

# THE WAYLAND UNITARIAN

OCTOBER 2022



FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

## Exploring Religious Roots *Reflections from Rev. Stephanie*

"I no longer identify as Christian." It has taken me years to comfortably make that statement. Into my 20s, being a Christian was entwined with how I understand myself and many of my significant relationships with family and friends. As my religious outlook shifted in my 30s and 40s, I continued to speak about my Christian roots—in both warm and critical ways. Even now, I know that Christianity has profoundly impacted my life and will remain a part of my story. And yet, by indicating that I no longer identify as Christian, I am recognizing that the Christian tradition, texts, and concepts are no longer the ones that frame my worldview of understanding life's purpose or ethical choices.

Along similar lines, First Parish in Wayland no longer identifies as Christian. Right?! Typically, our full name is represented a "First Parish in Wayland, Unitarian Universalist." This is the masthead on our website, the sign on our front lawn, and the words on our logo. And yet, our roots as a congregation are undeniably Chris-

*continued on page 4*

## First Parish Pantry Garden: *Food for Shelters*

Food and flowers grown at the First Parish Pantry Garden this summer were taken weekly to local shelters, including Turning Point and two family shelters also in Framingham. Laurel Whitehouse, Suzanne Woodruff and Suzanne's granddaughter, Gretchen, have joined Molly Faulkner and emerita gardeners Rita Anderson, Kathleen Lang, Janet Hadingham, and Andrea Case to weed, plant, harvest, and water among the songbirds, butterflies, honey bees and cool breezes. Despite the drought, the pantry garden flourished again this summer.

In Spring 2021, Mainstone Farm's Neighborhood Farm gave us seedlings and did so again this last spring and summer. We encourage First Parish folks to consider

buying produce from [The Neighborhood Farm](#) on Old Connecticut Path as a way of showing our appreciation.

Stop and Shop in Wayland Center is another helpful neighbor. Since early 2021, they have offered us several months of Bloomin' for Good, a program where S&S partners with efforts to make more food available for those with little access; we have "earned" to date several hundred dollars because S&S customers chose to buy "Bloomin' for Good" bouquets. Thank you shoppers and Stop and Shop.



## 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. Contact the office 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.

- October 2**  
**Exploring Christianity**  
 Rev. Dr. Stephanie May  
 SEEK Class  
 Youth Group 4:30 - 6 p.m.
- October 9**  
**What Would Mr. Rogers Do?**  
 Alyssa Lee, Intern Minister  
 SEEK Class
- October 16**  
**The Evergreen Stories**  
 Rev. Dr. Stephanie May  
 SEEK Class  
 Youth Group 4:30 - 6 p.m.
- October 23**  
**Is Sin Even a Thing?**  
 Rev. Dr. Stephanie May  
 SEEK Class  
 Youth Group 4:30 - 6 p.m.
- October 30**  
**The Gardeners Guide to Justice**  
 Rev. Mary Margaret Earl  
 SEEK Class  
 Youth Group 4:30 - 6 p.m.

**Sharing Our Plate**

On Sunday, Oct. 16, half the cash in our collection plates, and any checks so designated, will go to the Sudbury-Wayland-Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable, a community-based non-profit dedicated to promoting safe and healthy relationships and raising awareness about abusive and controlling behaviors.

**October's Lay Minister**

October's Lay Minister is Kathie Schmidt. Please contact Kathie 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](#).



**October's Guest Minister**

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl has served as Executive Director and Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry for 8 years. In this ministry, she has worked to strengthen bonds between UUs and the Roxbury neighborhood where the UUUM operates. She has served on the Faith in Solidarity leadership team and the Roxbury Cultural Network. Prior to her arrival at the UU Urban Ministry, she spent 10 years at a faith-based nonprofit in RI serving the homeless community. She is recipient of the Heroes of Faith Award from the Rhode Island State Council of Churches for her interfaith work, and received a Courage of Conscience award from the Peace Abbey in Sherborn, Mass. She is a longtime vegan committed to standing up for nonhuman animals.

**Worship Themes**  
**Yearly Theme:** Encountering Differences  
**October:** Christianity



*Reflections, continued from p. 1*

tian. Founded in 1640 by Puritan dissenters of the Church of England, the founding families made life-changing choices based on differences of opinion on what it meant to be Christian. And when Rev. John Burt Wight became minister of First Parish in 1815, he led the congregation through a theological split over how to be Christian. The winning faction of liberals identified with the emerging Unitarian Christian movement—hence our newsletter name, “The Unitarian.” Over the next 150 years, some Unitarians and Universalists would explore religious insights from other traditions and then from modern science. While some Unitarians and Universalists signed on to the first [Humanist Manifesto of 1933](#), the Unitarian church continued to widely understand itself as Christian. Following the [1961 merger](#) of the Unitarians and the Universalists, two historically Christian denominations, we became Unitarian Universalist. As I understand it, our worship services continued to include Christian elements such as the Lord’s Prayer well into the 20th century. Even today, some Unitarian Universalist congregations remain more closely aligned with these Christian threads.

When I engage in interfaith work, I often have to gently clarify that First Parish is not Christian. But I don’t really blame those who take a look at our building and assume we are Christian. Our history, our architecture (vestry, steeple), as well as the structure and terms used in our worship services (hymns, postlude, etc.) all reflect Christianity. Additionally, some of our members identify as Christian or find meaning in elements of the Christian tradition. So, is First Parish Christian? Or do we no longer identify as Christian? And if we do not identify as Christian, what is our relationship to our Christian heritage and the vestiges of its presence all around us?

**As we start off our journey of “Encountering Difference” this year, we begin by focusing on Christianity.** By starting here, I invite us all, whether we individually grew up Christian or not, to consider the ways in which our own beliefs as well as our congregation is similar to and different from Christianity. Of course, Christianity, like all the religions we will engage this year, is itself full of differences. So also, I

*So, is First Parish Christian? Or do we no longer identify as Christian? And if we do not identify as Christian, what is our relationship to our Christian heritage and the vestiges of its presence all around us?*

imagine that there is a range of answers to these questions within our congregation. My hope is that we will share our thoughts with one another as we practice encountering differences within and beyond our walls.

In peace,  
*Rev. Stephanie*

## Sunday, October 2: RE For Everyone

Our service on Sunday, Oct. 2 will offer *RE for Everyone*. Following a short service in the Sanctuary, all ages are invited to attend one of three Religious Education programs.

**Sing-along with Polly:** Enjoy some great songs from the Christian tradition. This will be accessible on Zoom and YouTube.

**Blessing of the Animals:** Learn more about this Christian ritual that affirms the place of animals in our lives. Pets, stuffed animals, or photos of pets welcome! Led by Kate Holland and Alyssa Lee, this is in-person only.



**Christ for UUs:** Based on this book by Scotty McLennan, Rev. Stephanie will lead a discussion about Christian theology and its relevance for UUs. Reading the book not required. Also on Zoom and YouTube.

## New Year, New Leadership

The Parish Committee reconvened on September 6 after a summer hiatus. We're pleased to report that Lea Anderson has agreed to serve as Chair and Lynne Lipcon has agreed to serve as Vice Chair of the committee. Larry Green has agreed to lead the Stewardship campaign for the 2022-23 year. Having campaign leadership in place early in the year will enable us to get our efforts off the ground in an earlier timeframe this year.

Matt Freije, our Technology Facilitator, has accepted a full-time tech job at his alma mater, Holy Cross, so he will not be returning this year. We are currently seeking a new hire, but this will take some time. In the meantime, we are looking for volunteers to be trained to help out. In addition, we are looking for a new nursery worker. Kate is leading the charge for that hire. We are also looking for volunteers for coffee hour and for SEEK.

As Stephanie recently reported via email, we will experiment in coming weeks to find the best format to re-integrate joys and sorrows into the live-streamed worship service.

Arts Wayland [a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization], has inquired about using First Parish space for occasional classes and performances. The organization recently lost its donated gallery and event space. This presents a good opportunity for community engagement, introducing new audiences to our space. More talks are in the works to clarify details and to ensure such rentals comply with Building Use policies.

The Parish Committee next meets on Oct. 13. If you have any questions or concerns, do write to a member of the PC.

### **Barb Heffner, 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

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## Pregnancy and Infant Loss Gathering

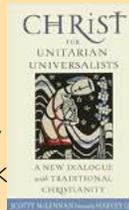
Thursday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. in the Vestry

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month. Please join Intern Minister Alyssa Lee for an intimate gathering to hold space for the losses many of us have felt in our own lives and in our families.



## Read Along With the Rev October

As we explore Christianity in the month of October, join in a discussion of *Christ for Unitarian Universalists* by Scotty McLennan. The book aims to stimulate dialogue about Jesus Christ, whether or not we find him central to our faith life. Copies are available online or contact Rev. Stephanie for a copy to borrow. This discussion will be part of the first "RE for Everyone" on Sunday, October 2.



## November

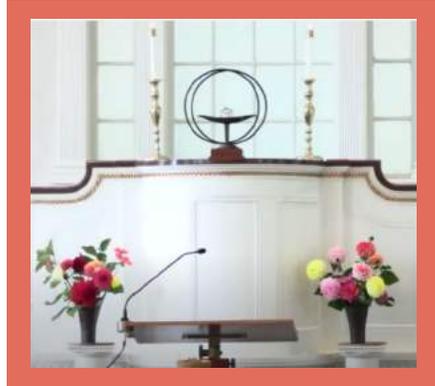
In November we'll explore Judaism, reading *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life—in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)* by Sarah Hurwitz. Hurwitz is a former Wayland resident and child of Temple Shir Tikva who became head speechwriter for Michelle Obama. In the book, Hurwitz shares how she rediscovers Judaism, finding timeless wisdom and spiritual connection in its age-old practices and traditions.



## Sunday Flowers for the Sanctuary

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to contribute flowers as we get back into Sunday services. We have sign-ups filled through November, until Thanksgiving. There is still an opening for the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend.

There are many available Sundays in 2023, so you can think of someone or something special to honor with a flower arrangement. Sign up on the [First Parish Members Page](#), or contact Rita Anderson or Suzanne Woodruff, our Flower Committee.



## A Thank-You Note to First Parish

Long-time First Parish members Dick and Sandy Hoyt sent a note to First Parish recently, and asked that it be shared. The note says:

*Dear Members and Friends of First Parish*

*During the pandemic, for two years (2021-2022), you and many generous neighbors have provided a hot meal to the Hoyts once a week. Each of you have created tasty treats and delivered them to nourish our bodies and uplift our spirits.*

*You have our gratitude for your kindness. We hope that your example will be followed in other "dark days."*

*With appreciation,  
Sandy and Dick*



We offer our thanks in return to the Hoyts for all they have contributed to the life of our community, from their many roles on committees, Sandy's invaluable work in countless Rummage Sales and as a leader of nature-based worship, and Dick's incomparable resonant baritone in the choir.



## Birthday Scones with Stephanie

Thursday, Oct. 6,

8 - 9:30 a.m. in the Commons

Help Rev. Stephanie kick off a long weekend of celebration as she prepares to turn 50 on the 10th! Enjoy warm, homemade scones, make a cup of coffee or tea onsite or bring your own.



## Sip and Seek

Friday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.,

Outdoors or Vestry

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



## Minister's Lunch

Wed., Oct. 19,  
11:30 a.m.

Sunroom at First Parish

Join Rev. Stephanie 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.



## Spaghetti, Soup, and Spiritual Sustenance

It has been a great start to our new program year and just wonderful to see so many of us coming back into the building for services. There are lots of fun things happening at First Parish!

October 2 will be the kickoff of our *RE for All* program. After a short service we will all move off to the workshop of our choice. Rev. Stephanie will hold a discussion of *Christ for Unitarian Universalists* by Scotty McLennan; Polly will gather folks around the piano to sing some well-loved Christian hymns; and Alyssa and I will offer a blessing of the animals in celebration of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. I am so excited that on this Sunday we will all have a chance to explore the monthly theme of Christianity together.

It is also wonderful to bring back community events to First Parish. On October 7 we will have an in-person dinner and movie night. We will make spaghetti; please bring a salad, dessert or drinks if you like. After we eat, we will have a fun sing-along with the movie *Mary Poppins*. Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. and the movie starts at 6:30. Come and join the fun.

I am so excited that we have started having Minister's Lunch again on the third Wednesday of each month. We serve soup, salad, and bread with dessert. The conversation is always fun and lively. Some folks think you have to be over a certain age, but there is no age limit involved. Just come and join us on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 11:30 a.m.

It is so very good to move back into First Parish, and there are so many fun things to do to both connect with each other or deepen our spirit.

*Kate Holland*

Director of Education and Engagement

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### *This Month in SEEK*

**Oct. 2** Join us for RE for all. We will have different workshops for all ages centered around the faith tradition of Christianity. There will be a book discussion, a hymn sing with Polly and a blessing of the animals.

**Oct. 9** We will be working together to start a year-long social justice project of supporting others who are food insecure.

**Oct. 16** We will be studying the faith tradition of Christianity and talking about Christmas and its significance to Christians.

**Oct. 23** We will continue our study of Christianity and talk about Easter and how that story is significant in the life of Jesus and to Christians.

**Oct. 30** We will be using the computer game of Minecraft to use the information we have learned about Christianity to make a church area inspired by our studies.

## Water Sunday Revisted September 11, 2022

The sun shone on this year's Water Sunday service as First Parishioners gathered together for worship, singing, the mingling of water from sources near and far, and to receive a "backpack blessing" for the coming year. *Photos: Brad Keyes*



*Polly Oliver and the First Parish Choir*



*Rev. Stephanie, Karen Knowlton and Melodie Knowlton-Foley*



*Nathan and Courtney Jorgensen and children*



*Ginny Steel and Jan Miner*



*Rev. Stephanie, Jimmy and Heidi Seaborg and children*

## Holiday Pop-Up Sale Sat. Nov. 19, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

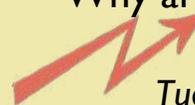
When we cleaned out the sheds, we found many holiday items left over from past rummage sales.



To move these items to new homes, we'll be hosting a pop-up sale (open to the public) in the Commons on Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. In addition, we'd welcome your donations of **holiday items only**. (This is not a general tag sale.)

We'll have drop-off times in the week before the sale. If for any reason Covid is a more serious problem in that timeframe, we'll move the sale to the sheds. We'll need volunteers for set-up, staffing and teardown. Please contact Suzanne Tiberii if you'd like to volunteer. Stay tuned for more details.

## Why are My Electric Bills Rising?



Tuesday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m.

Our next MetroWest Climate Solutions event will focus on the reasons behind our rising electricity rates. Larry Chretien, Executive Director of the [Green Energy Consumers Alliance](#), will explore factors that affect price.

Will these rising costs have the unintended benefit of making wind and large-scale solar power more competitive? And as we continue to "electrify everything," can the New England grid meet the demand? Join us to learn the answers to these and other pressing questions.



## Learning to Appreciate the Spiritual Journey

In class the other day, one of my professors split us into breakout sessions based on the previous faith traditions we were a part of (or none if that was the case). She asked us to think about what we gained from our past faith traditions and sometimes missed and what we decided to leave behind.

I sorted myself into the fundamentalist/evangelical group. I appreciated the opportunity to connect with other people with a similar past and talk about what we gained from that experience and missed from our past. Sometimes it can be easy to focus on the negative aspect of one's religious past, but I think there is much to be gleaned from those experiences, even if we have left most of that part of our lives behind. People in my group spoke about missing a sense of community and connection with people who believed similarly, missing a sense of certainty about our faith, or missing the personal relationships with God many of us had cultivated.

However, we realized that many of the things we missed were also what we wanted to leave behind. We loved having certainty about faith, but many of us felt that it no longer fit who we were in our current faith formation. Additionally, we spoke of the pain many of us experienced in those settings. Feeling like we could never be our true selves, especially those who identify as LGBTQ+, or of feeling judged for our political or social viewpoints. We spoke about doubts that we often felt as young people and feeling like we had no one we could ask about them. I particularly remembered being fearful about my place and my family's place in the afterlife and I constantly worried about measuring up.

I love that this year we are taking time to discuss a wide variety of faith traditions. I

enjoy speaking to people from different faith backgrounds and hearing their experiences and beliefs. I feel that my own understanding of my spiritual growth and formation is deepened by these discussions. However, I am keenly aware that for many there is discomfort or pain when discussing prior experiences.

*I enjoy speaking to people from different faith backgrounds and hearing their experiences and beliefs. I feel that my own understanding of my spiritual growth and formation is deepened by these discussions.*

For instance, I spent a lot of time when I first joined a Unitarian Universalist congregation unpacking some of my prior churches' teachings about sin. While I no longer believe in the concept of sin, it does not mean that I do not sometimes hear a voice in the back of my mind telling me I have sinned. It can be difficult to silence that voice or remember that it no longer has any sway over my life.

If you did not grow up in the Unitarian Universalist faith, are there teachings from a prior faith tradition you feel still have an impact on your life for good or for ill? If you did grow up in the Unitarian Universalist faith, what curiosities do you have about other faith traditions? I would love to get a cup of tea and discuss it with you.

**Alyssa Lee**  
Intern Minister

Mark your  
calendar!

Feb. 4:  
Winter Auction!  
(Snow Date:  
Feb. 11).

Stay tuned for  
details!



## Bells Will Ring and Children Will Sing

Our musical season is well under way! We've already sung a few times and did a fine job at Ken Sawyer's memorial service on September 18 celebrating his ministry. In other news:

**We Ask For Your Help!** In planning the music program for the church year, we will ask you to complete a survey, distributed during October. Please share your music preferences with us!

**The Bells Will Ring Again!** Over the summer, Polly moved a lot of music around in our two music closets, creating space for the Areen Bell Choir's music collection, and we invested significant money in the bells and their music. We believe in the importance of the work the Bell Choir does. It brings real joy to the congregation to hear the Bell Choir play. The bells themselves were sent off to Schulmerich Bell Company in Hatfield, PA by Director Linda Murdock this summer for their first-ever refurbishment since they were given to First Parish nearly two decades ago by the Marshall family. Subsequent, less costly refurbishments are planned for every five years. In addition, new music is being purchased to keep the group challenged and audiences intrigued whenever the Bell Choir plays through the church year.



*In planning the music program for the church year, we will ask you to complete a survey, distributed during October. Please share your music preferences with us!*

**Recruiting For Children's Choir.** Polly is delighted to announce the return of a Children's Choir. First Parish has a long tradition of a children's choir, but we entered a fallow period over the past five years as the number of children available to participate fell. As younger families join First Parish and parents express interest in it, we have a terrific opportunity for children's voices to again ring forth in the Meeting House. More details will become available as the program begins early this Fall.

**Polly Oliver**, Music Director  
Jay Woodruff and Kathleen Lang, Music Committee

## Shine a Light on Domestic Violence Vigil 2022

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and this year the Sudbury-Wayland-Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable will partner again with the First Parish in Wayland, the Wayland Interfaith Leaders Association, and the Lauren Dunne Astley Foundation to Shine a Light on the issues related to domestic and break-up violence. Purple signifies courage and compassion, and purple lights will illuminate religious and civic buildings in Sudbury, Wayland, Lincoln, and Framingham at various times throughout the month.

**In Wayland on Thursday, October 13**, walks will commence from several points in the town arriving at First Parish in Wayland, 225 Boston Post Road,



Wayland for the Shine a Light Vigil at 7.00 p.m. The outdoor event will focus on remembering those who have lost their lives to domestic violence in the past year, recognizing those surviving abuse today, and calling all of us to action as we work to prevent abuse in our communities. In the event of rain, the event will be moved indoors where masks may be required per current protocols.

The vigil will be livestreamed via the First Parish in Wayland's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/c/FirstParishinWayland>.

Locations and start times for the walks will be posted soon.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

# SHINE A LIGHT VIGIL

OCT. 13, 7:00PM  
FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND  
FRONT LAWN  
(INSIDE, MASKS REQUIRED, IF RAINING)



*Shine your light  
by joining  
a pre-vigil march!*

*Learn more at  
[www.domesticviolenceroundtable.org](http://www.domesticviolenceroundtable.org)  
or [uuwayland.org](http://uuwayland.org)*

**Sponsored by:**

**Sudbury-Wayland-  
Lincoln Domestic  
Violence Roundtable**

**Wayland Interfaith  
Leaders Association**

**Lauren Dunne  
Astley Memorial Fund**



Or, watch a  
**livestream** on  
the First Parish  
in Wayland  
YouTube Page

[http://www.youtube.com/  
c/FirstParishinWayland](http://www.youtube.com/c/FirstParishinWayland)

## A New Place on the Menu at Turning Point

During the last gasp of summer in mid-September, Suzanne Reitz delivered our last summer meal of the season to Turning Point. It was a delicious assemblage of cold cuts, cheese, bulky rolls, mustard and mayo, grapes, cookies, and bottled water. Suzanne arrived just past midday, only to learn that the First Parish meal was on the menu for lunch that day and had been eagerly anticipated. She was welcomed, and the hungry men enjoyed the lunch even more. Thank you, Suzanne, for taking time for Turning Point in the crazy-busy month that is September!

Since then, I have checked in with Pam Dearborn, the Director of Turning Point. Pam explained that Turning Point now has catered dinners Sunday through Thursday nights, often donated by area restaurants like Kentucky Fried Chicken. What she didn't have to explain is that these donors are also potential employers of the men "graduating" from Turning Point's programs. It is a win-win for residents of the shelter. Since we usually deliver our monthly meal on Monday mornings, in recent months the shelter has been serving it for lunch. She assured me that she is very grateful for what we do. Our drivers have seen during recent deliveries how welcome our meals continue to be.

For October and beyond, we will switch to our cool-weather meal of chili, bread and butter, bottled water, fruit and/or dessert. Each month, we'll need two chili makers, someone to buy two cases of bottled water, 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 First Parish to Turning Point. Do we really need to provide a meal this hearty for lunch? It all comes back to who the shelter residents are. Men, especially young men, are hearty eaters, as those of you who have, or were, teenage boys know. The shelter residents who are getting entry-level jobs in the tight economy tend to be working on their feet, and those for whom homelessness is a very recent memory may be building back from malnutrition as well.

Our next drop-offs are October 10, November 14, and December 12. 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 a few loaves of bread to your next grocery order or making chili for 10 of the men plus your family (recipe and tins provided). Our drop-off refrigerator may move out of Stokey - I'll send out instructions for finding it closer to these dates. If you have 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.

Respectfully submitted,

***Penny Wilson for the Turning Point Committee***



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## News from the UU Urban Ministry

What a beautiful time of year to work in a garden or support the arts in Roxbury! To the right are two of opportunities to participate at the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry (UUUM) during the next month.

And below are some great ways to learn more about what is happening at the Urban Ministry. Please check out the [Video Library](#) on the UUUM website. It is a treasure trove of interesting information on timely topics.

**The Community Conversations webinar series** was created to highlight and discuss issues of concern to Boston's communities of color, while also educating suburban communities on these important topics. Topics include Economic Justice and Closing the Wealth Gap, Creating Conditions for Well Being in Communities of Color, Equity in Education, Gentrification: Root Causes/Impact on Individuals & Families/Efforts to Combat It

**The Lunch with an Artist Series** is part of the UUUM's Roxbury Artist Amplification Project. Three 45-minute events, hosted by UUUM Social Justice Fellow Bithyah Israel, connect with different local, featured artists, look at their virtual gallery, and hear from them about their work.

**Treasures of the Meetinghouse** is a virtual series celebrating the rich history and vibrant modern day of the UUUM Meetinghouse. This is especially timely as the UUUM is working on a major interior restoration project of this historic building, having recently completed the exterior work and landscaping. Stay tuned for exciting information on how First Parish in Wayland can participate in this project.

**Community Commercials** introduce us to minority businesses in the Roxbury area. UU Urban Ministry is committed to its neighborhood and neighbors. Minority-owned businesses were affected especially adversely due to the pandemic. The UUUM began to reach out to businesses and worked with them to create short, informative commercials. Please take a look if you are interested in learning about and supporting minority owned businesses such as the Frugal Bookstore.

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

### Coming Up at the UU Urban Ministry

#### Secret Asian Man

*A one-person, one-act play*

**Sat., October 8, 3 to 4:30 p.m.**

UU Urban Ministry, 10 Putman St.,  
Roxbury

A one-man play performed by the writer of the play, Dev Luthra. Dev has been a working actor and teaching artist since 1978. Both his parents were raised in Africa – Zambia and Kenya, which is where his father was born. Run time approximately 55 minutes.

#### Bulb Planting

**Sat., October 22, 10 a.m. to noon**

The UUUM has purchased 200 daffodil bulbs for the Peace Garden. If you would like to dig (and enjoy a cup of coffee and some banana bread) please join volunteers from other UU congregations. As Peace Garden Committee co-chair Jean Krasnow reports, "The ground has been immensely improved from our first bulb planting effort/agonny. And the garden looks great thanks to Milton who has faithfully watered and weeded all summer!"

Please let me (Lea Anderson) know if you are interested in planting and I will help arrange carpools leaving First Parish around 9 a.m. on Oct. 22.



*The view of Boston from the UUUM Peace Garden*



## A Family Farewell

Three families have been in the Mulligan St., Natick, shelter for the past month. One family, with two parents and an infant, found housing in Boston and has successfully left the shelter.

Over the past two months, volunteers have been providing shelter support in different ways:

- Grocery shopping and delivery
- Contributions of \$25 gift cards to Market Basket and Stop and Shop
- Weekend shelter office support
- Weekday administrative support
- Teen volunteers
- Overnight support

During the week of Nov 28, First Parish in Wayland will combine efforts with First Parish in Framingham and First Baptist Framingham to provide dinners Monday through Thursday and serve as dinner hosts for up to three shelter families.

[Here is a link](#) to learn more about the programs and see where help is needed.

And [click here](#) to learn about some other ways we can help Family Promise Metrowest over the next two months:

Please contact me if you would like to join a small group leading our volunteer and fundraising efforts this year. We're focused on making a difference in the lives of some local families.

Lois Doerr

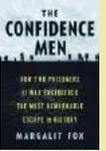
*During the week of Nov. 28, First Parish in Wayland will combine efforts with First Parish in Framingham and First Baptist Framingham to provide dinners Monday through Thursday and serve as dinner hosts for up to three shelter families. .*

## 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.



### 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 are the Communications Guidelines and Deadlines?

**Monthly Unitarian Newsletter**, emailed monthly, posted in Vestry and on website

**Best for:** Longer articles, pictures of things coming up or recent events

**Deadline:** 20th of the prior month



**Weekly E-blast**, emailed Thursday mornings

**Best for:** Short reminders (2 sentences with links to additional info) of things coming up within 2 weeks

**Deadline:** 2 p.m. Tuesday

**Order of Service**, available during Service and online (Fridays)

**Best for:** Short reminders of things coming up this week

**Deadline:** 2 p.m. Wednesday

Although the following don't have specific deadlines, they may take several days to post:

**Facebook, Instagram, Twitter**, [Public Facebook page](#) and [private Facebook group](#) (for First Parish friends and members only)

**Best for:** Public (public events); Private (items of interest and pictures for FP members and friends only)

**Deadline:** NONE. Anyone can post on the private group. If you have something you want to go on the public social media, email me or note it with other submissions

**Website Blog**, front page of website ([uuwayland.org](http://uuwayland.org))

**Best for:** Public events and First Parish news

**Deadline:** NONE. Email me or note it with other submissions

**Social@uuwayland.org**, private Google group for the congregation

**Best for:** General information of interest to members & friends who are on the list

**Deadline:** NONE. Sign up for the list on the members' page of the website ([uuwayland.org/members](http://uuwayland.org/members))

**YouTube**, public postings of our services, music, activity videos, etc.

**Best for:** Public activity videos

**Deadline:** NONE. Only staff submits content. Email me if there is something you'd like to submit.

## UUSC Human Rights Celebration

Thursday, October 13, 6:00 p.m.  
John F. Kennedy Library, Boston

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) will gather in Boston

with its Board of Trustees and leading supporters from across the country for its annual Human Rights Celebration, an evening of hope and unity.

Each year UUSC presents its Leadership Award to an individual who has made significant contributions to further human rights and social justice. This year's celebration (the first in-person event since 2019) will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, beginning with a tour of the museum and cocktail reception at 6:00 PM.

The evening promises to be an inspiring one. The keynote speaker will be [Catherine Coleman Flowers](#), an internationally recognized environmental activist and author of *Waste: One Woman's Fight Against America's Dirty Secret*. We will also enjoy musical performances from [Emma's Revolution](#). And we will be joined by some of UUSC's incredible grassroots partners.

Tickets are \$150 each. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets and register.

# OCTOBER

**6** Birthday Scones with Stephanie  
*Thursday, Oct. 6, 8 - 9:30 a.m.*  
 See page 6

**6** Men's Book Group  
*Thursday, Oct. 6, 8:00 p.m. on Zoom*  
 See page 14

**8** Secret Asian Man, UUUM  
*Saturday, Oct. 8, 3:00 p.m.*  
 See page 13

**13** Domestic Violence Walk & Vigil  
*Thursday, Oct. 13, 7:00 p.m.*  
 See pages 10 and 11

**19** Minister's Lunch  
*Wednesday, Oct. 19, 11:30 a.m.*  
 See page 6

**20** Pregnancy and Infant Loss Gathering  
*Thursday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.*  
 See page 5

**22** Bulb Planting, UUUM  
*Saturday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m.*  
 See page 13

**25** Why are My Electric Bills Rising?  
*Tuesday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m.*  
 See page 8

**28** Sip and Seek  
*Friday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.*  
 See page 6

*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



## What's Happening?

Find all First Parish activities on [our website calendar](#).  
 Check it out!

