



# FIRST PARISH IN LEXINGTON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

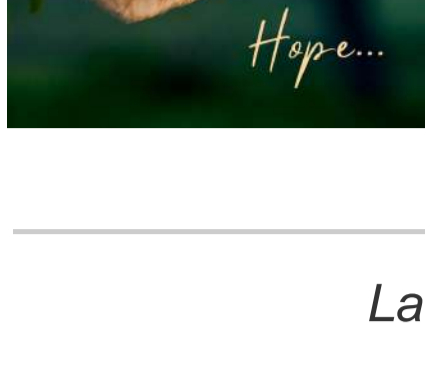
## Wednesday Weekly

August 26th 2020

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### Virtual Summer Worship Service



#### The Thing with Feathers that Perches in the Soul

Sunday Aug 30, 2020 @ 10:30 AM

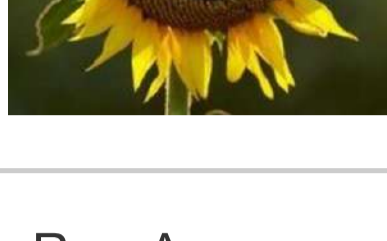
Youtube live stream: [FPLex YT Channel](#)

A service about hope... Led by Deb Weiner Soule & Ben Soule. Join the virtual Coffee Hour following the worship service.

### Last Summer Service

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

- **Sep 6**, Elizabeth Gemelli will lead a service of poetry honoring Labor Day
- **Sep 13**, Ingathering Worship Service



### A Note from Rev. Anne

The end of August often brings a bittersweet moment as we make a shift from the golden moments of summer into the briskness of fall.

This summer has been like no other. And this fall will bring many difficulties for our families and for our nation. Our prayers and our actions are sorely needed, and we will be ready with both.

But for a brief moment, before we begin again, I'd like to share this sweet poem by Leslie Pinckney Hill.

A poet, an educator and a community activist, he reminds us to keep within us the glimpse of beauty and justice which we allow ourselves to glimpse in the midst of summer.

May you find these moments of beauty.  
I look forward to seeing you at our Ingathering!

### Vacation End

By Leslie Pinckney Hill

From the charm of radiant faces,  
From the days we took to dream,  
From the joy of open spaces,  
From the mountain and the stream,  
Bronzed of sunlight, nerves a-tingle,  
Keen of limb and clear of head,  
Speed we back again to mingle  
In the battle for our bread.  
Now again the stern commanding  
Of the chosen task is heard,  
And the tyrant, care, is standing  
Arbiter of deed and word.  
But the radiance is not ended,  
And the joy, whate'er the cost,  
Which those fleeting days attended  
Never can be wholly lost.  
For we bring to waiting duty,  
To the labor and the strife,  
Something of the sense of beauty,  
And a fairer view of life.



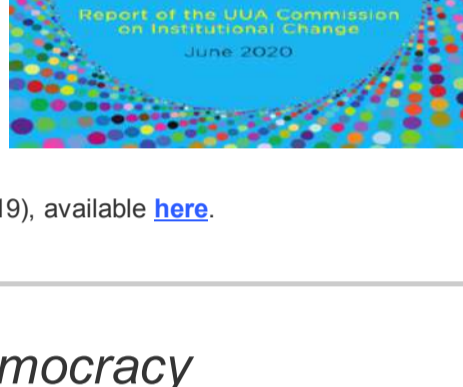
### Racial Justice Team Meeting

Wed, Aug 26th @ 4:00 - 5:30 PM

We will focus on planning priorities for our church community this fall. Please join us at <https://zoom.us/j/91325471037>.

We can't dismantle systems of oppressive behavior without leaning into the knowledge and perspectives of those most affected". To "lean into this wisdom", the team will be discussing components of [Widening the Circle of Concern](#).

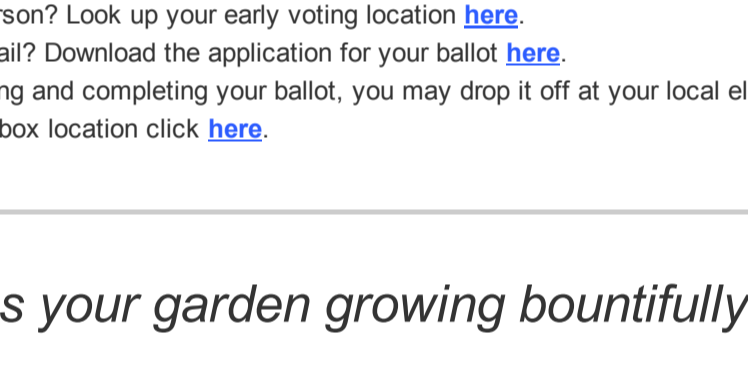
Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change (to pg.19), available [here](#).



### 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 **69 days until November 3rd!**

### Reminder to vote in the MA Primary



NOTE: Early voting ends on Friday, Aug 28th

- Voting in person? Look up your early voting location [here](#).
- Voting by mail? Download the application for your ballot [here](#).
- After receiving and completing your ballot, you may drop it off at your local election office by 9/1. To find drop box location click [here](#).

### Is your garden growing bountifully?



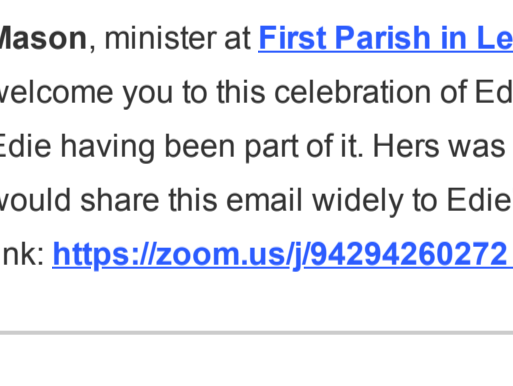
Should your green thumbs reward you with more produce than you can use, how about donating what you don't need to **Lexington's Interfaith Food Pantry**? Drop your produce at the Church of Our Redeemer on Meriam Street; the side door facing the driveway has a large vertical cabinet to receive donations. Please bring food on Friday evenings or early Saturday mornings. Please label your donation with your name and phone number. Beans and peas are especially welcome, but all veggies, herbs, flowers are in demand. **Questions? Ask [Tom Wanderer](#) or [Marty Kvaal](#).**

### 100-Mile Potluck (Virtual) Picnic!

Sunday, Aug 30th @ 5:00 - 7:00 PM

[Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church](#) invites us to join them via Zoom to share our creations and our recipes, and visit and eat together. Support local family farms and small businesses: make a dish with ingredients from within 100 miles of home.\*

\*basically this means all of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, and as far away as Portland, Maine, and St. Johnsbury, Vermont. It can be as simple as a salad from your garden or local ice cream with local peaches. Or let your imagination run wild with a favorite recipe. You'll be amazed at the variety of local produce and products available to us. RSVP [Ian Goddard](#), Green Sanctuary Chair at [NSUU.Green@gmail.com](mailto:NSUU.Green@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.



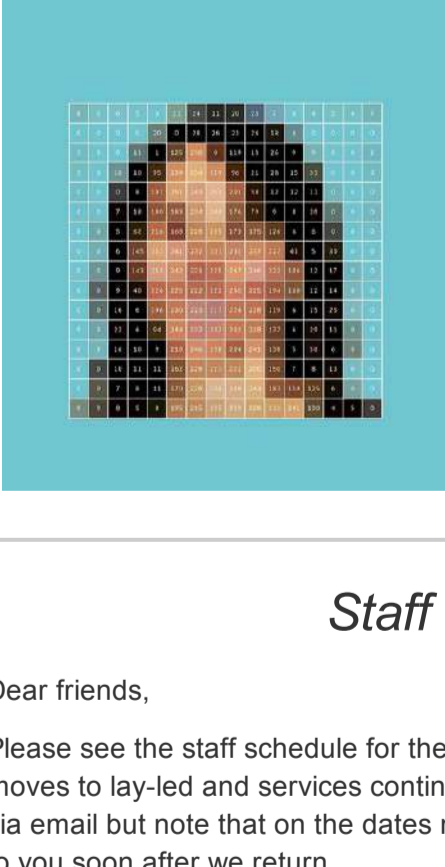
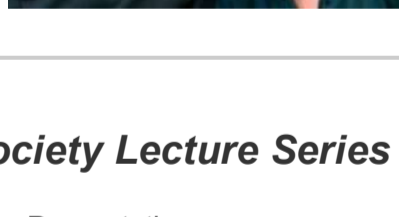
### Remembering Edie Ruquist

A memorial service for Edie Ruquist will be held on **Saturday, Sep 12th at 11:00 AM**. As you may know, Edie passed away in her sleep earlier in August after a long illness. Her memorial service is being guided by **Rev. Anne**

**Mason**, minister at [First Parish in Lexington](#), where Edie was a member. We welcome you to this celebration of Edie's life. The world is definitely a better place for Edie having been part of it. Hers was a kind and generous spirit. We are grateful if you would share this email widely to Edie's friends and colleagues. Join us via this Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/94294260272>.

### Among Our Own

Please hold **Steve Clark** in your hearts as he enters the final stages of hospice. We are thinking of **Joan** and all the family as they go through this tender and sacred time together.



### Science and Society Lecture Series

A Zoom Presentation  
Thursday, September 17th 2020 at 4:30 PM

Register to attend [here](#).  
Details will be sent to the attendees.

Should we welcome AI or fear it? Or perhaps question whether it is actually intelligent at all? In this talk, AI researcher and award-winning author Melanie Mitchell will describe the current state of artificial intelligence, highlighting the field's recent stunning achievements as well as its surprising failures. Mitchell considers the ethical issues surrounding the increasing deployment of AI systems in all aspects of our society, and closely examines the prospects for imbuing computers with human-like qualities. See flyer [here](#).

### 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.



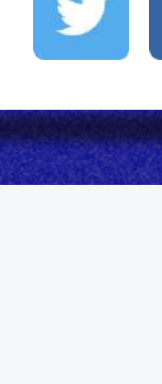
Happy and safe summer!

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

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

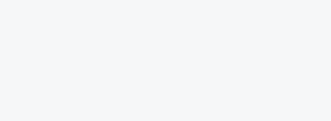
**Rip Jackson, Music Director**  
August 2 - September 6 - Comp, Cont. Ed. and Vacation

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



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