



**Minister's Report**  
**March 3, 2020**

**Opening Words: \*\* We Hold Hope Close by Theresa I. Soto**

<b>Overall:</b> February was a month of exploring new possibilities – the idea of removing pews, considering our FPB past and slavery, a community dance and lively worship with live bands. Small groups are flourishing, the archives have been moved and the Climate Justice team is at work on “greening” our building.				
	Ministerial Observations	Ministerial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
<b>Governance and Leadership</b>	The Nominating committee is starting work on board and treasurer recruitment.	Who will provide support for the consensus process re the pews at the shared leadership meeting on 3/10?	Sign-ups are slow for FPB Conversations about Money on Friday, 3/13 and Sunday, 3/15.	Pew removal discussions have been led by Ann Dinsmoor, Mike Luke, Bob Williamson and Sam Dennis and seem to be gathering support for some kind of reconfiguration. Next meeting to gain consensus on March 29.
<b>Staff</b>	Alisa is having trouble hiring an office and facilities assistant; Melody is still working a few hours/week, which is helpful, but not providing needed facilities support.	A question has arisen about developing a (high school) youth group. Laci will meet with Barb Simonetti and Jud when she returns, to plan a needs assessment for the youth.	Laci is beginning to work a few hours/week, remotely, to reconnect with RE and work on a smooth transition. Her first day back, in person, will be March 22.	We have hired a new childcare provider for the nursery, Ashley Segovia. She started on 3/1/20.
<b>Worship, Ritual and Ceremony</b>	Guest preachers have been greatly appreciated recently. The congregation is enjoying a variety of preaching styles.	We hope to have 2-3 child dedications during worship this Spring.	Blessing in Feb. 9 service for Rev Eliza's retirement was especially well-appreciated.	A lively February 23rd service of Earth Defenders' remembrance featured Ecuadorian immigrant musicians who benefitted from FPB fundraising and African-led group, Kina Zore.

<b>Congregational Life</b>	A Pastoral care workshop on active listening and caregiving skills for our congregation is scheduled for March 28.	Archives have almost completely been moved to Harvard. Question about old portraits of ministers – keep or archive?	Safety Task Force has set a date for a Spring fire drill on May 31, while RE is in session. The service will not be disrupted.	Leap Day Dance on 2/29 was a great success, with 50 people in attendance!
<b>Community Engagement and Social Justice</b>	Climate Justice team is working on solar panel estimates and implementing MassSave energy audit recommendations, among other initiatives.	Rev Lisa, Ann Gilmore and Tania Erliq met with Barbara Brown to begin learning about history of slavery at FPB. First step will be a tour of “Hidden Brookline” in the Spring, for anyone who’s interested. Date TBD?	RJAC will host congregational discussions of “An Indigenous People’s History of the U.S.” and the NYT “1619” series this Spring.  A dance party fundraiser to benefit Centro Presente, co-sponsored by the IJC, is planned for March 14 <sup>th</sup> .	Poetry reading with Richard Blanco, to benefit Sister City Project, sponsored by IJC was very well-attended and successful.
<b>Finance and Administration</b>	We have added a request for credit card fee to the donation form on our website.	Fin Comm has done more research into UUA investments, as well as funds like Ujima.	Canvass planning is underway. Letter to parishioners will go out soon. Canvasser Dinner will be on Monday, March 16 at FPB.	Charles and Steve have accepted a proposal for new church insurance, which will offer significant savings.

**\*\* We Hold Hope Close (Theresa Soto)**

In this community we hold hope close. We don’t

Always know what will come next, but that cannot dissuade us.

We don’t always know what to do, but that will not mean

That we are lost in the wilderness. We rely on the certainty

Beneath the foundation of our values and ethics. We

Are the people who return to love like a North Star and to

The truth that we are greater together than we are alone.

Our hope does not live in some glimmer of an indistinct future.

Rather we know the way to the world of which we dream,

And by covenant and the movement forward of one right action

And the next, we know that one day we will arrive at home.