



# First Parish Unitarian Universalist — Canton

A Neponset River Unitarian Universalist Community



**SENDING LOVE TO**

- those who lost their mom
- moms who lost their child(ren)
- those with 2 moms
- moms who foster or adopt
- those who are adopted or fostered
- moms who lost connection with their child
- those who are disowned or abandoned
- moms who are single
- those unable to carry a child
- moms with mental illness, chronic illness, and disability
- those who don't know their mom
- moms who do it all for their child(ren)

**ANYONE WHO NEEDS IT ON MOTHER'S DAY ♡**

@ganddesigns

On This Mother's Day I'm sending extra love to those who...

- ♡ Miss their **mom**
- ♡ Can't **see** their mom
- ♡ Feel like they're **failing** as a mom
- ♡ Have a **complicated** relationship with their mom
- ♡ Are **struggling** with infertility
- ♡ Are **grieving** children they've lost
- ♡ Have **complicated** relationships with their kids
- ♡ Are breaking **generational** trauma
- ♡ Are a mom in ways we don't **celebrate**

SelfLoveRainbow

## Stories From the Urban Mothers I Have Known

May 10, 2026 - Order of Service



Our Unitarian Universalist Faith Values

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> century and the First Universalist Church, founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> 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*  
James Chubet, *Music Director*  
Carol Smith, *Office Administrator*

### **Parish Committee 2025-2026**

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

### **Vision Ministry 2025-2026**

Dave Williams and Kitty McGregor, Co-Chairs

### **Congregational Life and Stewardship Ministry 2025-2026**

Don Seaman and Ashton Krasnow, Co-Chairs

### **Building Project Ministry 2025-2026**

Kitty McGregor and Debbie Radovsky, Co-Chairs

### **Stewardship Ministry 2025-2026**

Kitty McGregor

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 781-828-0296 / Office Email: [office@fpuucanton.org](mailto:office@fpuucanton.org)  
Ministers' Email: [minister@fpuucanton.org](mailto:minister@fpuucanton.org)



<https://fpuucanton.org>

**Stories From the Urban Mothers I Have Known**  
**Led by Rev. Michelle Walsh**  
**May 10, 2026**

**Gathering Music** James Chubet

**Centering Bell** Rev. Michelle

**Prelude** *Lullaby (John Krumm)* – First Parish Choir

**Welcome & Announcements** Linda Hamaker

**Call to Worship** words by Rev. Amy Freedman – Rev. Michelle

**Unison Chalice Lighting** Linda Hamaker & Congregation  
*Written by Rev. Dr. Claudene (Deane) Oliva*

We light this chalice for mothers and mothering;  
to celebrate those who have taken on the task of nurturing a young  
one – baby, child, or youth – into adulthood;  
to celebrate those who have nourished the light of truth and  
compassion in growing minds and hearts;  
to celebrate those who have committed time, money, energy to the  
growth of others in this world.

We light this chalice to celebrate and hold dear this flame of love.

**Covenant** Linda Hamaker & 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.

**\*Opening Hymn** #367 – *Bright Morning Stars (vs. 1-3)*  
First Parish Choir & Congregation

**World Wisdom Story** "A Tale of Motherhood Across Cultures"  
Written by Jiayi Liao; read by Rev. Michelle

**Invitation to the Offering** Linda Hamaker

**Offertory** *Loves Me Like a Rock (Paul Simon, arr. Greg Gilpin)*  
First Parish Choir

**Laughter Meditation** Linda Hamaker & Congregation

**Joys and Sorrows** Rev. Michelle & Linda Hamaker

**A Prayer Ritual For Those Who Gave Us Life** from Rev. Linda Hart,  
modified by Rev. Michelle

**Musical Interlude** #97 – *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*  
First Parish Choir

**Sermon** Stories from the Urban Mothers I Have Known – Rev. Michelle

**\*Closing Hymn** #1026 – *If Every Woman in the World (vs. 1, 3 & 4)*  
First Parish Choir & Congregation

**Benediction** words from an anonymous source – Rev. Michelle

**Unison Chalice Extinguishing** Linda Hamaker & Congregation  
*Written by Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones, SLT #456*

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** #8 – *Mother Spirit, Father Spirit (vs. 1 & 4)* – First Parish Choir

**\*Please rise in body and/or in spirit.**  
**Please join us for Coffee Social Hour after the Service**

## **MAY Faith in Action**

The UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is a non-sectarian, non-profit social justice organization that has its offices at the historic First Church in Roxbury – a Boston landmark. Their **Mission** is to work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture and to advance racial, social and economic justice. Their **Vision** is to envision a greater Boston where all people live with freedom and dignity and have equitable access to resources and opportunity to shape the present and the future.

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). Please give as generously as you are able. Thank you!

### **Parish Committee Board Meeting & Today's Designated Representative**

Parish Committee meetings are open to members and friends, and meetings generally are now on the second Thursdays – *next meeting May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1-2:30PM*. See **Kitty McGregor**, President during coffee social hours if you would like to attend a meeting. Today's Parish Committee representative for questions is **Debbie Radovsky**.

### **Opportunities for Community Meals with FPUU Friends**

**Sunday Brunch Potluck** - First Sunday of the month, **June 7**; and **Lunch With Friends** - Third Thursday of the month, **May 21** at 12PM in Parish Hall. Help with setup/cleanup appreciated! See Barbara Foley for more info.

### **Covenant Group Invitations**

Contact **Linda Hamaker** at [lindahamaker324@gmail.com](mailto:lindahamaker324@gmail.com) if interested in joining a monthly Tuesday evening covenant group, open to all genders, or **Elaine Goldstein** at 781-784-5210 if interested in a Thursday morning women's group. Both occur on Zoom.

## **Save the Dates**

**DRUUMM Public Worship:** Thursday, May 14, 8PM on Zoom, FPUU is a co-sponsor again

**Constituent Meeting with Senator Paul Feeney:** Friday, **May 15**, 1-2PM, FPUU Chapel, to advocate for UU Mass Action priority legislation among other issues (See Rev. Michelle)

**Canton Heritage Festival:** Saturday, **May 16**, 10AM-3PM, Volunteers Needed to Person the FPUU table over those hours on this day. See Don Seaman in coffee hours to sign up!

**Welcoming Congregation Book**, Saturday, **May 16**, 1-2PM, we'll meet on zoom to discuss *Only This Beautiful Moment* by Abdi Nazemian. Contact Diana Levy or Rev. Michelle.

**Open Book Coffeehouse 'Women in World Jazz':** Saturday, **May 16**, 7:30PM, Canton Public Library; \$25 general admission; \$13 students

## MAJOR SAVE THE DATES!!

**FPUU Pre-Annual Meeting:** Wednesday, **May 20**, 7pm via zoom, see info sent out

**FPUU Annual Meeting:** Tuesday, **June 2**, 7pm via zoom, see information sent out

**Rev. Clyde's UUA Award and Celebration Party!:** Tuesday, **June 16**, 5PM-8PM

### **Neponset River Mind-Body-Spirit Center (May)**

*(a program of FPUU Canton: A Neponset River UU Community)*

#### **Zen Buddhist Meditation Hour! (with Rev. Michelle)**

Feeling stressed? Meditation is known to help stress – join us for a combination of sitting and walking and mindful eating combined with a Buddhist reading and sharing. Thursdays online, bring a snack!

*Weekly Tuesdays, 1:30PM (in person):*

*next May 12th*

*Weekly Thursdays, 5:30PM (online):*

*next May 14th*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **What's Up With The Bible? (with Rev. Clyde)**

Ever wonder how the Christian bible gets used or misused these days? Having a basic sociohistorical grounding in biblical origins can help. Join Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs as he leads an appreciative and critical inquiry class into the Jesus movement that rose during a time of empire, with implications for the present day. Please have read James and Revelations for our focus in this **final session for this congregational year.**

*Seconds Sundays, 12:15PM:*

*FINAL TODAY May 10th*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Exploring Your Spirituality Hour! (with Rev. Michelle)**

Wondering about some big meaning-making questions but not interested in typical religious responses? Join us for our theme-based Soul Matters spiritual curriculum of conversation, music, and the arts. Pick up a booklet from the office. **Final Session**

*Third Sundays, 12:15PM:*

*Final May 17th* (“Awakening Curiosity”)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Let's Laugh Today Hour! (with Bill & Linda)**

Finding it hard to laugh these days? Come join Bill and Linda Hamaker, Certified Laughter Yoga Master Trainers, as they help you to de-stress and decompress with some good hearty laughing practices. See <https://www.letslaughtoday.com> for more information (and to register for free 45 minute on-line Wednesday night groups, 7:30PM).

*First Sundays, 4-5PM*

*June 7th and July 5th*