



Minister's Report

March 3, 2021

Monthly Worship Theme: Abundance

Opening Words: ** Abundance by Amy Schmidt

| | Ministerial Observations | Minsterial Wonderings | Ministerial Flags | Ministerial Celebrations |
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| Governance and Leadership | RPG medical advisors approved guidelines for an Easter gathering on April 3rd, which will include small choir group singing outdoors. Also approved were guidelines for RE family outdoor gatherings; the first to be held on 3/13 at Mass Audobon. | Mitra Morgan will be the Nominating Committee chair, through June. NC is currently soliciting 2 new NC members and 3 new board members. | Should we plan dates for Spring conversations about Money (endowment, reparations, etc.)? Or Should those wait till the Fall? | Many people appreciated the great leadership from Jen and Bob for the Capital Projects conversations! |
| Staff | Ebiere (E-berry) Omoregie has been hired as Parish Administrator. She starts on March 8 th . Alisa will stay through March to train her and support Canvass. | We have scheduled a Zoom time, Thursday, March 25 th , 3:30-4:40pm, for congregational goodbyes and appreciations for Alisa. | Emily will continue to assist with digital communications at least through the first weeks of Ebiere's training. | The main office is getting a "facelift," (reorganizing, painting, etc.) in preparation for our new parish administrator! |

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| Worship, Ritual and Ceremony | We will have a “New to UU” gathering in March; hoping to have a new member Sunday in April. | Worship Committee is planning a ritual to commemorate one year since building closed. | Worship team still plans to meet with professional production consultants to consider potential video, lighting, audio and other improvements for our live streamed worship. (Postponed twice due to weather.) | Worship team will plan goodbye and appreciations for Alisa during worship the end of March. |
| Congregational Life and Spiritual Development | It is clear that our community could benefit from more “listening circles.” These might be planned late Spring or early Fall. | Pastoral care team has completed congregational calls and found the process very worthwhile; we will plan to do it again next Fall/Winter. | Kristen McIntire is actively working on setting up a First Parish Young Adults monthly (online) Games Night. | Plans are in the works for the next outdoor gathering/celebration - an Easter event on Saturday, April 3 rd |
| Community Engagement and Social Justice | IJC continues to support immigrant-serving organizations in Chelsea and Boston; food and donations were collected at the Valentine’s Day event and delivered to La Colaborativa. | The Climate Justice committee’s solar panel initiative is generating a lot of strong feelings, pro and con. Can we manage to come to a mutually agreeable decision in this virtual space? | 20+ First Parish members attended the two Ujima workshops, with lots of FPB engagement in the Q&A. | FPB had a very successful joint worship service with First Church in JP on 2/28; everyone especially enjoyed seeing each other on Zoom. This may become an annual event! |
| Finance and Administration | We have applied for PPP loan forgiveness and are | Canvass plans continue to move forward; training for | The church comparison study is generating some ideas about fundraising. RL will | Our 2021 budget seems to be holding steady. |

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| | about to apply for the next loan. | canvassers will be next Tuesday, March 2. | work on finding a few likely folks to take the lead on organizing an online auction. | |
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**** Amy Schmidt**

ABUNDANCE

in memory of Mary Oliver

It's impossible to be lonely

when you're zesting an orange.

Scrape the soft rind once

and the whole room

fills with fruit.

Look around: you have

more than enough.

Always have.

You just didn't notice

until now.