

THE WAYLAND UNITARIAN

APRIL 2022

Introducing the Commons Café



Looking for ways to (re)connect with others? Drop by the Commons to make a cup of coffee or tea in our new **Commons Café**. You're also invited to drop off individually wrapped treats or to take one to enjoy. Please follow the current masking guidelines, which may require eating and drinking outside.

There is a covered porch in the Courtyard or a basket of folding chairs in the Commons that you can bring outside. Plan to meet a friend or three whenever you'd like. Or watch the e-blast and/or UU Wayland Social list-serv for staff-hosted gatherings.

Sometimes Me Think, "What is friend?" and then me say, "Friend is someone to share the last cookie with."
- Cookie Monster



Sunday, April 3: Ritual of Leave-Taking

On **Sunday, April 3**, the service will include a ritual of leave-taking as we transition into a new chapter of our relationship to Covid-19 and to one another. In preparation, please consider what from the pandemic you would like to leave behind or mourn. Perhaps it's an object that served you well, but you no longer need in the same way (e.g., a cloth mask, empty sanitizer bottle). Or perhaps it is a loss (e.g., missed birthday gatherings, graduations, vacations).



For those attending in-person, please either bring a symbolic object or write down your thoughts on a card/letter. If you are unable to attend or plan to be online, please either drop off items in the Commons or mail them to Rev. Stephanie May at First Parish or her home (see Directory).

Sunday, April 10: Music Sunday!

First Parish musicians have a long, beloved history of presenting special services where music is the centerpiece. On Sunday, April 10, the theme of Music Sunday will be opera. The First Parish Choir and soloists, under the direction of Music Director Polly Oliver, will present a range of pieces that will be familiar to most people. The Areen Bell Choir will also perform. Join us in person or on Zoom for a morning of music! See details about the program on p. 11.



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FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Lay Minister of the Month

April's Lay Minister is Lynne Morrison. Please contact Lynne 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](#).

April Worship Theme

Awakening

How to Attend Sunday Services

You may attend Sunday services in person, via Zoom, or by watching on Facebook Live.

Currently, in-person attendance requires masks. Social distancing is not required but is available in a designated section of 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 10 a.m. or watch the posted video later.

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

A Month of Sundays

The morning worship service begins at 10 a.m.

April 3

Sing Me Awake

Rev. Dr. Stephanie May
SEEK Class, Youth Group

April 10

Music Sunday

Sensible

Rev. Dr. Stephanie May
SEEK Class, Youth Group

April 17

Easter Sunday

The First Day

An All-Ages Outdoor/Online Service

Rev. Dr. Stephanie May

No SEEK Class, No Youth Group

April 24

Treehugger

Alyssa Lee

SEEK Class, No Youth Group

Easter Sunday, April 17 An All-ages, Outdoor/Online Service

Join in the celebration of Easter with a special outdoor/online service for all ages. Through special music from a brass ensemble and the First Parish choir, to an Easter Egg Hunt after the service, we will celebrate the gift of Life.



Reflections from Rev. Stephanie

A New Beginning



In one of my very first [sermons](#) at First Parish, I quoted Jewish author Chaim Potok, “Beginnings are hard.” I commented how I was not alone in this beginning:

“In the short six weeks that I’ve been here, there has not been a single day that I have spent entirely alone in this building. While some of the people in the congregation have been here to connect with me, many—if not most—have been here to either connect with others or to give some of their time and talents in service of this community.”



In contrast, at the start of the pandemic, I remember walking through the empty building and feeling as if I needed to apologize to the walls that no one was there but me. The very size and design of our buildings clearly indicate the expectation of crowds of people. Emptiness felt wrong.

Now we are in a different moment. Where it once felt strange for the building to be empty, now we are exploring what it means to be back together in shared physical space—even as we maintain the important resource of digital connection for Sunday Services and other events. If you’ve not yet

been back to the building, you may be surprised to realize how many memories and emotions reside within the walls. The past is very present and returning can be an emotional experience as we remember how it was and how long it has been since we freely gathered. Such remembering—and grieving—is an important part of acknowledging what we have been through these past two years.

And I also feel the presence of the future drawing us forward. In this moment, we are facing a new kind of beginning. In this beginning, we move forward both with the memories of carefree gatherings of dense crowds which gave us no pause and with the more recent experiences of fear that other people signaled threat. We hold both experiences within us as we feed our need for social connection as well as for physical well-being. Thankfully, the numbers suggest that fully vaccinated persons now face very small risks of severe illness or death from Covid.

We each face our own path forward as we negotiate our social and emotional needs with our risk tolerance. And some face a continued need to be cautious to protect their own health or the health of one close to them. In this new beginning of (re)connecting, we must extend compassionate understanding to the range of comfort levels in our community, with some ready to burn their masks and others needing to remain diligent.

My hope is that more of my days in the building will be spent in the company of others—masked, or, as appropriate, unmasked. As a congregation, we have much to do in service of our mission. Coming together for fun, for social justice, and for making meaning of this gift of Life remains a vital need in a world impacted by loneliness and loss, as well as by a war in Ukraine, Climate Change, economic inequalities, racial injustice, and too much more. In this new beginning, may we be together as we live through life with its questions and its possibilities. After all, being together is what it means to congregate—the very definition of who we are.

In faith,
Rev. Stephanie

Stewardship

A New Horizon of Stewardship

Welcome to Stewardship season! It's that time in our church year when we are asked to make a financial commitment to this community. It's funny—many of us have an aversion to talking about money. I'm not sure why—we all need it, we all have it, many of us would like more of it, but most of us don't like to talk about it.

No matter what you call it (and there are so many euphemisms for it—cash, moolah, scratch, bank, cheddar, dough—to name a few), talking about it makes many of us uncomfortable. But it shouldn't! It's not like we don't know that our staff expects to be paid. It's not like we don't know that the heating bills need to be paid, that the snow needs to be plowed and that our buildings and our campus need to be maintained.

At this time of year, we ask each family or individual to make a PLEDGE to this congregation—a financial commitment to our church so that we can exist for another year. Imagine how many folks who came before us have made pledges to First Parish over the last 382 years. If you're not among them, we invite you to start now! We owe our very existence to them all, and we owe it to those who will find their way to this spiritual community in the future.

We of course will accept any financial commitment you are willing to make, but we do hope you will make a pledge that is significant as it relates to your particular financial situation. As UUs, we know that there are zillions of worthy organizations that deserve our support. We hope First Parish is at or near the top of your giving list. In Sunday services, we have heard from some of our fellow parishioners about why they give to First Parish and what being a part of this community means to them. We'd like you to ask yourself those same questions. Once you've decided how much financial support you are able to give, we also ask that you tell us in advance what your gift will be so that we can plan and budget for the year to come. If you made out pretty well in the stock market, maybe you're in a position to give more than you have in the past. If your income has not been affected by Covid, as so many people's has, maybe you're in a position to give more to make up for those who cannot.

Our goal is an ambitious one: a 10% increase over the current year. This results from several trends: we've lost some significant past donors as people have moved away or died. The inflation rate, as we all are beginning to see, is higher than it's been in many years. And we'll be gathering together more frequently, which will result in increased cleaning and utility expenses. But here's something: IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD TO GIVE! Generosity feels good. Generosity makes our lives richer! Being generous makes us feel lucky—that we are in a position to BE generous. So thank you in advance for all the ways that you support this community. When you receive a letter, or a phone call, or a visit from one of our stewardship canvassers, we hope you will respond cheerfully, generously, and with an open heart. And we ask that you return your pledge card, by mail or electronically, by April 9.



Annie Stubbs, Stewardship Chair



Annie Stubbs delivered these remarks during the service on Sunday, March 13. Here, she illustrates her hope that parishioners will pledge during the Stewardship campaign.

For your convenience, you can pledge online:

[CLICK HERE TO PLEDGE](#)

Or pledge by email:

stewardship@uuwayland.org

From the Parish Committee

Stewardship, Summer, and More

As we enter the last quarter of our current year, financial planning for the coming year has to begin. The bulk of the March meeting was centered on stewardship and what the budget for the coming church year might look like (July 2022-Jun 2023). The stewardship campaign's target is to raise 10 percent more in pledges for the coming year.

As we have all read about, fretted over, and experienced during the past two years, disruptions to world-wide supply chains have led to shortages in all sectors of our economy, from groceries to computer chips to cars. In response, inflation has risen and our costs of living along with it. First Parish has experienced these cost increases over the past year and projections of the coming year necessarily need to account for increases in supplies and services (for example, snowplowing). Meeting these increasing costs requires financial support from all members.

We call on all First Parish members to offer a pledge of support to ensure First Parish does not only survive, but continues to thrive. Please keep your eyes and ears open in the coming weeks for a call or visit from one of our stewardship canvassers. As NPR so succinctly says, we are supported by members like you. Please pledge generously!

Summer services are around the corner. Ted Barnes, with support from Stephanie, graciously agreed to put together a summer team. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Ted or Stephanie.

The rest of our meeting provided updates of ongoing projects. Jay Woodruff brought the exciting news that fans have been installed in both of the Vestry bathrooms. Installation of the fans is part of the ventilation project; it is exciting to have the first part of the project completed. We learned that the elevator was repaired and is once again functioning. Ted Barnes reported on the ongoing effort to move important documents to an online cloud interface, which will increase transparency of First Parish operations. Some upcoming events include a clothing sale on April 30 hosted by the Uganda Project, a pajama brunch after the May 1 service, and a yard sale at First Parish on June 4.

Our First Parish community exists for you and because of you. Please reach out with ideas, questions or concerns. Your Parish Committee wants to hear from you.

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



May Day Pajama Brunch Sunday, May 1, Following the Service

Celebrate Mayday and Beltane with a PJ Brunch. Wear your PJs* to service, then parade outside to enjoy a festive brunch. (*PJs recommended but not required!) Able to help with the food, set-up, or clean-up? Please contact Kate Holland, kholland@uuwayland.org

Happenings

The Spiritual Practice of Being in Nature Thursday, April 7, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., Heard Farm

Have you ever felt that your “church” is in nature? Is your spirit stirred by walking in the woods, working in the garden, or just enjoying the budding flowers and trees from your own back yard? Join Kate Holland for a walk at Wayland’s Heard Farm to talk about those experiences and try out some practices that might stir your spirit. Based on the book *Forest Church: A Field Guide to a Spiritual Practice with Nature* by Bruce Stanley (no need to read the book). Meet at Heard Farm parking lot. In case of poor weather, watch for a cancel notice in the social email group.



“Suuny Field” by Oskar Bethencourt



WK?FP@FP

Who Knew? Fascinating People @ First Parish

John Thompson: Friday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

This month, **John Thompson** will talk about creativity and risk-taking. Watch the weekly eblast for the Zoom link. Contact [Kate Holland](#) with any questions.

Virtual Poetry Evening Tuesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Join Alyssa and other members of First Parish for poetry night! We've had submissions that range from A.A. Milne to Jo Harjo, topics that run the gamut from acorns to swimming to getting older. Whatever we talk about, it is always a good time. Contact [Alyssa Lee](#) to sign up or ask questions, or watch the eblast for the Zoom link and just come.



Earth Day Picnic: Friday, April 22, 11:30 a.m., Front Lawn of First Parish



Join Kate Holland and Alyssa Lee for a picnic to celebrate Earth Day. Let's spend some time together appreciating the beauty of spring! Bring your blankets, chairs, and snacks. We'll have activities for the kids as they will be on April break. Hope to see you there!

Sip 'n' Seek A Thursday evening in April, 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. Watch the weekly eblast for date. Questions? Contact [Rev. Stephanie](#).

SPRING U.P.!

The Uganda Project's Day of Food, Fun, and a Chance to Give
Saturday, April 30, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

On Saturday, April 30, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., First Parish congregants and Ugandan partners from nearby communities will come together for music, games, a bring-your-own picnic (featuring added Ugandan and American treats!), and the opportunity to donate items needed in Uganda. Come join us!

Just like in years past, we will be packing those donated goods (light clothing, shoes, kitchen goods, bedding, children's books, and more) for a shipment in May, all thanks to the continued support of the Lydia Maria Child Fund. Please look carefully at the [SPRING U.P. donations guide](#) to see what kinds of items will be collected. We will have to be selective in what we box up for shipment, so donation tables will only be able to accept items that fit the criteria for shipment.

As always, volunteers make it all happen:

- Could you help by making signage ahead of the event?
- Could you help with set-up on the morning of April 30, or work with a partner sorting donations during drop-off?
- Or perhaps you have a knack in the kitchen and could help with food!

There are numerous roles to be filled, including on "packing day" (late afternoon on Monday, May 2).

If you think you might be able to lend a hand, either sign up directly on the [SPRING U.P. volunteers' page](#) or contact the Uganda Project Steering Committee at up@uwayland.org.

Thanks for all that you do, and as always, huge thanks to the Lydia Maria Child Fund!



Masks and medical gloves donated, packed, and shipped this winter as part of the Uganda Project have arrived at their destination. Thanks to all who helped, and thanks to Robert Waswa for the photographs.

Updates

First Parish Cloud Share Provides Broader Access to Documents

To give parishioners easier access to documents and forms, First Parish is creating a public Cloud Share. Initially, this Cloud Share is intended to provide access to commonly used forms (for example, the Lydia Maria Child Fund grant application), current Parish Committee meeting minutes, and other Parish data. Our goal is not only to help us connect, but to provide transparency, information, accountability, and continuity.

In particular, forms will be reachable through this link, which will require no logging in:

www.uuwayland.org/cloudshare

To access other data on the Cloud Share (for example, current Parish Committee meeting minutes), you will need a Google account. There are two options for this:

- If your email has “@gmail.com” at the end, you will be able to use that address to gain access.
- If you have attached a non-Google email address (e.g., username@comcast.net) to a Google account, you will be able to use that non-Google email to gain access.

If neither of these options fit, you can also set up a new Google account or tie an existing non-Google email account to a new Google account. If you need help with this step, email

cloudshare@uuwayland.org and we'll be in touch.

To use the full Cloud Share, please email cloudshare@uuwayland.org to request access and let us know the email address you would like to use. Access is for First Parish members/friends. We will use these requests to set up access and send you some “how to” instructions.

Being a Welcoming Congregation Includes Displaying Our Pronouns

The dictionary definition of “welcoming” includes friendly greetings, accepting with obvious pleasure, and encouraging and supporting someone. These concepts help make the outsider or newcomer feel included and offer ways to reach out and draw in new people, new possibilities, new ways of being.



A smile and a greeting are a good beginning, but true Welcoming involves deliberately extending beyond our known inner circle to make someone new feel comfortable stepping into our midst — or to help someone feel able to be vulnerable. One easy way to offer such an invitation is to make your preferred pronouns visible.

Pronouns are simply words that refer to you instead of your name, such as the familiar she/her, they/ them, or he/him and the perhaps less familiar ze/zir or ey/em. Some people prefer no pronouns, asking that you use their name instead. Last I checked, there are 78 pronoun options to choose among, reflecting the growing realization of individual uniqueness and the fluid and sometimes changing identities each of us holds. Gender identity is wide and varying and may or may not match gender expression. Avoiding assumptions about what pronouns someone prefers based on their first name, clothes, hairstyle or appearance promotes Welcoming.

Displaying your preferred pronouns on name tags, email, and Zoom signatures, or social media bios has huge benefits. When meeting someone new, include in your introduction, “These are the pronouns I’d like you to use for me.”

Sometimes people whose pronouns match “expectations” fail to understand why displaying preferred pronouns is important for them to do.

Continued on p. 9

Living Into Our Principles



Not everyone gets to peek into the SEEK classes, so I'd like to share a little bit about what the SEEK kids are learning. Recently the SEEK class has been exploring our seven Unitarian Universalist Principles.

Unitarian Universalism is not a dogmatic religion. We are not required to believe one truth as the center of our faith. Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal faith. As I explained it to the kids, we live by our seven Principles. They can think about them as seven promises that we make to ourselves and others on how we want to live together in our world. In case you may not know all the seven Principles off the top of your head, UUs affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Teaching the Principles' basic concepts to kids is important, and I love the conversations that they spark. My son Andrew started a memorable conversation one afternoon coming home from Sunday class when he was about eight years old. He looked at me and said, "What about Hitler?" I obviously looked at him with surprise and asked, "What?" He said, "If everyone has inherent worth and dignity, what about Hitler? Did he have worth and dignity?"

It was a question that brought me to thoughtful silence. While the concept of teaching our first

Principle seems simple enough, kids come with points of views and questions that have us wrestling with our own faith and how we bring it into our own lives. This is one of the reasons I love to work with the children and youth in our congregation. They often inspire me to look at things from different perspectives.

Kate Holland

Director of Education and Engagement



The Seven Principles Wheel

by Rev. Ian Riddell and Rev. Kimberley Debus

Welcoming Congregation, continued from p. 8

Simply put, it is a way to be inclusive. It normalizes the conversation about gender identity, removes the need for folks to guess your preferences, and creates a safe space empowering others to bring their whole selves. Making your pronouns visible shows you recognize diversity and are an ally. It reminds you and others of the spectrum of possibilities our individual personal expression includes.

Laurel Whitehouse for the Welcoming Congregation Committee

What Gives You Comfort?



Before deciding to become a Unitarian Universalist, I belonged to a more fundamentalist Christian denomination. I found much of that experience to be limiting and difficult to navigate given my political and personal beliefs, but one aspect of it that I valued was my deep conviction that I could always turn to God when I felt anxious or concerned—particularly with regard to someone I cared about. I would find great comfort in taking any issue or concern I had and “Giving it to God.”

That may still be an avenue that is open to many of you, and I would love to hear more about it if it is, but it is not typically one that works for me anymore. Accordingly, as people in my life experience hardships, I have had to find new ways to deal with my worry and grief for them as well as find ways to make my peace with what they are going through. My source of comfort is not as explicitly clear as it once was and I have had to forge new pathways for myself in the intervening years.

One practice I often turn to when I feel anxious or overly worried is meditation. I have found when it all gets to be too much, the best thing I can do is find a quiet room and focus on my breathing for at least five minutes. Sometimes I read a poem or draw a tarot or oracle card, but most often I simply breathe. This is such a defining part of my life that my son recently told me he thought I should go meditate when I was feeling particularly cranky one day.

Further, while my prayers sound quite a bit different than they did when I was younger, I have recently rediscovered the gift of prayer in my life and how sometimes spending a few moments lifting up my concerns or sorrows to the Universe can be a source of comfort and still gives me strength.

I would be curious to hear where you draw comfort in moments of anxiety or grief. Do you like to spend time in nature? Go on a vigorous run? Do some art journaling? Or, perhaps time spent with loved ones is all the solace you need? As the world is starting to open up again, I would love the opportunity to chat about the important spiritual practices in your lives. I will try to be at First Parish most Tuesdays, but I am also happy to meet up any other days of the week if you would like to come by my office or go on a walk. I hope to see you soon.

Alyssa Lee
Intern Minister



Opera Made (VERY) Accessible: Music Sunday, April 10



Many people don't think they listen to opera, but you can't escape it when you watch advertisements, TV shows, and films. In fact, opera is a greater part of our culture than it receives credit for.

This Spring's Music Sunday (coincidentally, April 10 is the beginning of the week that happens to include "World Voice Day") brings opera front and center as Music Director Polly Oliver and the musicians, singers and Areen Bell Choir of First Parish present an all-opera event.



In the past we've invited soloists and instrumentalists who are prominent in local and national opera programs to grace our church in various Music Sundays. This year, we harness our own congregation's musical resources to do pieces that currently include the bravura *La Donna e Mobile* solo by Jay Woodruff from *Rigoletto*; the inspiring *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* from *Nabucco* by the choir; from *The Gondoliers*, the humorous duet *We are Gondolieri* with Jay and Jim Kitendaugh; the famous *O Belle Nuit* for treble choir voices from *Tales of Hoffmann*; an instrumental duet — *Questa Quella* — from *Rigoletto* with Charlie Anderson on trumpet and Polly on piano; and two lovely Puccini arias by Amy Meneely — *O Mio Babino Caro* and *Mi Chiamino Mimi* — from *Gianni Schichi* and *La Boheme*.

We're excited that the Bell Choir joins us for the first time in a Music Sunday performance. They are scheduled to do *Evening Prayer* from *Hansel and Gretel* by Engelbert Humperdinck, accompanied by Polly. The congregation joins us in a sing-along of *Villia* from Lehar's *The Merry Widow* to conclude the service.

Join us in person or online April 10!

First Parish Music Committee and Polly Oliver, Music Director

Tips From Karen

Some "How-To's" From our Administrator



Now That We're Back in the Building, What Have I Forgotten?

- We have an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in the Commons in case of emergency. Everyone should know where it is. It has instructions and a voice walks you through the process of using it if you ever need to (and it won't let you do anything very wrong to hurt someone).
- We have two WIFI connections. Their names and passwords are posted in various locations around the building (in the Vestry, in Stokey, in the Parish Office, in the Sunroom).
- There are a bunch of useful forms outside the Parish Office.
- There is a locked mailbox outside the east, Parish House door for donations, pledge cards, etc.
- There is a coded lock on the back, east, Parish House door if you need to get into the building (ask Karen for the code).
- There is a First Aid box in the kitchen closet.
- There is a Justice Library and a Children's Justice library in the Commons (book donations for these should go to the office first).

Turning Point Marches On

First Parish went back to delivering cooked chili meals to Turning Point in March, after a few months' hiatus to keep everyone safe during the fall/winter Covid surge that popped up just when we all hoped we were done. There were surprisingly few creaks as we shifted gears, thanks in large part to the generous cooks, bakers and buyers who volunteered so readily to put the meal together. Lea Anderson offered March chili the very day last month's *Unitarian* came out, and her chili is always wonderful. Deborah Levens sent several thoughtful questions along with her batch of chili — the answers to her questions will make the recipe and process easier for everyone going forward. Lynn Trimby provided the vitamin-fortified bread and butter, which is such a staple in the Turning Point diet, and Barbara Buell hefted 24 bottles of water so the Turning Point men would have good water to carry along. Linda Collins and Lois Doerr provided dessert between them, and, as always, the cookies went straight to the Commons table and began evaporating immediately. An increasing number of the men of Turning Point are barely more than boys and, really, does anyone ever outgrow a sweet tooth?



Thanks to all our bakers, buyers, and chili cooks for smoothly putting together this delicious meal, as if changing gears was never an issue. And a special thanks this month to the people behind the scenes — Stephanie, the Parish Committee, and the Re-Entry Task Force — for all the thought and care they put into deciding when and how these meals could start again. Thanks to Melinda Morgan, our winter driver, who has navigated all the Covid-driven changes at First Parish and both Covid- and staffing-driven changes at Turning Point with equal aplomb. Here's what Melinda found at Turning Point this time:

"All went well this month... Without a hitch... Pick up at the church was easy and straightforward... And delivery allowed me the opportunity to meet yet another new staff member named Donnie... Renée was in a meeting and let me know that he would be down to help me unload... Another very pleasant young man... When I was asking how the guests were doing... He said the warm weather was welcomed.... that the residents were having some issues of being closed up with the winter blues... But things are shifting and spirits are rising.... As much as I miss my bearhugs with Roberto... It feels like the shelter is moving in a new and positive direction.... Once again, gratitude and appreciation were expressed for our donations... It is a continued pleasure to do the drop offs...."

We'll be delivering chili meals to Turning Point on April 11, May 9, and June 13 before switching to purchased picnic meals for the summer. Marty McCullough and Pat Sims have already signed up for April's chili (thank you both!!), but each month we'll still need four loaves of bread-and-butter, two or three cases of bottled water, and two people to supply the fruit or dessert of their choosing. In this category, surprises are good! Please let me know if you'd like to express your commitment to Social Justice in this concrete yet meaningful way and contribute to a tradition of Turning Point meals going back more than a generation. Our next drop-off day is Saturday, April 9 in Stokey. If you have any questions, please get in touch with any member of 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

New Family Promise Shelter Opening May 1

A lot is happening at Family Promise! The renovations to 6 Mulligan Street in Natick are progressing on schedule, and the shelter is expected to open May 1. This will mark the end of Family Promise's use of hotels to shelter homeless families during the pandemic. In the meantime, there's a Spring Walkathon coming up in May and an opportunity to volunteer in person with shelter dinners in June.



Family Update

There are twenty families currently enrolled in the various support programs, with new families expected as some "graduate." It's been two years since families stayed overnight in various area congregations, spending one or two weeks at one congregation and then moving on to the next.

Many of us at First Parish recall our own early involvement, transforming the nursery school classrooms into family bedrooms and coordinating multiple volunteers to shop, cook, and participate in dinners and in overnight hosting during the beginning years of Family Promise Metrowest (then known as Interfaith Hospitality Network). We later changed to a supporting role, helping Peace Church during four weeks of their hosting each year.

The new shelter model changes all of that again as families will have a consistent stay in a single facility with program staff available. Volunteers from MetroWest congregations will continue to be involved, providing meals for families each week from Monday through Thursday. Two Wayland congregations, Shir Tikva and the Islamic Center, together will be the first to host evening dinners at the new shelter.

First Parish in Wayland, along with First Parish in Framingham and First Baptist Framingham, are scheduled to host at the shelter during the week of June 5. We will need volunteers to shop and prepare meals at home, and two volunteers each evening to host the shelter meal. There is also a volunteer role for youth.

All volunteers who interact in person with families are expected to complete a two-part orientation. Part 1 of the Volunteer Orientation guide is available online at [this link](#).

Part 2 of orientation will be in person on April 28. If you're interested in learning more about Family Promise and possibly becoming a volunteer at the new shelter site, please contact Lois Doerr.

Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness

Some First Parish folks are considering a walk on the Wayland Rail Trail following service on Sunday, May 15. Save the date. More details to come. See the [event website](#) and watch for future updates on First Parish's UU Social listserv.



Honor Mother's Day and Support the UUUM Peace Garden

This year, honor the moms in your life with something meaningful — a contribution in honor of the Urban Ministry's Peace Garden. To commemorate every \$25 contribution, we will send a beautiful card honoring the mom of your choosing and letting her know that this donation was made in her honor.

This contribution directly supports UUUM's life-affirming work with the Roxbury community. It helps create a place of beauty, peace, and contemplation at the heart of our Highland Park neighborhood. And it allows us to live into our mission of combating racism and white supremacy culture in Greater Boston and beyond.



For us to get your message to your honoree by Mother's Day, we need to receive your contribution by May 1. To commemorate a beloved mom, please visit the [UUUM donation page](#). (In the "Gift Note" box, indicate that the contribution is for Mother's Day, and note the address where the card should be sent and the person to whom it should be addressed.)



Peace Garden Opening Ceremony on Sunday, May 15

At last, First Parishioners from Wayland will be able to join in the work and fun of gardening in this newly created beautiful green space. Beginning May 7 and during the following week, volunteers are needed to plant in the garden. Please stay tuned for more information as we make plans for this volunteer opportunity.

We hope for good weather and timely shrub deliveries that week. More information will appear in the May newsletter as well as in an eblast as we approach the date.

Please Continue to Support the Frugal Bookstore

The Frugal Bookstore, located in Nubian Square, is the only black-owned bookstore in Boston. It is a wonderful 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.

The bookstore recently suffered damage from a fire on the floor above, and values your business now more than ever. 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. Questions? Contact Susan Crowley-Bechtel.



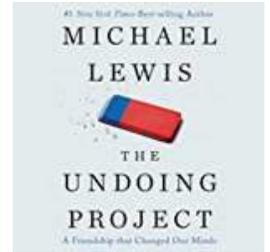
To see the range of events and volunteer opportunities at the UUUM, visit www.uuum.org

Ongoing Programs

Men's Book Club

What are the assumptions implicit in decision making? We'll discuss Michael Lewis' *The Undoing Project*. All who identify as male are welcome. Questions? Contact Keith Sims.

Thursday, April 7, 8 p.m. on Zoom
Watch the eblast for Zoom log-in info



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., on Zoom

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 on Zoom
See weekly eblast for details

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



FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST