



### Undecorate the Tree is Back!

Hooray! Hooray! For the past two years, Covid may have changed the way we did Undecorate the Tree, but this year the tree will be up again and decorated with red and green paper candy canes – just as it has been for over twenty years. This First Parish tradition lives on!

Undecorate the Tree is an opportunity for our community to share our gifts with mothers and children who have survived domestic violence and who are facing enormous challenges.

On Sunday, November 6, the tree will be up and decorated in the Commons this year. (The tree will be moved to the Vestry for the weekend of November 20 for the Holiday Pop-Up Sale.) Each green candy cane is a mother's gift wish; each red cane is a child's wish. If you attend Sunday services in person or want to come by during the week, please consider signing out a candy cane or two. Gifts need to be returned by Sunday, November 27.

If you are attending services on Zoom, you can participate by sending a check made out to the Alliance of First Parish Wayland and we'll purchase a Target gift card for you. Target remains the mothers' gift card of choice. Checks should be mailed to Pat Sims, 47 Rice Spring Lane, Wayland, MA 01778, to be received no later than November 27.

A third way to participate is to purchase a Target gift card and drop it off in the collection box by the back parking lot entrance to First Parish.

This is our 17th year partnering with REACH, an agency in Waltham  
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### Welcome Home to Healthier, Fresher Air!

As anyone who attended services during the winter months last year knows, Covid-19 forced us to throw open the windows to improve cross-ventilation — necessary even on the coldest Sundays — to reduce the potential of breathing in other people's air particles. Brrrr!

This summer First Parish spent \$24,000 to warm things up while keeping fresh air flowing. The heating system now pipes in fresh air from outside the building, heats it with some nice warm BTUs and mixes it with recirculated, heated air. Even though we will still open Sanctuary windows, we won't have to open them as wide. Result? Plenty of fresh air, and if you are sitting in an outside pew on a cold winter Sunday, you will be a lot more comfortable!

Do you miss seeing your First Parish friends in person? While we can't eliminate the risk of catching Covid or another illness, our newly configured heating system improves air quality in our beautiful Meeting House. This year we're seeing higher in-person attendance and we hope people will feel even more comfortable attending in person with this ventilation update. Deep thanks to the Ventilation and the Health Advisory Team as well as the Buildings and Facilities Committee for all they have done.

*Jay Woodruff, for the Parish Committee*



*Our lovely 1815 Meetinghouse looks beautiful in all seasons, but there is just something extra-special about fall.*

## 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.

**November 6**  
**Exploring Judaism**  
 Cantor Hollis Schachner, Temple Shir Tikva  
 Rev. Dr. Stephanie May  
 RE for All

**November 13**  
**We the People**  
 Rev. Dr. Stephanie May  
 SEEK Class

**November 20**  
**Transgender Day of Remembrance**  
 Rev. Dr. Stephanie May  
 SEEK Class  
 Youth Group 4:30 - 6 p.m.

**November 27**  
**Dare to Think Smaller**  
 Alyssa Lee, Ministerial Intern  
 SEEK Class  
 Youth Group 4:30 - 6 p.m.

**Worship Themes**

**Yearly Theme:**  
 Encountering Differences

**November:** Judaism

**Sharing Our Plate**

On Sunday, Nov. 20, half the cash in our collection plates, and any checks so designated, will go to the [The Trevor Project](#) whose mission is to ensure that LGBTQ young people who need support know they are not alone. Your support helps provide free crisis services and work with policy-makers to pass legislation protecting LGBTQ youth.

**November's Lay Minister**

November's Lay Minister is Roger Horine. Please contact Roger 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](#).

**Special Sunday Happenings**

**Sunday, Nov. 6: RE for All — Exploring Judaism.** See p. 4 for details.

**Sunday, Nov. 27:** Our **SEEK children will make delicious soup** to serve at Coffee Hour. Please consider making a donation to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's [Guest at Your Table](#) program, which raises money to support worldwide human rights initiatives. This year's theme is *Hope, Courage, Action!* Please support our young SEEKers' fundraising efforts by making a donation.

## Sunday, Nov. 6: RE for All Exploring Judaism

Our service on Sunday, Nov. 6 will offer RE for All: Exploring Judaism. Following a short service in the Sanctuary, all ages are invited to attend one of two Religious Education programs. Zoom attendees can join by selecting the appropriate breakout room.

### Discussion with Cantor Hollis Schachner, Temple Shir Tikva – Sanctuary, multiplatform

Join Cantor Schachner and Rev. Stephanie as they engage the book *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life-in Judaism (after Finally Choosing to Look There)* by Sarah Hurwitz, a former Wayland resident and lead speech writer for Michelle Obama. We'll explore how Judaism can be lived today in meaningful and relevant ways. (Reading the book not required.)



Cantor Hollis Schachner

Cantor Schachner has been clergy at Temple Shir Tikva since 2001. She believes in the power of music to bring people together in prayer and across differences, and bases her leadership of TST's music program on guiding the congregation to find its own voice. She is passionate about learning and teaching Torah and is a dedicated pastoral counselor.

### Storytelling with Rona Leventhal – Vestry, multiplatform

All ages are invited to engage with exuberant and dynamic storyteller Rona Leventhal, who will be telling stories from the Jewish tradition.



For 30 years Rona Leventhal has gained repute as an exuberant and dynamic performer, bringing a cornucopia of voices and characters to her stories. Her participatory and engaging performances will leave people with laughter in the belly and smiles in their heart! Rona has performed at the National Storytelling Conference, international venues, festivals, schools, and libraries. A certified teacher, she is passionate about bringing literacy to children in an exciting and accessible way. She is an approved Artist & Teaching Artist with the Massachusetts Cultural Council as well as other states' arts organizations. Rona's CD "Into the Dark: Stories From the Shadows" won Storytelling World Gold Award. She is coeditor of *Spinning Tales*, *Weaving Hope*, and winner of the Storytelling World Honors Award.

## Sunday, Nov. 20: Two Special Services

### Transgender Day of Remembrance, 10 a.m., Sanctuary



Since 1999, November 20 has been marked as a day to remember transgender folks who have been murdered in the prior year. As we mark this sober day in our service, we will also explore how we might help the world be a less violent, safer place for transgender persons. Our offering for this service, will be shared with the Trevor Project which aims to make sure that LGBTQ young people who need support nationwide know they are not alone.

### Community Thanksgiving Service, 3 p.m., Sanctuary, Zoom, and YouTube



Sponsored by the Wayland Interfaith Leaders Association, this annual tradition seeks to bring together our diverse faith communities in a service of shared gratitude. This year First Parish in Wayland will host and music will include our own Aren Bell Choir in collaboration with a joint choir and other musicians. Our service this year will center on the theme of gratitude for the environment and include remarks by Kaat Vander Straeten from Mass Energize, as well as a shared offering. Non-perishable food donations for *Your Brother's Table* food bank at Good Shepherd Parish will also be received.



In mid-October, I met with Cantor Hollis Schachner of Temple Shir Tikva in advance of her visit with us for our “Exploring Judaism” Sunday on November 6. As we talked, one area of common ground was the importance of expressing faith through action. Cantor Schachner talked about love as a verb and I shared the Unitarian concept of “deeds not creeds.” In other words, what we do communicates our values and convictions more critically than what we say.

This is on my mind a lot as I prepare to be a member of a “Safety Squad” on Election Day, a program of the pro-democracy coalition, [thefrontline.org](http://thefrontline.org). When a call came for clergy to be part of these de-escalation teams at locations that democracy activists fear are vulnerable, I chose to say yes, I’ll go. Like many of you, I have watched with fear as the structures of our democracy teeter amidst challenges of voter fraud, questionable redistricting efforts, and varied steps toward voter suppression. As UUs, our principles call us to the use of the democratic process in the society at large as an expression of our conviction in each person’s dignity and right of conscience. In choosing to sign up to be a part of a Safety Squad, I do so as a clergy member trained in de-escalation skills, but also as a UU defending democracy. As I write, I’m not sure where I will be (likely Pennsylvania or Michigan). While I have some concerns in the face of the unknown, I go out of the sense that this is a concrete way that I can live my conviction.

Recently, in an act of democratic process, the Parish Committee voted to live out our commitment to our 7th principle by saying yes to the placement of a “Wayland Saves Energy” banner in our front yard. This program encourages Wayland residents to pursue a home energy assessment with the goal of moving more residences to lower energy consumption. I am proud of the way we are partnering with the town’s Energy and Climate Committee to do what we can to encourage more action on addressing the impact of climate change. As the recent [MetroWest Climate Solutions program](#) with Larry Chretien emphasized, the rate hikes in energy challenge us to move further faster in reducing our energy consumption as well as moving towards greener sources of energy. As one Parish Committee member said, we need to consider how to put “teeth” in our commitment to combating Climate Change.

*What we do communicates our values and convictions more critically than what we say.*

## Putting Teeth into Our Commitments

On Sunday, November 20, the Wayland Interfaith Leaders Association Thanksgiving service will also be addressing the theme of the environment. This shared religious commitment to express gratitude for our earth as we do what we can to protect it brings me hope. So also, working in a coalition of congregations, organizations, and individuals through MetroWest Climate Solutions renews my hope that we can work together to make a change.

Although there is much in the world that can unsettle and even terrify us about the future, I believe that working in concert with others to do what we are able to manifest our values can bring some relief. Whether in activism for democracy, the environment, or another critical issue of justice or care, I hope that we all say yes to the opportunities to live out of faith in deeds and to make love—of neighbor, of the earth, of self—a verb.

In peace,  
*Rev. Stephanie*

### Bountiful Breakfast (with PIE!)

Wed. Nov. 23, 8 - 9:30 a.m.

Start your holiday celebrations early with a slice of pie – for breakfast! The



event is based on a friend’s “diet” idea of the “Bountiful Breakfast” in which she ate as she wished for breakfast before choosing more deliberately the remainder of the day. All who attend will be entered in a raffle for a Pumpkin Pie to take home. All pies made by Rev. Stephanie of course! Non-dairy and gluten free options.

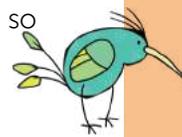
## Planning for an Exciting Year Ahead

Following a long tradition at First Parish, the Parish Committee held a retreat in early October to spend time getting to know each other better, discuss how we will work together as a committee, and focus on overall planning for the year ahead and beyond. Always at the top of our minds is our fiduciary responsibility to the congregation, so we tackled budget and planning.

Larry Green is working on assembling a Stewardship team to plan early for this year's Canvass, which takes place in the early spring. We discussed the challenges this year with the uncertainties of the current economy, the need to re-engage our membership and the number of folks who are actively involved in the community, and knowing that we cannot rely, as we did the past two years, on government Covid loans. Another team, led by Jan Miner, is actively engaged in planning for the Feb. 4 Winter Auction. We are off to an enthusiastic and early start with our major fundraisers this year.

Lynne Lipcon updated us on the Visioning Project, which involved 40 people in eight groups very actively working all summer on recommendations for actionable ideas derived from the focus groups and surveys of last winter. The Parish Committee is committed to prioritizing the recommendations and engaging many of you in their development and implementation. There is no **they** who will move our community forward; it is always **we** who make a difference, so please pick up the phone when First Parish calls!

*The Visioning project involved 40 people in eight groups, who worked all summer on recommendations for actionable ideas derived from the focus groups and surveys of last winter.*



At our regular monthly meeting, we were pleased to acknowledge receipt of a bequest from Ken Sawyer in the amount of \$25,000 to be used for "general purposes." It will be a fitting contribution to the Ken Sawyer Unrestricted Endowment Fund.

Our Liaison system is organized and assigned so we are ready to reach out to those of you who are active on committees, to see

**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

how you are doing, how we can best support your goals and any issues you want to bring to our attention. We always look forward to these conversations.

And finally, a highlight of Rev. Stephanie's monthly report was the news of rising in-person attendance at worship services, the volunteers stepping up to help with technology while we work to hire a new Tech Facilitator, and of course the return of coffee hour.

*Nathalie Thompson, for the Parish Committee*

### Ten Reasons People Are Coming Back to First Parish

1. The drive to FP wakes me up.
2. The building is warmer than my house most mornings.
3. The children's energy makes me smile.
4. The sermons make me think more deeply about issues.
5. The music sounds better in the Sanctuary than on Zoom.
6. Street sounds -- motorcycles, birdsong, our bells -- remind me of our connection to this community.
7. For familiar rituals -- meeting the greeters, passing the plate, turning to the rear of the Sanctuary.
8. To be surrounded by such good folks.
9. To sing rounds.
10. To get what I need that I didn't even know I needed.

## Holiday Pop-Up *plus* Kids' "Presents for Parents" Shop! *Saturday, November 19, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

The First Parish Holiday Pop-Up Sale will feature holiday items from the sheds that need new homes. In addition, we'd welcome your decorations and décor. (This is not a general tag sale; holiday items only, please.) We'll organize drop-off times during the week leading up to the sale. We hope to hold the sale in the Commons, windows slightly open. The sale will be open to the public.

In addition, Kate Holland is organizing a few tables of low-cost items where kids can shop for their parents. Do you remember how exciting it was to give your parents a gift for the holidays? Something you had picked out yourself? In our kids' room we will give the kids an opportunity to do that. We will need your help to stock the kids' room. Are you a crafter? Can you make something that the kids might be able to give as a gift? If you can help out, please contact [Kate Holland](#) for information about where and when to drop off your items.



(Wayland's Council on Aging hosted a kids' shopping event for many years but has not for the last few years and will not this year. We checked.)

We'll also have gift packages at a Fair Trade table plus a few tables of items from two nonprofits. These will be two of the same nonprofits featured in the wonderful holiday fair that Deb Stubeda organized a few years ago in the Sunroom. **We'll need volunteers for set-up, staffing and teardown.** Please contact Suzanne Tiberii if you'd like to volunteer!

*Undecorate, continued from p. 1*

dedicated to the safety, healing, and empowerment of survivors of domestic violence. To learn more about their impressive work, go to [www.reachma.org](http://www.reachma.org).

There are many ways we can express our commitment to social justice. Please consider providing financial support and bringing holiday cheer to the moms and their children who have survived domestic violence. The moms and kids thank you.

Pat Sims for the Alliance's Undecorate the Tree Committee: Linda Collins, Lois Doerr, Peggy Holland, Mamey Ives, Suzanne Reitz, Suzanne Woodruff, and honorary members Steve Collins and Keith Sims and the Alliance board: President, Melinda Morgan; Vice President, Penny Beer; Treasurer, Penny Wilson; and Secretary, Kathy Heckscher.

## The Hills are Alive with Spaghetti and Music!

*Friday, Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m.*



Join First Parish friends for a spaghetti dinner and a movie to sing along to. Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m., and the movie will follow. Questions? Contact [Kate Holland](#).

## Sip and Seek

*Sat., Nov. 12,  
7:30 p.m.,  
Outdoors*



Join Rev. Stephanie in this time around the campfire to talk about the monthly theme or other topics. Please BYOB and

## Minister's Lunch

*Wed., Nov. 16,*

*11:30 a.m., Vestry*



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.



## The Importance of Stories

One of the most visible parts of my job is when I present the “Time for All Ages” during the service. When I started my work as a Director of Religious Education many years ago, I assumed the “story” would be just for the kids. But I have been pleasantly surprised that more adults talk to me about the stories than children do. This has made me realize how very important story is in our perspective of life.

This year as we study world religions, I have been more aware of the impact of the stories that are told from faith traditions. In our study of Christianity, I have been reminded that Jesus was a storyteller. He often used stories to make people think about their lives and teach them about how to love one another. As we move into our study of Judaism this month, we will have storyteller Rona Leventhal with us to tell stories from the Jewish tradition. Stories matter a lot in the ways that we see the world and can help us to learn new lessons about ourselves and the world around us.

*Stories matter a lot in the ways that we see the world and can help us learn new lessons about ourselves and the world around us.*

Stephanie and I work hard together to find stories that fit well with her sermons’ themes. We go over the theme of the sermon together and sometimes Stephanie sends me a reading

*continued on p. 15*

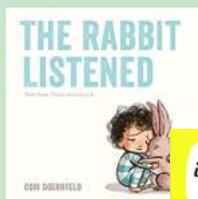
### Some Books to Look For



***Once Upon a Time: Storytelling to Teach Character and Prevent Bullying*** by Elisa Cavey Pearman

This is my go to book for a good folk tale and it gives an index by topic.

***The Rabbit Listened*** by Cori Doerrfeld



***My Shadow is Purple*** by Scott Stuart



## This Month in SEEK

**Nov. 6: RE For All:** We will welcome storyteller Rona Leventhal to tell tales from the Jewish tradition.

**Nov. 13:** We will be talking about the story of Abraham and the meaning of that story for Jews.

**Nov. 20:** We will use Minecraft to make a model of a Jewish synagogue.

**Nov. 27:** We will work together to make soup for Coffee Hour and raise money for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s “Guest At Your Table” program.

## Our Whole Lives (OWL) for Fourth to Sixth Graders

Beginning in February, 2023, we will offer a five-week Our Whole Lives (OWL) class for 4th, 5th and 6th graders. OWL is a comprehensive sexuality education class that presents accurate, age-appropriate information. Classes will meet early on Sunday mornings.

Do you know a 4th to 6th grader who would like to take the class? We are happy to have kids outside our congregation join us free of charge. Please contact [Kate Holland](#) for more information.

## The Future of Community Care: One Aspect of Defunding the Police

### A Discussion

Sunday, Nov. 13, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
In the Vestry, and on Zoom

The decline in funding mental health services and facilities has led to a rise in 911 calls for behavioral health situations. Communities increasingly recognize the need to shift away from police serving as first responders to people experiencing a behavioral health crisis. To accomplish this shift, communities need to reimagine crisis response and fund new partners who can bring different expertise and approaches. The use of alternative first responders to calls concerning mental health and substance use has had multiple benefits in communities who are moving towards this model.

Communities are increasingly recognizing the need to shift away from police serving as first responders to people experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Police themselves have been saying for years that they are asked to do too much. Expecting them to respond to the increasing number of crisis calls that health professionals could address more safely and effectively leads to poorer outcomes and unnecessary expenses. Programs that shift behavioral health crisis responses from police to community care experts are badly needed.

Crisis intervention and co-responder teams could involve ongoing collaboration among police, advocates, and health and social service providers. Such collaborations offer improved crisis scenario training for police officers, including de-escalation skills and options to divert from arrest to appropriate behavioral health services and supports.

**Please join Alyssa Lee and Laurel Whitehouse for a discussion of compassionate community care alternatives to police as first responders to mental health situations.** No pre-work is required, but you may want to read *Defund Fear* by Zach Norris to familiarize yourself with some of these challenges.



## A Zero Waste World? How We Can Eliminate Toxic Trash and Poisonous Plastics

Thurs., Nov. 17, 7 p.m.  
On Zoom

Trash is toxic. And burning and burying trash damages the climate, poisons communities, and endangers our environment.



Kirstie Pecci

The fact is our country's waste management practices are outdated and unsustainable. But there are zero waste solutions available that can lead to transformative change.

Join MetroWest Climate Solutions for a webinar with Kirstie Pecci, Executive Director of [Just Zero](#). Kirstie will outline how we can support zero waste strategies by:

- Ending plastic pollution and packaging waste;
- Opposing dangerous, inequitable facilities that burn or bury trash; and
- Fighting climate change by putting food and yard waste to good use.

To register: <https://tinyurl.com/ZeroWasteWorld>

Founded in 2022, Just Works works with communities, policy makers, scientists, educators, organizers, and others to implement just and equitable solutions to climate-damaging and toxic production, consumption, and waste disposal practices.



The upcoming holiday season can be a time of joy and connection for many, but it can also be a difficult time as well. Many of us are separated from those we care about for a variety of reasons. Personally, I miss my

Grandpa George a great deal during this time. I always imagine him sitting quietly in the living room while the Thanksgiving meal is being prepared, with the occasional calls into the kitchen to ask whether we are planning on starving him to death or not. I also think a lot about my late father-in-law. All my in-laws are the gravy-est-eating people you have ever met, so much so that they do not even carve

the dark meat off the turkey because they like to cover their entire plate with gravy. I do not care for gravy, and I love dark meat. Accordingly, my father-in-law, Dick, would hack a big turkey leg off for me and plop it onto my plate every year. I actually find meat on the bone pretty unsavory so you can



imagine this was not my ideal situation, but it always made me laugh and I appreciated his attempt to accommodate me.

This year, I will also be missing my annual competition with one of my younger brothers (and now, with my nephews) over who can eat the most deviled eggs and mashed potatoes. **And the less said about my Dad's annual practical joke of surprising someone with a pig's head, the better.** Because we have moved away from family and because several beloved members of our family, such as my Grandpa and my Father-in-Law, are no longer with us, it is now time for my little immediate family to forge our own traditions.

I will probably always make too many deviled eggs even though no one who lives in my house eats them, except for me, and my husband will continue to cover everything in gravy, but now we have what we call our Thanksgiving Constitutional. We go on a long walk outside — my husband, son, our dog, and me — no matter the weather. I will probably subject my family to a reading of a beloved poem and request we pause for quiet meditation

*What ways do you keep precious family memories and traditions alive? Are you often reminded of the small moments of past holidays? Are you able to find comfort in those memories? How are you creating new memories, especially if you are apart from beloved family and friends?*

## Hold the Gravy

on what we are grateful for at some point during the day, while they likely roll their eyes when I am not looking. We

have even toyed with the idea of not having traditional Thanksgiving food for the meal (outrageous, I know), but, of course, I could never give up pie.

What ways do you keep precious family memories and traditions alive? Are you often reminded of the small moments of past holidays? Are you able to find comfort in those memories? How are you creating new memories, especially if you are apart from beloved family and friends? Is there a way to create new

traditions that ease some of the separation? I would love to hear about all of it.

*Alyssa Lee*

Intern Minister

### Election Day Gathering Tues., Nov. 8 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Please join Ministerial Intern Alyssa Lee on Election Day, Tuesday November 8. She will be in the Commons from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. with a warm cup of tea and some snacks to talk about what's exciting you about the day, what's making you nervous, and everything in between.



## The Uganda Project: An Update Making Plans to Expand Our Reach

At our "Spring UP" collection event last April, First Parish congregants donated used clothes, household items, and books desperately needed by people in Uganda. We were able to ship 12 boxes including 6 wardrobe boxes, 5 book boxes, and 1 box of puzzles and toys. Our shipment has arrived in Uganda and is waiting for release from customs. The Lydia Maria Child Fund provided the financial support for this shipment (and three previous shipments!). Our shipment will be distributed to schools, orphanages, and individual people known to First Parish members Maria Kisiriko and Robert Waswa. Robert will direct the distribution in Uganda via cell phone. You'll see lots of pictures of your donations in use in Uganda once the distribution can be done. And maybe we'll have a celebration of First Parish's hard work and success!

Planning for this year has started, and we're discussing with the LMCF Committee what they might be willing to fund. We're hoping to send another large shipment of 'hand-me-downs' after we gather the leftovers from church rummage sales and events like "Spring UP." This would be First Parish's 4th shipment!

We're also considering plans to work with a school and orphanage for handicapped children in Uganda, called the Kampala School for Physically Handicapped. Maria Kisiriko, a member of First Parish, worked at the school. More about that in the next Unitarian!

There will be lots of jobs for people who want to work on Uganda Projects. Just let us know if you might be interested and we'll get in touch with you when we need help. You can leave your contact information at [UP@uuwayland.org](mailto:UP@uuwayland.org).

We're excited to begin our 2022-23 work!

*The Uganda Project Steering Committee: Robert Waswa, Barbara Pedulla (Co-Chairs), Maria Kisirika, Ted Barnes and Dan Lewis*



*At the Uganda Project's Spring UP event last April, Maria Kisirika helped Jenny Silberman achieve balance, and Robert Waswa and Dan Lewis loaded donated goods on the truck.*

## Ongoing First Parish Programs

### Men's Book Club

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

Join us to discuss *Search: a Memoir with Recipes*, a novel by Michelle Huneven about how one UU church group



selected its next spiritual leader. 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.

## A Final Chili Meal for Turning Point and New Plans

When Suzanne Reitz delivered a meal of cold cuts to Turning Point in September, she learned that it would be served as lunch, since dinners were being donated by local restaurants. Pam Dearborn, the Turning Point Director, confirmed that dinners are being catered by restaurants every week, often with enough leftovers to go in the freezer for an additional lunch or dinner.

Things have changed a lot at Turning Point since Dick and Sandy Hoyt chaired this committee, or Amy Washek did, or

even when we first met Roberto Ortega, Turning Point's long-time chef. Back then, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, or two pieces of bread and a single slice of baloney often had to suffice as dinner. The donated meals just aren't as necessary as they

once were. When the Turning Point Committee considered the new situation, we decided it was time to bow out of the monthly meals, with heartfelt good wishes and a final, generous Special Gift from the Turning Point reserve which the First Parish Community has donated for their benefit over the years.

I delivered the last chili meal for First Parish on Indigenous People's Day. Maybe it was the gorgeous holiday weekend; maybe a shared sense in our community that things had changed. For the first time in years, there were not more people offering to do this month's meal than there were meal parts to sign up for. Not a problem — fittingly, Marty McCullough, who cooked her delicious chili autumn after autumn and year after year, contributed one of the final batches, while Chauncey Wilson took out his giant chili pots for the other. Barbara Buell donated 72 (!) bottles of the coveted water, Barb Heffner went to extra trouble to pitch in both bread and butter and a big bag of fortune cookies before she left for the weekend, and I enjoyed picking out shiny red farmstand Macs to finish the meal. Bobby met me in the Turning Point parking lot with a warm smile and a careful, gentle question — "Just the chili?" "No, everything," I answered, and he hefted the water while casting admiring glances at the bread and apples sticking out of the bags I was carrying. There was a twinge for both of us when I told him it

*The donated meals just aren't as necessary as they once were. When the Turning Point Committee considered the new situation, we decided it was time to bow out of the monthly meals, with heartfelt good wishes and a final, generous Special Gift.*

was the last meal, but he relaxed when I assured him that First Parish and Turning Point still had a bond of goodwill.

Later, I spoke with Pam about how things had changed, and what kind of gift we might make that would benefit Turning Point and recognize a bond that had lasted more than a generation. South Middlesex Opportunity Council can provide more help with appliances than it has in the past. Nothing is decided yet. Pam gives each newcomer to the shelter a brand-new towel set, and a brand-new sheet set with pillowcases to use at Turning Point and take when he leaves. She suggested that First Parish donate these, since they matter a lot to the men and can strain her regular budget. Several members of our Turning Point Committee suggested doing something to make their clean water supply a bit greener, like individual metal water bottles. We'll be voting — there is enough in the budget that we may be able to do more than one thing. Pam also invited us to put a plaque in the Common Room at Turning Point to recognize the long relationship between our community and theirs. I suggested something modest. She said she'd be happy to have a really big one! Look for a last Turning Point article or two as all this plays out.

Turning Point is in a much better place than it was 30 years ago. It is a victory for them and a victory we share. Thanks to the Turning Point Committee Lois Doerr, Peggy Holland, Marney Ives, Marty McCullough, Melinda Morgan, Suzanne Reitz, Pat Sims, Chauncey Wilson, and to all who have contributed to the shelter over the years.

*Respectfully submitted, Penny Wilson for the Turning Point Committee*

## November News from the UU Urban Ministry

The Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry (UUUM) is in full swing this fall!

### "Community Conversations" Series is Back

Here is the full schedule for the year with a link detailing the November conversation. Please join us for this virtual event with historian Byron Rushing, who served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives for over thirty years. He was also president of the Museum of African American History in Boston. He will speak about the different factors driving people of color from the city, and what that will mean in both the short- and long-term.

1. [Tuesday, November 15, 6-7 p.m.: Why the Gap: Racialized Property and Wealth in Boston \(w/ Byron Rushing\)](#)
2. Tuesday, December 6, 6-7 p.m.: Supporting Small Business in the City: Barriers and Opportunities (w/ Rev. Willie Bodrick)
3. Tuesday, January 10, 6-7 p.m.: Resolving to do Better: Banks and Black-owned Business
4. Tuesday, February 21, 6-7p.m.: Education: Do Access and Affordability Level the Playing Field?
5. Tuesday, March 7, 6-7 p.m.: RYP Youth Takeover (topic TBA)
6. Tuesday, April 4, 6-7 p.m.: The Urban Ministry Presents: Success Together, a Program to Bridge the Racial Wealth Gap



*Scaffolding in the Meetinghouse*

restoration of Roxbury's Meetinghouse by sponsoring one of the 106 box pews in this historic space. Each pew is available for a \$1,000 sponsorship, and we hope this offers an interesting new way for individuals and congregations to be a part of this campaign."

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

Lea Anderson

### Children's Bell Choir for Christmas Eve

A beautiful tradition at First Parish has been the bell choir playing "Carol of the Bells" at the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service. This year, in addition to that tradition, we would like to invite interested children and their parents to play a version of "Carol of the Bells," with piano accompaniment, at the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service. (As a silver lining from the COVID shut-down early this year, the bell choir now has a set of children's bells, which makes this possible.)



**There will be three short half-hour rehearsals after the Sunday services on December 4, 11, and 18**, for kids and parents to learn how to play the bells and practice their parts.

Interested? For more information, contact Linda Murdock.

### UUUM Meetinghouse Campaign – The Pews Project

The UUUM is engaged in a three-phase restoration of its historic Meetinghouse. The first two phases (the restoration of the exterior of the building and landscaping) are fully funded and completed at a cost of \$2 million. The third and final phase addresses the interior space and is budgeted at \$2.8 million, \$2.3 million of which is already raised. We are really in the home stretch.

The goal is not to restore the Meetinghouse as a house of worship, but rather as a multi-purpose community gathering space and cultural center alive with the artistic, educational, civic, intellectual and community life of Roxbury and its surroundings.

[The Pews Project](#) is an opportunity to close the funding gap. Vinnie Myles of the UUUM encourages us to "support the



## Family Promise Then and Now

*A Recap of First Parish's Connection and News of November Events*

Family Promise has undergone many changes since we at First Parish first partnered with the fledgling Interfaith Hospitality Network in the early 2000s. The first Interfaith Hospitality Network included churches, synagogues, and mosques and had begun in Northern New Jersey in 1988. The model spread across the United States. (There are now 200 affiliates in 43 states serving 177,000 families per year.)

The Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network, today known as Family Promise Metrowest, opened its doors in 2008 with 13 host congregations, 8 support congregations, and a Day Center in two basement rooms donated by what was then Natick's First Baptist Church. They had \$150,000 in the bank and hired a full-time director and part-time case manager. After a congregational vote to become a host congregation, First Parish in Wayland (FPW) was one of the first to organize and host families in its classrooms.

According to Judy Mongiardo, FPM Founder and former Network Coordinator: *Today Family Promise owns a home of its own with ten staff members, 50 network congregations, 3,000 trained volunteers, and revenues in 2021 of \$1,600,000. Moreover, funding from congregations, community foundations, civic organizations, businesses, public and private schools, and individual donors has allowed Family Promise to expand its programming to include homelessness prevention so children never have to experience losing their home in the first place and stabilization programs to support families when they first leave shelter so they can maintain their sustainable independence.*

In 2021, Family Promise Metrowest transformed the lives of 64 families, including 81 adults and 101 children. Family Promise gives hope. Family Promise makes a way forward when there seems to be no way.

And here's news about two November events that support the organization's mission "to transform the lives of families with children that are facing homelessness by mobilizing a diverse community to provide shelter, education, and comprehensive support."



## Family Promise: Dates to Note

### Keeping the Promise Gala Friday, Nov. 18, 8 p.m.

#### Walnut Hill School and Streaming

This year's event will be a hybrid fundraiser, pairing a live event with a studio audience at Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick with a streaming performance for our at-home attendees. The in-person event will begin with cocktails and appetizers at 6:30 p.m. and transition into live performances by local musicians. **You can find details and registration information**

[here.](#) You can also view the auction items in the Golden Ticket Raffle, which opens on Nov. 14. Several of our own First Parish members combined resources to create a basket of French wines and snacks for the auction. Bidding on our basket will be so appreciated!

### Our Turn to Provide Shelter Support to Families at the Day Center Mon. Nov. 28 - Thurs. Dec. 1

First Parish in Wayland will be hosting along with the lead congregation, First Parish in Framingham, during the week of November 28- December 1 at the Day Center at 6 Mulligan Street in Natick.

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following roles on Thursday, December 1:

- Dinner Chefs: one or two
- Two evening support volunteers to heat and serve dinner and to create a warm, inviting space in which volunteers and families can enjoy dinner together.

If you can help, contact Lois Doerr, FPW coordinator, and watch for email updates.

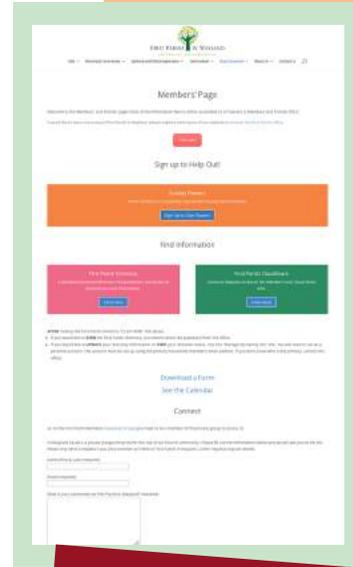


**Question of the Month: How can I find member contact information OR update my own information?**

Have you ever needed to call another member of our congregation and not had their number? Have you ever been on your way to a member's home and forgotten the address?

You can always call the office and ask me, but only during office hours! Did you know you can get to our online directory from the members' page of the website ([www.uuwayland.org/members](http://www.uuwayland.org/members))? About half-way down the page is a button to access our password-protected directory. You can search by first or last name. The default view is a list, but click the four-squares icon and you can see pictures (now THAT can be useful!) You do have to contact me in the office for the super-secret password (there is only ONE PASSWORD for everyone, so keep it quiet).

Additionally, you can update your own directory information or check your donation status. For that, you need to create an account and sign in (click the "Manage My Family Info" link under the directory password area.) You must use the primary email of your family to create an account and log in. Let me know if you need help! (These directions are on the members' page as well.)



*continued from p. 8*

that she will use to give me a better idea of where the sermon will be going. Then begins my search. Most often my work begins with a Google search, and my next stop is YouTube. Did you know that just about any story that is out there has a video of someone reading it? My daughter tells me that if you can think of it, it is probably on the Internet, and I think that might be mostly true. If my Google search doesn't give me anything promising, I hit the folktale books and usually with those resources and sometimes a few minor changes I will find a story that fits nicely into the service.

While I have a good amount of "stage fright" (four or five minutes is the maximum time I want to be in front of folks speaking) I do love sharing stories.

*Kate Holland*

Director of Education and Engagement

# NOVEMBER

3

Men's Book Group  
Thursday, Nov. 3, 8:00 p.m. on Zoom  
See page 11

4

Spaghetti Dinner and Movie  
Friday, Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m.  
See page 7

8

Election Day Gathering  
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m - 1 p.m.  
See page 10

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Sip and Seek  
Saturday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m  
See page 7

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The Future of Community Care  
Sunday, Nov. 13, 11:15 a.m.  
See page 9

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Minister's Lunch  
Wednesday, Nov. 16, 11:30 a.m.  
See page 7

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A Zero-Waste World?  
Thursday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.  
See page 9

19

Pop-Up Holiday Sale  
Saturday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
See page 1

23

Bountiful Breakfast  
Wednesday, Nov. 23, 8 - 9:30 a.m.  
See page 5

*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!

