



Minister's Report
May 5, 2020

Opening Words: To A New Dawning by Amber Tamblyn

Overall: Considering everything, our congregation is doing pretty well. Mental health issues seem to be the most challenging health concerns. Members are engaged in online groups and meetings and worship attendance has been good, with many more views after the service each week. With the encouraging results of the canvass, we are entering into budget season with somewhat less trepidation than we had feared.				
	Ministerial Observations	Ministerial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
Governance and Leadership	Annual Meeting planning group will meet on May 7 th to determine guidelines for online meeting.	Our FPB Covid Response team is preparing to respond to new state guidelines about reopening, as they are announced. Should we convene a "wisdom group" of former board chairs and/or deacons to advise/consult on this?	Should we be thinking now about a fall fundraiser (online auction) to raise funds to balance the budget, as well as possibly a December ask?	<p>The board and other FP leaders have quickly and thoughtfully responded to emergent needs.</p> <p>The "Thank You" email from the board was greatly appreciated!</p>
Staff	Lisa and Alisa alternate going into building 1x week to check on things, pick up mail and send bills out. We have been lucky not to have break-ins as other faith orgs have had.	<p>All staff are working hard to get up to speed with online work. Staff morale is good, though all are worried about possible 2021 budget cuts.</p> <p>Some staff may need to be reimbursed for increased internet speed and/or mobile bills.</p>	Laci is back at work full time, working remotely, planning programming, staying in close contact with RE families and committee, plus offering daily video story time. She has offered to prepare a monthly report for the board, if wanted.	Staff continue to work well with remote communications, video messages and start new initiatives.

Worship, Ritual and Ceremony	<p>Worship committee has all summer services planned. They will be prerecorded and shown on Facebook Premium, with worship leaders monitoring and participating in the chat.</p> <p>Spring guest preachers have been postponed; all wanted to wait for their honoraria.</p>	<p>Worship committee and worship associates are working closely with the worship planning team. Worship team is looking toward maximizing the advantages of the online platform, with prerecorded music, and limited “live” participants. More “cameos” will show up in the coming weeks.</p>	<p>Worship has had some glitches, resulting in Keith moving us to a more stable and higher quality platform. Digital ministry team continues to consult, as needed, to assist staff with tech glitches.</p>	<p>We are very fortunate to have a talented and tech-savvy music director at this time, expanding our virtual worship capacity.</p>
Congregational Life and Spiritual Development	<p>As pastoral care needs increase; PCA team is organizing to best to meet these needs. PCA team is also considering how to address needs over the summer.</p> <p>Following Gene and Janet’s lead, we initiated a “Shout-out” section in the Thursday messages, for members to show appreciation for the many contributions we are all making at this time.</p>	<p>Welcoming committee is figuring out new ways to welcome visitors and follow up on their needs. They will be present at coffee hour and also watch for new folks during the service, in the chat.</p> <p>We will welcome new members on May 24 or 31. We expect to have 6-8 new members.</p>	<p>We are still experimenting with online groups. Prayer circle has been small; meditation group has grown. New drop-in groups on Tuesday nights, will start soon.</p> <p>Small groups continue to meet online; some groups are now meeting 2x month. Small group leaders meet regularly for brainstorm and support. Some groups may continue through the summer.</p>	<p>A couple were married on the steps of First Parish on April 25th! They attended the 4/26 service and are excited about joining our congregation.</p>
Community Engagement and Social Justice	<p>IJC and RJAC launched a GoFundMe campaign to support the Chelsea Collaborative on 5/1, with a goal of \$10k. We are more than halfway there already.</p>	<p>Use of church for 14-day temporary emergency housing for detainees has not been requested yet. 85 more detainees are being considered for release.</p>	<p>We lit (and encouraged members to light) a “sacred fire” candle for the Wampanoag Tribe; a prayer for protection for their homelands and for justice from the federal gov’t.</p>	<p>Weekly phone banking for justice initiated by new FPB congregant has been very successful. Kudos to new FPB member, Danny Keefe.</p> <p>Get out the Vote work continues to move forward. Kudos to Laura Walters for keeping this going.</p>
Finance and Administration	<p>To continue livestreaming our services for the foreseeable future, (once we are able to be back in the building,) will require \$4-5,000 to run cable and purchase equipment to enable</p>	<p>Rentals: We are working with Voices and the Sai Center on future plans that will be fair to all parties.</p>	<p>2021 budget conversations are being planned. Budget discussions will likely be challenging.</p>	<p>2021 Canvass turned out better than anticipated, reaching 96% of last year’s total.</p> <p>Text and online giving during worship has been working well.</p>

	this capacity in the sanctuary. This has been recommended to come from the B&G budget.	Should Alisa and Lisa have ongoing support to consider how to handle rental requests, or should there be a liaison for that role?		
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