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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

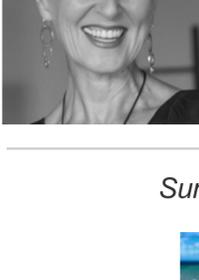
Wednesday Weekly

August 19th 2020

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Virtual Summer Worship Service



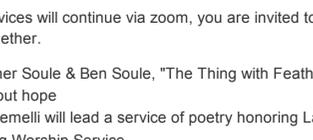
The Art of Being Yourself

Sunday Aug 23, 2020 @ 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Youtube live stream: [FPLex YT Channel](#)

How many times has someone offered you that wonderfully insightful piece of advice to "just be yourself"? Like it hadn't crossed your mind already? The Art of Being Yourself (TED) Elisabeth Jas will share a TED talk and lead discussion. Join the virtual Coffee Hour following the worship service.

Summer Services Schedule



Our summer worship services will continue via zoom, you are invited to join our worship associates to worship together.

- **Aug 30**, Deb Weiner Soule & Ben Soule, "The Thing with Feathers that Perches in the Soul" A service about hope
- **Sep 6**, Elizabeth Gemelli will lead a service of poetry honoring Labor Day
- **Sep 13**, Ingathering Worship Service



From the Board

At the August Board meeting, the Finance Committee had some exciting news to share....at the end of the **2020 Fiscal Year**, we had a **surplus of \$27,000!** This is amazing news any year, but to think that this is happening when there is so much change and upheaval in our nation is truly remarkable! At the suggestion of the Finance Committee, the Board voted unanimously to allocate the money in the following way:

- \$10k additional to the **Maintenance Reserve**, much needed since those funds are currently at a low level after a lot of work was done last year
- \$5k additional to the **UUA**, to partially get back to our full share contribution
- \$5k to establish a **Sabbatical Fund**, setting aside money for ministerial coverage during Anne's planned future sabbatical
- \$7k remains as the surplus for the fiscal year, strengthening our financial position as we continue to confront challenging times with Covid

Three cheers to the Finance Committee for their excellent stewardship of the church during this trying time, and thank you to all of you for your generous support of the church! — **Katie O'Hare Gibson**

Building & Grounds

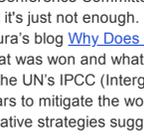
The men's room is a new paint color, as is the downstairs vestibule and hallway. The first floor rest room has had the wallpaper stripped and is painted. Handrails have been installed to the choir loft. The kitchen has an AC unit in place. Minor repairs to moulding, lighting, vinyl tile, weather stripping, shelving, door knobs, etc have been taken care of. With the work together with **Ben Soule** and **Jim Gross**, the shed has been rebuilt. And with the help of **Lew Counts**, the banner fixtures have been installed and banners hung. Thanks to our Sexton, **Bob Coughlin**, who has been working full-time on refreshing the interior and exterior of the church and fixing small items needing attention. — **Toni Tasker, B&G Chair**



Preserving Our Democracy

The **Reclaim Our Vote** ([ReclaimOurVote.org](#)) initiative is underway at First Parish. This is a non-partisan effort to re-register people who have been removed from voter rolls in states with a history of voter suppression. So far you have taken **1300 postcards** to send. **The cards are to be mailed between September 1 - 5 which is only 2 weeks away. Can we get to the finish line having sent all the remaining cards? Fifteen packets remain.** Come pick up a packet or two — and maybe another for a friend. They are at Marty Kvaal's, 18 Highland Ave, by the side door. Each packet costs \$5 (cash is welcome or a check made to Marty Kvaal). **OTHER STUFF:** We call your attention to **The Transition Integrity Project** and its alarming report issued August 3rd. Take a look at this article in the [Boston Globe](#). Among follow up actions is the [Protect The Results initiative](#), founded by Indivisible and Stand Up America and is supported by 39 other national organizations. It's planning possible actions for all citizens after the election. You can read more about it in this [New York Times article](#). The Democracy Team says the time to prepare and to act is NOW! Only **76 days until November 3rd!**

Green Action Corner



The State Legislative year is ending with a little to celebrate and a lot to keep us working with renewed urgency.

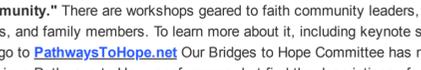
Here is how Laura Wagner, UU Mass Action's Executive Director put it: Honestly, the outcome is mostly depressing. The House bill passed the Environmental Justice bill we've been fighting for, with a few changes. This is great news. There were quite a few climate champions in the House who fought hard, and we are grateful, but overall, the outcome is not good - again. This bill now goes to Conference Committee where it will be reconciled with the Senate bill. We'll get something, but it's just not enough. Laura's blog [Why Does MA Climate Legislation Keep Falling Short?](#) is worth reading. She puts what was won and what was not done in the perspective of our UU values, the moral imperative of the UN's IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) conclusion that we have 10 years to mitigate the worst effects of the crisis, the need for a New Green Deal, and the bold creative strategies suggested by Naomi Klein and others.

TODAY Climate Action Team Meeting - Wednesday August 19, 7:30 PM ([meeting link](#))

We need your help to decide where we will place our next steps in response to the Climate Emergency. Here are some of the items on our agenda: MA Legislative Up-date, Get Out the Vote for Climate Justice, Planning for a First Parish Climate Emergency Declaration, Climate Emergency Banner Project for Indigenous People's Day Oct 12, New Church Year Actions.

5th Annual Conference, Aug 21 & 22

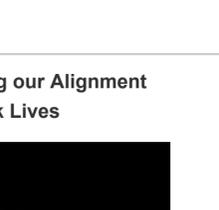
FREE and Virtual



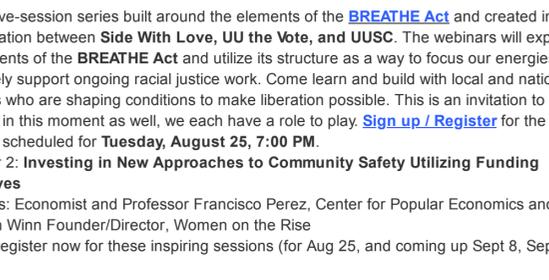
NAMI FaithNet and NAMI San Antonio in collaboration with other organizations are offering their Conference virtually this year, free of charge. The theme is **"Moving toward Mental Wellness: Body, Mind, Spirit, Community."** There are workshops geared to faith community leaders, mental health professionals, peers, and family members. To learn more about it, including keynote speakers and workshop options, go to [PathwaysToHope.net](#) Our Bridges to Hope Committee has not had experience with any of the previous Pathways to Hope conferences, but find the descriptions of what is being offered enticing. Click [here](#) to register.

UU Urban Ministry Summer Update

Learn about the many ways to become involved with our UU Urban Ministry's programs. Supporting a Roxbury artist, viewing a video about the **First Church in Roxbury** Meetinghouse, as told by historian Rep. Byron Rushing, or learning about **100 things white people can do for racial justice**, are only a few ideas available [here](#). To discuss specific actions we as a church community may take, contact **First Parish members, Connee Counts, Lee Brami, and Teresa Jacobson**.



Taking a Collective Breath: Deepening our Alignment with the Movement for Black Lives

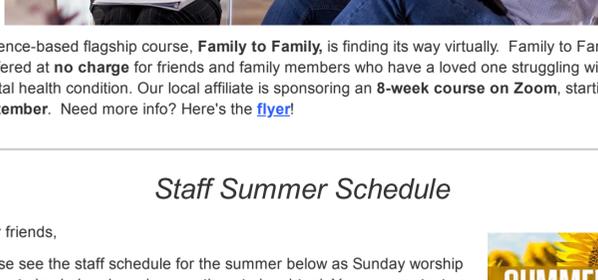


This a five-session series built around the elements of the [BREATHE Act](#) and created in a collaboration between **BREATH With Love**, **UU the Vote**, and **UUSC**. The webinars will explore the components of the **BREATHE Act** and utilize its structure as a way to focus our energies to effectively support ongoing racial justice work. Come learn and build with local and national partners who are shaping conditions to make liberation possible. This is an invitation to locate yourself in this moment as well, we each have a role to play. [Sign up / Register](#) for the next webinar scheduled for **Tuesday, August 25, 7:00 PM**.

Webinar 2: Investing in New Approaches to Community Safety Utilizing Funding Incentives
Panelists: Economist and Professor Francisco Perez, Center for Popular Economics and Marilyn Winn Founder/Director, Women on the Rise
Please register now for these inspiring sessions (for Aug 25, and coming up Sept 8, Sept 22 and Oct 13)
Register Now

(UU the Vote is more than a Get Out the Vote effort. As Unitarian Universalists we **Side With Love!** In this moment, we are called to face the challenges and injustices in our society and work to dismantle systems of oppression that threaten our collective freedom and thriving. UU the Vote is about using electoral strategies to build a new political reality and new social conditions that make liberation possible. The Breathe Act seeks to reform federal laws and eliminate funding for federal programs that criminalize Black, Muslim, and immigrant communities, reinvesting our resources in community solutions for education, health, and the environment. Webinar 1: **Divesting Federal Resources from Incarceration and Policing & Ending Criminal-Legal System Harms.** [Click here to watch the recording.](#)
Panelists: Author and Organizer Andrea Ritchie and Quiana Perkins, Black Lives UU Babies and BailOut)

Family-to-Family



Evidence-based flagship course, **Family to Family**, is finding its way virtually. Family to Family is offered at **no charge** for friends and family members who have a loved one struggling with a mental health condition. Our local affiliate is sponsoring an **8-week course on Zoom**, starting in **September**. Need more info? Here's the [flyer!](#)

Staff Summer Schedule

Dear friends,

Please see the staff schedule for the summer below as Sunday worship moves to lay-led and services continue to be virtual. You may contact us via email but note that on the dates marked as vacation we will get back to you soon after we return.



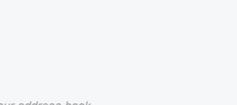
Happy and safe summer!

Rev. Anne Mason
Planning August 1 - 23
Vacation August 24 - 28

Lisa Maria Andreoli Steinberg, Director of Religious Education
Back in August

Rip Jackson, Music Director
August 2 - September 6 - Comp, Cont. Ed. and Vacation

Pratik Mamtora, Administrator
Available Monday to Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



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