



APRIL 20, 2011



Worship at the Meetinghouse

Sunday, April 24, 10 am

Cosmic Resurrection: Writing a New Story of Hope

Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Throughout history, humans have told and retold important stories. Stories that contain messages that must be remembered and passed on. One of those important stories is the one Christians tell about the last days of Jesus: about his betrayal, conviction, torture, death and, then, miraculously, about his resurrection. At its core, it is a story about the cycles of life: life, death, and new life. Countless different stories contain the same essential message, including the story written in the sights and sounds of nature all around us this time of year. All are stories about the cycle of life: about the fullness of life followed by apparent suffering, separation, and death. All speak of some form of salvation, some form liberation from bondage or exile, and then, of apparent rebirth. All are stories of hope. Today, Katie Lee invites us to consider adding a new story to the canon, the story we are living right now, the story of the apparent suffering and death of our environment and how we are the ones who can save it and ensure its renewed life.

Today we share the plate with Project Bread to support our First Parish team in the Walk for Hunger. See page 7 for details.

There will be a Hearthside Chat at 11:45 to have a conversation about the day's topic and the issues it raises.

Worship continued on next page

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Sunday, May 1, 10 am
Walkin' & Talkin' about Hunger
Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Hunger is no longer someone else's problem (it never was). Now it's come home to roost; 660,000 people in Massachusetts are hungry and many from middle class suburbs like ours have joined the ranks of those who can't reliably put food on the table. In low income communities, families with children experience hunger at three times the rate of the rest of the state. Our children face the greatest risks. Today, First Parish is sending a delegation of children, youth, and adults to Boston's annual Project Bread Walk for Hunger. And, in the meetinghouse, we're addressing the same issue. Please join our effort one way or another – walk or talk – we can make a difference to a hungry child, an undernourished elder, an unemployed parent and so many others.

There will be a Hearthside Chat at 11:45 to have a conversation about the day's topic and the issues it raises.

First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates

Audrey K, Polly M, Fred P, Paul R, Dawn S

In the event of a pastoral need, please call any of these Pastoral Associates.

Making Meanings BY REV. KATIE LEE CRANE

The other day, I came across something I wrote as I was about to be ordained. I was surprised and pleased at how much it still resonates for me so many years later; it is, still, "my hearts own song." Here it is. I wonder if it speaks to you about what we've been doing together since 1998?

Ministry, to me, is the work of those who empower one another to seek and shape, celebrate and share their aliveness with one another. It is not solely the work of someone who is ordained to a job called "minister." It is everybody's work. Each of us is born to be fully alive, fully ourselves. We come together in community because of the delicate and demanding task of nurturing that aliveness – that spirit. The ordained minister is a spiritual companion, a guide, a prophet, and a fellow pilgrim.

James Luther Adams, a 20th century Unitarian minister, professor, and theologian, said that the function of a free church is to bring people together into a community that has the power to change people. Done well, it elicits a commitment to a way of life that makes a difference – to us, to others, and to our world. I want to be part of a community created intentionally so we can work together for the common good even when (or perhaps, especially when) the going get tough. I want to be part of and serve a community where we move beyond tolerating difference to valuing it, seeking it, and engaging with one another because of it.

How we create and sustain community is central to my vision of ministry. I see our UU churches as models – like petri dishes with just the right growing culture – for building and nurturing communities of faith. For me, this is the most hopeful, most visionary aspect of who we are as Unitarian Universalists. More than any other organized religion I can imagine, we can be a microcosm of the world: different people, different needs, different hopes, dreams, problems, fears. Yet we can come together, committed to create and sustain a community built on its diversity. We help each other. We practice together. And, in the process, we change. We make a difference – to one another and to our world.

Continued on next page

Perhaps it is because I am also a writer and storyteller that I believe in the power of our individual and collective stories to help us unleash energy, create possibility, call out life and awaken spirit. When we tell our stories and listen to those of others, we make new meanings for ourselves and we make connections with each other. Sharing stories from the pulpit, in the classroom, in private conversations is one way to create and sustain community. Giving and receiving stories is based on trust. So are communities. It is this kind of trust that makes change possible.

Our ministry together is about to become a part of First Parish of Sudbury's history – a part I will always cherish and never forget. Now our paths will diverge. I want to write the next chapter in my own story. I want to watch you flourish and thrive as this congregation's story continues to unfold. And I want us all to help to create a vibrant future in the Unitarian Universalist story.

Blessing, Katie Lee

Coming Up in Religious Exploration

Faith in Action projects for kids, families, and everyone

A Very Special Easter Basket

For the next few weeks, we will be collecting supplies to make a special "Easter Basket" for the animals at Buddy Dog Animal Shelter right here in Sudbury. MOST NEEDED ITEMS are limited -slip or martingale collars any size, clay cat litter, meat only baby food , bleach, laundry detergent, dish soap, sponges, and Kong toys- medium and large size Items need for the Cats & Kitties are dry and/or canned cat and kitten food (yummy), Cat litter, Toys and play things (fun!!), Meat flavored baby food (for kittens & finicky eaters), Newspaper to line cages (and keep the cats up on current events), and Wild bird seed (for bird watching entertainment) Items needed for the Dogs & Puppies are Canned dog food (the solid type is preferred by buddy dogs), Science Diet dry dog or puppy food (so there are no upset tummies), Collars (for the well-dressed dog), Leashes (yeah! - time for a walk), Toys (all kinds - as long as they are fun!) , Milkbones and/or treats (rawhide and pig ears are favorites for snack time), and Blankets (to snuggle in) and soft beds. Items need for the Staff are Office supplies including pens, markers, paper clips, file folders, 2 pocket folders etc. (to keep us organized), Towels (for drying off wet pets and staff members too!), and Medical Supplies (isopropol alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, distilled water, unused Heartgard, Frontline or Revolution). Please leave all donations in the blue collection bin outside the Commons.

R.E. program joining the Walk-for-Hunger

We are enthusiastically encouraging all children (10 and older), youth, and their families to join our First Parish walkers on the Project Bread annual Walk-for-Hunger on Sunday, May 1st. We have some walkers doing a short walk to get started participating in a way they can reasonably handle. We have some walkers doing about 15 miles of the walk. And we have some walkers planning on walking the full 20 miles. Some adults and youth group members are looking forward to doing this important awareness and fundraising work with you. Please join us! Sign up today and get ready to do this meaningful project with some fun co-walkers! If you have any questions or for directions on how to sign up, contact Roberta Altamari

Bridging Sunday

On Sunday, June 5, we are pleased to host our annual Bridging Ceremony in which we honor all teens graduating high school. If you know of a teen graduating high school this year who would like to be recognized, please let Roberta know today.



2011 Lay-led Summer Services Sign-Up Is Underway

“Everyone has at least one sermon in them. We want to hear from YOU!”
Share with us what moves you. There are roles for everyone.

Sign up to lead the service/give a sermon, host the service, and/or provide music, food, or childcare.

Sign up individually, sign up as a family or group of friends, sign up as a FPS committee or a special interest group such as meditation or quilters, the men’s group, women’s alliance, youth group, etc. Let others know that you’d like to hear from them.

Sign up on the large white sign-up board in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings at coffee hour. Or sign up by sending an email to the Worship Associates at office@fpsudbury.org, with subject line 2011 Summer Services. Later this month the 2011 Summer Services calendar will be visible online.

Need training? There are two upcoming summer worship service training opportunities:

- Katie Lee will be leading “Spring Training” on Monday May 23 from 7:30-9:00.
- The UUA is offering a training, “Creating and Leading Dynamic Lay-led Worship” on June 11 (9-2). Visit <http://www.cbd-mbd-uua.org/content/creating-and-leading-dynamic-lay-led-worship>



Ministerial Survey Results Available

The Committee on Ministry has completed the on-line survey portion of the ministerial assessment and it is available on-line at <http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/CommitteeOnMinistry/>.

If you do not have access to the internet at home or at a library, you may stop by the office to see a paper copy. Upon request, we will mail a copy, if necessary, but to keep the costs of color-copying and postage down, we hope you’ll stop by and read it here. The office is open 9-Noon Monday through Friday, but it’s best to call ahead in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Final Phase of Our Assessment of Ministry –

Facilitated Conversations three Sundays in May: 5/1, 5/8 and 5/15

As part of our once-every-three year practice and to fulfill the benchmark the congregation set for itself, the Committee on Ministry has been conducting a year-long comprehensive assessment of its ministry:

1. We began with in October with the *Retreat at Ferry Beach* in Maine and a mini-retreat the same weekend at First Parish.
2. In the winter, there was the *assessment survey* which many of you completed; an Executive Summary is now available on our website and in the office.
3. The third and final phase consists of three, *facilitated conversations* on successive Sundays – May 1, 8, and 15 – beginning at 11:45 in am the Brackett Room.

We set out to offer multiple ways for your voice to be heard. This third phase is especially designed for those who prefer to have a face-to-face conversation about our ministry. Of course we welcome and encourage all who wish to participate. Each conversation will be facilitated by a member or members of the Committee on Ministry and will invite your continuing participation in this important assessment.

From the outset, our goal has been to create an assessment that is fair, objective and comprehensive, covering all aspects of our ministry. We appreciate your active participation in the process thus far and the valuable feedback we’ve received. Please join us in May for one of these important conversations.



**Faith
in Action
News**

Take the Pledge to Conserve Water This Year

If you missed signing a Pledge Form after worship April 17, you can still be part of our First Parish Water Conservation project. Pick from one of the following ways to do your part:

- 1) Make a commitment to use 10% less water in 2011 than your average use over the past two years (2009-2010) and be recognized as a “UU Saver”.
- 2) Sign up as a “Super Saver” if you have already installed or plan to install low flow shower heads and other water saving devices, are careful about not over-watering your lawns and gardens and consume less than 55 gallons per day per person in your household during 2011.
- 3) Sign up as a “Conservation Mentor” if you would like to share your favorite conservation tips with members of the congregation.
- 4) If you are willing to post a “Conserve” sign in your yard, you can sign up as a “Conservation Advocate” and we will provide you with a small lawn sign.
- 5) If you reside in a condo, apartment, or for other reasons cannot meter your own water use, you can still sign up as a “Conserver” by pledging to take “Actions to Conserve Water.”

For more information about ways to participate and cost effective tips on how to conserve, contact Roberta Altamari, Tom A or the office. No matter how many ways you chose to participate, your decision will help protect our local rivers and will save you money by reducing your water bills.

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At First Parish... You'll want to know about...



Tuesday, **April 26** at Noon for the **4th Tuesday BYO Lunch & Discussion** on fostering dogs who are waiting for adoption, led by Donna Scalcione. Come hear some tails and a lively discussion in the Commons with new and old-time friends. All welcome.

April 30 Musketaquid Earth Day Celebration Join Katie Lee and other First Parish friends at the Lowell Street Boat Launch by 10 to launch floating sculptures, sing along, join the Puppet Parade and more. (Better yet, meet at the First P Parish parking lot at 9:30 am and car pool – the earth loves it!) Call/email for details: 978 371-0820 0820 or musketaquid@emersonumbrella.org



Saturday, **April 30** from 10-2 \$5 entry gets your choice of grocery bag. Clothes, books, Bring the family for a fun



the Women's Alliance Annual **Rummage Sale.** any items that you can fit into a large size paper housewares, toys and games, music and more! shopping spree.



Saturday, **May 7** at 7 pm for the next **Coffee House on the Rocky Plain** featuring Linda, Bob and Friends playing celtic and french folk music and Cooper and Kenneally, a blues, country and folk rock band. The opening act is Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School's Acafellas, a capella group. Great music and refreshments to raise funds for FPS.

Sunday, **May 8** is **New Member Sunday** at First Parish. Come join the celebration!

May 13-15, all women are invited to the **Women's Alliance 24th Annual Weekend Retreat** for spiritual growth, community connection, peace and quiet in a beautiful natural setting only 45 minutes away. For details, contact Peg E), Carolyn L or the office (978-443-2043) and pick up a brochure in the lobby.



Relay For Life will be held **May 14-15** from 4:00 pm - 6:00 am at Peter Noyes School, Sudbury. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life gives everyone a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. Teams of people camp out at a local school or park and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours in length. Details at www.relayforlife.org/lincolnsudburyma



Thank you to **Valerie T** for donating a lateral file cabinet for Landscape Committee use and to **Terry L** who's in the process of repairing the kitchen coffee maker.

Going...Going...Gone

The lost and found is on the shelf



above the coat rack outside the Brackett Room.
All unclaimed items will be donated to the Rummage Sale April 30.

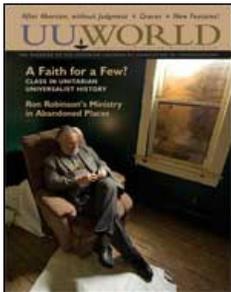


The Women's Alliance Seeks Rummage

If it fits into a paper grocery bag, we want it for our April 30 Jumble Sale!

- household goods
- toys & games
- office supplies
- clothing for all ages
- books (no textbooks, no magazines).

Any item that is clean, in good repair and fits into a paper grocery bag will help the Women's Alliance.
Please drop off your donations April 25-29 (the week before the sale), or contact Donna at the office to make a different drop off plan.



Are You Getting the *UU World*?

A subscription to the denominational magazine is automatically part of your FPS membership. If you're a member and NOT getting it, let the office know.

If you'd rather see it electronically, go to <http://www.uuworld.org> ...and let us know so we'll take your name off the mailing list. If you're a friend of FPS and would like to read our UU magazine, you may see it at anytime online or you may subscribe annually through that same website.

Share the Plate with Project Bread April 24



The First Parish Walk team is ready to go on May 1. The Walk for Hunger is the premier fundraiser for Project Bread. Funds raised through the Walk support more than 400 emergency food programs in 135 communities in Massachusetts, including the **Sudbury Food Pantry**.

Food insecurity continues to rise in Massachusetts with 660,000 people struggling to put food on the table, an **11% increase** from last year. The economy is still struggling and families are seeing their monthly income stretched beyond capacity. The most vulnerable among us — children, elderly, disabled — are particularly hard hit. This is no longer an issue for others. The chances are great that **you know someone who is struggling with hunger**. We know that hunger is tightly linked to low achievement, illness, infection. In 2009, **13% of all children lived in food insecure households**. How are they able to learn and get ahead?

As of press time we have 12 walkers and have reached half our goal of \$6000.00. We would always welcome new members to our team. It's easy to sign up and easy to collect money for Project Bread. Food is a universal need and hunger is something everyone can relate to. You can go to the website at www.projectbread.org/goto/fpsudbury to make a donation or to join the team. Or you can contact Roberta Altamari, Beth R, or Sherri C to get more information about the walk, or to make a donation by check or cash. Thanks to all those who have generously contributed to this annual event.

May the hungry be well fed. May the well fed hunger for justice. – Rev. Kate Braestrup

A Thank You note from Rev. Susan B. Chorley, Director, Renewal House

To the members and friends of First Parish of Sudbury –

It was a blessing to share in worship with you in March. Thank you for inviting me and for the intentional way you designed the service to bring attention to the needs of those living with abuse and violence. It's wonderful to witness the efforts of UU congregations to really take on the issues around domestic violence – and provide support and understanding for those stuck in unhealthy relationships.

Also, I just want to say a special thank you for the beautifully hand-crafted quilts which you all made and offered blessings upon for us to share with children when they come into our shelter. These symbols of caring and warmth – wrap our children up with the reminder that they are not alone – we, as staff and volunteers, find this message very powerful.

Thank you!

Love & Peace, s/ Sue



See the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall to the right of the Kitchen for opportunities for spiritual growth, education, entertainment and updates from the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) and our Mass Bay/Clara Barton District, as well as from the wider community.

To reduce space, with rare exceptions, they will no longer be listed in this newsletter.



Dear friends,

More than a month after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, roughly 12,000 people are dead, 15,000 are missing, and more than 500,000 are displaced. Japan is also coping with a nuclear crisis that is being compared to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

The heart-wrenching situation changes day by day, but help is on the way. Thanks to very generous donations from Unitarian Universalists and our congregations across the country, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)-Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Japan Relief Fund has raised more than \$200,000, which will aid in the recovery efforts.

The Rev. Eric Cherry, the UUA's director of International Resources, recently traveled to Japan to meet with our partner groups. Risho Kosei-kai (RKK), one of our religious partners, shared that their assessment team is reporting severe devastation among their congregations. Read more in the UU World article "UUA-UUSC Japan Fund Supports Religious Partners After Quake": <http://tinyurl.com/6lbqh6r>.

Your generous support is still needed to alleviate the suffering of the Japanese people and help rebuild their lives. **Please give generously today, at <http://tinyurl.com/3p7bsbt>**. Your immediate support will help RKK congregations provide shelter to people who are homeless, and bring food, clothing, fuel, and other supplies. The Fund will also provide support to our other partners in Japan, as well as help in the long-term recovery efforts. With your help, we can bring relief and hope to the people of Japan. Thank you.

In faith, The Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President and The Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz, UUSC President

Memorial Book Entries and Ash Interment in the Garden can be done at any time with the approval of the Landscape Committee. There is a fee for this service and certain rules apply. Call the First Parish office for a copy of the "Memorial Garden Rules and Intent" and brochures about the Garden.



Consider Renting Space at First Parish for your next family, friends or work get together

Contact the office for details.

Quote to Ponder

Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway!

title of a book written by Susan Jeffers

EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION Find out if worship and other events at First Parish are cancelled:

By phone—check the recorded message at the First Parish number, 978-443-2043.

First Parish website -- Go to www.fpsudbury.org. The front page will show any closing.

WBZ Radio website -- Go to www.wbz.com, click on "School Closings from the WBZ Storm Center" button, click on "Religious" and scroll down to look for "First Parish of Sudbury."

By radio -- Listen to 1030 AM *WBZ Storm Center* at :05 and :35 past the hour for cancellation of our Sunday worship service only. NOTE: Other events cannot be listed. Please contact the meeting leader.

The Connector is a publication of First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist, 327 Concord Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776 **We are a diverse and welcoming community of spiritual seekers; we strive to learn together and support one another as we celebrate life's important moments and serve the larger community.**

Submissions to *The Connector* go to Administrator at 978-443-2043 or office@fpsudbury.org by 5:00 pm on Wednesdays.

Minister Rev. Katie Lee Crane: minister@fpsudbury.org

Music Director Debra Morris-Bennett: musicdir@fpsudbury.org

Director of Religious Exploration Roberta Altamari: dre@fpsudbury.org

Community Life Coordinator Bev Baker: connect@fpsudbury.org

Web address: www.fpsudbury.org Phone: Office 978-443-2043, Fax 978-443-4391

Deadline is 5 pm Wed., April 27 for the *Connector* coming out Wed., May 4
Send to administrator office@fpsudbury.org or phone 978-443-2043

FPS Calendar April 20 – May 14, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 17	Apr 18	Apr 19	Apr 20 7:00p Rental	Apr 21 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 7:30p Choir	Apr 22	Apr 23
Apr 24 10:00a Easter Sunday Worship Service 11:45a Morris Dancing 4:45p Morris Dancing 6:30p Rental	Apr 25 7:00p RE Committee 7:00p Board of Trustees 7:30p WAG	Apr 26 12:00p 4th Tuesday BYO Lunch Discussion 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilting 7:30p PAG	Apr 27 1:00p Rental: Girl Scouts 7:00p Rental 7:00p Coffee House Task Force	Apr 28 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 5:00p Rental: SAT prep 7:00p Carbon Consciousness 7:30p Choir	Apr 29 3:00-8:00p Set up for Alliance Jumble Sale	Apr 30 8:00a Set up/clean up for Jumble Sale 10:00-2:00 Women's Alliance Rummage Sale – great bargains!
May 1 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Hearthside Chat 11:45a Committee on Ministry OPEN Conversation 3:30p Rental:Sud.Historical Society Tour Reception 4:45p Morris Dancing 5:00p Jr. High OWL class 6:00p Rental-Meeting/Bqt 7:00p Sr. High OWL class	May 2 12:00p Rental: SED	May 3 5:00p Rental: SAT prep 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilting	May 4 7:00p Rental 7:30p Book Group	May 5 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 5:00p Rental: SAT prep 7:30p Choir	May 6	May 7 1:00p set up/clean up for coffeehouse 5:00p musicians use for coffeehouse 7:00p Coffeehouse on the Rocky Plain – great music & refreshments - all welcome!
May 8 10:00a Worship Service/New Member Sunday 11:45a Morris Dancing 11:45a Committee on Ministry OPEN Conversation 6:30p Rental	May 9 7:00p SPTF	May 10 5:00p Rental:SATprep 7:00p Program Council 7:00p Quilting 7:00p Rental 7:00p Finance Com.	May 11 1:00p Rental: Girl Scouts 7:00p Rental 7:30p Book Group	May 12 9:00a Rental: SED 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 5:00p Rental: SAT Prep 7:30p Choir	May 13 4:00p Women's Alliance Retreat weekend 7:00p Chalice Circle	May 14 12:00a Women's Alliance Retreat Weekend 9:00a A Gathering of Men 6:00p Coming-of-Age retreat