



## Minister's Report

April 3, 2022

Monthly Worship Theme: Awakening

Monthly average in-person attendance: Adults = 47; Children = 16

Opening Words: \*\* Beginners by Denise Levertov

	Ministerial Observations	Ministerial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
<b>Governance and Leadership</b>	In the wake of the disbandment of the Ministerial Fellowship Team, RL will begin to form a Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) to support the ministries of First Parish.	The Nominating Committee continues its work, with two board nominees so far and two in discernment. We will also nominate a new member for the finance committee.	RPG has decided to make masking in the building optional, beginning this week. The choir will remain masked for singing in worship, at least until after Easter.	The Nominating Committee has confirmed that Jami Jordan will be our moderator again this year.
<b>Staff</b>	Ebiere's work has become somewhat overwhelming this month, with Canvass support and our first post-pandemic wedding, added to her regular duties. We are working on finding temporary office help.	RL is developing a plan for her sabbatical to ensure enough advance notice for the congregation, as well as thinking about coverage during her absence.	Staff morale is good, with everyone pleased about being back in the building again.	Erin Scott, an MDiv. Student from Meadville Lombard Theological School has accepted our offer to be our ministerial intern for the next two years, September 2022-June 2024.
<b>Worship, Ritual and Ceremony</b>	Our worship attendance has grown every week since we resumed in-person worship. We	RL and Elizabeth McIntire have begun to recruit leader for summer worship services, to be	RL led a memorial service for the young son of a family in West Roxbury at a funeral home there.	Our return to social hour in Lyon Chapel, with food and beverages,

	had our largest monthly attendance (80) at our fabulous RE Sunday service on March 27 <sup>th</sup> .	held once again in Lyon Chapel, with livestreaming or recording.		was celebrated on Sunday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> !
<b>Congregational Life and Spiritual Development</b>	Once again, this month, the Pastoral Care team has been very active, supporting members with meals, calls, visits, walks, and rides.	Canvassers who learn of individuals or families in need of support and/or outreach, please contact RL.	There will be Easter activities for the children, led by Nathan Freitas, following our worship service on 4/17.	Come (and bring a friend) to the Chili Dinner on Friday, April 29th!
<b>Community Engagement and Social Justice</b>	The IJC is exploring the possibility of supporting an initiative to house LGBTQ asylum seekers. They will host a conversation with Victoria Sirois from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.	RJAC members worked with the worship team to create a worship service designed to deepen our understanding and connection to our FPB heritage of enslavement and land dispossession.	There will be an Interfaith Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) Commemoration at Kehillath Israel on Wednesday, April 27 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. All are encouraged to support our Brookline Jewish neighbors by attending this important event.  RL will participate in two local Iftar celebrations this month.	Climate Justice is sponsoring a workshop on Decarbonizing Your Home on Tuesday, April 26th, 7pm - 8:15pm. Please encourage attendance!
<b>Finance and Administration</b>	Canvass is going well, under Margaret's leadership, with pledges coming in steadily every week.	The budget process has begun. Dates for the annual congregational conversations on the budget will be on the church calendar soon.	Our 2021-22 budget projections for the balance of the fiscal year are looking good.	Bob, Ebiere and RL have secured a one-year rental for parking in our front lot from a local construction company – a big boost for our 2022-23 budget!

\*\* Beginners (Denise Levertov)

*Dedicated to the memory of Karen Silkwood and Eliot Gralla*

From too much love of living,  
Hope and desire set free,  
Even the weariest river

Winds somewhere to the sea

But we have only begun  
To love the earth.

We have only begun  
To imagine the fullness of life.

How could we tire of hope?  
so much is in bud.

How can desire fail?  
we have only begun

to imagine justice and mercy,  
only begun to envision

how it might be  
to live as siblings with beast and flower,  
not as oppressors.

Surely our river  
cannot already be hastening  
into the sea of nonbeing?

Surely it cannot  
drag, in the silt,  
all that is innocent?

Not yet, not yet  
there is too much broken

that must be mended,

too much hurt we have done to each other  
that cannot yet be forgiven.

We have only begun to know  
the power that is in us if we would join  
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.

So much is unfolding that must  
complete its gesture,

so much is in bud.