



Minister's Report

May 1, 2022

Monthly Worship Theme: Awakening

Monthly average in-person worship attendance: Adults = 54; Children = 23

Opening Words: ** Whatever Doesn't Serve by Danna Faulds

	Ministerial Observations	Minsterial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
Governance and Leadership	RL and Paul McLean have begun to consider members for a Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) to support the ministries of First Parish.	Has board leadership been determined for 2022-23?	With Covid numbers on the rise in the Boston area, the RPG decided to recommend mask wearing for Easter worship and chili supper.	The Nominating Committee now has a slate of four new board members: Nancy Clark, Lori Day (for one year, to serve out Emily Cherry's term), Kathryn Kirshner and Ed Page.
Staff	RL has a draft sabbatical minister job description and communication about her sabbatical began during the budget process.	Ebiere will be on parental leave for three months, beginning in late August/early September.	The RE Committee met with Deb Weiner and has a recommendation for moving forward with a lead RE position for next year.	Erin Scott, our new intern, will be introduced at the Mat 15 worship service.

	Further communications will be forthcoming in the next couple of months.	Could we make an exception and advertise this temporary position to members, as well as the public?		
Worship, Ritual and Ceremony	Worship attendance has slowly increased, with our largest attendance (80) on Easter Sunday. Choir numbers are also increasing.	Recruitment for summer worship leadership has been slow. We will likely fill with prerecorded services and invitations to join other congregations online.	Our annual Coming of Age (Challenge) worship service will include time for child dedications.	Kate Higgins and Allen Davis were married on April 23 rd , the first wedding in our sanctuary since 2019.
Congregational Life and Spiritual Development	Pastoral Care continues to be an active part of First Parish life. 7 meals were delivered to members in need this month, and PC members reached out to 11 members.	The Small Group Leaders met to review how their groups went this year and consider ideas for new small groups to begin in the Fall.	Easter activities for all ages, led by Nathan Freitas, followed our Easter worship service.	A successful Chili Dinner was held on Friday, April 29 th , with 33 in attendance.
Community Engagement and Social Justice	The IJC continues to learn more about an initiative to house LGBTQ asylum seekers, in partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.	The RJAC will host a Congregational Dialogue on May 5 th : "Listening to Each Other on our Journey of Racial Reckoning." Please encourage attendance!	Climate Justice is sponsoring a workshop on Decarbonizing Your Home on Tuesday, May 17th, 7pm - 8:15pm.	The Climate Justice Committee, RE teachers and kids are working to create a nature trail on our grounds!

Finance and Administration	Margaret will report on the results of our 2022 Canvass.	The 2023 budget process has begun. Date for the next congregational conversations – May 10th	Ebiere, RL and Karla worked on finalizing our 2022 active members list for Annual Meeting; the number of active members is definitely lower this year.	The building is getting busier (and bringing in income) this Spring with many one-time rentals.
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**** Whatever Doesn't Serve (Danna Faulds)**

What weight can you
 put down right now,
 willingly relinquishing
 the pointed quills of
 guilt or judgment?
 What burden of the heart
 can lift, what dark corner
 can be lit, the candle
 flickering at first, then
 burning bright?
 With the next breath,
 let it go, that old story
 you've told yourself
 a million times.
 Whatever doesn't serve

you on this path of truth,
leave it behind. Offer
this one gift: the simple
sacrifice that in the giving
sets you free to fully live.