

FIRST PARISH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST



Canton
MASSACHUSETTS



Our Annual Blue Holiday Less Formal Gathering

December 22, 2024

Order of Service

Our Annual Blue Holiday Less Formal Gathering
Led by Rev. Dr. Michelle Walsh
December 22, 2024

Gathering Music James Chubet

Centering Bell Rev. Michelle

Prelude *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella (Trad. French)*
Jonette Nagai and James Chubet

Welcome to a Blue Holiday Service Rev. Michelle

Call to Worship & Chalice Lighting Rev. Michelle

Covenant Rev. Michelle & Congregation

Love is the doctrine of this congregation. The quest for truth is its sacrament, and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace with respect and understanding; to seek knowledge in freedom; to serve our fellows and humankind to the end that all souls shall grow together in harmony. Thus do we covenant with each other and with our God, by whatsoever name we worship.

The Story of Hanukkah Felisa White

A Song for Hanukkah *#221 – Light One Candle*
First Parish Choir & Congregation

A Timeless Classic The Velveteen Rabbit (excerpt)
Rev. Michelle

Invitation to the Offering Rev. Michelle

Offertory

Blue Christmas (Hayes-Johnson)
First Parish Choir

Lighting of Candles with Questions, Sharing, Release

*Whose absence feels the most present to you during this holiday season?
How so in a tangible sense and with what practices do you continue to
honor them in this time?*

Meditative Hymn

#352 – *Find a Stillness*
First Parish Choir

Lighting of Candles with Questions, Sharing, Release

*How do you regularly practice remaining present to the injustice and
suffering of others? How do you intentionally let it touch you, and yet
release it in ways that deepen your compassion rather than being
consumed by the suffering?*

***Closing Hymn**

#1009 – *Meditation on Breathing*
First Parish Choir

Benediction

Rev. Michelle

***Unison Chalice Extinguishing**

Rev. Michelle & Congregation
Written by Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones

We extinguish this flame,
but not the light of truth,
the warmth of community,
or the fire of commitment.

These we carry in our hearts until we are together again

Postlude

We Wish You a Merry Christmas (Trad. English)
Jonette Nagai & James Chubet
with First Parish Choir and Congregation

December Faith in Action: Father Bill's & Mainspring

Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS) (<https://helpfbms.org/>) works to end and prevent homelessness with programs that provide emergency and permanent housing and help people obtain skills, jobs, housing, and services. FBMS helps people who are struggling with homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness, achieve self-sufficiency. To donate, use the envelopes in the pews, the PayPal Donate button on our website, or write a check. Be sure to add a note stating that the money is for Faith in Action (FIA).

Ongoing Events at FPUU

Sunday Brunch Potluck! First Sunday of the month – ***January 5***. We are holding a Brunch Potluck after Sunday service. A few food items, coffee and tea will be provided. We are asking everyone attending to bring the rest! See Barbara Foley for more info.

Parish Committee Board Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month - ***January 8*** at 7:15pm via Zoom. See Kitty McGregor, President during coffee social hours for more information.

The Bible – What Is It and Why?: Second Sunday of the month - ***January 12*** from 12:15pm to 1:15pm with Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs, Affiliate Community Minister. Please read Genesis & Exodus.

Soup's On: Third Thursday of the month – ***January 16*** from 12 to 1pm in Parish Hall. See Barbara Casaly for more info.

Exploring Your Spirituality/Soul Matters: Third Sunday of the month - ***January 19*** from 12:15pm to 1:15pm. January Theme: "Story".

Highlighted Neponset Region or Five Points Cluster Events

Connection Circles: All Souls Braintree invites all interested to join their weekly Wednesday Connection Circles on Zoom from 2:30-4pm. Contact Mary Mitchell, CC Coordinator, at 781-864-7743 for more information.

Canton Public Library, Open Book Coffeehouse: January 18 with Grace Morrison.

Neponset River Mind-Body-Spirit Center

Exploring Your Spirituality: First Thursday of the month – **January 2** from 1pm to 2pm in the Chapel. January Soul Matters Theme: “Story.”

Zen Buddhist Meditation Group: Second Thursday of the month – **January 9** from 1 to 2pm in the Chapel.

Get Your Body Groove On!: Fourth Thursday of the month normally, BUT cancelled for November and December due to holidays. Next Body Groove group will be **January 23, 2025.**

Special Notes!

1. Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24 will be at 5pm. **Volunteers are needed to assist with the reception. Please contact Barbara Foley in advance if you are able to help out and sign up in coffee hour to let her know what you are bringing!** THERE WILL BE NO ZOOM OPTION FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE!
2. Sunday, December 29, FPUU will be closed for services and you are encouraged to participate in the Five Points Cluster service planned for that day in Braintree, in person and hybrid. See your mid-month newsletter or the FPUU website for more information.

Land and Labor Acknowledgement

The First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton, MA
[Adopted at the FPUU Annual Meeting on 6/4/24]

The First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton is proud to be a major historical church of Canton, representing a consolidation of two of Canton's oldest churches – the First Parish Unitarian, founded in the 18th century and the First Universalist Church, founded in the 19th century. We recognize that our church's history is complicated by the combined legacies of colonialism and slavery in the United States context. We acknowledge the history of Indigenous peoples and the dispossession of their lands, including that these original lands in Canton and neighboring towns were named Ponkapoag by indigenous peoples. We pay our respects to the Neponset Band, among other bands, of the Massachusetts Tribe, who have stewarded this land throughout generations. We honor their continued presence here and throughout their diaspora. We also acknowledge that we in Canton do not exist independently from centuries of forced labor and economic extraction from enslaved and indentured Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), including children, as well as poor white immigrants/residents suffering abusive child labor and economic exploitation. And we want to affirm that although we cannot change history, we can and will work for justice, and that justice first begins in direct relationship with mutual recognition and acknowledgment of our shared history, experiences, and interactions. We celebrate and work in solidarity with BIPOC organizations leading the movement for our collective liberation, and we choose to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community casting out racism and oppression in ourselves and our institutions.

Our Vision and Purpose

FPUU Canton is a welcoming, caring, and diverse faith community that seeks to nurture and inspire each person's spiritual journey while serving others in our commitment to peace and justice.

Minister & Staff

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Walsh, *Lead Minister*
The Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs, *Affiliate Community Minister*
The Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, *Minister Emerita*
Jim Chubet, *Music Director*
Carol Smith, *Office Administrator*

Parish Committee 2024-2025

Kitty McGregor, *President*
Dave Williams, *Vice President, Administration*
Debbie Radovsky, *Vice President, Member Services*
Larry Cotton, *Treasurer*
Jonette Nagai, *Clerk*
Bette Wells, *Member-at-Large*
Don Seaman, *Member-at-Large*

Contact Us

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<https://fpuucanton.org>