and that the residents help wash them. And do the laundry. Every resident had assigned tasks around the house, every day. First it was a chore, and then a routine, and eventually a habit. And while it helped the shelter function well and keep costs down, it was also teaching life skills to the residents. Her philosophy seems to be that small things, repeated, add up.

I said that, if Covid rates continued to drop, First Parish hoped to be able to return to delivering a monthly chili meal to Turning Point in March. Renee told me that she had hired a chef named Chuck, and that a

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Our Values in Action

First Parish Pantry Garden: Can You Help in the Garden or on the Phone?

It's time to think about the First Parish Pantry Garden for 2022. Although Molly Faulkner could set up her seedling operation in their new basement in Sherborn, she's not quite organized and will rely again upon you all and The Neighborhood Farm in Wayland for seedlings to transplant into our garden in May/June.

As you know, we harvest and deliver vegetables and cut flowers to three SMOC shelters in Framingham: one on Edgell Road, one on Winter Street, and Turning Point. Rita Anderson, Kathleen Lang and Molly Faulkner are the ones planting and weeding and delivering the goods to the shelters. We would LOVE to have another set of knees and hands to help us. And if manual labor doesn't appeal:

Would someone be willing to do some advance work this winter with SMOC to talk with managers and residents to find out which vegetables they'd like us to grow for them? Our typical lineup includes peas, lettuces, spinach, chard/kale/collards, beans, tomatoes, peppers, summer squash, eggplant, cukes, rhubarb, carrots, basil, parsley and celery. But, is this what folks want? Should we just grow lettuce and tomatoes? If not, what?

Please contact Molly if you can help in any capacity. Also, our Pantry Garden has once again been chosen by our local Stop and Shop's BLOOMING FOR GOOD program. During the month of March, every specially marked bouquet you buy for \$10.99 generates \$1 for our Pantry Garden. This helps to offset our garden costs completely. Thanks for your support. Here's to an early spring!



Rita Anderson, Molly Faulkner, Kathleen Lang

Family Promise Update



For some warm-hearted reading in this chilly month, take a look at Family Promise's [The Mulligan Street Minutes](#). The newsletter takes its name from Family Promise's Natick location at 6 Mulligan Street, the site of the soon-to-emerge shelter.

And curiously, the word "mulligan" has a golf connotation, as a "do-over." Golfers use the term in informal play, a "free" shot granted after a poor shot is made. In the newsletter you can read about personal do-overs, such as nursing assistant and previously homeless mother Glenda, helped by Family Promise. Several First Parish folks provided baby equipment for Glenda while she was pregnant and living with her two children in the motel shelter last year. She and her children are now happily settled in an apartment.

Coming events: **All-Network Reception, Wednesday, March 30th, 3:30-5:00 p.m.** at Christ Lutheran Church, 113 Union St., Natick. Participating congregations are invited to "celebrate and renew our partnership as we prepare for our new shelter program to launch this spring." Also coming: A **Spring Walkathon**, First Parish Wayland weekend walk **May 13-15**. Contact Lois Doerr for more information.

Lois Doerr, Coordinator

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

Visit, or Virtually Visit, the Frugal Bookstore *Support This Black-Owned Business*

Rev. Mary Margaret Earl recently shared the newly redefined mission of the UU Urban Ministry: *We work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture and to advance racial, social, and economic justice.*



One of the most impactful ways we can advance economic justice is to support black and brown businesses, such as Frugal Bookstore, the only black-owned bookstore in Boston, located in Nubian Square. It is a wonderful little gem owned by Leonard Egerton and Clarissa Cropper, who offer a wide selection of books by authors from many traditions as well as an excellent children's corner.

Let's support a fine black-owned business rather than a giant retailer. This is something we can easily do and it matters! It is not even necessary to drive into Roxbury. You can place an order at 617-541-1722 or <https://frugalbookstore.net>. If your title is not in stock, it can be ordered and shipped. You can meet the owners and learn more in this short video: [FRUGAL BOOKSTORE Commercial 2021](#).

Community Conversations

Mission and Vision (UUUM's Community Conversations Series)

UU Urban Ministry leaders talk about achieving a new mission and how we will get there.

Mar. 15, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

[Click here for details and the Zoom link](#)

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST URBAN MINISTRY
presents
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
Mission and Vision
In Ministry leaders talk about achieving a new mission and how we will get there.
RLA BAEHR, UUUM BOARD CHAIR & DAVID HARRIS, FMR. VICE CHAIR
Tuesday, March 15th, 6:00pm - 7:30
Join us for this virtual event: [Zoom link to join](#)
At the UU Urban Ministry's Annual Meeting last May, delegates to approve new, bold mission and vision statements for the organization.
Join us as we welcome UUUM board chair, Karla Baehr, and former board vice chair and retired Managing Director of the Charles F. Houston Institute, David Harris, to discuss UUUM's new vision mission statements, the process behind their creation, and how help bring them about.
Event sponsored by: First Parish in Milton
UU Urban Ministry | 10 Putnam Street | Roxbury, MA 02119 | www.uuum.org

Questions? Contact Susan Crowley-Bechtel

Tips From Karen

Some "How-To's" From our Administrator

What Can I Find on Our Website?

- The sermon coming up this Sunday (and the Order of Service by Friday) – front page
- Our current COVID status and guidelines – linked from the front page
- Interesting articles written by the staff or our communications team, information about upcoming events, links to other relevant articles and information – front page blog
- What's happening on our Facebook page – front page footer
- Password protected access to our directory – front page
- Donation page and pledge page – links from the front page
- Sermon archive (links to written sermons, audio and video – www.uuwayland.org/worship/sermon-archive)



And much more! Check it out.

Ongoing “Drop-In” Programs

These Programs are Virtual

Mid-Week Check-In



Join with Rev. Stephanie, Alyssa Lee, and others for a casual check-in, conversation about your week, the monthly theme, or anything else.

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m. through March 9
Watch the eblast and the Social email network for Zoom details

Knit One, Laugh Two!

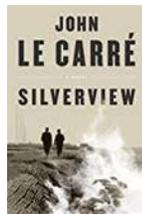


Do you love to knit or want to learn? The knitters are always happy to see new faces. This small group meets on most Wednesdays — now online. Come knit yourself into a new community. Email or call Heather Ryan for log-in information.

Most Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Online

Men’s Book Club

What do we truly owe to the people we love? Join us when we discuss John LeCarre’s last book, *Silverview*. All who present as male are welcome. Questions? Contact Keith Sims.



Thursday, March 3, 8 p.m.
Watch the eblast for Zoom log-in info

Mid-Day Meditation

Join together on Zoom for an hour to gather in community to meditate. All are welcome whether you meditate often or are new to the practice. Contact [Kate Holland](#) with questions.



Mondays at noon
See weekly eblast for details

Turning Point, continued from p. X

second Monday chili meal schedule would help him very much. Our next chili meal delivery dates are March 14, April 11, and May 9 and we will need volunteer cooks, bakers and buyers to bring each meal together. It is a simple meal of chili (recipe and disposable tins provided), bread and butter, bottled water, fruit and/or dessert, and need not take much time out of your day. Small things, repeated, do add up. Email me if you have questions or can provide an item in any of these months. Many thanks from the Turning Point Committee — Lois Doerr, Peggy Holland, Marty McCullough, Melinda Morgan, Suzanne Reitz, Pat Sims, Annie Stubbs, Chauncey Wilson and me.

Respectfully submitted, Penny Wilson for the Turning Point Committee

Notice of Alliance Meeting: Thursday, March 3, 7 - 8 p.m. on Zoom

The Alliance will hold a brief but important business meeting on the evening of March 3. A quorum of 10 or more women of the Parish (including staff who choose to attend) is required to transact business. Please plan to attend if you possibly can.

For the first time since 1961, the Alliance Board is asking its members to vote on a significant update to the Bylaws. The clean proposal is included in full [at this link](#) and has been made available several times previously. Annotated copies, showing exactly what has been added or deleted, how it relates to previous versions of the Bylaws, and why each change was made, are available on request from Melinda Morgan, Alliance President, as is a clean copy like the one in the hyperlink.

Penny Wilson will lead a discussion of the most significant changes: the revision to a more gender-neutral membership definition, the clarification of the Alliance's purposes, and the inclusion of suspension and dissolution provisions (not because we want to, but because the last couple of years have taught us a lot). Previous invitations for comment, beginning in the fall of 2020, have garnered little if any feedback, so the discussion is expected to be brief. Please hold any comments you may have for the meeting so that all those interested may hear them. At the meeting, only women of the Parish (including female staff) will be able to vote but all interested potential members are welcome to attend. If you have strong feelings about any revision, please come.

Melinda Morgan will discuss Rummage 2022. Pat Sims will be recognized for her leadership of Undecorate the Tree 2021. Look for the Zoom link on the church e-blast or social@uuwayland. Hope to "see" you there!

The Alliance Board 2021-2022

Melinda Morgan, President; Kathy Heckscher, Secretary; Penny Wilson, Treasurer; Clare Lewis, Assistant Treasurer; Penny Beer, Vice-President

The Wayland Unitarian is the monthly newsletter of the First Parish in Wayland, a Unitarian Universalist congregation. A full calendar of events is posted on our website, www.uuwayland.org. A directory of community members is also available; contact the office for the password.

Parish Office Hours

M, T, W, F: 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.; Th: 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.
In person W & F; 508-358-6133

Worship Service and SEEK (Spiritual and Ethical Exploration for Kids): **See Sunday Schedule, P. 2**

First Parish is located at 225 Boston Post Road in Wayland, at the corner of Routes 20, 126 and 27. See our website for parking information.

Our mailing address is:
First Parish in Wayland
PO Box 397, Wayland, MA 01778

Our Ministers

The Rev. Dr. [Stephanie May](#), Minister
The Rev. Ken Sawyer, Minister Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. [Deborah Pope-Lance](#), Affiliate Minister
[Alyssa Lee](#), Intern Minister

Our Staff

[Kate Holland](#), Director of Education and Engagement
[Polly Oliver](#), Music Director and Organist
[Karen Plaskon](#), Parish Administrator
[Leo Monzon](#), Bookkeeper
[Matt Freije](#), Technology Facilitator
Christine Bracken, Emma Silberman, Childcare Providers

