



THURSDAY, MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2021



*“Soil drilling” Tuesday at Arlington Street: spending the money we raised in the All Souls campaign!  
Thanks to Restoration Committee Chair, Jon Andersen-Miller ... and all of us!*

Dear Ones,

The light is changing — a precious gift after this long winter. A reminder to “spring forward” so you’ll be on time to the service this Sunday!

I heard an amazing story about our beloved Don this week that I want to share with you! The year was 1971. As Don tells it, he was working at Polaroid, developing photographic chemicals, dye-developers, and more. He and his one and only, our Phyllis, were buying furniture for their new house in Arlington. Their sons, David and Paul, were nine and six years old. And Don was serving on the Prudential Committee, our board of directors. He wonders now, How did I do so much in one year? He was 40 years old.

And then, that November, he was inspired by the inimitable Mary Daly — self-described “radical lesbian feminist,” philosopher, theologian, and academic — and other radical theologians. *Get ready for it!* Don decided to create non-binary pronouns. He came up with xe, xem, and xir (“all by myself,” he says) and sent out 100 letters about the new pronouns.

Don reports that nobody said, “Hey, what a cool idea!” or even, “Well, that’s interesting.” In fact, he doesn’t remember any of the replies but one: I hate to repeat it, but it’s an important part of this long struggle. Germaine Greer wrote him to say that we don’t need “horrid neologisms.”

The years went by, says Don. And then, in the years that he was caring for Phyllis and, after her death, healing his broken heart, something happened. “Apparently,” he says, “some-

one noticed the dusty old words on the shelf and thought they might be useful to people with non-binary or non-disclosed gender. I don't know who, when, or where. [But] now there are LGBTQIA centers on college campuses and elsewhere promoting gender-neutral pronouns (or neopronouns)."

I want to remind all of us that, this coming May (el cinco de mayo, to be exact!), Don Rickter will be 90 years old. Don, you are a wonderful ally and accomplice, a visionary, an inspiration ... and quintessentially Arlington Street! We love you!

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This Sunday, Yulia Yun opens the service on piano playing *Drift Away*, *Simple Gifts*, *Turn! Turn! Turn!*, and *We Have All the Time in the World*. Hana Omori sings *In the Quiet in the Stillness*:

In the quiet and the stillness of the morning  
In the quiet and the stillness of the day  
In this quiet, holy place, I find blessed peace within  
In the quiet and the stillness of the morning

... and Let it Be; Tevan Goldberg sings *Return Again* and *Drift Away*; and Daniel Rosenzweig sings *Shalom Rav (Abundant Peace)* and *The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy)*! Our Executive Minister, Rev. Beth Robbins, is in the pulpit preaching Taking Our Time. Darrell Waters (birthday boy!) is our worship coordinator. And Yulia Yun brings it home, playing *Feeling Good* ... on organ!

Later on Sunday afternoon, at 4:00, our own Jim Tice, Hala Hazar, and Steve Vorenberg invite us to attend the premiere of Amplifying Black Voices, a free online concert series by their choir, Coro Allegro, featuring "A Triptych of American Voices: A Cantata of the People," by composer Fred Onovwerosuoke (say OH-NWEH-sehke!). Please RSVP at [coro-allegro.org](http://coro-allegro.org) for this free program of music, poetry, and conversation about race relations in America and the Movement for Black Lives.

Happy Spring, beloveds!

*Faithfully yours, with love,  
Kim*

p.s. On the afternoon of Saturday, March 20th, members of the Capital Campaign Kitchen Cabinet will be at the Great Doors of Arlington Street Church from 1:00-3:00, handing out thank-you gifts to those of you who donated to All Souls: A Campaign for the Preservation of Arlington Street Church. Please plan to stop by (drive by or walk up; the protocol will be COVID-safe) and say hello! If you're local and you can't make it, please connect with another church member to ask them to pick up yours, too (we're preparing to mail to those of you at a distance). *Enjoy!*

p.p.s. Our own jazz man Joe Della Penna writes, "Thank you to all those who followed my daily Facebook posts in February for Black History Month. March is Women's History Month, and I will continue daily posting, in honor of all the women in my life who helped to make me the better, stronger, more compassionate person that I am today." *Thank you, Joe! We love you!*

p.p.p.s. Congratulations to our own Jen Eno, featured in this spot on NBCBoston! WOW! Boston Company Tries to Fight Food Insecurity, and Climate Crisis Too [www.nbcboston.com/on-air/as-seen-on/boston-company-tries-to-fight-food-insecurity-and-climate-crisis-too/2320215/](http://www.nbcboston.com/on-air/as-seen-on/boston-company-tries-to-fight-food-insecurity-and-climate-crisis-too/2320215/)