



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2024



Happy Groundhog Day! This morning in Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow, promising an early spring!

Dearly Beloved,

This week, our Climate Crisis Team's Chris Curtiss and Judy Chambliss have been doing energy conservation upgrades in the meetinghouse, installing installation and covering some of our big, drafty, Greek Revival windows in plastic. Next up are window caulking and door sweep installations. Thank you, Judy and Chris! Go Team!

Our Director of Music, Mark David Buckles, is down for the count with evil COVID. Undaunted, our staff musicians have leapt into the void! Welcome home from South Korea to collaborative pianist Hyunju Jung, who will be accompanying Hannah Shanefield (soprano) in Mozart's *Ridente la calma* and all of us in congregational singing, including one of our very favorites, *Come Thou Fount*. Bek Zehr (guitar and vocals) and Sam LaGrego (percussion) will bring us Ben Rector's *Sailboat*, and — a special treat — Bek plans to play French horn. This is shaping up to be the perfect Sunday for me to preach a sermon called *Bad Luck? Good Luck? Who Knows?*

Every Wednesday at 4:00 in the Arlington Street Zoom room, Rev. Beth and I host a lively tea party with a conversation prompt. At a recent tea party, the prompt was, What are the qualities you most admire in others? Here are some of our responses: kindness, loyalty, courtesy, reciprocity, directness, mutuality, playfulness, loyalty, openness, being considerate, tactful, a reflective listener, someone who sees me, inclusive, open-minded, honest, genuine/without artifice, determined, rallying the troops, willing, someone who is spunky, funny, enthusiastic, comes through, expresses themselves well, feels sympathetic joy, enjoys spontaneity, forgiveness, a good sense of humor, those who are doers-not-talk-

ers, is a good cook, good in a crisis, someone who calls you on your stuff, loves to read, is resourceful, determined, there for all of it, glass-half-full, someone who focuses on what's there in the moment and sticks with it, consistent, dependable, follows through, has integrity, authenticity, someone who's adventurous, risk-taking (not reckless!), content with simplicity, has an appreciation for small things, has a passion, lets go, is energetic and gets it done, open-hearted, accepting of all of who you are, shows up, is predictable, trustworthy, committed to a cause or movement, and is honest (except white lies for surprises!).

Unsurprisingly, this list looks like a description of our beloved spiritual community!

*Faithfully yours, with love,  
Kim*

p.s. A message about Boston's Housing Justice Campaign! On Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 PM, GBIO, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, is organizing an in-person, in-district meeting at First Church Boston UU (66 Marlborough St.— at the corner Marlborough and Berkeley Streets) with Representatives Livingston and Michlewitz. This is one of several meetings we have been organizing with our state senators and representatives where we will be asking for their commitment to

1.6 billion dollars for state funded public housing

at least 189 million for the operating budget in public housing.

the real estate transfer fee to increase affordable housing

State IDs for people who are returning from prison upon release

\$9 million in rental assistance for those who are returning from incarceration

The hope is to attract 50 to 80 people to show our representatives that housing justice matters to us. Please register here. Thank you!

p.p.s. At 3:00 ET on Sunday, February 18th, Coro Allegro invite us to join them at Roxbury Community College Media Arts Center (1234 Columbus Ave. in Boston) for Identity: *I Believe, a Black History Month* concert, featuring works by Black composers with Black LGBTQ+ and allied guest artists. You can buy tickets here! Questions? Hala Hazar is this Sunday's Worship Coordinator, and sings with Coro!

p.p.p.s. Have you reserved Saturday, May 4th on your calendars for Arlington Street's spring gala?! Your official "save the date" is coming soon!



Happy Lunar New Year!

