



FIRST PARISH IN LEXINGTON  
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Tuesday, February 2nd 2021



**UPCOMING Worship: Sunday, Feb 7th**

Our pledge drive begins today! What growth is possible in the midst of the Pandemic of this age? Who can we reach and where have we, unexpectedly, already begun to grow?

**Livestream:** [YouTube.com/C/FPLexington](https://www.youtube.com/c/FPLexington)

**MUSIC:** Our soprano soloist **Elizabeth Walsh** will sing Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim's energetic "Together, Wherever We Go" (from *Gypsy*) and Charlie Smalls's passionate "Home" (from *The Wiz*). For the centering music, **Rip Jackson** will play Alexandra Harwood's serene theme song from the PBS documentary *All Creatures Great and Small* (2020). And for the postlude, he will play Johann Sebastian Bach's joyous "Praeludium in Bb Major, BWV 560" on First Parish's magnificent 1898 Hutchings 32-rank tracker organ.



Reading, Writing, and Racism  
with Dr. Camika Royal and Dr. Bree Picower

FEB 3 @ 7PM ET / 4PM PT



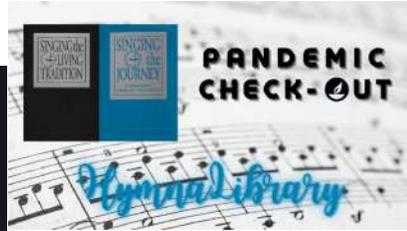
Soul Matters

SHARING CIRCLE

February Theme:  
Beloved Community

*"It is not more bigness that should be our goal. We must attempt, rather, to bring people back to the warmth of community, to the worth of individual effort and responsibility, and of individuals working together as a community, to better their lives and their children's future."*

– Robert F. Kennedy



Take a Hymnal  
Home With You

How does attending ZOOM Worship with our UU Hymnals sound?

Join for a conversation with **Dr. Camika Royal**, Assistant Professor of Urban Education at Loyola University of Maryland School of Education and **Dr. Bree Picower**, Associate Professor at Montclair State University in the College of Education and Human Development.

How are we perpetuating white supremacy culture in our education, and how can we change that?

**Wed, Feb 3rd @ 7:00 PM**  
**[REGISTER](#) for Zoom**  
**Watch on [Facebook](#)**

Dr. Royal is an urban education expert whose current work focuses on the intersections of race, politics, history, and urban school reform. Dr Picower's new book from Beacon Press, Reading, Writing, and Racism: Disrupting Whiteness in Teacher Education and in the Classroom, is an examination of how curriculum choices can perpetuate White supremacy, and radical strategies for how schools and teacher education programs can disrupt and transform racism in education.



# Climate ACTION Team

***There is still TIME, But not for long!***

A note from **Sen. Barrett** about the refiled climate bill!

**Dear Friend,**

In record time following Gov. Baker's veto of a best-in-nation climate bill at the end of the 2020 legislative session, the Legislature has re-enacted the very same bill and sent it back to him.

For climate hopes, this is resurrection day -- courtesy, I might add, of an exceptional collaboration between Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ron Mariano.

It isn't often that major legislation leaps lightly across time from one session to the next. 'Starting all over again' is usually a demoralizing experience, but instead the President and the Speaker are raising everyone's spirits. And around climate change policy, no less, which needs to pick up the pace around here. So they're choosing their spots well.

If we keep up the pressure, we will get this important work done. Here are the remaining steps:

- The Governor now has 10 days, with today counting as Day One, to consider four choices: veto the bill, return it with proposed amendments, sign it outright, or let it take effect without his formal signature. Gov. Baker will

**FPLex Hymnals** are available for purchase if you want to own a set or for "**Pandemic Check-Out**" if you want to borrow a set!

To **PURCHASE**, the price is **\$54** for the set of 2 books (*Grey and Teal*). This is the same cost the Parish would pay.

To **BORROW** a set, just sign out a pair with the promise to return them to the Parish when we are able to worship in the building again.

Fill out this **[FORM here!](#)**  
**Curbside pick-up** available at FPLex

**Questions?** Contact **Pratik Mamtora**, Parish Admin at: **[Admin@FPLex.org](mailto:Admin@FPLex.org)**.



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***Where do we go from here?***

We can be proud of the work we did over the past many months. Yet our democracy narrowly escaped its undoing. The past 4 years and the insurrection last month

almost certainly choose door #2. This is his opportunity to suggest changes.

- Note that his 10 days end on Feb. 7, a Sunday. Still, that's it. The deadline doesn't carry over to Monday, Feb. 8.
- Permit me to point out that Feb. 7 is Super Bowl Sunday. Game starts at 6:30 pm. If Gov. Baker signs, or goes light on amendments, we could celebrate by half time. Just sayin'.
- If indeed the Governor goes for option #2, the Senate and the House can accept each amendment, reject each, or further amend each. Technically, the language Gov. Baker returns to us with his proposed changes is an altogether new piece of legislation, which means we're free to do any combination of all three.
- We are not, however, bound by a 10-day rule of our own. Each legislative branch can take whatever time it wants, even to the end of the two-year session, but the understanding is that both the President and the Speaker will want to move quickly. Given the complexity of a 200-person Legislature, there is always potential peril at this stage, in the form of either major weakening amendments or delay.
- Once we make our decisions on gubernatorial amendments, we legislators will pass our final final version of the bill and return it to Gov. Baker. Once again, he gets to ponder his choices for 10 days, but on this round his options are more limited: veto it, sign it, or let the bill take effect without his signature.
- Thanks to a terrific bunch of Reps and Senators, and your grassroots support, we have overwhelming majorities in both branches in favor of the legislation. If, within 10 days, Gov. Baker signs the bill or lets it take effect without his action, we celebrate. If he vetoes, we override, and then we celebrate.

Over the next two weeks, please write Gov. Baker one more time, urging him to temper the breadth and depth of any amendments. He can be reached [HERE!](#)

Here's to hard work and hope.

**Senator Mike Barrett**

revealed just how very fragile our democracy is.

Join us as we reconvene to discuss where we want to go from here. Much remains that we can choose to do to strengthen our democracy: voting rights, gerrymandering, disinformation, and figuring out what we can do, as a community and in our individual lives, to bridge the deep divides across the country. It's even not too soon to begin thinking about the **2022 election!**

### **Possible Democracy Team**

#### **ACTIONS**

**Wed, Feb 3rd, @ 4:00 PM**

Email [Admin@FPLex.org](mailto:Admin@FPLex.org) for **ZOOM** link

Bring your ideas, your passion, your questions so we can brainstorm together. One idea emerging from this past Sunday's service: to pursue dialogue across the divide with a non-profit group, **Braver Angels**. Joining us will be our own **Michelle Olson**, political activist extraordinaire. In case you missed Michelle Olson's compelling **personal testimony** at Sunday's service, [HERE it is](#). We urge you to watch as she discusses what is facing the country now. Do come to talk together. All are welcome.

#### **Questions?**

Contact: [Debbie Armstrong](#), [Marty Kvaal](#), or [Michelle Olson](#).

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