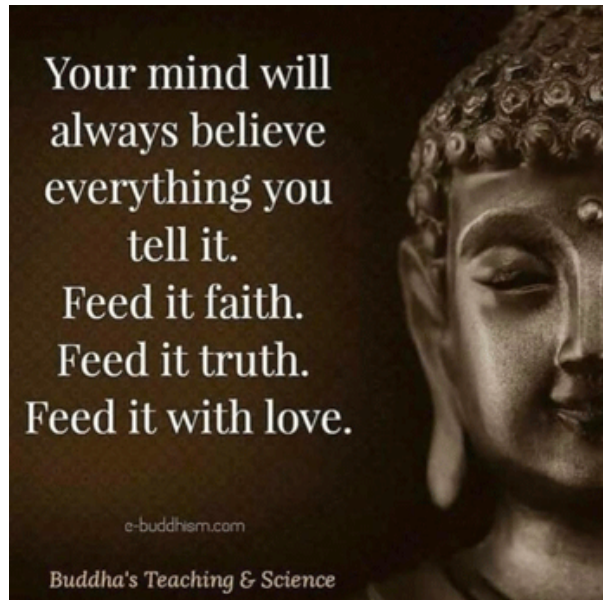




FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021



Dearly Beloved,

A cascade of losses this week made it feel like the AIDS years. On Saturday, David McClain died peacefully. Dave's health had been compromised for a long time, but he never missed our Wednesday tea party, even when Rev. Erica Rose Long (a hospital chaplain and our affiliated community minister) had to prop up his iPad next to his hospital bed at Mass. General. Right to the end, every time I reached Dave by phone, he was undaunted and upbeat.

Dave first came to Arlington Street for the memorial service for Shannon Lowney and Leanne Nichols, who were killed in the attacks on the Brookline reproductive health centers in December of 1994. He was back the next Sunday and never left. Dave served as our clerk for many years. His wife, Kay — an emergency room nurse and Bill Briggs' best friend — was allergic to church, but tolerated all Dave's generosity to us. We will memorialize Dave in the Arlington Street Zoom room on Saturday afternoon, February 6th, at 2:00.

Rev. Erica has also been caring for two more of our members: our beloved elders John and Dorothy Battiste, who contracted COVID at a doctor's appointment. Dorothy was in the hospital for a week and then released; John remained behind, and did not recover. John and Dorothy have been at Arlington Street for decades. John worked in construction and for many years was the church's volunteer go-to guy for the plumbing challenges of an ancient building. He and Dorothy have been unfailingly generous. Rev. Erica played him his favorite jazz — Duke Ellington and John Coltrane — and Rev. George Whitehouse and I tag-teamed taking Dorothy to MGH to say goodbye to him. I was able to go in with Dorothy: my first experience of being in head-to-toe PPE and experiencing first-hand the horror that all our frontline medical heroes have faced day and night for all these long months.

And then Puffin let Liz Teixeira and Dawn Bellamo know that it was time to let her go. Puffin was the adorable little fluffy white dog who surely wins the prize for the most fetching church outfits (yes, she was the one in the tutu). Please join me in sending our sympathy, prayers, and love to Liz and Dawn, Dorothy Battiste, and Bill and Keith.

The virus continues its merciless rampage. Patti Lin's father, Frank, is hospitalized at Newton-Wellesley Hospital and my brother-in-law lost his uncle to COVID this week. The vaccine is coming, my friends, and not a moment too soon. Please, please hold on and be as vigilant and safe as possible. I love you!

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This Sunday, Yulia Yun opens the service on piano with Walter Carroll's *River and Rainbow* and Spyair's *Imagination* (from Haikyuu!). Tevan Goldberg sings John Lennon's *Imagine* and Carrie Newcomer's *You Can Do This Hard Thing*; Daniel Rosensweig sings *Osibisa's Woyaya* and Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley's *Pure Imagination*; Director of Music Mark David Buckles and Julie Metcalf sing Emma's Revolution's *Better Days* and the African American Spiritual *I'm On My Way*. Yulia closes the service playing *Pure Imagination* ... on organ! Hala Hazar is our worship coordinator. My sermon is called *Better Days*.

Immediately after worship, please plan to stay for a 15-minute corporation meeting! We have three very quick agenda items: welcoming twelve new members and voting them into membership; congregational sponsorship for John O'Connor's ministerial formation; and a brief, happy treasurer's report from Liz Teixeira. Please plan to stay in the Zoom room after the service; the meeting will be followed by "coffee hour" in the breakout rooms. Only members of the corporation may vote, but all are welcome!

As always, please go to [ASCBoston.org](https://www.ASCBoston.org) to find all the gatherings in the Zoom room next week! It does my heart so much good to be with you there. *Thank you!*

*Faithfully yours, with love,  
Kim*

