

FRIDAY, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2021



Dear Ones,

Happy Pride month! There's a Pride march, vigil, and festival starting at 11:00 this Saturday morning in Franklin Park (Jamaica Plain), hosted by [Trans Resistance](#), a community of Black and Brown Trans people and cis allies coming together to address injustice and demand change. Let's come out in support and celebration!

This Sunday morning, Yulia Yun opens the service on piano and organ playing *Simple Gifts*, *What Wondrous Love*, *Somewhere* (West Side Story), and *We Are Family* (Sister Sledge). Tevan Goldberg sings *Answering the Call of Love*; Hana and Kazuhiro Omori sing *Somewhere* (West Side Story); Daniel Rosensweig sings *I Need You To Survive*, and Director of Music Mark David Buckles leads us in *What Wondrous Love* ("When I was sinking down, beneath my sorrows ground, friends to me gathered round, O my soul"), Judy Collins' *Open the Door*, and Faya Era Rose Touré's *I'm Gonna Lift My Sister Up* ("If I don't lift her up, I will fall down"). Lucy Humphrey, home from her first year at Wellesley College (!), is our worship coordinator. My sermon is called *Belonging*. Yulia closes the service on organ with *Corner of the Sky* (Pippen).

Immediately following the service, as is our custom on the first Sunday in June, it's annual meeting time! Highlights include welcoming our new members (thanks to the magic of Tech Team lead Art Nava's endless creativity!); electing new Prudential Committee (governing board) members and other leadership — the fruits of the good work of the Nominating Committee (special thanks to their fearless leader, Connie Scanlon!); a brief presentation by our extraordinary treasurer, Liz Teixeira, on next year's budget, followed by a vote; and a presentation by Dr. Alan Rodgers on the proposal to reopen our sanc-

tuary on September 13th, with time for our questions and answers. To prepare for these discussions, please look over the Finance Team's [FY 2022 budget](#) and read the Reopening Task Force's White Paper on Reopening, which is pasted in below. Virtual coffee hour in breakout rooms will follow the meeting!

This is a Covenant Renewal Season like no other! If you haven't had the opportunity to join in the generosity extravaganza, please click [here](#) to pledge. Thank you, friends!

*Faithfully yours, with love,  
Kim*

Have a peek [at this message](#) from Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, inviting us to General Assembly from June 23th-27th. *All are welcome*



### **The White Paper: Reopening**

Prepared by the Task Force on Reopening:

Dr. Alan Rodgers and Rev. Kim, joined by Prudential Committee members Darrell Waters, Gail Jennes, Greg Hyde, Julia Simon, Lois Hartsough, and Philip Roberts

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 breakout 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.