



Liz Teixeira is Teacher of the Year!



Art Nava, Dawn Bellamo, Rev. Kim, Rev. Beth, and Rich Abreu celebrate Liz Teixeira (center)!

Dearly Beloved,

There were two wonderful celebrations this past week!

- \* Exactly five years ago, Julia Simon left the church for a first date with Toby March. On Saturday, they were married here at Arlington Street! Congratulations, Julia & Toby!
- \* When she was very young, Arlington Street's treasurer, Liz Teixeira, watched a TV show about teachers in Alaska and announced to her family that she wanted to become a teacher. Her father responded, "Let's get through grammar school first." She did ... and she did ... and on Wednesday evening, Liz was celebrated at a ceremony in Haverhill, Massachusetts, where she was awarded Educator of the Year! Liz teaches math at the vocational technical high school and was nominated for this honor by two different colleagues. Congratulations, Liz, on this extraordinary achievement!

I also want to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our own Don Rickter — at age 91! — to change the image on the Massachusetts flag. Adopted in 1780, the flag depicts an Algonquin tribal member with a bow and arrow and, above that, a bent arm holding a broadsword with the blade up (so much weaponry!). State archives indicate that the sword was intended to symbolize armed resistance to British tyranny (and, later, to serve as a reminder of the independence won through the American Revolution), but the sword is over the Native American's head: Perception equals reality.

Last year, the state legislature began the process of changing the flag by appointing a special commission; this past week, the commission was funded. Don writes, "During this time of heightened awareness of — and respect for — the indigenous people of Massachusetts, it is appropriate to fight for an end to white supremacist culture." Don, we thank you and we are so proud of you!

Tomorrow evening, Saturday, November 19th, there is a Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil and Procession at our church in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. The event will be both in person and live-streamed. Please click [here](#) for more information.

This Sunday, we celebrate Thanksgiving! Gratitude is a very big deal at Arlington Street: We open with Artist in Residence Rodger Clinton Vine on organ and the clergy and the Arlington Street Choir process in to For the Beauty of the Earth. The very, very big deal is at the heart of the service: Director of Music Mark David Buckles conducts choir and orchestra in Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata 196, Der Herr denket an uns (the words, based on Psalm 115: 12-16, say, in part, "G\*d thinks of us and blesses us. May G\*d bless you more and more."). The orchestra consists of two violins, including our own Julie Metcalf, and viola, 'cello, double bass, and organ. Among other highlights, we welcome home tenor Daniel Rosensweig for a duet with baritone Andrew Stack! My sermon is called Right Here, Right Now. We close the service with the Thanksgiving hymn, We Sing Now Together, with music written in 1597 and words that are almost 120 years old. Giving thanks never gets old!

*Faithfully yours, with love,  
Kim*

p.s. On Sunday afternoon at 12:30, our Transformation Team for Racial Justice is holding a drop-in meeting. They write, "Do you want to put anti-racism into practice at Arlington Street? Would you like to meet others who share that passion? If so, please join us after virtual coffee hour: in person in the Perkins room or by using this [Zoom link](#)!

p.p.s. Reminder: A week from Sunday, on November 27th, Elf Jefe (aka Kevin Tyrrell) invites those of you in the Boston area to please stay after the service to decorate the sanctuary for the holidays — our traditional Bringing in the Greens! Please let Elf Jefe know you'll be there; you can speak with him on Sunday morning or reach him at [Ushers@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Ushers@ASCBoston.org).

p.p.p.s. The Unitarian Universalist church of Cookeville is a forty-member congregation that meets in a rented storefront in rural Tennessee. Recently, they wrote to every Unitarian Universalist church in the country, inviting us to help them raise the money to build a church by buying a raffle ticket to a one week winter vacation in a luxury resort in the foothills of San Antonio, Texas. Let's help out this tiny but mighty congregation! Tickets are \$10; click [here](#)! *All in!*

