

# THE WAYLAND UNITARIAN

SEPTEMBER 2022



## Welcome Back!

### A Message from the Parish Committee

Well, folks, here we are again: After a well-earned summer reset, a new church year is upon us, with lots of ideas and plans afoot. Welcome back.

After two-and-a-half years of Covid restrictions, we are hoping for a return to almost-normal, in-person worship services in September. Vaccinations and boosters will be expected, as before, and masks are currently recommended, but there will be no sign-in sheets and no social distancing required. There will be a choir in the loft, singing in the pews, and coffee hour in the Commons and Courtyard (weather permitting). Almost normal!

At least, that is the hope and the plan. All depends on how the virus behaves, of course, and we will continue to follow the protocols established by our Health Advisory Team (formerly, the Covid Re-Entry Task Force), which continues to track Covid metrics and issue [weekly Covid](#)

[updates here](#). We are working out the details of online worship opportunities for those who wish to participate remotely, but **we are hoping for lots of spirit, joy, and camaraderie in the Meetinghouse in September.**

At its June meeting, the Parish Committee closed out the 2021–2022 church year on a positive note.

- Cheers for a successful spring Stewardship campaign which brought in about \$350,000 in pledges—a bit more than expected and enough to cover the 2022–2023 budget approved at Annual Meeting in May. Thanks to Annie Stubbs and the canvassing team for the work and to everyone for the support.
- Thanks also to Barb Heffner, Linda Collins, and their can-do team which pulled off a last-minute Yard Sale in June that netted about \$5,000 for First Parish and \$600 for charity (and maybe more from some post-sale consignments).

*After two-and-a-half years of Covid restrictions, we are hoping for a return to almost-normal, in-person worship services in September.*

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## A Word from the Visioneers

We're quite sure that you are all aware of the visioning process that First Parish has been engaging in over the past year and a half, but just in case you've been Rip Van Winkling, here's the recap.

**November 2021:** The Visioning Team (Ted Barnes, Jay Woodruff, Annie Stubbs, Lynne Lipcon) began to seek out your vision for this spiritual gathering place that we call First Parish.

**December 2021:** An online survey took stock of the congregation's well-being, our level of engagement, and our 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](#) for full report.)

**February 2022:** More than 60 people joined via Zoom for follow-up Visioning Focus

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## Welcome to First Parish

We are a Unitarian Universalist congregation that affirms human dignity, community action, freedom of religious thought, and the power of love. We welcome everyone!

### Our Mission

#### To Build Community

by forging caring connections and supporting one another through the joys, sorrows and mysteries of life.

#### To Search for Meaning

by creating opportunities for all ages to explore values and principles that orient and guide us through life.

#### To Deepen our Spirituality

by gathering to share words and music, by nurturing private moments of reflection, and by cultivating reverence.

#### To Make a Better World

by engaging in compassionate service and promoting social justice.

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## How to Connect With First Parish

**Attend Sunday services and other events:** Come in person, or when available, attend via Zoom or YouTube livestream. Zoom links to Sunday services and some other events are in the weekly eblast.

**Sign up for news:** [Visit our website](#) to see what's new and sign up for our newsletter and eblast.

**Find us on social media:** We have a public Facebook page and a private Facebook group you can request to join. We are also on Twitter and Instagram.

**Join our email listserv:** Our congregation is a friendly and useful resource for recommendations ranging from plumbers to travel, and all sorts of other non-church-related topics. Contact the office or Chauncey Wilson, listserv moderator, to sign up.

## A Month of Sundays

The morning worship service begins at 10 a.m.

### September 11 Water Sunday\*

#### Hello

Rev. Dr. Stephanie May  
Multigenerational Service  
*Outdoors, weather permitting*

### September 18 Why Bother With Religion?

Rev. Dr. Stephanie May  
SEEK Class

### September 25 Homecoming Sunday Encountering Difference

Rev. Dr. Stephanie May  
SEEK Class

**\*On Water Sunday**, please join us outside in the Courtyard (weather permitting) for our kick-off service. Rev. Stephanie will reflect on the meaning of "Hello" as we reconnect for a new program year. Please bring two things: 1) a backpack, bag, purse, or keychain to receive this year's special blessing; and 2) water from a meaningful place from your summer. (Forget to save some water from that special place? Symbolic water from your faucet is fine, or, we'll have some water onsite.) The Service will also be streamed live to Zoom and YouTube.

## September's Lay Minister

September's Lay Minister is **Lynne Morrison**. Please contact Lynne if you need a ride, a meal, a friendly, confidential visit, or a 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 [members' page](#).

## 2022 - 2023 Monthly Worship Themes



September: **Pluralism (Introduction)**

October: **Christianity**

November: **Judaism**

December: **Earth-based Religions**

January: **Hinduism**

February: **Buddhism**

March: **Islam**

April: **Humanism**

May: **UUism**

### SPECIAL SERVICE

**Ken Sawyer:  
Celebration of Ministry  
Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, 3:00 p.m.  
Sanctuary and Online**

Please join a special celebration of the Rev. Ken Sawyer's distinguished ministry. The service will include reflections on Ken's wide impact as a parish minister, colleague, denominational leader, author, intern supervisor, and teacher. Music will include the First Parish choir and soloist Rev. Maddie Sifantus. Reception to follow in the Courtyard.





## Encountering Difference — A Theme for the Year

Lately when estimating how long it's been since a particular event or guessing the age of a (grand)child, I am consistently a year off. The pandemic has simply upended my sense of time. Somehow we are already in our ~~second~~ third fall since the outbreak of the pandemic. Unlike prior years, we are much more confident about the upcoming months and life at First Parish. Our ventilation has been upgraded in the Meetinghouse, vaccinations and boosters are abundant, high-quality masks are readily available to use as needed or chosen. While we are certainly not just “back” to a pre-pandemic “normal,” in many ways we have all learned how to better navigate a world impacted by both Covid and by uncertainty.

**Of the many insights I have drawn from these past difficult years, one that stands out for me is the need to learn how to live within a world of varied opinions and experiences.** We

live within real differences and, yes, divisions. From varied risks and/or choices with the pandemic, to political polarization, to abortion rights, to racial bias and policing, we repeatedly encounter significant conflict in our culture. How do we live in a world rife with conflict, differences, and division when so much seems to be at stake?

In the coming months, I invite us all into an extended journey to reflect together on this theme of encountering difference. How do we respond to people different than ourselves? Why? Are certain types of difference tolerable whereas other kinds of difference feel unbridgeable? Are you able to maintain relationship across difference? Why or why not? What contributes to relationships remaining or fracturing? Why or why not bend, compromise, or be open to a particular kind of difference?

There are many kinds of differences that can be explored, and I hope many will be considered in the coming months. As a religious community, it feels fitting that one place to start is to explore religious difference. In the coming year, each month will feature a different religion in printed resources, social media,

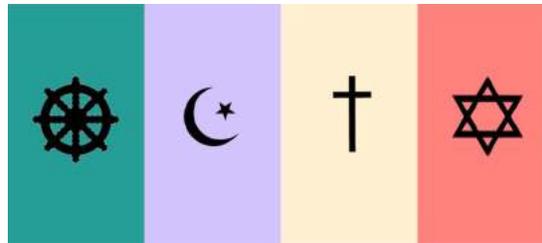
worship, and programming. Like the monthly themes of recent years, this does not mean every sermon or event will be geared to that month's focus, but rather that resources will be peppered throughout each month.

To begin, in September we will explore the theme of Religious Pluralism. We will consider how the value of pluralism relates to the value of tolerance.

Furthermore, we will explore why religious pluralism is perceived as a threat by some—especially in today's politically polarized nation. Then, in the following months, we will focus on a major religion or grouping of religious traditions. On the first Sunday of October, November, and December, we will experiment with a

“Religious Education for Everyone” format as we kick off each religion. Following a shorter service, we will offer several programs to appeal to different styles of engaging the religious tradition of that month.

*In the coming months, I invite us all into an extended journey to reflect together on this theme of encountering difference. How do we respond to people different than ourselves? Why?*



Perhaps like me, reading is a primary way that you engage new ideas. Over my summer study leave and vacation time, I finished nine audiobooks, six print books, and am partially through two other print

books and another audio book. From light fiction to a new history of the Civil War, reading renews my sense of self and the world. Reading is a spiritual practice for me. To that end, **I am challenging myself to read a book each month that aligns with the monthly religion. All who are interested are welcome to read along, then join in a discussion of mutual learning.** For September, I am reading

*continued on p. 5*

Reflections, continued from p. 4

**A New Religious America: How A “Christian Country” Has Now Become the World’s Most Religiously Diverse Nation** by Diana Eck. Copies are readily available at local libraries or online. I’ll host a discussion lunch, Thursday, September 22, 12:00 p.m. in the Vestry and online if you would like to join. Or, if you’d like to read ahead for October’s focus on Christianity, I will be reading **Christ for Unitarian Universalists** by Scotty McLennan. Copies are available online or I have one to share—just contact me for availability. This discussion will be part of the first “RE for Everyone” on Sunday, October 2. Consider joining for one or both books! (Reading the book is preferred but not required for either discussion.)

Perhaps we are different, and reading (yet another!?) book is not for you. That’s ok. There will be other ways to engage both the focused religion of the month as well as the larger theme of encountering difference. And, if you have an idea for how we might engage a particular religion and/or the larger theme of encountering difference, please reach out to Alyssa Lee, Kate Holland, or me.

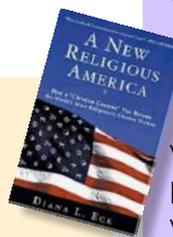
As we embark on this new program year, my hope is that we grow in our capacities to name, celebrate, manage, and encounter differences within and beyond our walls as a community. As we do so, may we also hold fast to [our vision](#) to be a vibrant, multi-generational community and a sanctuary for diverse beliefs and passions, joyfully offering our hearts and hands to foster a more just, compassionate, and sustainable world. First voted on by the congregation in January 2016, this vision statement continues to capture the common ground among us. I look forward to spending this year exploring both this common ground and our differences.

In peace,  
Rev. Stephanie

### Read Along with the Rev.

Thursday, September 22, 12:00 p.m., Vestry and online

As we kick off our theme “encountering difference,” all are invited to join in a lunchtime discussion with Rev. Stephanie on the book *A New Religious America: How A “Christian Country” Has Now Become the World’s Most Religiously Diverse Nation* by Diana Eck. Copies are readily available at local libraries or online. Reading the book is recommended, but not required!



## A Covid Update

The Covid Re-entry Team has adopted a new name: the Health Advisory Team. We realized that the original name was no longer relevant as we’d long since “re-entered” the building.

Over the summer the Team continued to monitor Covid data for Middlesex County via [covidactnow.org](https://covidactnow.org). From late June and into the first weeks of July, we enjoyed a low level of Covid risk. Sadly, since mid-July, we’ve been at medium risk.



We also monitor the wastewater treatment numbers via this site: <https://biobot.io/data/#county-25017>. (The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) relies on Biobot Analytics for some of its wastewater tracking.) The Biobot data tends to serve as a leading indicator of Covid, often anticipating trends. The wastewater data has been on a downward trend of late, which is good news.

In late June, we had adopted a set of guidelines for masking for small and large groups, based on whether we are at a low, medium or high risk of Covid according to the CovidActNow site. You can find that risk level at <https://www.uuwayland.org/covid-information/>.

We are very much aware that the CDC has recently modified some [guidelines](#). We plan to continue to follow the masking guidelines that we formulated in June. As the Unitarian goes to press, we’re still discussing protocols for choir, congregational singing and Coffee Hour. We’ll keep you posted.

*Visioneering, continued from p. 1*

Groups. We brainstormed ways to strengthen our connections, deepen our spirituality, live our values, and reach out to the larger community. We gathered more than 85 solutions ranging from grand and ambitious to small and easily implemented.

**May/June 2022:** Those suggestions were sorted into eight categories. Eight Exploration Groups were formed to dig deeper and figure out how we could turn ideas into action:

- Strengthening Our Sense of Community
- Enhancing Our Presence in Wayland and Beyond
- Expanding the Ways in Which We Worship
- Building Intergenerational Relationships
- Augmenting Communications
- Advancing Social Action
- Planning Facilities to Meet Programmatic Needs
- Reimagining Fund Raising

**June 2022:** Some 40 people signed on to the Exploration Groups to help figure out how your great ideas could be implemented.

The Exploration Groups have been meeting over the summer. We've sketched out everything from ways in which public art might be a welcoming entry point for the wider community to ways in which we could make our facilities more attractive to the youth of First Parish and of the wider community.

**Next Steps**

The Exploration Groups will deliver their reports to the Parish Committee in October. Action items will be prioritized. Implementation teams will be formed. Your visions will come to fruition!

*"The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths to it are not found but made and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination."*  
 ~ John H. Schaar

Be the change you want to see. Let us know if you would like to be part of an implementation team and stay tuned for exciting times ahead!

The Visioning Team

*Ted Barnes, Jay Woodruff, Lynne Lipcon*

**We Need Your Photos!**

These days, we all walk around with cameras in our pockets and purses. Put yours to use for First Parish!

After two years of remote and/or masked activities, our photo library needs replenishing. This newsletter, the eblast, our website, our Facebook page — these are all places we'd like to share new photos of First Parish life.

Go ahead, snap a few pics the next time you are with some First Parish folks. Send them to Karen Plaskon in the office, or Ann Gordon. We'll handle getting permission for any photos we choose to use.

First Parish life is rich with photo ops. Say cheese!

*The Exploration Groups will deliver their reports to the Parish Committee in October. Action items will be prioritized. Implementation teams will be formed. Your visions will come to fruition!*



## Summer Services Thank-Yous

We are so grateful to the many generous folks who stepped forward to lead a Summer Service, and for all those who came to the Vestry, despite some serious summer heat, or tuned in on Zoom. At the time of writing this, we have had eight gatherings, all lay-led, and look forward to the final two by Rev. Stephanie May and our intern minister, Alyssa Lee. The services have covered a wide range of topics from *Understanding China Through Its History* to *What Bees Teach Us* to *On Being Late*. The average attendance was close to 40, and pretty evenly split between in-person and on Zoom.



Barb Heffner offered great support from the Covid team, updating us on the status and necessary precautions. The Lay Ministers were there to open and close the services, introduce the sharing of personal joys and sorrows and, at times, lend needed technical support. Again, a big thanks to all the facilitators who gave their time and energy to developing a topic and leading a service:

Roger Des Forges  
 Dan Lewis  
 Patrick Foley  
 Ann Gordon and Nan Jahnke  
 Laurel Whitehouse  
 Joel Angiolillo  
 Jean Milburn  
 Emily Mlcak  
 Alyssa Lee  
 Rev. Stephanie May

Your Summer Services Team,

*Ted Barnes and Nathalie Thompson*



### Scones with Stephanie

Thursday, Sept. 15,  
 8 - 9:30 a.m. in the  
 Commons

Enjoy warm, homemade scones with Rev. Stephanie in the Commons Cafe. Make a cup of coffee or tea onsite or bring your own. What a nice way to start the day — please come by!



### Sip and Seek

Friday, Sept. 23, 7 - 8:30 p.m.,  
 Outdoors at First Parish

Join in the conversation around the campfire as we check in and pursue the questions that have us seeking deeper understanding.



### Minister's Lunch Returns!

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 11:30 a.m.  
 Sunroom at First Parish

Join our minister, the Rev. Dr. Stephanie May, and fellow parishioners for a light lunch and good company. All are welcome! RSVP requested but not required [by email](#) or at 508-358-6133.

Parish Committee, continued from page 1

- Many thanks to departing Parish Committee members Annie Stubbs and Ted Barnes, whose terms have expired, and welcome to our newest Parish Committee members: Lea Anderson and Jada Williams, who were elected unanimously at Annual Meeting.

Over the summer, four Parish Committee projects and working groups continued work begun last year, as follows:

- Ten summer services, most of them lay led, drew an average of 40 participants most Sundays in June, July, and August. Topics ranged from China and Shakespeare to bees and native plants, with a side trip to the blessed Land of Being Late. Thanks to all our service leaders and to Nathalie Thompson and Ted Barnes for organizing them.
- Ventilation work in the Meetinghouse is nearly complete after several weeks of work in July and August. Workers replaced fans in the Vestry bathrooms and connected an old fresh air intake to the heating system to provide better air exchange rates in the Sanctuary.
- Eight visioning groups met over the summer to explore ways to implement dozens of visionary ideas for a revitalized, post-Covid First Parish in Wayland. You will be hearing more about their work in October. In the meantime, if you would like to brainstorm future scenarios, speak to Lynne Lipcon, Ted Barnes, or Jay Woodruff.
- The Safe Congregation Task Force began a review of first aid protocols, defibrillator and CPR training, and active shooter/ unwanted visitor protocols as well as different approaches to internal conflict resolution. If you have any thoughts on these matters, speak with Alyssa Lee, Nathalie Thompson, or Nan Jahnke.

The worship year begins with Water Sunday on September 11. We look forward to seeing you there!

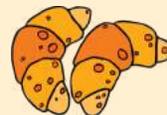
Nan Jahnke, for the Parish Committee

**2022–2023 Parish Committee:** Lea Anderson, Heather Felton (Treasurer), Larry Green, Barbara Heffner, Nan Jahnke (Clerk), Lynne Lipcon, Deb Stubeda, Nathalie Thompson, Jada Williams, Jay Woodruff



## Homecoming Brunch!

Sunday, Sept. 25  
After Sunday Service



Let's do brunch! Join together with First Parish friends for a fun and delicious brunch after the service.

We'll brew up the coffee and fry the bacon. We hope you'll bring some other goodies to share. Need ideas?

Buy Some Donuts  
Bring Some Juice  
Make a Quiche  
Bring a Family Favorite

Or, try a new recipe:

[Berry French Toast Casserole](#)  
[Cheesy Sausage Casserole](#)  
[Vegetarian Strata](#)

Just bring your yummy contribution to the kitchen before the service. And bring your appetite after the service. Questions? Contact [Kate Holland](#).



## Cherished Traditions and New Ideas: Get Ready for Fall 2022

Welcome back!! In September we open the doors wide and welcome everyone back, and look forward to some new faces as well. I love this time of year because I miss seeing you all over the summer. I am excited to come back into community to enjoy services, do social justice work, learn and explore, care for one another and have a lot of fun together.

This month we have a great start to our time together. On September 11 we will have our annual Water Sunday and the Blessing of the Backpacks. And on September 25 we will have a Potluck Brunch! I will make the coffee and bacon...and lots of it, you all can bring along your favorite breakfast item to share. If you are able to bring something, please send me an [email](#) to let me know what you will bring.

In our [SEEK program](#) and in our monthly themes this year we will be looking to our Unitarian Universalist [Sources](#) as we explore world religions. We will be using Minecraft as one of the tools to do that in our SEEK classroom. See page 10 for details.

**Also, this fall we will be doing an experiment.** On the first Sunday of each month, we will have SEEK for all. We will start with a short service then all of us — young and old alike — will get to go off and choose a workshop to attend that will feature a world religion. We will have discussions of books, story tellers, rituals and music just to name a few of the workshops available. I am excited to try this out. What a great opportunity to have time for all of us learn and explore together.

This year I will be working with the [Engagement Team](#) to give current members, friends, and new folks ways to connect. Last year the team reached out to folks we hadn't seen in a while to see how they were doing. We miss people when we don't see them and it was fun to catch up. Please remember that anyone can keep up the connections with those we haven't seen in a while. If you've noticed someone has been missing, please reach out to them. It is important that people know that they are missed. Check in the directory on our website for contact information..

This year we want to create events and activities that connect us as a community, and reach out to the greater community and invite them to come and be a part of First Parish. Our

Potluck Brunch on September 18 is our first event — please come!

I am so excited to start off the new year and I can't wait to see you all.

*Kate Holland*

Director of Education and Engagement

*On September 11 we will have our annual Water Sunday and the Blessing of the Backpacks. And on September 25 we will have a Potluck Brunch!*

### Your Help Wanted:

#### Join the Engagement Team!

The Engagement Team would love to have a few more folks to help us create opportunities for connection. It is fun and “engaging” work.

#### Be a Sunday Greeter!

As we come back to in-person services, we need lead greeters to help out at the front door. Do you have a friendly face? I know you all do!! Contact me to sign up to be the lead greeter at the front door.

If you can help, please contact [Kate Holland](#).

## What Are the Kids Up To?

This church year the children in our SEEK class will be exploring our Unitarian Universalist [sources](#). We will be looking at different world religions and working to understand what wisdom they hold for us through the lens of our [principles and sources](#). (Adults at First Parish will also be looking at world religions this year. See Rev. Stephanie's message on page 4.)

This month the SEEK schedule will be:

**September 11:** We will all be together in the service for our annual Water Sunday and Blessing of the Backpacks

**September 18:** We will look at our Unitarian Universalist principles and sources.

**September 25:** We will work together on the game platform of Minecraft to build a room that represents our Unitarian Universalist traditions.

And in other news.....

### The Nursery is Back!!!

Starting September 12, we will be offering Nursery care again. All children from birth through pre-school are welcome to join us in our new Nursery in the room off of the Commons.

### Teachers and Tech: Can You Help?

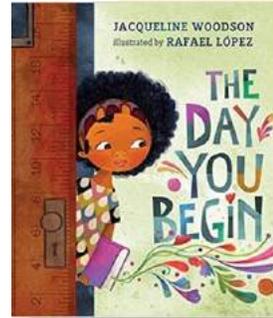
We need help with both the tech for us to use Minecraft and teachers in the classroom. If you can help with either of these please drop me an [email](#).



*Throwback to June 2019 when some First Parish children presented a charming musical performance during the Sunday service.*

## Children's Books Worth Sharing

"The Day You Begin"  
by Jacqueline Woodson



"My School Stinks"  
by Becky Scharnhorst

"All are Welcome"  
by Alexandra Penfold

### Don't Forget to Register Your Children for SEEK

Make sure we have all the information we need to meet your child's needs while they are in the SEEK program or attending Youth Group. If you haven't already, please register your child/ren by [clicking here](#).



This summer my son and I went back to our hometown. We rented an AirBNB just a few blocks from the neighborhood we moved away from a year ago, and we visited friends, drove by our old house, ate at beloved restaurants, and went to Sonic for snacks almost every day.

On our last day, we were driving through a historic neighborhood we had driven through a million times and I asked him, "Do you miss this place?" He said, "I wish our friends could live with us where we are now, but I don't want to live here anymore." I told him that I too missed the people, but this trip helped me realize that, though it was good to revisit it, I did not miss the place. While I will continue to miss the easy access to Tex-Mex, the lessons we have learned with our move and the people we are continuing to grow into being are more than worth the culinary trade-offs for me.

**It's an old trope for a reason, but you truly can't go home again.**

I think people often feel it is because they have changed too much or the people and places they return to visit have. I think that is true, but I also think it is because as we grow older each year and as we get distance from the people who knew certain versions of us, we get closer to the truth of who we are. We become our more authentic selves and the person we are growing into being often does not fit into the easily categorized slot we might have once filled in the place we grew up or around the people who have known us for large portions of our lives.

One facet of my move to Massachusetts that has surprised me is that I feel like I am becoming more and more myself with distance from my home state and the people who have known me my entire life. I know it is a common occurrence when young people go away to college or strike out on their own for the first time, but I did not think this would still be my reality. I did not assume that I, a person entering into her second career with a family, could be surprised in this way, and yet this year has given me some much-needed distance from who I have always been expected to be, and has allowed me to spend time on who I actually am.

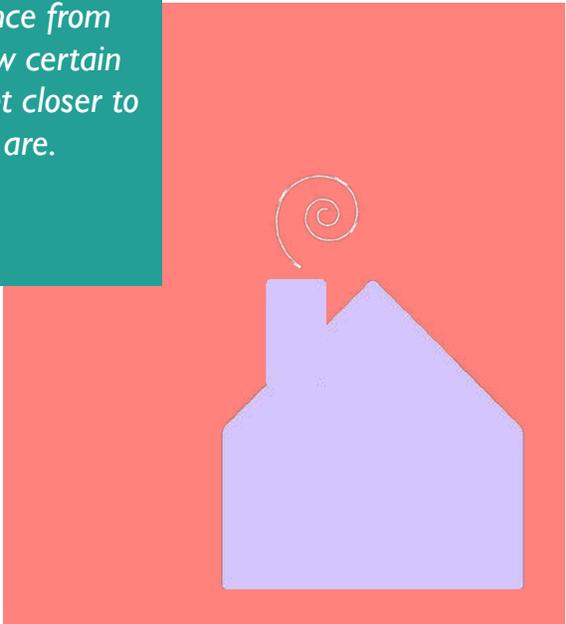
*As we grow older each year and as we get distance from the people who knew certain versions of us, we get closer to the truth of who we are.*

## Going Home Again

Carl Jung has said "The privilege of a lifetime is to become who you truly are." I think one of the gifts of aging is that we are uncovering new parts of ourselves all the time. Yes, we change and we grow, and sometimes that growth is into being the authentic self we always were, but maybe did not have the confidence or insight or, perhaps, the distance we needed to be that person.

Did you revisit old haunts or see long-time friends or family this summer, and discover new parts of yourself? Did you find that you had grown in ways you often do not recognize in your day-to-day life? Did you go home again but realize the person walking through the door was a different person than the last time you were there?

**Alyssa Lee**  
Intern Minister





## Summer Inspirations and Musical Plans for the New Year

Hello, everyone! I am mystified by how quickly the summer months have flown past! There was so much that I had wanted to do and there just didn't seem to be enough time to fit it all in...probably the same for many of us, but where, oh where, did the summer go?

Aside from the pleasures of family gatherings, I found musical inspiration in attending a number of summer concerts, several local musical theater productions and an enlightening Tanglewood master class with American soprano Dawn Upshaw working with three sets of young pre-professional singers and their piano accompanists. As a choir director and teacher of voice and piano, I observed much wisdom and enlightening insights passed on to these young musicians from a seasoned and successful artist.

As we enter into another church year, let us now turn our attention to the joy of singing and playing music in our own beautiful space — the choir loft and Sanctuary of First Parish.

**Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 7, 7:30 to 9 p.m., masked, in the choir loft. All are welcome to join** our fourteen-member adult choir as we begin preparing choral anthems for Sunday services, the first of which will be on September 11.

The choir and select soloists are honored to have been asked to participate in the special memorial service for Ken Sawyer to be held at 3 p.m. on September 18. Rehearsals for the selection(s) the choir plans to offer will take place during the second half of the 9/7 and 9/14 choir rehearsals. All singers who are not regular members of the choir but wish to participate are welcome to join us for rehearsal between 8:30 and 9 p.m. on September 7 and 14.

After last June's Flower Sunday service, I was asked by an enthusiastic mom of one of our SEEK participants for my ideas about starting a Family Choir. I heartily agreed that this was a fine idea.... a Mom, Dad and Kids' Choir...Gramps and Grammys welcome, too! Time and place will soon be announced!

The Bell Choir is off and running under the direction of Linda

Murdock. Exciting plans are afoot between Linda and me for presenting some repertoire that will combine the forces of our choirs, soloists and instrumentalists.

Viva la Musica!

**Polly Oliver**  
Music Director



*As we enter into another church year, let us now turn our attention to the joy of singing and playing music in our own beautiful space — the choir loft and Sanctuary of First Parish.*

## A Summer of Change at Turning Point

**It has been a busy summer at Turning Point. In July, Turning Point got a new Director, Pam Dearborn.** Renee didn't mention an impending change when I dropped off a \$150 Target gift certificate in lieu of a meal in mid-June. Instead, after thanking me sincerely for the gift card, she greeted residents who were outside in the lot enjoying the day, and sometimes told me a bit about them. Her overall message was that nearly all shelter residents had once tended to be "old men with no place to go." Now, she said, many were younger, often much younger, and might be men with challenges like significant disabilities. I heard about Pam Dearborn from Nestor, who was on phones in July the day I called.

Pat Sims, our shopper extraordinaire, was the driver and buyer for our July picnic meal. I'll let her tell you about the delivery in her own words:

*Wanted to let you know that all went well for the food delivery yesterday. Pam was in a meeting when I arrived around 9:30, but several men were outside and around in the back enjoying the beautiful weather. One of the men guided me through the house to the room where Pam was. She and several others were seated around a large rectangular table and got up when I entered the room. Clearly, the meeting was over before I got there. I didn't have to lift a finger. Several men followed me to my car and happily carried the rotisserie chickens, red bliss potato salad, rolls and butter, corn bread, red and green grapes, two kinds of cookies and two cases of bottled water up the stairs and into the kitchen. Mission accomplished. So glad that the dinosaur is still there. Sure makes it easy to find the place!*



But I will just add that she somehow obtained this lavish feast for a lot less than the \$150 our Committee budgets for a summer meal. Thank you on all counts, Pat!!!

In August, Chauncey and I bought and drove the picnic. Our target menu was cold cuts, bread, condiments, watermelon, cookies, bottled water, and suitable salads to round out the meal. (Pam had told us that Kentucky Fried Chicken had just donated a meal to Turning Point and jumped at my offer of something else. She was so anxious not to ask too much that she asked me if we could possibly bring the bread as well as the meat! She doesn't know First Parish yet.)

Chauncey and I went into sticker shock as soon as we saw the Stop and Shop deli case. But there are a lot of good people in the

world. The elderly deli man went all in on the project when he heard that we were a church buying for a men's homeless shelter. He pulled out all his specials and then patiently counted slice by slice as he cut, to make sure that every man would get exactly two very hearty sandwiches, without costing a cent extra. Chauncey, watching in amazement and whispering "Don't distract him!" was afraid the deli man would cut his fingers off as he counted. He didn't. Even so, for economy's sake, we decided to switch from salads to dill pickle spears, baby carrots (on special) and chips, and just squeaked in under \$150.

As we drove into Turning Point, a slim, middle-sized staff member named Bobby came out to help us unload. Bobby has dreadlocks, a faint Caribbean accent, and a flashing smile which grew even brighter as he hefted the heavy packages of cold cuts and cases of bottled water.

**As we unloaded, he asked me about First Parish -- its full name, and where it was located.** He told me he was the proud father of five children and that the three oldest, 13, 15 and 19, lived with him. The two little ones, 1 and 3, lived with their mother. His warm eyes told me how proud he was of all five of them. He said he might like to come to our church some Sunday and bring the three oldest with him. Chauncey and I both assured him that his entire family would be welcome.

Linda Collins and Suzanne Reitz will be shopping for the final summer meal in mid-September. In October, as the weather cools, we will switch to a win-

*continued on next page*

## News from the UU Urban Ministry

I am so pleased to be a new delegate from First Parish in Wayland to the UU Urban Ministry (UUUM), replacing Lois Doerr who has served for many years. My co-delegates and mentors are Rev. Stephanie and Susan Crowley-Bechtel.

**In the spirit of learning more about the UUUM, here is the new mission and vision statement, which the UUUM board and delegates adopted in 2021:**

**Our Mission:** We work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture, and to advance racial, economic and social justice.

**Our Vision:** We envision a Greater Boston where all people live with freedom and dignity, and have equitable access to resources and opportunity to shape the present and the future.

Over the coming months we will keep you informed about ways First Parish in Wayland can support the amazing programs at the UUUM:

- **Domestic Violence Services** focusing on safer shelter and workforce development programming for survivors of domestic violence
- **Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)** focusing on academic enrichment for Boston-area youth of color
- **Arts and Humanities Programming** grounded in a social justice message that amplifies artists and historians of color in the Roxbury neighborhood

And speaking of arts programming, here are two jazz concerts coming up soon. Join us for live jazz music on the beautiful greenspace at 10 Putnam St. in Roxbury. Concerts are free. Bring a lawn chair or towel and stay awhile!

### The Makanda Project

Jazz on the Green Summer Series  
Saturday, September 10, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

### Fred Woodward Collective

Saturday, September 24, 3:00 – 5:00pm



To find out more about the UUUM, please visit [uuum.org](http://uuum.org)

Lea Anderson

*Turning Pt., continued from previous page*

ter meal of chili, bread and butter, bottled water, fruit and/or dessert. Each month, we'll need two chili makers, two dessert chefs or buyers, one or two fruit buyers, and a bread-and-butter buyer. Sign-ups will be open to the whole congregation, via email to me. Members of the Turning Point Committee will continue to drive the food from church to Turning Point. So, as you ease out of vacation mode, please consider including something for Turning Point in your menu planning now and then. It is as easy as adding a pound of butter and few loaves of bread to your next grocery order, or making chili for 10 of the men plus your family (recipe and tins provided).

If you have any questions, please get in touch with any member of the Turning Point Committee – Lois Doerr, Peggy Holland, Marney Ives, Marty McCullough, Melinda Morgan, Suzanne Reitz, Pat Sims, Chauncey Wilson, and me. You won't see Annie Stubbs on our Committee list this year - we said a grateful and reluctant good-bye to her this summer when she moved out of our

area. Thank you for all your years of service to Turning Point and our congregation, Annie! And thanks to everyone in our community who supported Turning Point last year!

Respectfully submitted,  
Penny Wilson for the Turning Point Committee



## Shelter Program Reopens

With this new church year comes a renewed connection to Family Promise Metrowest and to the parents and children with various levels of housing instability that it serves.

Several opportunities are open for refreshing our commitment to FPMW's mission through volunteering and contributing during 2022-23.

**The brightest news is that the Family Promise Metrowest shelter program has relaunched.** There are three families in shelter now — a full house for the newly opened shelter located at 6 Mulligan St., Natick. The house has brand new spaces — bedrooms, kitchen, indoor and outdoor play areas, and patio.

This represents a major shift from the original shelter model — from families being guests at different congregations — to volunteers now being hosted in the families' residence.

And volunteers have been reengaging, providing shelter support in a number of different ways:

- Mon. — Thurs. dinner support
- Grocery shopping and delivery
- Weekend shelter support
- Weekday administrative support
- Teen volunteers
- Overnight support

During Aug. 9-11 First Parish in Framingham coordinated the volunteer activities. And on Aug. 11 four First Parish chefs (Pat Sims, Peggy Holland, Marney Ives, and I) combined efforts to present dinner for the three families. The next assignment will be during the week of Nov 28. **You can join our volunteer and fundraising efforts this year to help make a difference in some local lives.**

Here's a link to learn more about the programs and seeing where help is needed: <https://www.familypromisemetrowest.org/volunteer/>

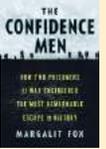
Or contact me: Lois Doerr

## Ongoing First Parish Programs

### Men's Book Club

**Thursday, Oct. 6, 8 p.m. on Zoom**  
**Watch the eblast for Zoom log-in info**

Want to read about a great WWI prison escape story? Join us as we review *The Confidence Men: How Two Prisoners of War Engineered the Most Remarkable Escape in History*, by Margalit Fox. All who identify as male are welcome. Questions? Contact Keith Sims.



*Family Promise's new permanent-site shelter houses families experiencing homelessness. Volunteers come on-site to provide meals and companionship.*

### Mid-Day Meditation

**Mondays, 12 p.m. on Zoom**

**Details in weekly eblast**  
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.

### Knit One, Laugh Two!

**Most Wednesdays, 7 p.m., on Zoom**

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.



## What Happened with the Website I Knew and Loved?

I made a few changes this summer. I'm happy to get feedback and we'll work on making additional changes throughout the year.

**NEW: Members' Page!** Many things that are mainly of interest to members and friends have been moved to this page. To get to this exciting new page:

- Go to <https://www.uuwayland.org/members/>
- OR from the top website menu, under "Stay Connected" go to "For Members"
- OR on the footer of any page, click on "Member's Page" under Quick Links

**What's there??** Currently we have:

- Sign up for Flowers (also on the footer of all pages)
- First Parish Directory (and access to your personal giving history if you've created an account; also on the footer)
- Access to or sign up for First Parish Cloudshare files area (also on the footer)
- Link to Forms
- Link to Calendar
- Link to the private First Parish Facebook Group
- Request to be added to the UUSocial email list
- Also, a link to our solar energy stats and updates from the FP Bee folks!



I'm hoping this makes member information easy to find and access as well as setting up our main web page to be clear and exciting for newcomers and folks taking a look at First Parish.

*Karen Plaskon*  
Parish Administrator

## Defending Democracy: UUs in Action

As the 2022 midterm elections approach, UUs are mobilizing to support democracy, a key UU value. To learn more about faith-wide efforts, please visit <https://www.uuthevote.org>

Here at First Parish in Wayland, we will participate in a postcard campaign to mobilize voters of color in key states. The postcard campaign will run from late September through mid-October. Direct your questions to Jean Milburn.



## Do You Have Some HR Experience?

The Parish Committee is looking to revive the Human Resources Committee, which was dormant during Covid, and is looking for folks with HR experience to join Stephanie and a Parish Committee member to get the ball rolling again.

- Do you work in HR or in a business management position?
- Are you a lawyer or accountant with an HR portfolio?
- Do you consult in HR or related fields?

If yes, and you would like to help give our staff the best support possible, please contact Deb Stubeda or Rev. Stephanie to discuss.

# SEPTEMBER

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**Scones with Stephanie**  
*Thursday, Sept. 15, 8 - 9:30 a.m. in the Commons*  
 See page 7

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**Minister's Lunch Returns**  
*Wednesday, Sept. 21, 11:30 a.m.*  
 See page 7

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**Read Along with the Rev.**  
*Thursday, Sept. 22, 12 p.m.*  
 See page 5

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**Sip and Seek**  
*Friday, Sept. 23, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Outdoors at First Parish*  
 See page 7

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**Homecoming Potluck Brunch**  
*Sunday, Sept. 18 after 10 a.m. Service*  
 See page 8

M

**Mid-Day Meditation**  
*Mondays at noon on Zoom*  
 See page 15

W

**Knit One, Laugh Two!**  
*Most Wednesdays, 7 p.m., on Zoom*  
 See page 15

*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](http://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. 3**

**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  
 Emma Silberman, Childcare Provider

**Unitarian Newsletter Team**

Ann Gordon, Barb Heffner, Nathalie Thompson, Chauncey Wilson

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



FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND  
 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST



**What's Happening?**  
 Find all First Parish activities on [our website calendar](#).  
 Check it out!