



**Minister's Report**  
**January 7, 2019**

**Opening Words: Continue by Maya Angelou \*\*\***

<b>Overall:</b> December was a busy month, with new small groups starting, many visitors and very full worship attendance. We are settling in for Laci's leave, with the RE committee and Jud stepping up systems and organization. The greatest challenge has been hiring a nursery caregiver; volunteers have been exceptionally helpful there.				
	Ministerial Observations	Ministerial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
<b>Governance and Leadership</b>	Considering a shared leadership social action meeting, with IJC, RJAC and Climate Justice in the Spring.	Should we pursue a shared leadership meeting between B&G, worship and welcoming, re the driveway?	We will need a new board treasurer next year; when should nominating start recruiting?	Janet and Gene will Co-chair through June 2020.
<b>Staff</b>	Alisa has begun advertising for an office and facilities assistant.		Jud is getting up to speed with RE. We are actively working on hiring nursery caregivers and he is making the RE database more functional.	We celebrated the birth of Benjamin Alexon Popler-Adams on Dec. 12.
<b>Worship, Ritual and Ceremony</b>	We have rescheduled rededication of the BLM banner at end of service on MLK weekend Sunday, 1/19/20.	What changes might we make to the sanctuary to make it more welcoming and inclusive?	Worship committee is working well as a team with staff to prepare for rituals and special events, as well as "regular" worship.	December "Embracing the Darkness," Winter Solstice and Christmas Eve services were especially well-received.
<b>Congregational Life</b>	Pastoral care associates planning a winter workshop on active listening, to extend the caregiving skills of our congregation. An ongoing group to support caregivers for those with	Where are we with the preschool conversation? What are next steps?	Safety Task Force worked closely with the greeters on fire safety for the Christmas Eve service. Planning in process for emergency preparedness training with Brookline Police.	Hospitality food donations from congregation are going very well!

	mental health diagnoses is being planned.		Covenanting (new member) Sunday will be Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup> .	
<b>Community Engagement and Social Justice</b>	Climate Justice team is actively pursuing an energy audit for FPB, as well as researching solar panels.	IJC sent checks from funds collected at our September worship service to support the legal cases of two undocumented immigrants.	FPB will be a cosponsor for the MLK interfaith shabbat service on Friday, January 17 <sup>th</sup> . Rev. Irene Munroe will be the speaker.	IJC will sponsor Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup> event featuring poet Richard Blanco.
<b>Finance and Administration</b>	Fin Comm still needs another 2020 Canvass co-chair.	Karla and Rev Lisa are planning a congregational conversation about money in Feb or March.	Should the board ask someone to co-chair a fundraising event this Spring?	Fin Comm is delighted to have Margaret Williams join the team.

\*\*\*. Continue (Maya Angelou)

On the day of your birth

The Creator filled countless storehouses and  
stockings

With rich ointments

Luscious tapestries

And antique coins of incredible value

Jewels worthy of a queen's dowry

They were set aside for your use

Alone

Armed with faith and hope

And without knowing of the wealth which awaited

You broke through dense walls

of poverty

And loosed the chains of ignorance which  
threatened to cripple you so that you  
could walk

A Free Woman

Into a world which needed you

My wish for you  
Is that you continue

Continue

To be who and how you are  
To astonish a mean world  
With your acts of kindness

Continue

To allow humor to lighten the burden  
of your tender heart

Continue

In a society dark with cruelty  
To let the people hear the grandeur

**Of God in the peals of your laughter**

**Continue**

**To let your eloquence**

**Elevate the people to heights**

**They had only imagined**

**Continue**

**To remind the people that**

**Each is as good as the other**

**And that no one is beneath**

**Nor above you**

**Continue**

**To remember your own young years**

**And look with favor upon the lost**

**And the least and the lonely**

**Continue**

**To put the mantel of your protection**

**Around the bodies of**

**The young and defenseless**

**Continue**

**To take the hand of the despised**

**And diseased and walk proudly with them**

**In the high street**

**Some might see you and**

**Be encouraged to do likewise**

**Continue**

**To plant a public kiss of concern**

**On the cheek of the sick**

**And the aged and infirm**

**And count that as a**

**Natural action to be expected**

**Continue**

**To let gratitude be the pillow**

**Upon which you kneel to**

**Say your nightly prayer**

And let faith be the bridge  
You build to overcome evil  
And welcome good

Continue

To ignore no vision  
Which comes to enlarge your range  
And increase your spirit

Continue

To dare to love deeply  
And risk everything  
For the good thing  
Continue

To float  
Happily in the sea of infinite substance  
Which set aside riches for you  
Before you had a name

Continue

**And by doing so**

**You and your work**

**Will be able to continue**

**Eternally**

**(originally written as a birthday gift to Oprah Winfrey)**