

President's Report  
September 2024

Summer is construction season in Maine -- that has certainly been the case at First Universalist. We are building upon the sound foundation that we established with Patrick during the 2023-24 church year.

Terry has challenged the Board to be intentional and deliberate in our consideration of church life. At the August Board Retreat, Terry introduced us to the work of Peter Drucker, a leading 20<sup>th</sup> century management consultant. The Board reading for this year is Drucker's The Five Most Important Questions You Will Ever Ask About Your Organization. The five questions:

1. What is our mission?
2. Who is our customer
3. What does the customer value?
4. What are our results?
5. What is our plan?

I look forward to constructive Board discussions and to arriving at a better understanding of both who we (the First Universalist Church) are and where we are in the broader community.

Sam has hit the ground running in rebuilding the RE program in this post-Covid era. Her report is attached. A healthy Religious Exploration is THE goal for the church year, and I encourage members and friends to offer to help in whatever way you are able.

Margaret Steward is our new contract office administrator. Margaret is working to update office technology and to bring a more systematic approach to office functions (especially our rental process). Margaret has broad experience in UU church life and welcomes contact and conversation with members and friends. She is in the office on Thursdays, 10-3. Please be mindful of the fact that Margaret does have limited hours and is still familiarizing herself with the peculiarities of life at First Universalist.

I do have one request of all of you: please volunteer! Over the past two years, a small number of people has been shouldering the responsibilities of church life. That is not tenable in the long run. Volunteering can be as frequent or as infrequent as you wish: a one off; once a quarter; once or twice a month; every waking minute. There are many opportunities available. Please speak with a member of the Board or, even better, with a committee chair if you are interested.

In faith,  
David