

From: First Universalist Church of Essex admin@uuessex.org
Subject: Weekly Update 12/02/22 + Sunday Info
Date: December 2, 2022 at 12:01 PM
To: Ken Swanson kenswanson@me.com



⊕ First Universalist Church of Essex ⊕
Weekly Update



This Sunday's Service @ 10:00 am at Church and on Zoom:

A Fiftyish Father Fumbling Forward: A skinned knee approach to parenting.

Jerry Gould speaks this Sunday.

Linda is our Worship Associate.

Bethany is our Zoom Host.

Alex is our AV Tech.

Fran plays piano.

This Sunday's [Order of Service](#).

Sunday Service will be in-person and there will be an opportunity to watch and participate from Zoom, too. Please do what makes you feel comfortable. But do join us! Every one of you is so important to our community. Seeing each other is so inspiring.

[Updated Health Policy for in Church Gatherings](#)

Our UU Essex Zoom Room:

PIN: 058883

<https://zoom.us/j/9042034298>

Meeting ID: 904 203 4298

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,9042034298# US (New York)

+16699006833,,9042034298# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)



Prayer List...

In Our Thoughts and Prayers:

Prayers and well wishes for:

Prayers and remembrance for:

Alison Anholt-White, recovering from successful surgery.

Paul Frontierro's sister, **Maryanne**, undergoing treatment for cancer.

Amy Morrison and her family at the loss of her grandmother.

and for

Lois Bairstow and her sister **Peggy Duff**. Lois is home trying to recover from the sudden onset of a rare auto immune disease. Her sister Peggy is living with Lois and taking care of her and her two sons, **Foster** and **Aidan**. They can still use some help with occasional errands and dinners. Contact Peggy at 617-285-8784.



All are welcome to share their joys and concerns with the Worship Committee prior to Sunday services for the Worship Associate to share with the congregation if they cannot make it to Church or would rather not share it themselves. Please email [Lindle](#).

Spiritual Direction

We have two resource people who are friends of the congregation and are available to offer spiritual direction:

Retired UCC Minister Jonathan Goodell (who preached for us in October on Al-Anon), 781-835-8133 and Sister Ellen Keane, SND, at Notre Dame Spirituality Center in Ipswich, 978-380-1561.

Splitting Our Collection Plate

Please let us know if you have a charity that you would like us to honor as a split-the-plate recipient.

All amounts collected will be matched from the Tyler Social Justice Fund, up to \$500. To clarify how the collection is done; we will only give on the one day of the month that will be announced. We use only the contributions made as a one-time contribution on that day. All donations made as recurring contributions will be assumed as regular church funds.

We encourage anyone with a charity, special to them, to email Liz Raycroft eraycroft@gmail.com or Ken Swanson at: kenswanson@me.com



A Message From the Finance Committee

Please consider making a year end donation.

Donate

Dear Congregants,

Please consider these helpful options below, to support our church:

- 1- Make a contribution online <https://www.uuessex.org/Donate> or by check.
- 2- Reply to this email to let us know your donation plans for 2023 to help us plan better.
- 3- If you have already completed and returned your pledge sheet, THANK YOU! Feel free to reply with any follow up questions you may have.
- 4- Please consider making any year end donations for tax purposes today, or informing us of the amount today.
- 5- Please use this day to share any thoughts you may have regarding church finances.
- 6- Please feel free to call or email our treasurer, Neil Bassom directly if preferred at (978) 626-4620 and Neil.Bassom@axcelis.com , respectively.

QUICK FINANCIAL OUTLOOK SUMMARY as of November 29, 2022:

Our church has made great strides over the past few months to address change as transparently as possible. Your help has been integral in both keeping us on track to hire a new minister to begin September 2023 and to bring our community together more, with the active autumn event schedule.

Financially, the church continues to operate on roughly the same expense budget as prior to COVID. Our expenses will rise modestly given inflation this year; yet at the same time, we will have a respite from Minister costs starting December 1st. Of course, we will bear the costs of guest ministers

and the new minister search process between January and August before returning to the usual monthly Minister costs.

Our Christmas Fair/White Elephant/Cookie event raised almost \$3,000 collectively. Many thanks to the incredible volunteer efforts contributing both their time and items for sales.

We are also excited to share a groundswell of vision and planning, conceived by our Music Director and fellow member, Alexandra Kirby, to restart use of the Hall for live music! We invested in this space that can now foster more connection and re-establish a helpful donation stream that has been absent since 2016.

However, our donation income has declined in recent years. We continue to operate at a deficit and are at risk of over taxing our reserves, which at present can only cover a handful of years at this rate. We want to hear your thoughts, and I am sure we can achieve financial sustainability together.

Our best regards,

The Finance Committee

Neil, Sarah, Ken, and Alex



RE and UBU Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for opportunities to participate with our kids and youth at the First Universalist Church of Essex? Please fill out this volunteer form and our RE

Universalist Church of Essex? Please fill out this volunteer form and our RE and/or Youth Director will be in touch with upcoming opportunities: [Fill out the Google Form Here](#)



Church Calendar

Visit uuessex.org to view the [Church Calendar](#)

Email Laurel to add your event to the calendar

Upcoming Events:

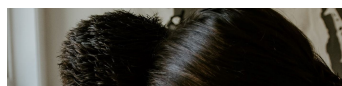
12/4 (Sun) @ 10:00am **Sunday Service (in person and on Zoom)**

12/4 (Sun) @ 10:00am **RE (in person)**

12/4 (Sun) @ 5:00pm **UBU (in person at the Gould's House)**

12/4 (Sun) @ 11:00am **Coffee Hour (on Zoom and in person)**

12/6 (Tues) @ 7:00pm **PFLAG (on Zoom and in person)**





Join us on Sat., Dec.
10th. All are welcome!

Spiritual Parenting

The next Spiritual Parent meeting will meet on December 10, 5-7:30PM. We will be hosting a holiday potluck, so bring a dish, a tradition, or even just a story to share.

To stay up to date on Spiritual Parenting Meeting, please contact Allison Rosner (reuuessex@gmail.com/text:401-286-4175) to be added to our UU Essex Spiritual Parenting Facebook Group. This non-denominational group is not exclusive to UU Essex members or congregants, so please feel free to invite your friends.



Annual Reading Service

The service on January 1st will be our Annual Reading Service. Folks are welcome to share a favorite poem, passage from a book, or song lyric to read during the sermon portion of the service. Nothing too long but something meaningful to you. Thank you!



Coffee House/Open Mic

We are working on planning our first (monthly) coffee house/open mic Saturday, January 14th at UU Essex and would love your input.

We plan to have a featured performer each month with room for anyone to sign up to perform before/after feature. For example: 30 minute open mic, 30 minute feature, 30 minute open mic. "Second Saturdays Open mic" will continue from here on.

Please complete this [survey](#) to help us plan.

Reach out to Alexandra Kirby with any questions or if you want to help out: Pleasantstreetmusicstudio@gmail.com or 978-412-5117





Holiday Music

Did you enjoy Alexandra and Patrice's holiday tunes next to our cookie