



## Minister's Report

December 6, 2020

Monthly Worship Theme: Stillness

Opening Words: John O'Donohue, **For Belonging** \*

Overall:				
	Ministerial Observations	Ministerial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
<b>Governance and Leadership</b>	The Reopening Planning Group (RPG) rejected outdoor choir caroling idea as part of our 12/18 Christmas tree decorating and candle lighting event, determining it was too high-risk.	When will the board determine the 2021-22 Canvass chair/s?	If we are going to have a Winter 2021 online auction fundraiser, we should recruit a couple more people to join that committee. Some people have expressed enthusiasm for the idea as a Winter "spirit-raiser."	Clear board 20-2021 goals are offering more transparency and connection to the congregation.
<b>Staff</b>	Staff are needing breaks, as they have all been putting in extra hours this fall; RL is encouraging everyone to take days off/vacation time during/after the holidays.	Any ideas of how/where get 2 more tech volunteers for Sundays?	Staff are needing more support from RL during this stressful time; any extra appreciations would be welcome!	We continue to collaborate well as a staff team, in spite of challenging times.
<b>Worship, Ritual and Ceremony</b>	We continue to work on expanding and improving technology for live streaming from the sanctuary.	What additional improvements/changes need to be made to enhance the virtual worship experience?	RL and Keith will meet with a professional production consultant in December, to consider improvements we	Much appreciation to FPB members who have stepped up to help with altar design,

			might make to our live streamed worship.	chancel reconfiguration and tech support.
<b>Congregational Life and Spiritual Development</b>	RL's podcast, "Tiny Spiritual Practices," will be released mid-December; 5-7 minute spiritual experiences to sustain us in these times.	Pastoral care team will begin making calls to the membership of the congregation, mid-December. We will reach out for board volunteers as the project gets organized.	12/18, 5-7pm. Holiday Tree Decorating and Candle Lighting: A Socially Distanced Event for the First Parish Community. Hoping that board members will spread the word, send photos, and attend, if they are able.	The "Me and White Supremacy" group is full and going well.
<b>Community Engagement and Social Justice</b>	A subgroup of the RJAC is beginning its research on FPB history of connections with slavery and the accumulation of land and wealth.	What is the exact charge to the RJAC, in terms of the congregational conversations about wealth and land accumulation?	IJC raised \$2,000+ from our congregation for Thanksgiving meals for Chelsea families, distributed by La Colaborativa.	FPB will cosponsor an interfaith MLK event on Sunday, Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Finance and Administration</b>	More will be needed for worship (committee) support this year, which can be supported by savings in other line items.	2021 Canvass team usually begins planning in January. Will the board take the lead again?	RL will meet in January with IJC, RJAC and Climate Justice committees to determine the best use of the Cedar Tree fund grant.	2020-21 budget management continues to go well.

\*John O'Donohue, **For Belonging**

May you listen to your longing to be free.

May the frames of your belonging be generous enough for your dreams.

My you arise each day with a voice of blessing whispering in your heart.

May you find a harmony between your soul and your life.

May the sanctuary of your soul never become haunted.

May you know the eternal longing that lives at the heart of time.

May there be kindness in your gaze when you look within.

May you never place walls between the light and yourself.

May you allow the wild beauty of the invisible world to gather you, mind you, and embrace you in belonging.