

FRIDAY, MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

to familiar tomada durante la  
pandemia de gripe española  
entre 1918-1920. ¿Alguien puede  
notar un detalle increíble?



*Translation: Family photo taken during the 1918-1920 flu pandemic.  
Can you spot something extraordinary? Hint: Look at the kitty!*

Dear Ones,

Our Covenant Renewal gifts to fund Arlington Street's next fiscal year continue to pour in! Thank you for all your generosity; it is truly \*astonishing!\* If you haven't had the opportunity to pledge yet, please click [here](#) and join in the great, gleeful giving extravaganza!

Lots of news this week....

\* At our annual meeting following the morning service on June 6th (one week from Sunday), we'll be voting on an operating budget for FY22, which begins on July 1st. Thanks to our amazing treasurer, Liz Teixeira, and the Finance Team for the many hours they've put into creating this budget! You can find it here and attached; please review it ahead of time. The team is happy to provide clarification and answer any questions you may have ahead of time. Please contact them through Liz at [Treasurer@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Treasurer@ASCBoston.org).

\* The Tiffany Visitors Center is planning to reopen on Thursday, July 1st! Once again, we'll welcome visitors from around the world to our landmark sanctuary to share in the beauty of our exquisite Tiffany stained glass windows. Wanted: Greeters! No experience is necessary and scheduling is flexible (the center will be open six days a week and closed on Tuesdays). This is a wonderful way to give service and to help fund our critical building preservation effort! If you'd like to be part of it, please contact our congregational administrator by writing [JKamau@ASCBoston.org](mailto:JKamau@ASCBoston.org) or calling her in the church office at (617) 536-7050.

\* Finally, many thanks to Prudential Committee members Darrell Waters, Gail Jennes,

Greg Hyde, Julia Simon, Lois Hartsough, and Philip Roberts, who have joined Dr. Alan Rodgers and me to comprise a Reopening Task Force. Together, we've drafted a white paper on gathering in the sanctuary again, walking the fine line between caution and joyful anticipation as we set the tentative date of Sunday, September 13th — our traditional Ingathering, when the program staff returns from summer sabbatical. An important reminder that we will continue to open the Zoom room on Sunday mornings for anyone who, by necessity or choice, will join in virtually; the services will be hybrid.

The white paper is a living document, meaning it will be updated as the science dictates (as our own Rev. Dr. James Luther Adams named as a core tenet of Unitarian Universalism, "revelation is not sealed!"). You can read it below. We'll be discussing it at the annual meeting and welcome your thoughts and queries!

And now to this Sunday's service! Yulia Yun opens on the piano with *Seek Not Afar for Beauty* (Taylor), *Wonderful World*, *Politik* (Coldplay), and *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*. Ann-Marie Iacoviello sings *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*. Hana Omori sings *Stranger in Paradise* (Kismet), *Seek Not Afar for Beauty* (Savage and Smith), *Moon River*, and *Amazing Grace*. Our worship coordinator is Patrick Cooleybeck. My sermon is called Holy Curiosity. Yulia Yun closes the service on the organ with *Stairway to Heaven*!

Faithfully yours, with love,  
Kim



Welcome to Joyce Kamau, our new Congregational Administrator!

## The White Paper: Reopening

The ministers and elected leadership of Arlington Street Church have been talking about when and how we might reopen the sanctuary almost since we closed in March of 2020. At long last, as vaccinations are stopping the transmission of COVID-19, we can begin to plan our triumphant return. While we acknowledge that a change in the trajectory of the virus may derail this plan, we are projecting a joyful reopening on September 12, 2021, our traditional Ingathering Sunday.

Arlington Street is a covenantal community — we live by our promises to one another — and ours is a culture of consent. Our first concern is the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable among us, including anyone, child or adult, who is unvaccinated. We are also painfully aware of the residual trauma that many of us may experience from months of physical isolation from others as well as from deaths and other losses experienced during the pandemic.

We recognize that we cannot know the vaccination status of everyone entering the sanctuary. We are also aware that, even among the fully vaccinated, there remains a very small risk of infection. Our Sunday services will be hybrid, meaning that everyone continues to have the option of attending on Zoom.

Regarding those who choose to come in person, we will, as always, “follow the science” and adhere to public health measures as outlined in the Centers for Disease Control guidelines regarding temperature-taking, contact tracing, mask-wearing, hand-sanitizing, ventilation/air flow, and surface cleaning, and will configure the sanctuary seating according to recommended capacity.

### Guidelines:

1. Our best guideline is that the behavior of everyone must defer to those who can take the fewest risks. For example,

Only when everyone in the room agrees that removing our masks is acceptable should masks be removed.

If you would like to hug someone, please ask very clearly if they would like a hug before approaching them. If you would prefer not to hug, you might suggest exchanging an elbow bump or Namaste, or whatever greeting with which you're comfortable.

2. The sanctuary seats 900, meaning it will be easy for those who choose to physically distance to find a seat. In addition,

- \* We may want to designate special seating for those who are the least risk-tolerant.
- \* We may want to “rope off” every other pew.
- \* We may want to give people the option of turning over a sign that says “FULL,” meaning that the people seated in a pew feel there are enough people there.

For a “middle ground,” there are also rooms throughout the church where people can attend the service on Zoom.

3. Because our services will be hybrid, people attending in the sanctuary will be encouraged to bring smartphones and tablets and to engage with people attending in our Zoom room. For those who prefer a relatively tech-free experience, there will be an area in the center front of the sanctuary that will be designated as a “tech-free zone,” although use of

technology in the very first pews (wheelchair access) will be negotiable.

Mark David Buckles is closely monitoring the science of choral and congregational singing.

We will make a determination about coffee hour closer to reopening time. Zoom break-out rooms will continue to be available for visiting after the service.

The Centers for Disease Control regularly updates its guidelines. Dr. Alan Rodgers will be monitoring these, using their latest recommendations to inform our plans for reopening.



Rick Cresta's parking lot garden! Photo credit: Philip Roberts

