



Minister's Report

December 5, 2021

Monthly Worship Theme: Joy

Opening Words: ** Every Bright Thing: A Blessing (Jan Richardson)

	Ministerial Observations	Minsterial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
Governance and Leadership	The Justice Coalition, (leaders of RJAC, IJC, Climate Justice and Common Hope,) is forming a shared identity and working toward building relationships with organizations like A.C.E. (Alternatives for Community and Environment.)	This winter we might give some thought to how to reconstitute the worship and welcoming committees. Is this something the board takes the lead on, or is it the minister's responsibility?	RPG has reset guidelines for in-person attendance at worship, as well as a limited attendance sign-up for the two Christmas Eve services.	Kudos and much gratitude to Jody Leader for successfully recruiting ushers this Fall!
Staff	Additional attention and support has been needed for RE this month.	Ebiere will need some clerical support in the coming months, (as budgeted,.) We have	Bob, Karla and RL have been reviewing Rev Lisa's ministerial agreement and	Our very hardworking and dedicated staff will definitely deserve Holiday gift (cards) again, in

		attempted to outsource to FPB volunteers, without success. Temp help will be hired, as needed.	<p>will bring suggested revisions to the board.</p> <p>We should begin to talk about plans for Rev Lisa's sabbatical in 2022/2023.</p> <p>Note: Interviews have begun for a ministerial intern for 2022-23 and 2023-24.</p>	appreciation for their hard work, as the board did last year!
Worship, Ritual and Ceremony	Indoor worship continues to go well. RE kids and teachers now will go directly to classes to reduce numbers in the sanctuary.	In the interest of limiting numbers in the sanctuary, considering the uptick in Covid risk numbers, we will have two worship services on Christmas Eve, at 5pm and 7pm. The services will be identical and will require sign up and vaccine attestation ahead of time.	The Fenway group contractor is finally scheduled for January to set up improved livestream equipment. Meanwhile, Keith and Bob have been doing as much as they are able to improve livestreaming sound and sanctuary ventilation.	It continues to be a joy to worship in-person together in our sanctuary again, even with the need to bundle up!
Congregational Life and Spiritual Development	The pastoral care team has begun to promote new small group ministry opportunities after worship, to begin in January.	A new Spiritual Autobiography group has been proposed, starting in January. We could use more adult programming led by volunteers right now.	<p>Deb Weiner, our RE consultant, has been key to restarting our OWL class.</p> <p>We are actively working on starting up Coming of Age (formerly "Challenge") in January, partnering with FP Dorchester to increase</p>	RE classes are going very well, thanks to the dedication of our RE committee, staff and volunteers.

			numbers and gain another leader.	
Community Engagement and Social Justice	Some members are actively seeking housing in our community for immigrants in need. Deane spoke about this at our Thanksgiving service and hosted a Q&A afterward.	How do we engage more congregation members in the community life of the church? In the past, potlucks, dances and other gatherings sustained us; what, if anything, can/should we do now?	Climate Justice met with the ED of A.C.E. to build relationship and discover how First Parish can further support and connect with their work.	The First Parish community seemed energized and enthusiastic about our first online auction!
Finance and Administration	Adam and Lisa have begun tracking projected expenses for the year in our budget, at the request of the Finance Committee.	Finance committee is still in need of new members – what is the best way to generate names?	It will be important to confirm Canvass leadership at our Dec. Board meeting, in order to begin organizing in January.	The First Parish online auction went exceptionally well, generating at least \$14,000, with more still coming in.

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Every Bright Thing (Jan Richardson)

A Blessing

If I could write this blessing

backwards,

I would begin it

at the end.

I would start it
from that far place where
I could show you
every bright thing
that lies ahead for you,
radiant in its wholeness
and complete
in its own joy.

For now,
all I can offer
is this blessing that
begins here—
in the gap,
in the hollow,
in the hope

that tells us

this is how a blessing

becomes;

this is how a blessing

is made—

from the broken things

we travel with

from here.