

THE WAYLAND UNITARIAN

JUNE 2022

Come to the Yard Sale to Help, to Sell, to Shop!
June 4, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The yard sale is shaping up! We'd still love more volunteers to help with setup early on the day of the sale. You need not volunteer for the full sale schedule. Just let us know what timeslot you can do.

There's still time to sign up for your own table to sell items for the benefit of First Parish. Please plan to take home any leftovers after the sale.

You can also contribute books, costume jewelry and small antiques, which will be set up as "departments." (No furniture please.) You don't need to have your own table for these items. We'll be offering staffed drop-off times after Memorial Day, Tuesday through Thursday. PLEASE note we cannot accept things left at church unless we are there to take them in.



The sale will be mostly outdoors, with the exception of books and antiques, which will be located in The Commons, allowing us to set up those areas during the week. (In keeping with CDC guidelines, masks will be required indoors, for both volunteers and shoppers.) Coffee and treats will be available for purchase by shoppers, free to our volunteers.

For day-of sale, if at all possible, please plan on parking at the Trinitarian Congregational Church across the street. A police officer will help shoppers cross the street to the sale.

Ten percent of our sales will be donated to World Central Kitchen, which provides meals in response to humanitarian crises.

If you have any influence with the weather spirits, please request blue skies and 70-degree temperatures!

Contact Linda Collins or Barb Heffner with questions or to volunteer. Contact John Thompson with questions about antiques. Pickups can be arranged.

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FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Welcome!

June Worship Theme *Celebrating Blessings*

Summer Pastoral Care

Lay Ministers are available during the summer if you need a ride, a meal, a friendly confidential visit, or a chat. Contact information is available through [the office](#) or in the Parish Directory. The link to the Directory is available on our website [home page](#). The Lay Minister schedule is:

June: Ted Barnes

July: TBD

August: Kathie Schmidt

For more critical pastoral care, contact the minister on call at 617-519-5504 or with the contact information below:

June 13 - 30: Alyssa Lee, alee@uuwayland.org

July 1 - 23: Phyllis O'Connell (see the summer eblast or our online directory for her direct contact information)

July 25 - Aug. 19: Alyssa Lee

Aug. 20: Rev. Stephanie May, smay@uuwayland.org

A Month of Sundays
The morning worship service begins at 10 a.m.

June 5

The Altar of Reality

Rev. Dr. Stephanie May

SEEK Class, Youth Group 4:30 p.m.

June 12

Celebrations Sunday

Flowers, Pride and Blessings Galore

**Rev. Dr. Stephanie May, Alyssa Lee,
Kate Holland**

 Bring a flower, in-person and online 
Outdoors, weather permitting
Multigenerational Service
No Seek Class or Youth Group

June 19

Summer Services Begin

Understanding China Today Through its History
Roger Des Forges

June 26

Hootenany

Ted Barnes, Dan Lewis

See details about summer services on

How to Attend Sunday Services

You may attend regular Sunday services in person, via Zoom, or by watching on Facebook Live at First Parish in Wayland. Summer services will be live and on Zoom. In-person attendance requires masks. Social distancing is not required but is available.

Zoom links are in the Thursday and Sunday morning eblasts. 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](#).

Thinking About Joys and Sorrows



As we turn towards summer, I am thinking not only of my upcoming vacation days but also the gift of study leave. More than half of my time away will be dedicated to reading, planning, and reflecting on the upcoming year. And much of that is devoted to worship planning. This summer I invite you to also spend some time reflecting about worship, particularly Joys and Sorrows.

To state the obvious: these past two-and-a-half years have had a major impact on our worship life as a congregation. I am grateful to the Worship Working Group (Lea Anderson, Helen Green, Andrew McKay, Lynne Morrison, Lucy Pease, and John Thompson) for working with me to wrestle with questions of multiplatform (hybrid) worship. After Zoom-only services for many months, this year challenged us to consider how to include both in-person and online attendees while, hopefully, creating a meaningful worship experience for all. This has inevitably meant experimentation, changes, and lots of conversation!

In looking ahead to the fall, the Worship Working Group, the Lay Ministers, and I invite you to consider possible paths for Joys and Sorrows in the new year. For many years pre-pandemic, spoken Joys and Sorrows were a treasured moment in the service as people shared with one another. While spoken Joys and Sorrows has been valued by many, they are not without their issues as sometimes the length or content is not in keeping with the prayerful, community spirit of the ritual. Additionally, while some folks are comfortable with public speaking, others are hesitant to share in this way. Sometimes people submit written notes to be read on their behalf, but this option has not been emphasized as fully in recent years.

When we moved online and began livestreaming services, the spoken Joys and Sorrows shifted to the end of the service for two reasons. One reason was to protect the privacy of those speaking by stopping the livestream before Joys and Sorrows. The other reason is that the technology of identifying, spotlighting, and unmuting folks online is a bit awkward and disruptive to the service flow. As more people returned to in-person attendance this year, we adapted to including both online and in-person folks by leaving screens in the Sanctuary for in-person folks to see those speaking online. But we also learned that the old rituals of turning to the back for the benediction, listening to a short musical response, and then departing during/after the postlude needed to adapt to include spoken Joys and Sorrows. We've experimented with this order and what to include or exclude. Music before or after spoken Joys and Sorrows? How long should this music be? Skip spoken Joys and Sorrows this week? The answer is not clear.

As we wrestle with these questions, we also ask whether we can move spoken Joys and Sorrows back into the main body of the service. If so, how do we handle the privacy and technology concerns that led to us to move them to the end? (Stopping and restarting livestreams is possible but clunky and imprecise. Having a livestream option is an important outreach tool and popular with folks who miss the Sunday service.) Perhaps we could consider other models for sharing our Joys and Sorrows with each



Lay Minister Kathie Schmidt leading Joys and Sorrows

continued on p. 4

Updates

Reflections from Rev. Stephanie, continued from p. 3

other? For example, many UU congregations have moved to writing down their Joys and Sorrows to be read using first names only by a worship leader. Other congregations invite people to come forward silently to light a candle or drop a stone in a basket.

These questions about how Joys and Sorrows fit into our worship and community life will return this fall. The Worship Working Group, the Lay Ministers, Alyssa, and I invite you to share your thoughts, hopes, and experiences with us as we mull over these questions during the summer break. Perhaps over the summer you may find yourself attending another UU service or talking with UU friends from other congregations (or even other religious traditions). Are there models or elements that we should consider? We hope to gather information and hold more opportunities for conversation in the fall as we continue to experiment and explore how to design worship.

While my role as minister empowers me as worship leader, I do so in service of the congregation. Understanding in what ways worship is more or less meaningful for you helps to shape not only Joys and Sorrows but all of worship design. Thank you for being part of the ongoing conversation and considerations.

In peace

Rev. Stephanie

Summer Staff Schedules

Rev. Stephanie will be away for vacation/study leave June 13 to June 19 and again June 27 to August 19. From June 20 to 26, she will be at UUMA Ministry Days and the UUA General Assembly with limited remote availability. See p. 2 for information about pastoral care during the summer.



Kate Holland will be away on vacation/study leave from July 2 to August 2.

Polly Oliver will be on summer break from June 13 to August 29.

Alyssa Lee will be on summer break from July 1 to August 15.

Leo Monzon (bookkeeper) will continue to work part-time to answer questions about pledges, contributions, and other financial matters.

Karen Plaskon will be working summer hours from June 16 through August 26. Email and voicemail will be monitored, so please leave a message and she will get back to you. Please note her hours are limited in the summer so response time may be slower than usual.

From the Parish Committee

A Busy Program Year Comes to a Close, Summer Services Begin

Parish Committee met on May 12 and covered a number of topics as we headed towards the end of the church year, our annual meeting, and summer!

The "Visioneers" (Lynne Lipcon, Jay Woodruff, Ted Barnes) discussed next phases of the Visioning project. Based on great survey input from earlier this year and suggestions from a wide range of parishioners on where we want to take First Parish over the next three to five years, we are enlisting volunteers in short term "exploratory groups" to frame up over the summer how we might get the suggestions/ideas done. This work will be followed with a final additional phase where actual implementation teams will be formed, sometime in the fall. Please contact Lynne, Jay and Ted at visioning@uuwayland.org if you want to get involved. We view this as an opportunity for all of us to contribute to the vibrancy of our congregation.



The Covid Re-entry Team reviewed the recent rise in Covid cases, recommended and got Parish Committee approval to make explicit that vaccinations are required for all eligible persons (ages 5+) to participate at in-person services and events. We continue to be masked in services, where service participants who wish to unmask to speak or sing in a service will need to rapid test negative that morning. Our indoor mask requirement for large groups (more than 20) remains in effect and we are now recommending that all indoor groups be masked.

The bulk of our meeting went to a review of our finances, in large part to get ready for next year. A big thanks to Susie Keyes and Heather Felton for all of the work they have been and are doing on this. Likewise, a big thank you to Annie Stubbs who took on the role of making Stewardship happen this year (especially where we will not have the benefit, because of Covid, of Rummage income and other fund raising stalwarts such as the Auction and Dining for Dollars). If you pledged and haven't given yet or set a payment schedule, please do so (or if you haven't pledged, you still can!). At the time of our Parish Committee meeting – and more work is in progress in final preparation for Annual meeting – we are looking at making some cuts and using our second round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding to help us through next year (and a big thanks to Bill Morrison for helping us with PPP over the last two years).

A quick reminder that we do have our Public Cloud share and forms available. Feel free to check them out. You will need a Google-related account to access the public share (you can ask for access via cloudshare@uuwayland.org or use the button on the home page; the forms are available to anyone; no Google related account needed).

Lastly, our thanks to Matt Shear for all his work over the years on organizing Summer Services. This year, Nathalie Thompson and Ted Barnes have lined up facilitators for an interesting and wide variety of topics. See pages 6 and 7 for details, and please plan to come.

Your Parish Committee loves hearing from you. Please be in touch with ideas, questions or concerns.

Ted Barnes, for the Parish Committee



What the Summer Holds in Store at First Parish

Thanks to the generosity and willingness of so many fellow parishioners, Ted Barnes and Nathalie Thompson have lined up an engaging series of summer gatherings (otherwise referred to as summer services) to be held June 19 – August 28. These services, typically led by parishioners, offer a chance to come together for informal discussion and reflection on different topics and experiences. They include a presentation, readings, prayers, meditations, the sharing of joys and sorrows and, we hope, some lively discussion.

The gatherings will be held in the Vestry Sundays at 10 a.m. **Come and engage in the discussion. Zoom access will be available, but we hope you will give us the gift of your presence — it makes a difference.** We will observe all the protocols set forth by our Covid task force, currently to be masked and vaccinated (if eligible) in a well ventilated space, and will update should changes occur in recommendations. Keep an eye out for updates on the First Parish website, eblast or UUSocial.

We have one spot open on August 14. Contact Ted or Nathalie if you have a topic you would like to share.

June 19

Understanding China Today through its History. Led by Roger Des Forges. Lay Minister, Ted Barnes. The late and great Harvard historian, John King Fairbank, some of whose relatives still live in the vicinity of Sudbury-Wayland, once suggested that "We Americans would understand China better if the Parthenon were in Athens, Georgia and the Forum were in Rome, New York." In other words, China has a much longer and more continuous cultural history than the United States and we need to try to understand that history if we are to understand China today.

June 26

Hootenanny. Led by Ted Barnes and Dan Lewis. Lay Minister, TBA
Join a variety of First Parish musicians to share music together. Come to play, sing along to some songs, or just listen and enjoy.

July 3

Stillness Speaks. Led by Patrick Foley. Lay Minister, TBA
How do we return to the beauty of silence in a world that seems to be full of more and more noise? Our stillness can also be revolutionary, and our silence can also be a powerful voice of change. Our service will focus on calming the mind in the storm rather than waiting for the storm to end.

July 10

Telling the Bees. Led by Ann Gordon and Nan Jahnke. Lay Minister TBA
Telling the bees about life events — a death, a birth, a new home — is an ancient tradition. It was believed that keeping important family news from the bees might cause them to stop making honey, or leave the hive, or even die. Humans have had a long and beautiful relationship with honey bees, and many of the world's religions hold bees and honey in special regard. What is it about bees? The First Parish Bee Team will talk about what bees teach us.

July 17

The Delights and Challenges of Living into Principle 4. Led by Laurel Whitehouse. Lay Minister, TBA
This hour will be an excursion into the delights and challenges of living into Principle 4, the independent

Summer Services

search for truth and meaning. Readings and practices will dip a toe into the waters of living with hearts wide open, developing generosity of spirit and discerning who each of us is meant to be and what work is ours to do.

July 24

Can Shakespeare Teach Us Anything About Leading the Good Life? Led by Joel Angiolillo. Lay Minister, TBA

The philosopher George Santayana wrote "Shakespeare is remarkable among the greater poets for being without a philosophy and without a religion." But is this true? Together we will read a number of scenes and soliloquies in his plays to guide a discussion on how they might speak to us today, 400 years later, about life, love and our responsibilities to others.

July 31

Finding Hope in a Hole in the Ground. Led by Jean Milburn. Lay Minister, TBA

Having an "Abrahamic concept of land" means thinking that everything in the world is made for humans. The environmental movement is failing because we feel righteous about abusing the land, justifying our actions as property rights. As scripture fails us and our planetary environment collapses, some of us find peace and hope in restoring native plants to their natural homes.

August 7

On Being Late. Led by E. A. Miller Mlcak. Lay Minister, TBA

Lateness carries with it the pejorative of procrastination, of being slow to understand, to arrive, act, to "get with the program." For the timely, there's the familiar impatience of waiting. With all the cultural admonitions to be early and quick, what can we learn when we are late? This service will explore the spiritual discernment possible in lateness, in coming late to the table, in accepting the things and people and feelings that do not show up "on time."

August 14 OPEN

August 21

Returning to Our Beloved Conversations. Led by Alyssa Lee, Ministerial Intern. Lay Minister, TBA.

Several First Parishioners, along with our Ministerial Intern Alyssa Lee, participated in the Beloved Conversations program this past spring. This program, run by Meadville Lombard Theological School, focuses on the internal work we each need to do as we engage in a deeper understanding of race, racism and white supremacy culture. We will look at how the lessons they learned are showing up in their lives, where they are continuing to grow, and highlight some of the resources that resonated with them.

August 28

Lifelong Learning. Led by The Rev. Dr. Stephanie May. Lay Minister, TBA

We all know that babies and young children have extraordinary abilities to learn. And, we've heard it said that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. But does this mean that adults should stop learning new things? Reflecting on her recent experience of trying to learn to play the guitar as an adult, Rev. Stephanie asks us all to consider what new learning might be on our horizon? (And yes, she'll play the guitar in the service.)

Spiritual and Ethical Exploration

Rearranging for Next Fall



While it is a short month in our programming year, June has great community events for us here at First Parish. We will have our first-ever Yard Sale. I have to say I love a good yard sale, and I am excited for this one. I am also excited that we will have a staff table of treasures we are ready to rehome. I hope to see you all there for the fun.

The other thing that makes June joyous for me is Flower Sunday. It is one of my favorite services of every year. I love the joy of seeing all the beautiful flowers and at the end when we all hold ours up, it makes me so very happy! When we move our services from our Sanctuary to the Vestry for summer services, that too is a lovely transition. The wonderful diversity of topics that summer services bring is always a delight.

During the latter part of June, I will be cleaning up our spaces and moving the Nursery back to the room in the Commons that Alyssa has been using for an office. Alyssa will move into my office, and I will move into the old Nursery. (I feel that moving is in my karma this year.) I will also be working to set up programming for the next church year. If you have a program idea for next year please drop me an email and let's talk about it! The Commons Café will be open for a place to meet up and chat and I hope that some of you come by in June for a chat. In July I will be away for vacation and study leave and on August 2 I am back to work again.

This year has been a learning experience on how to do hybrid programming, how to adapt to ever-changing Covid rates, and how to move back to in-person programming for our multigenerational community. This year has given me many skills I never knew I would need in the work I do here at First Parish. But the biggest lesson I have learned is how adaptable and resilient a congregation can be.

Kate Holland

Director of Education and Engagement

Walking the Talk for Homelessness



The 13th annual Family Promise Metrowest Walkathon took place on May 15, and First Parish in Wayland participated for the first time. We raised approximately \$500 to support Family

Promise. It's not too late to contribute to the team's efforts. Just [click here](#).

The new static site shelter in Natick is scheduled to open in early June. Three families will have a consistent stay in a single facility with program staff available. Volunteers from First Parish in Wayland will be joining First Parish in Framingham and First Baptist Framingham to help with dinner hosting during the initial week of June 5-11. While many social action programs take a break during the summer, efforts to stop family homelessness do not. August 8-11 is another opportunity for First Parish to volunteer at the Natick shelter.

For more information, or to help, contact Lois Doerr.



First Parish members and friends gathered at the Wayland Library entrance of the Rail Trail on Sunday, May 15 to participate in the 2022 Walk to End Homelessness.

Our Values in Action

Uganda Project's SPRING UP! Event Sends More Goods to Those in Need

The Uganda Project's SPRING UP! event on April 30 brought First Parish members together for a festive gathering that included food, fun, games, and a chance to give. Congregants joined members of local Ugandan communities to donate, sort, and pack enough gently used clothing, games, bedding, and other goods to make John and Nathalie's pickup truck look like a parade float and to fill Robert's car to overflowing! All those valuable goods will be on their way to Kampala by ocean freight by the time you read this. Congratulations, First Parish, on a very successful drive. We look forward to sharing pictures of the happy process of distributing goods once they arrive in Uganda in late August!



Clockwise from above: Mariah Kisiriko demonstrates a traditional hands-free method of carrying goods. Sandy Kendall and Jenny Silberman give it a try. Keith Sims, Edwin Kikonyogo and Pat Sims take a break from packing to chat. Robert Waswa and Dan Lewis sit atop boxes of clothing and household goods destined for Uganda. Below, Volunteers pause while Rev. Stephanie May offers a blessing for the work and the goods before they are shipped to our Ugandan friends.



From Our Intern Minister

The Sea Air is Calling



Growing up in Oklahoma, I unfortunately did not get much access to the ocean. It is about a thirteen-hour drive from where I grew up to the nearest beach in Galveston, Texas. Yet, I have always believed, even as a young child, that I belonged near the sea. I have never felt more at home than when I can hear the waves crashing and smell the salt in the air. It truly feels like where I belong.

Therefore, moving to Massachusetts, and decidedly closer to the ocean has been a boon for me. Suddenly, I can drive to the ocean whenever I want, and I am discovering new facets to the ocean that I had never known before. For instance, I had never been to the shore when it was cold and had never seen slushy sea water wash up on the shore.

Since I have been able to visit the beach more, I have realized that going to the ocean is a spiritual practice for me. It is not just about sunbathing or playing in the waves; staring at the sea is meditative and deeply spiritual for me. There is nothing that fills my soul more than sitting on the beach by myself, reading a book, and just listening to the waves.

Recently, I attended a retreat for seminary students. With two other retreat participants, I got up early and walked to the beach in Lynn to watch the sun rise. The photo on this page is me standing on the cold beach with my heaviest coat on. It was freezing, but I was totally at peace. We read poems, sang songs, and simply watched the sun dawn on a new day. It was deeply moving.

As summer is almost upon us, I will confess that, while I am excited to engage in normal beach activities for the season, I am also a little disappointed that I will have to give up some of my solitary beach sojourns as the crowds start appearing. However, you will still likely find me there at least once a week (I hope) and when I am not, I will be listening to the sounds of the ocean waves as I meditate in my living room, and imagine myself smelling the salt in the air.

I would love to hear about beaches that you love as well as other places that are meaningful to you. Perhaps it is on a bench in your local arboretum or sitting by the banks of a local river? What places stir that sense of belonging in you?

Alyssa Lee
Intern Minister

Sip and Seek

Friday, June 3, 7:00 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. The event will be canceled if it rains. Watch the weekly eblast for date. Questions? Contact [Rev. Stephanie](#).

The Alliance

Year-End Report from The Alliance

The Alliance is a very old 501(c)(3) church-affiliated membership organization, and has often, but not always, been a women's group. Through March of this year, The Alliance was governed by its 1961 Bylaws, which limited voting membership to women of the Parish, but a gender-neutral membership definition was adopted in March as part of an extensive Bylaw update, discussed below. In addition to the Zoom business meeting where this happened, the Alliance held one Social Action event this year — Undecorate the Tree. Our agenda was limited by Covid again this year, and Undecorate the Tree is a self-funding event, neither making nor spending significant funds, so the balance in our Treasury has been essentially unchanged during lockdown, standing at \$7,986 on our most recent bank statement. Clare Lewis withdrew from the Board at mid-year for personal reasons and has not been replaced. We all miss her warmth, reliability, and positive energy. Penny Beer, as Vice-President, will act as the second signatory on our bank account and in other matters formerly handled by the Assistant Treasurer.

Undecorate the Tree to Support Survivors of Domestic Violence; Date: November, 2021

Committee: Pat Sims, Suzanne Woodruff, Linda Collins, Lois Doerr, Peggy Holland, Marney Ives, Suzanne Reitz, and honorary members Steve Collins and Keith Sims. Because of Covid lockdown and the popularity of last year's gift cards with mothers, who loved shopping for their own kids, REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, the organization we support, again requested Target gift cards for their Holiday Gift Program that supports mothers and children who have survived domestic violence. Our creative Undecorate the Tree team, under Pat's leadership and supported by other Alliance members, conducted a drive-through event again this year. Elves in Santa caps directed traffic and offered gift bags of candy canes and homemade cookies to anyone who dropped a check or gift card down Santa's chimney (also provided). In her elf hat, Pat also appeared at several Sunday services to ask for donations. The team also did live pick-up of donations, took them by mail, converted the checks into more gift cards and delivered them all to REACH. Thanks to the goodwill of the donors, and the hard work and ingenuity of the committee, Undecorate the Tree was able to donate a total of \$4275 in gift cards, ranging from \$25 to \$50, plus wrapping paper, ribbons, and candy canes, to REACH.



Bylaw Update; Date: March 3, 2022

In addition to a gender-neutral membership definition which is reflected by gender-neutral references throughout the document, the Bylaw revision clarified the purposes of the organization, simplified the organizational structure, brought the permitted expenditures by the Board into line with 2022 dollars, and provided for the possibility of suspension or dissolution of the Alliance by appropriate vote, with First Parish as the beneficiary of any unexpended Alliance funds. The clarified purposes of the Alliance are now to create and sustain an active interest in the life of First Parish; to encourage fellowship and understanding among our members; and guided by our Unitarian Universalist Principles, [1] to pursue areas for useful service in human society, and [2] to consider matters of charitable, civic, and social interest, particularly, but not exclusively, as regards the interests of children and those who may identify in whole or in part as women. The new Bylaws were adopted unanimously.

Rummage Sale; Date: cancelled for this year on March 3, 2022

Rummage Queen: None

Historically, but only since after WWII, the Alliance has owned the Rummage Sale and supported the church and social action with part of its proceeds, but it had not held a Rummage Sale since the Covid

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First Parish Bees Are Buzzing

The First Parish beehives are buzzing with healthy activity this spring, and members of the Bee Team continue to learn and grow as beekeepers. We started this spring with one hive – it had successfully survived the winter -- but through a surprising development we now have two. Heading into the summer months, we are monitoring the growth of both colonies, the productivity of the queen bees, and any threats to the bees such as parasites. We are also preparing to offer a Summer Service on bees on July 10. We hope you'll come!

Located in Wayland's community apiary on Rt. 27 north near the community gardens, the site of the First Parish pantry garden, our bees are situated among a dozen or so hives tended by local beekeepers. The location is ideal for both the bees and the gardens – plenty of good nectar and pollen for the bees, and lots of bees to pollinate the crops and flowers. The current First Parish Bee Team – Ann Gordon, Nan Jahnke, and Kathie Schmidt – tends the hives. The hives have been supported by the Lydia Maria Child Fund since the first hive was established in 2018.

The number of hives any beekeeper tends is seldom static, and that has been the case for First Parish, which has had from one to three hives over the years. In the spring when queens are busy laying eggs and producing new brood at an amazing rate, beekeepers often split a burgeoning hive into two. We split one of our two hives in the spring of 2021, bringing us up to three.

Beekeepers split hives hoping to prevent the bees from swarming – when half the bees leave the hive, taking the Queen with them, to set up shop somewhere else. This is the colony's way of reproducing itself. Bees swarmed from two of our hives in 2021. One of those colonies could not right itself after the loss, and despite our efforts, slowly dwindled as the season wore on, bringing us back to two hives by the fall.

A swarm of bees will typically cluster in a nearby tree, or on a fence or other structure, for up to 24 hours while scout bees explore the area for a new home such as a tree cavity. Beekeepers can recapture a swarm if they move quickly, and one of our more experienced neighbor beekeepers captured one of the swarms from our hives last spring. A swarm cannot successfully be recombined with the colony it left behind; it must be given its own new home. Since we did not have enough hardware to house what would have then been a fourth colony, we offered the swarm to the intrepid beekeeper, and he took it to his home apiary.

But, surprise! This spring, he gave it back to us. The colony had successfully overwintered and was strong and healthy, so he brought the bees back to our apiary in a closed bucket, and we poured them into our waiting empty hive box. Easy! Now we are back to two bee colonies, which is a comfortable number for us.

On the question of honey – everyone's favorite question – the answer is always the same: It depends. Ample honey stores are essential to get the bees through the winter; we harvest only if they produce more than they need. Last year we were able to donate seven quarts of honey to Turning Point and other shelters; we hope for the same bounty this year.



Bees bring pollen back to the hive on their legs. Look closely and you'll see several bees with yellow "pollen pants."

Music Notes

Areen Hand Bells Get Some TLC

Shortly after the First Parish Sanctuary goes “quiet” for the summer, the Areen Bell Choir bells, three octaves worth in total, are shipping out for some rest and relaxation in Hatfield, Pennsylvania.

After nearly two decades in our possession, the bells — a generous gift from Trish and Bill Marshall — will be extensively refurbished by their manufacturer, Schulmerich, the world’s largest and oldest existing producer of handbells.



Years of service take somewhat of a toll on handbells, despite the very careful handling they receive from their white-gloved players. While the instruments remain in excellent condition, an occasional refurbishment is required to maintain their lifetime warranty. While this first and only refurbishment since their purchase is costly, the group plans subsequent five-year “tuneups” that will cost considerably less each time they are performed.

The Bell Choir has had a post-Covid renaissance in the 2021 - 2022 church year, as the parish gradually reopened to in-person participation. We give thanks to the organizational efforts of Suzanne Tiberii and other members who made it happen. In January and part of February, they held weekly rehearsals via Zoom under conductor Linda Murdoch, using two sets of children’s bells purchased to allow members to practice at home. Later the Bell Choir returned to rehearse at the Meetinghouse, and the congregation has been treated to multiple performances.

The bells will be returned late this summer, good as new and ready to ring.

Alliance, continued from p. 11

lockdown began. Penny Beer regretfully resigned as Rummage Queen at mid-year for family reasons. We thank Penny for her enthusiasm during her time as Rummage Queen.

At our March Business Meeting, the Alliance decided that given the short time left in the church year, the lack of takers for the open Rummage Queen position, and the remaining Covid-related uncertainties, nothing on the scale of Rummages past would be attempted for this year. The Alliance will make no gifts this year, so that it can retain sufficient operating reserves to continue as a functioning organization once the Covid emergency ends and will address the issue of future fund-raisers next fall. We thank Melinda Morgan for moderating this difficult discussion.

Fellowship Events & COVID Policy

No fellowship events were held this year because our membership prefers relaxed live events built around a meal, and that was inconsistent with Covid guidance for most of this church year. The question of fellowship events will be addressed again in the fall. Since our events are intermittent and have been enthusiastically attended by the most vulnerable members of our community, our Covid policy is to reassess in light of current guidance from the CDC and our own wonderful FP Re-Entry Task Force as each event is considered.

Respectfully submitted, The Women’s Alliance Board
Melinda Morgan, President, Penny Beer, Vice-President, Penny Wilson, Treasurer, and Kathy Heckscher, Secretary

Our Values in Action: Turning Point

A Friendly New Face at Turning Point

I think we'll be meeting quite a few people from Turning Point over the next few months. Renee Hicks, the Turning Point Director, sounded distracted when I called her from Turning Point's lot. In no time, I was greeted by Ronnie, a sturdy middle aged Black man with a warm smile and a slow, mellow baritone that would be the pride of any choir. He was obviously feeling his way, so I explained about the long First Parish tradition of bringing one meal a month to Turning Point. He started loading tins of chili into his arms. It smelled delicious. There were six instead of four, because Beth Butler, Lois Doerr, and Marty McCullough all made chili. I completely forgot when I asked for cooks that Marty had volunteered back in March. Marty never forgets! And Lois got creative — she put her chili tin in a small cardboard box. It made for much easier carrying!

A few loads later, Ronnie asked cautiously if it was just the chili, his eyes absolutely glued to the two big cases of water in my trunk. I told him the whole carload was for Turning Point and his smile lit his eyes.

Barbara Buell said she "could just do water," but it wasn't "just" to Ronnie. He went straight for it, and I loaded Debbie Leven's and Jan Miner's desserts on top. Next up were the other case of water, and the 25 extra pillowcases Renee had requested as part of this year's Special Gift. Finally, we loaded up the five twin sheet sets, with Lynne Lipcon's Oreos and Annie Stubbs's bread and butter riding triumphantly on top. "You do this every month?" Ronnie asked, from behind the pile, sounding both dazed and short of breath. "Not a Special Gift, but a meal," I confirmed. "I'll put it on our calendar," he said, and, apologizing for being too breathless to stay and chat, he headed inside with a resonant "thank-you," meant of course for you, the cooks, bakers, and buyers who made this happen.



Normally, we deliver one more chili meal to Turning Point in June before switching to purchased picnic meals for the three summer months. We'll be working around the important Lew and Charlotte Russell Memorial on our usual June delivery date (with the Yard Sale the week before, and Flower Sunday soon after), so I may ask you to adjust your drop-off hours again. If our early summer continues unabated, it may even make sense to substitute a summer meal or grocery gift card, but at this point, it looks as though we will need all the usual meal components in June — chili, water, bread and butter, and dessert or fruit.

The buyers of the July, August and September summer meals choose, buy, and deliver all the pieces, often with cold cuts or rotisserie chickens as the centerpieces. They are given an estimated budget and reimbursed for their purchases. When Covid numbers are too high, we switch to grocery gift cards. Summer meals are most often handled by the Turning Point Committee, but not always. If you'd like to express your commitment to social justice in this meaningful way either by contributing a part of the June meal or taking on a summer meal, please let me know.

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, Penny Wilson.

Tips From Karen

Some "How-To's" From our Administrator



When You Need Something During the Summer

With Summer approaching and the regular church year drawing to a close, what should you do if you need something from the office? Pastoral care? Some spiritual assistance? No worries!

Send an email or leave a voicemail for Karen in the office. She will be monitoring them throughout the summer and will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you need spiritual assistance or practical support such as a ride or meals, there will be a Lay Minister available for each of June, July and August. Pastoral care for more critical needs will also be available throughout the summer. See page 2 and watch the eblasts for updates on who's available each month.

You can contact either the office, the bookkeeper, Leo (Imonzon@uuwayland.org), or Heather Felton, Treasurer (treasurer@uuwayland.org) with any financial questions about your pledge, payments, or reimbursements.

Also if you have set up automatic pledge payments through our system or your own, and your pledge amount has changed for 2022-2023, please remember to update the automatic amount for the new fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

Have a great summer and stay safe and healthy!

Special Thank Yous From the Office!

My job would be much more difficult without the support of so many of you. I am so appreciative of everyone's assistance, patience and joyful support! There are many more people than I will list here (sometimes, just a pleasant voice on the phone or email makes my day!), but I do want to highlight these folks especially:

Annie Stubbs - Thank you for staying so positive and pleasant while we powered through Stewardship season this year! The stress of the short timeframe was palpable to me, but your upbeat demeanor and tolerance for my mistakes helped everything work smoothly!

Leo Monzon (bookkeeper) and **Heather Felton** (Treasurer) - Close communication and working together this year has been so key to keeping our finances running smoothly. Thank you to both of you for staying in touch and helping to get everything processed. (Also, for covering for me when I was away!)

Suzanne Woodruff - Thank you for printing the Orders of Service when I was away. It may seem like a small task, but takes a huge weight off my shoulders and lets me take a bit of time off without concern.

Ann Gordon and Barb Heffner – Thank you both for jumping in and helping out with communications when I'm particularly overwhelmed! Also, for being my consultant team for getting everything communicated on time and well! (I steal often from them!!)

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

June News from the UU Urban Ministry

Community Open House: June 25, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Hear about the programs at the UUUM as well as the work of other Roxbury-area organizations who'll be sharing their missions and programs with us at the UUUM campus.

The Makanda Project: July 16, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Treat yourself to spectacular music in a beautiful setting! *The Makanda Project* will be returning again this summer for free outdoor jazz concerts on the grounds of the UUUM. *The Makanda Project* is a 13-piece ensemble that includes some of Boston's most renowned jazz musicians. The group, formed in 2005, performs its own arrangements of previously unheard compositions by Boston-born multi-instrumentalist Makanda Ken McIntyre, along with pieces by selected other composers. Check out their website: <https://makandaproject.com>

Peace Garden Opening

The opening and blessing of the Peace Garden took place recently. All are welcome to visit and enjoy this lovely space. Gardening help will be appreciated on the third Thursday of every month. So many in attendance shared their sadness after learning of Ken Sawyer's death. He had been a beloved and important member of the Urban Ministry community.

Change of Delegates

Rev. Stephanie, Rev. Mary Margaret Earl and Susan Crowley-Bechtel are pleased to welcome Lea Anderson as a delegate and are so grateful to Lois Doerr for her years of service at the UUUM. To find out more about events and volunteering opportunities at the UUUM go to uuum.org. You may also contact Susan Crowley-Bechtel.



Cutting the ribbon of the new Peace Garden was a very happy occasion.

Thank you to First Parish staff for an
inspiring, uplifting, comforting,
enriching program year.

Ongoing Programs

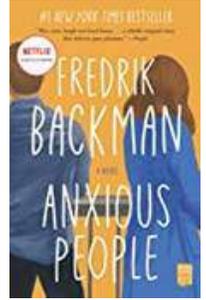
Men's Book Club

A raft of disparate quirky characters demonstrates our need for community in this humorous tale — *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman — which we will discuss at our next meeting. All who identify as male are welcome. Questions? Contact Keith Sims.

Thursday, June 2, 8 p.m. on Zoom

Watch the eblast for Zoom log-in info

The Men's Book Club will not meet during July and August



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

The knitters will continue through the summer

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

Meditation will continue through the summer

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. 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