

The Steeple



VOL 3 NO.2 October 1, 2010

First Parish in Framingham
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Staying In Touch

October 24th is 'Take Back Your Time Day', a national program put together by the National Council of Churches. We know that planning in churches these days has to consider the reality that most people have far less time than people did 30 years ago. Americans work an average of nine weeks more than people in England, and that usually both work in two- adult families. Couple this with the anxiety that the recession has created, and we are a people who are sick with busy-ness and proud of how we multi-task. Take a look at the website of the Massachusetts Council of Churches where there is information about how people can get started on the path to deeply consider how we spend our time.... and do what we can to create more time for the things that matter as much as activity that has tangible material results.

Of course it has to be mentioned that there are people so poor and so engaged in just surviving that this day is a laughable pipe-dream to them. Those of us more privileged, and who might have more time choice, let us not forget the place of service in our priority making. Still, we are much better at helping and working for justice from a place of nourishment and joy. I personally believe that laughter, rest, play and unplanned time are radical responses to a world in great need.

Here's to both savoring and saving the world!

With Love,
Rev. Kathleen Hepler

Sunday Worship

OCT 3rd
9:15 & 11:00 AM Worship
Systems Thinking As a Spiritual Practice

Rev. Kathleen Hepler preaching
We are unique individuals with much power to affect our lives. We are beings residing within systems that affect our lives in ways we never imagine or recognize: a provocative look at systems theory as the core of spirituality.

OCT 10th
9:15 & 11:00 AM Worship
Blessed Unity

Michael Hall preaching
In a tradition that values diversity in religious opinion

as highly as ours, it can be treacherous to identify, much less articulate, our common beliefs, those things that unite us.

OCT 17th
9:15 & 11:00 AM Worship
Sacred Land

Rev. Kathleen Hepler preaching
The relationship we have with land as human beings is key to our survival and to our joy. This relationship is central to the development of religion through time, and the power of place can cause us great joy and be the source of great conflict. Perhaps we are in need of a new paradigm for what makes a particular place sacred. Let's consider this.

OCT 24th

9:15 & 11:00 AM Worship

In The Name of All That Is Holy: Is Nothing Sacred Anymore?

Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill preaching

"The German theologian, Rudolf Otto, once wrote that the Western mind falters as it approaches the idea of the Holy, especially in any attempt to articulate its definition. . . . In a day when some are willing to burn or desecrate the Holy Books of other cultures and be-

liefs, is nothing considered Sacred anymore?"

OCT 31st

9:15 & 11:00 AM Worship

Wabi Sabi

Rev. Kathleen Hepler preaching

This Japanese aesthetic has much to teach us, and fall is a good time to consider the beauty of things that show the natural cycle of our transience.

From the Intern Minister

A Wonderful Beginning

What a great start to a new church year! Although I know I have nothing to compare it with, I can just feel the swell of enthusiasm and positive energy everywhere I go on the First Parish campus; whether it's to worship, a committee meeting or coffee hour. In September I got a taste of each. I participated in worship that was thoughtfully crafted with beautiful music and rich, inspiring sermons. I got to see many of your committees in action and was very impressed by the integrity, preparedness and creativity of the participants. And I have begun a process of reflection and supervision with Kathleen that I can only hope will develop my skills and desire for this work into something approaching the wise and professional minister that she already is.

I'm glad to say I'm beginning to recognize more and more people that I see and even remember some of your names. I appreciate the many fascinating people I've met at First Parish, the interesting conversations that I have been involved in and the kindly welcome that the youth have offered me. I am particularly grateful for the young woman who, seeing how mechanically inept I am, put together my pinwheel for me.

So thank you all for your encouraging words and welcome. I feel confident closing with those timeless words from Tinseltown, "... I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

In Heart and with hope,
Michael

From the Board of Assessors

Please join me in welcoming our new assessor, Melanie Zoltan, who is filling in a one-year vacancy. She and her husband, Eric, and their three sons, Ben, Reilly, and Daniel, have been attending First Parish for several years. I am very grateful to Melanie for agreeing to serve and look forward to the insights she will provide as a newer member.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the Board is focusing on five areas this year: Vision 20-20, stewardship, governance, capital campaign, and leadership. We are always appreciative of your thoughts and opinions and would love to hear from you, at coffee hour or any other time. You know who we are – our pictures are on the bulletin board in Scott Hall!

Led by Jen Long, the board completed a letter to the congregation regarding the Fair Share campaign, which will be mailed to all members. This campaign will take place in October. The Unitarian Universalist Association and the Mass Bay District are our national and local organizations, respectively, which do excellent work and give us much support. But they can't do it for free; they need the help of every member. It would be a matter of great pride if First Parish could become a congregation that pays its fair share to the UUA and the MBD. Please read the letter when it arrives and respond as promptly and generously as you are able.

In other business, the Board supported a grant request by the MICAH Working Group to the UU Funding Panel to provide matching funds for dues to MICAH, our local interfaith community organizing group.

A number of Board members are enthusiastic about using technology to improve communication at First Parish, to create an electronic presence for our congregation, and to make all possible use of all the wonders of electronic communication. Stay tuned for more developments!

As we move into fall, the time for Pies on the Common, I urge everyone to participate in this wonderful event which raises money and creates community. See you there on Saturday, October 16!

Faithfully,
Janice Knapp-Cordes, Board Chair

Religious Education

The RE classes have started off well this year. From Preschool/Kindergartners making paper chains to demonstrate our connectedness to 7th/8th graders making pinwheels for peace in celebration of International Peace Day, children and teachers seem engaged in the work and play of religious education.

Both youth groups have also had robust beginnings. The Junior Youth Group, headed up by advisors Dennis Charles, Kate Macumber, and Jennifer Walton, began the year with a very successful sleepover at First Parish. YRUU, with leadership from advisors David Mendelsohn, Allison Park, and Phil Reitz, has held well-attended meetings. They are planning a sleepover retreat on October 9th. For those of you who are new to First Parish, here is the youth group information: Junior Youth Group is for 7th and 8th graders and meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, 6:00 to 7:30, for supper, socializing and service. YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is for 9th through 12th graders and meets on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. Together with their advisors, the youth plan their meetings and the events that they will be involved in.

We have had our first "Justice Sunday", which was on September 26th. Justice Sundays are times when we have multi-age social justice projects that the whole RE program is involved in at the same time. On this first Justice Sunday, we focused on learning about our sponsorship of Jenny Rose Ruda, a UU child who lives in the Philippines. The children sold homemade cat and dog treats to offset the cost of our sponsorship. This sponsorship is through the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council. The topic of our next Justice Sunday will be on homelessness and shelters and will be led by our 7th and 8th graders, along with the DRE. That one will be on October 31st. These Sundays will help develop the concept of justice and equity as an important part of our children's UU identity formation.

A "Special Sunday" – those Sundays that fall on three-day weekends – is coming up on October 10th. Preschool/Kindergartners will attend church with their families on Special Sundays and then join children in grades one through six in the Huntley Room for a multi-grade activity. Early Preschoolers (the two- and three-year-olds) have their regular classes. Seventh and eighth graders attend church.

Save the date – November 7th! The Religious Education Council will host a "Harvest Festival" for all ages. We will celebrate autumn with fall crafts and games, gourd decorating, and the YRUU's famous haunted house. More information about this multigenerational gathering will be coming – stay tuned!

If you have any questions or concerns about religious education, please feel free to contact me.

Julie Porter,
Credentialed Religious Educator, Masters Level

Looking Ahead

Cut this out and hang it on your frig....enter them in your phone calendar....or whatever.

Saturday Oct. 16, Pies on the Common Sunday

Sunday, Oct. 24, MICAH (Metro west Congregations Acting in Faith) action at St. Stephens Church

Monday, October 25, 7:30 The Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison Reed will speak on his experience as an African Minister within Unitarian Universalism and our history with race.

Sunday, November 7, Multigenerational Harvest Festival.

Sunday, November 7, through Sunday, December 5th Un-decorate the Tree.

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4 and 5 Holiday Boutique

Saturday, Dec. 11, Advent Saturday; Multi-generational holiday festivities with anti-materialistic bent.

Sunday Dec. 12, Guatemalan Jewelry Sale at coffee hour

Friday, Dec. 24, Candle lighting Services; 5 and 7

Sunday, Dec. 26 Worship at 10 AM at First Parish in Wayland; annual joint service with Wayland and Sudbury; no services in Framingham.

Membership Corner

Newcomer Orientation

There will be a newcomer orientation on Sunday October 17th from 12:30-2:30 in the Huntley room. All newcomers are invited. This is an opportunity to meet Reverend Kathleen Hepler, learn more about Unitarian Universalism, meet other newcomers, members and staff of First Parish and ask any questions. Babysitting and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to me by Wed October 13th and let me know if you need babysitting.

The New UU

Join Rev. Kathleen Hepler to hear some history, ask questions, spend time discussing spiritual/ethical issues at the core of all religions and explore those issues from a UU perspective. This class is open to all but intended for those who are “newer” to Unitarian Universalism. Newcomers and those considering making First Parish in Framingham their spiritual home are encouraged to take this class. Register by filling out the form in the Adult Lifespan religious education brochure. Please call the church office if you need childcare.

Connections

Whether you’ve recently joined us or have been here for a while, I am here to help you make connections at First Parish. Allow me to help you find meaningful ways to share your talents. There are many volunteer opportunities with varying time commitments.

Membership Matters

Have you been considering whether it is the right time to sign the membership book? Signing the Membership book is an intentional process, a symbolic gesture of affirming Unitarian Universalism as your spiritual identity. By signing the Membership book at First Parish in Framingham you are committing to contribute to the caretaking of the church and church community through showing up, monetary pledges and acts of service. Please let me know if you are ready to take this step.

I am at your service to help you navigate First Parish in Framingham. You may reach me by phone: 508-872-3111 ext 218, email: membership@uuframingham.org or at the Welcome table following both Sunday services.

Veena Baker, Membership Development Coordinator

From the Historian

Behind the signatures on the First Parish quilt are many unique stories. Two such signatures are Meta Vaux War- rick Fuller (1877-1968) and Solomon Carter Fuller. (1872-1953). Although not directly related to First Parish, these two Framingham residents made substantial contributions to and were known nationally in their fields. After the Fuller’s married in 1909, they moved to Framingham and lived there until their deaths.

Meta Fuller was a very talented artist from Philadelphia who studied in Paris from 1899 to 1902. Her work was praised by Rodin and exhibited in well-known Parisian galleries. Life was not as easy for her when she returned to the United States due to the prejudices of her day against an African-American woman. In 1910 there was a fire in her Philadelphia studio that destroyed 16 years of her work. However, after several years of being a fulltime wife and mother with three sons, she returned to her sculpting which she continued throughout the rest of her life. The Danforth museum in Framingham has an extensive collection of her works. Many other museums such as Boston’s Museum of Afro-American History and the San Francisco Museum of Fine Arts display her work as well.

Solomon Carter Fuller (1872-1953) had a distinguished career as a neurologist, pathologist, psychiatrist and uni- versity professor at Westborough State Mental Hospital, Boston University’s School of Medicine and Massachu- setts General Hospital. Born in Liberia, he was the grandson of a slave who earned enough money to buy his own and his wife’s freedom. Fuller returned to the United States when he was 17 to pursue a career in medicine. After finding many barriers, he ended up studying at the desegregated Boston School of Medicine. Over the course of his long, distinguished career, he constantly bridged the worlds of the practicing psychiatrist with that of the labo-

ratory scientist. As an example he conducted some of the earliest research on Alzheimer's, helping to establish it as a distinct disease not just a form of senility.

Both of the Fuller's were pioneers in many, many ways. It is exciting to have their signatures as a reminder of who they were and what they accomplished.

Janet Nichols
First Parish Historian

Announcements: Dates & Events

Caritas Coordinator for October

Valerie Foley, 781 416-4020
valeriefoley@comcast.net

Around the Parish

If you would like to share a joy or a concern in the Weekly Update, please contact the Caritas Coordinator by Tuesday of that week.

MICAH

The MICAH Working Group would like to express its gratitude for the generosity of all those who contributed to Share the Plate last Sunday. You gave over \$800, which will be a great help to MICAH as we work to improve our communities. Anyone who would still like to contribute can do so by writing a check to First Parish in Framingham, putting MICAH on the memo line, and mailing it to the Collector.

This fall MICAH is focusing on ballot question #3. Stop by our table at coffee hour to sign up for the rally on Sunday, October 24, 3:00 - 4:30, at St. Stephen's on Concord Street, to sign a pledge card to vote "No on 3", and to sign our "No on 3" poster, which will be displayed at the rally. Don't be shy about talking to friends, neighbors, and co-workers about voting "No on 3" - we all care about our communities and we don't want to de-fund our schools, police, fire, health care, elder services, and all that we do to care for one another.

Roots & Shoots

Save the date! This year 350.org is calling for a "Global Work Party for the Earth" on October 10th. First Parish has been invited to join Grace and Edwards Churches and the Framingham Town Parks and Recreation Department in a tree-planting event. Trees will be planted in different spots around Framingham on 10/10 with help from another organization called Global ReLeaf. Watch this space for more details.

Would you like to help clean up the beach at the end of this summer season? Every September, the Coastsweep effort takes place: <http://www.coastsweep.umb.edu/> It would be great to have our Roots & Shoots group join in on one of the clean-up dates, but we need a coordinator for this project. Let me know if you are interested!

Jane Goodall herself will be in New England in October! Roots & Shoots is holding its first annual North American Training Summit for program leaders and service-learning professionals. It will take place in Connecticut over the Columbus Day weekend. More information available here: <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS>

October Food Pantry Item: Beans – dried or canned

September started with a bang. Let's keep it going and with beans, beans and more beans. But remember that ALL donations are welcome. Your generosity keeps "HOPE" alive at 113 Irving Street, Framingham, MA. For those in need the food pantry's hours are Wednesday and Saturday from 9pm-noon.

UU Urban Ministry

30th Anniversary Celebration for UU Urban Ministry's Renewal House, a shelter for victims of domestic violence Saturday, October 2, 7:00 pm - 9pm First Church in Boston Tickets are \$30.

This event will feature original music compositions, a photographic gallery, a "giving opportunities tree," wine and desserts. You can find more information and order tickets online by going to www.uuum.org/renewalhouse30. Contact person at First Parish: Valerie Waldman 508-877-7769

Legacy Planning

Do you love your First Parish family so much that you want to assure its community presence long after you're not here? Then please consider estab-

lishing a living legacy by including our church in your estate plans.

Past bequests by generous, forward-thinking First Parishioners have established an endowment that currently permits an annual pledge of more than \$20,000 to supplement our canvass. All these contributors wanted to help preserve First Parish for us, and for generations to come. Any of our three Trustees would be very happy to answer your questions about assigning some future assets to First Parish. Please e-mail or call Charlotte Neagle, Mary Rose Wells, or Pete Allen - and many thanks for your consideration.

Fall Spruce-up

Thanks to Alma & Bob Gould, Ben Jones, Sandy Porter, Dick Rader, Beth Walton, Holly Willette, Pam Pierson and our mystery summer weeder, for all your help and contributions. The grounds looked great for opening Sunday.

Maintenance Council

Mark Morrison Reed Book Reading

October 25, 7:00 PM

What is it like to grow up an African-American UU? Why does UUism find becoming more diverse such a struggle? Hear Mark Morrison-Reed read excerpts from his book *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby* and get a sneak preview of his new book that Skinner House will publish this spring *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*.

The MetroWest Free Medical Program is looking for volunteer physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, optometrists, social workers, physical therapists and other health care providers. The program provides free health care services to those individuals in our communities who lack health insurance. Volunteers treated more than 1,100 patients in 2009, caring for their health needs and helping them apply for health insurance. Consider committing just one evening of volunteer service per month at the Sudbury or Framingham locations.

Not a health care professional? The program has openings for general on-site volunteers as well as marketing, fundraising, and computer support. Learn more about the MetroWest Free Medical Pro-

gram at an Open House for volunteers on Sunday September 26th from 3:00 - 4:30 pm at the Goodnow Library in Sudbury.

For more information, contact Kim Prendergast, Kim.Prendergast@gmail.com or 617-470-1632.

Worship & Arts

welcomes Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill back to our pulpit on 10/24/10. His sermon is entitled, "*In The Name of All That Is Holy: Is Nothing Sacred Anymore?*"

Patrick writes of his sermon, "The German theologian, Rudolf Otto, once wrote that the Western mind falters as it approaches the idea of the Holy, especially in any attempt to articulate its definition. He said we can only know the Holy by experience. Otto calls the Holy, *Mysterium Tremendum Fascinans* - the attraction of deep mystery, that which 'opens us up to the full terror and grandeur in which we live and are ourselves.' But what of other people's experience of the Holy? In a day when some are willing to burn or desecrate the Holy Books of other cultures and beliefs, is nothing considered Sacred anymore?"

Boston New Sanctuary Movement Breakfast

Thursday, Oct. 21, 9-11 a.m. First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist 3 Church St., Cambridge Speaker: Rev. Peter Morales, president, Unitarian Universalist Association, Reflections on Arizona. Remarks from leaders of local immigrant organizations Boston NSM in 2009-10: A look back, and a look ahead RSVP by Oct. 8 to Anthony Zuba at (617) 840-5860 or info@massinterfaith.org.

Women's Alliance Meeting: There is no Alliance meeting this October 11th. The Columbus Day Holiday. The 20th year of Pies on the Common is Saturday, October 16th. We urge everyone to come and help out.

Photo Exhibit

Check it out. The second annual photo exhibit is hanging in Scott Hall for all to enjoy. If you are interested in purchasing a photo that is for sale contact the photographer directly. And remember 25% of the sale will go to First Parish.

A Note from the Editor

Deadline for the November *Steeple* is: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21st 20th! Send your text to: editor@uuf Framingham.org.

October, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:15 AM Services 11:00 AM Services 12:00 PM MWOC Walk For the Homeless, Huntley Rm. 1:00 PM MWORC: Scott Hall 7:00 PM YRUU: The Cave	27 5:30 PM MWMP Clinic: 110 Edgell 6:30 PM ESL: 110 Edgell 6:30 PM Rounds: Scott Hall 7:30 PM Maximizing Potential: Huntley Rm.	28 6:30 PM Habitat For Humanity: Huntley Rm. 7:00 PM Heritage Chorale: Scott Hall 7:30 PM Stitches In Time Allen Rm 8:00 PM Meditation Group: Olym Brn	29 9:30 AM Yoga I: Huntley Rm 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM ESL:110 6:30 PM MWFMP: Scott Hall 7:00 PM Legacy Writing: Huntley Rm. 7:30 PM Pies Committee: 110 Edgell 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal: Meeting House	30 8:30 AM Coffee & Muffins: Huntley Rm 9:00 AM FCNS: Scott Hall 7:00 PM Fairs & Squares: Scott Hall	1 9:00 AM FCNS: Scott Hall 12:30 PM MetWest Med. Prg:110 6:00 PM Uncommon Coffee House: Scott Hall	2 9:00 AM ESL: 110 Edgell 9:30 AM David Doucette: Huntley 11:00 AM Brownies: Olympia Brown 1:00 PM Darwin & Origin Of Species: Huntley Rm 1:00 PM Tao of Piemaking: 1st Parish Kitchen
3 Association Sunday 9:15 AM Services 10:00 AM Junior Youth Bake Sale 11:00 AM Services 2:00 PM Rounds: Scott Hall 7:00 PM YRUU: The Cave	4 5:30 PM MWMP Clinic: 110 Edgell 6:30 PM ESL: 110 Edgell 6:30 PM Rounds: Scott Hall 7:30 PM Maximizing Potential: Huntley Rm.	5 9:00 AM Fram. Dir. Collab: Huntley 7:00 PM RE Council: Huntley Rm 7:00 PM Heritage Chorale: Scott Hall 8:00 PM Meditation Group: Olym Brn	6 9:30 AM Yoga I: Huntley Rm 11:30 AM Worship & Arts: Huntley Rm. 6:00 PM Junior Youth: Huntley Rm. 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM ESL:110 7:00 PM Young Adults: Olym. Brn. Rm. 7:30 PM Legacy Writing: Huntley Rm 7:30 PM Pies Committee: Scott Hall	7 8:30 AM Coffe & Muffins: Huntley Rm 5:00 PM MetWest Med. Prg: 110 Edgell 7:00 PM Fairs & Squares: Scott Hall 7:30 PM Board of Assessors: Huntley Rm. 7:30 PM New UU: Memorial Rm	8	9 9:00 AM ESL: 110 Edgell 9:30 AM David Doucette: Huntley
10 9:15 AM Services 11:00 AM Services 7:00 PM Sacred Circle Dances: Scott Hall 7:00 PM YRUU: The Cave 7:00 PM PFLAG: Huntley Rm.	11 5:30 PM MWMP Clinic: 110 Edgell 6:30 PM ESL: 110 Edgell 6:30 PM Rounds: Scott Hall	12 10:00 AM NARL: Water's Rm 7:00 PM Heritage Chorale: Scott Hall 7:30 PM Stitches In Time Allen Rm 8:00 PM Meditation Group: Olym Brn	13 9:30 AM Yoga I: Huntley Rm 1:00 PM Stitches In Time: Allen Rm 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM ESL:110 7:00 PM Young Adults: Olym. Brn. Rm. 7:30 PM Pies Committee: Scott Hall 7:30 PM Church Council: Huntley Rm 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal: Meeting House	14 8:30 AM Coffe & Muffins: Huntley Rm 9:00 AM FCNS: Scott Hall 9:30 AM ESL: 110 Edgell 5:00 PM MetWest Med. Prg: 110 Edgell 7:30 PM New UU: Memorial Rm	15 Pies On The Common: Scott Hall	16 7:00 AM Pies On The Common: Scott Hall 9:00 AM ESL: 110 Edgell 9:30 AM David Doucette: Huntley 11:00 AM Brownies: Olympia Brown
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24 9:15 AM Services 11:00 AM Services 7:00 PM YRUU: The Cave 7:00 PM ARE-Film: Song of Sparrows, Huntley Rm	25 5:30 PM MWMP Clinic: 110 Edgell 6:30 PM ESL: 110 Edgell 6:30 PM Rounds: Scott Hall 7:00 PM Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed: Scott Hall 7:30 PM Maximizing Potential: Huntley Rm.	26 7:00 PM Heritage Chorale: Scott Hall 7:30 PM Stitches In Time Allen Rm 8:00 PM Meditation Group: Olym Brn	27 9:30 AM Yoga I: Huntley Rm 1:00 PM Stitches In Time: Allen Rm 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM ESL:110 7:00 PM Young Adults: Olym. Brn. Rm. 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal: Meeting House	28 8:30 AM Coffee & Muffins: Huntley Rm 9:00 AM FCNS: Scott Hall 9:30 AM ESL: 110 Edgell 5:00 PM MetWest Med. Prg: 110 Edgell 7:30 PM WomanCircle: Memorial Rm.	29	30 9:00 AM ESL: 110 Edgell 1:00 PM Darwin & Origin Of Species: Huntley Rm 4:00 PM Private Rental: Scott Hall
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A Welcoming Congregation
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Framingham, MA 01701

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First Parish in Framingham ~ Unitarian Universalist Established 1701

TEL: 508 872-3111

FAX: 508-879-5780

WEB SITE: www.uuframingham.org,

E-MAIL ADDRESS: office@uuframingham.org

SENIOR MINISTER

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DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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CHIME CHOIR, BELL CHOIR

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

WEDDING AND RENTAL COORDINATOR

Rev. Kathleen D. Hepler, minister@uuframingham.org

The Reverend Dr. Charles A. Gaines

Michael F. Hall

Rev. Karin Peterson Tanenholtz

Julie Porter, dre@uuframingham.org

Carol M. Greve

Beth Walton,

Tom Berryman, music@uuframingham.org

Trish Ramey, tramey@rcn.com

Veena Baker, membership@uuframingham.org

David Moore, office@uuframingham.org

Alma Gould

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