



Stone Temple News

November 2022

[OPEN THE ATTACHMENT FOR ACTIVE LINKS]

From the Minister's Study

By Rev. Rebecca Froom, Lead Minister

We are on the cusp of the midterm elections - one of the most visible expressions of democracy in our country. This can be an anxious time as we wonder how the balance of power will shift in our national and state governments, and what decisions our new and returning leaders will make that will have lasting consequences on the lives, livelihoods, bodies and relationships of all of us - and especially the most marginalized within our society. This is also a time that we can look to the future with hope and vision.

One of the places I have had my faith in democracy renewed is at this year's annual John Adams Presidential Wreath Laying Ceremony on October 31st. Each year on a former President's birthday, the White House sends a wreath of flowers to the gravesite of that president; as Church of the Presidents, we receive two such wreaths, in honor of John Adams around October 30th and John Quincy Adams around July 11th. It is the tradition of our congregation to use these presidential wreath layings as an opportunity to bring the Quincy community together to reflect on our history through speakers and music. At the John Adams Wreath Laying Ceremony, which falls during the school year, we have three student speakers from Quincy's high schools, each of whom gives a thoughtful and compelling reflection on the theme of the day. The group that gathered in our Sanctuary this year for the John Adams Presidential Wreath Laying Ceremony is one of the most diverse groups I have been in recently - in terms of age, race, and political persuasion. That alone was inspiring, a reminder that people can gather together across differences to discuss history in all its complexity. This year, the theme of the wreath laying ceremony was "Participating in Democracy." Three students, not yet old enough to vote, spoke eloquently about the connections between education and democracy, and the importance of preserving our democracy. It struck me anew that if our youth still have faith in the promise of democracy, then it is the responsibility of all of us to pursue the dream of democracy - that people of all backgrounds have the right to make decisions about their future.

Yours in community,
Rev. Rebecca

Spirit Circle News

By Nan Moore, Director of Family Ministry

October Gratitude

The October 23rd Luncheon was focalised by BRENDA REED. Brenda organized the soup contributors and she created the sandwich innards! Thank you so much Brenda, soup contributors and children helping for this successful community event. Sharon Gamache created a lovely Spirit Circle for the children before the luncheon with storytelling and music. The children were peaceful and engaged. Marie Louise was the HOST. Thank you, Sharon and Marie-Louise, for your full presence with the children.

SAME DAY Holly Hill Farm (HHF) provided our multi-generational group with community service work to assist in HHF fall harvest. There were approximately 20-25 adults and 12 children and teens. We dug up potatoes, artichoke root, and picked green beans off the vine as well as harvesting kale. Some of the dads and youth put

mulch in raised beds for the farm and even built one or two. It was one of those special times, being an Earth Carer and working together in community service. Great experience for all who participated.

November Interfaith Social Services (ISS)

The minister, Social Justice Committee and DFM have been exploring ways to give back to the community of Quincy collaboratively. UFPC has an active plan for ISS during the winter months starting in November. Over the next few weeks leading up to our THANKSGIVING Service and the week after, we are asking our UFPC community to provide needed items for clients ISS serves. With the rising inflation cost, ISS client base has gone from 1000 clients to 1200. Many of us in leadership positions at the church have had conversations with the Rick Doane, Director of ISS, for some direction of what would be the most needed by ISS clients entering the winter. Rick was very specific – toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, dish soap, toilet paper, deodorant, dental floss, disposable diapers size 4, 5, 6, and there is a great need for adult incontinence underwear. During the month of November, I will continually post these items as a reminder of what is needed so we can keep our giving in the forefront of our minds and hearts.

PLEASE Bring your goods to the church entrance and you will find receptacle boxes. There will also be a box in the parish hall if anyone stopping by the hall during the week or going to in-person meetings. The HOPE is to share our gratitude for our personal abundance and provide donations for our neighbors struggling in the local community of Quincy. Once the goods are collected the youth group will be putting together packs for individuals and families after the worship service on NOVEMBER 20. The collected items will be delivered by volunteer Albert Vaughn at the end of November. In December there will be a book drive, which you will hear more about from Claire Fitzmaurice in the weeks ahead. Thank you everyone for making UFPC a significant community of care and a place where GENEROCITY is a valued spiritual practice.

Spirit Circle Schedule November

- November 6: Music with Elisabeth Moore (10:45-11:30) and adult Music (12-1); SPIRIT CIRCLE HOST Andrew Carleen
- November 13: Earth Carers Jon Belber (10:45-11:30) Jon will be planting a garlic garden with the children; SPIRIT CIRCLE HOST – McKayla Hoffman
- November 20: Multi-Generational Worship for all ages; Nursery provided for age 3 and under
- November 27: Mindfulness with Paula Webster (10:45-11:30) and adult Mindfulness (12-1); SPIRIT CIRCLE HOST - Marie Louise Jackson Miller

Youth Group Meeting

NOVEMBER 20: Youth group community service project, following worship. Service preparing family packs from the UFPC collection of goods and items for the month of November

Soul Matters Sharing Circle Theme Based Ministry November Reflection: Change

“I wonder, particularly in a time where everything seems urgent, what the role of pause and breath is, in this season, to help us gear up for whatever this transformational moment we find ourselves in is.”

–Rev. Jen Bailey

“[We need] space to imagine a new way and new self. Not moving or pushing but sitting and cultivating... [the goal] is to allow you space and time to reflect on your past, present and future. To imagine a new beginning.”

–Rev. Sara LaWall

What if pushing is only half of it?

What if there is time to waste?

What if rushing is what got us into this mess?

What if catching our breath shrinks the clouds
and expands our view?

What if space for breathing

is what enables the seed of change to take root?

What if pausing allows the longing to grow?
What if it's not about taking control of life,
but being quiet enough to hear life speak?
What if slowing down is what allows us
to notice we're not the only ones who long for change?

And what if catching our breath isn't about resting up,
but the way we finally and fully feel our pain?
What if the quiet is what enables us to notice
how uncomfortable this life of comfort has become?
And what if comfort has been withheld from us?
Wouldn't that mean that rest is a revolutionary act,
allowing us to combat a culture that works to keep us tired and numb?

What if, in the end, it is silence that allows us to hear
the still small voice inside that says,
"We can no longer wait!"

WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am in-person and via livestream.

[November 6]
"Democracy in Changing Times"
Rev. Rebecca Froom

On this weekend when the City of Quincy dedicates a statue to Abigail Adams in the Hancock-Adams Green and on the brink of a national election, we turn to the wisdom and insights of our ancestor Abigail Adams. How might her vision for the future of our country, which she outlined during the changes that marked her lifetime, teach us about democracy during our own changing times?

[November 13]
"Above Earth's Lamentation"
Rev. Rebecca, Nan Moore, and McKayla Hoffman

On this Sunday after the election, we gather to ground ourselves in our UU values as we reflect on the changes before us and how we are called to respond as people of faith and conviction.

[November 20]
"Dignity for All"
Rev. Rebecca Froom, Nan Moore and McKayla Hoffman

This Sunday we gather for our annual multigenerational Thanksgiving service, with music performed by Jagan Nath on violin and Norman Corey on piano and organ. Our Unitarian Universalist principles call us to affirm the "inherent worth and dignity of every person." Through the joys and sorrows of life there are times when we all receive and give care. In this service we reflect on the importance of caring for one another with compassion and dignity - as individuals and as a society.

[November 27]
McKayla Hoffman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For our most up-to-date announcements, please see our “Weekly Announcements” which are emailed to the congregation on Thursdays or Fridays, posted on our website and available by print on Sunday mornings.

Sunday Morning Meditation

Sundays, 9:00 am, in-person

We will have meditation on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am outside in the garden, weather permitting, and in the church parlor (with masks) when it rains. Our practice includes guided, walking, and silent meditation. Feel free to contact Marie-Louise at mariejm1961@yahoo.com or 857-526-2579.

Church Choir

The choir welcomes new members! This year, instead of anthems, we are working on hymns to support congregational singing, particularly hymns that are unfamiliar or less familiar. And rehearsals are half an hour, rather than 45 minutes—from 9:30 to 10:00 am every Sunday. Talk to Norman or a choir member, or just show up.

Standout Quincy for Black Lives

Thursdays, 3:00–5:00 pm, in-person

UFPC partners with Quincy for Transformative Change for an initiative in support of Black Lives Matter. We stand on the intersection of Temple and Washington streets to bear peaceful witness and to advocate for justice and equity for our fellow citizens of color. You are invited to join our small but dedicated group. Kindly contact me at 617-272-0274 or artclaire@comcast.net. Thank you, Claire Fitzmaurice.

Book Group

Thursday, November 3, 7:00 pm, in-person and on Zoom

The Book Group meets on the first Thursday of the Month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, with a gap in summer and in December. All members and friends are welcome to join us. We will conduct our meetings in-person and via Zoom. Each year, we choose a variety of genres and forms. This Church Year all our selections are in response to book banning across the United States. You are welcome to come even if you have not finished the book.

The book selection this month is “Banned in Boston: The Watch and Ward Society’s Crusade against Books, Burlesque and the Social Evil” by Neil Miller. A lively history of the Watch and Ward Society, New England’s notorious literary censor for over eighty years. It is the first-ever history of the Watch and Ward Society, once Boston’s unofficial moral guardian. An influential watchdog organization, bankrolled by society’s upper crust, it actively suppressed vices like gambling and prostitution, and oversaw the mass censorship of books and plays. A spectacular romp through the Puritan City, here Neil Miller relates the scintillating story of how a powerful band of Brahmin moral crusaders helped make Boston the most straitlaced city in America, forever linked with the infamous catchphrase “banned in Boston.”

Join by computer: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89427298331>

Join by telephone: 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 894 2729 8331

Abigail Adams Statue Dedication

Saturday, November 5, 11:00 am, in-person

The City of Quincy invites the community to celebrate the Legacy of Abigail Adams with a dedication of a new Abigail Adams statue on the Hancock-Adams Common, close to United First Parish Church. The dedication ceremony will include the keynote speakers Catherine Allgor from the Massachusetts Historical Society, and Danielle Allen, Professor of Political Philosophy at Harvard University.

Writing Group

Sunday, November 6, 12:00 pm, in-person

Our UFPC Writing Group will be meeting again this year. We will meet the first Sunday of the month in-person in the parlor at 12:00 pm. There are no meetings in January or June. As in past years, we welcome everyone to join us in a free writing session and optional sharing of our words that pursue thinking on a theme. This is a non-critiqued, open minded, generous group that encourages self-expression in a supportive gathering. You can attend one or more sessions. No advance reservation is required. Groups tend to vary in size between 6 and 14 participants, and the session lasts for 45 minutes to 1 hour. Contact facilitator Jim Petosa at jimjamespeto@aol.com or 301-442-3781.

UU the Vote

The Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) recommends that you read your Red Voter Information Book for the Referendums on November 8, 2022.

Early voting starts soon. Please note the UU Mass Action positions:

- VOTE YES ON QUESTION ONE: the Fair Share Amendment (the Millionaires Tax)
- VOTE YES ON QUESTION FOUR: allows everyone to get a driver's license regardless of their immigrant status. This bill was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature and signed by Governor Baker this year. Protect our UU Mass Action victory!
- VOTE YES ON MEDICARE FOR ALL BALLOT QUESTION in 20 Legislative Districts across the state including Speaker Ron Mariano and Representative Joan Meschino.

Thank you to Bonnie Gorman of the SJAC for her concise guidance. –Claire Fitzmaurice, SJAC Chair

Kindred Spirits Discussion Group for Seniors

Friday, November 18, 10:00–11:30, in-person

Join Rev. Rebecca for a monthly discussion group, grounded in our UU values, where we reflect on current events and pressing social issues. This group is open to seniors aged 60+ and will meet on the third Friday of the month at our church in the parish hall. Coffee and tea are provided! Please contact Rev. Rebecca with any questions at rev.rebecca.froom@gmail.com or 617-803-1159. If you need to enter the building via the handicapped accessible entrance, please contact David Bousquin at 617-842-1706.

Support Our Sunday Services

Each Sunday our worship services are supported by at least six volunteers to create a meaningful and welcoming space inside our sanctuary and online over zoom. This fall we're hoping to expand our team. Roles include being an onsite Greeter or Usher, serving on our Livestream team that manages our zoom set-up and simple videography, and being our Virtual Usher on the zoom chat (this role can be done onsite or offsite). If you are interested in learning more about our Livestream Team, please contact Rev. Rebecca at rev.rebecca.froom@gmail.com or speak with a member of the Livestream Team on Sunday morning. Congregants interested in serving as Greeters and Ushers can sign-up on the bulletin board in the parish hall, or contact Fiona Sankey.

Visitor Program Vignettes

By Bill Westland

On Sunday, November 12, 1828 our church building was dedicated. There is a copy of the dedication service next to the glass cases in the crypt corridor. The Hancock Meeting House had been enlarged in 1805 but was still too small. A number of church members, including John Adams and the minister, Peter Whitney, encouraged the congregation to build a new church. John Adams offered to donate the necessary granite needed to build, in his words, "a stone temple" with the explanation "granite is a noble stone." He extended his generous offer as well to the Episcopal Society of Quincy, "if and when it decided to build a new church. They will later take advantage of this offer. Also, in 1822, in what he called "Deeds of Gift," John Adams donated 220 acres of land to the town, "the rents and profits to be used to build a temple for the public worship of God and the public instruction in religion and morality." To supervise this investment and also to establish an academy for the education of young men after the temple was funded, Adams established the Adams Temple and School Fund.

The church incorporated itself as "The Congregational Society of Quincy" and on April 11, 1826, appointed a Building Committee to plan the construction of a new church. The town meeting also authorized the town treasurer to borrow up to \$25,000 at no more than 6% interest to fund the building of the church. I don't think that the loan was ever taken out as pledges and the sale of pews paid for the construction costs. It was decided to build this new church next to the Hancock Meeting House. There was a complication because in 1824 the town meeting had voted to separate church and state, and this land was the town owned Training Ground, where the town militia trained. The committee had to get clear title to this land from the town before proceeding. This was accomplished to the satisfaction of the committee, although there will be future disagreements between the church and the city which won't be settled until 1902.

The next step was to hire an architect to draw up plans. Church member Solomon Willard was approached, but he was busy working on the Bunker Hill Monument and the Granite Railroad necessary to carry the stones from the quarry to the dock. Josiah Quincy, also a church member and mayor of Boston, suggested Alexander Parris, the official architect of the City of Boston, be hired. Parris had built the Quincy Market for Mayor Quincy in 1826 and also St. Paul's Cathedral in 1821, both granite buildings. Parris was hired and it was agreed that he would be paid \$500. To the surprise of the committee, even though Parris was noted for his Greek Revival style architecture, his first plans called for a Gothic cathedral. The committee rejected these plans and instructed him to study the South Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as a model of what they wanted. It was ironic that this South Church was probably based upon Parris' own St. Paul's Cathedral. The committee also insisted that the new church have a bell tower and that each of the Doric columns in the front be carved out of a single piece of granite, not assembled in sections.

John Adams died in 1826 and John Quincy Adams wrote to the Supervisors of the Adams Temple and School Fund that he wished to build at his own expense "a vault or tomb under the proposed temple to contain the mortal remains of the late John Adams and of Abigail, his beloved and only wife." The church voted to deed to John Quincy Adams a space of 14 square feet in order to build a crypt. He then met with Alexander Parris and they agreed upon a crypt design to be built under the front hallway of the church. Later on, John Quincy Adams turned over the deed of the crypt to the Adams Temple and School Fund for one dollar, so the crypt is actually the property of the Adams Temple and School Fund, not the church. On February 1, 1827, the congregation approved the final Parris plans, and construction began on April 27. The final design was a Greek Revival temple with an interior Pantheonic style, domed, plaster ceiling and a colonial style bell tower. When it was completed, there were no other buildings in the vicinity, so you can imagine what an impressive sight this Greek temple was as you approached on the turnpike from Boston to Plymouth. The final cost of our Stone Temple was \$30,489.56, which was about 10% underbudget. The proceeds from the Adams land were \$2,402.63, so the bulk of the costs was funded by the sale of pews. Sheldon tells me that he thinks the pew sales brought in around \$30,000, so there really wasn't any debt after the church was completed. In addition to the current pews, there were pews at right angles to the walls next to the pulpit, two more rows in front of the pulpit, another two rows behind the current rows in the back of the sanctuary, and pews as well in the balcony. The church probably sat between 800 to 900 members. The population was only about 2000. After you paid for your pew you also were obligated to pay a pew rental fee each year, which had replaced the pew tax by a town meeting vote before construction was started. The closer to the pulpit the more expensive the pew, and pews in the front downstairs were around \$400 and \$100 in the rear with an average of \$200. Balcony pews were only \$50. Back then pews were considered to be assets and part of your estate. You even got a deed as proof of ownership and could sell the pew to another

party if you so desired. If you owned a pew in the Hancock Meeting House you received a \$50 allowance toward the purchase of a pew in the Stone Temple, \$10 if you bought a balcony pew.

Most architecturally significant buildings have a defining characteristic, but we have two defining architectural/engineering characteristics in our Stone Temple, the 70-foot diameter plaster ceiling and the four 25-foot/25-ton granite Doric columns in the front. Believe it or not, Mr. Edson was paid \$825 for constructing the ceiling, quite a bargain. On the other hand, the four columns cost \$1000 each or about 13% of the total building costs, quite an expense. It took eighty oxen to deliver each of these columns from Rattlesnake Quarry, a distance of about four miles. The trip took three days, but then three of the columns were erected in one day. The foreman, Mr. Torrey, apologized because it got dark before they could put up the fourth column, an amazing feat.

Just think – none of the workmen had power saws, nail guns or other modern tools, Parris didn't have a computer or even a slide rule to make his calculations, and the Building Committee didn't have smart phones, E-mail or fax machines to keep in touch. Yet, the church was built in about a year and a half and under budget. I think that we owe the members of the Building Committee, Thomas Greenleaf, Noah Curtis, John Southier, Lemuel Brackett and Daniel Spear our deepest gratitude for a job well done.

Church Staff and Lay Leaders

Staff: Rev. Rebecca Froom (Lead Minister), Rev. Dr. Sheldon Bennett (Minister Emeritus), Nan Moore (Affiliate Lay Community Minister), McKayla Hoffman (Ministerial Intern), David Bousquin (Office and Property Manager), Norman Corey (Music Director)

Board of Governors: Jim Petosa (President), Juan Ramos (Vice-President), Clyde Cortright (Treasurer), Erwin Schaareman (Assistant Treasurer), April Bargout (Clerk), Kim Dangora and Karl DeBisschop (Stewardship), Claire Fitzmaurice (Social Justice Action), Elizabeth Black (Communications), Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller (Congregational Life), Peter Kovach and Kendra Dupiton (Religious Education)

Congregational Committees: Ann Marie Willer (Committee on Ministry), Fiona Sankey (Nominating Committee)

Minister [Rev. Rebecca Froom]: rev.rebecca.froom@gmail.com
Director of Family Ministry [Nan Moore]: nanmoore5@gmail.com
Office and Property Manager [David Bousquin]: office@ufpc.org

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