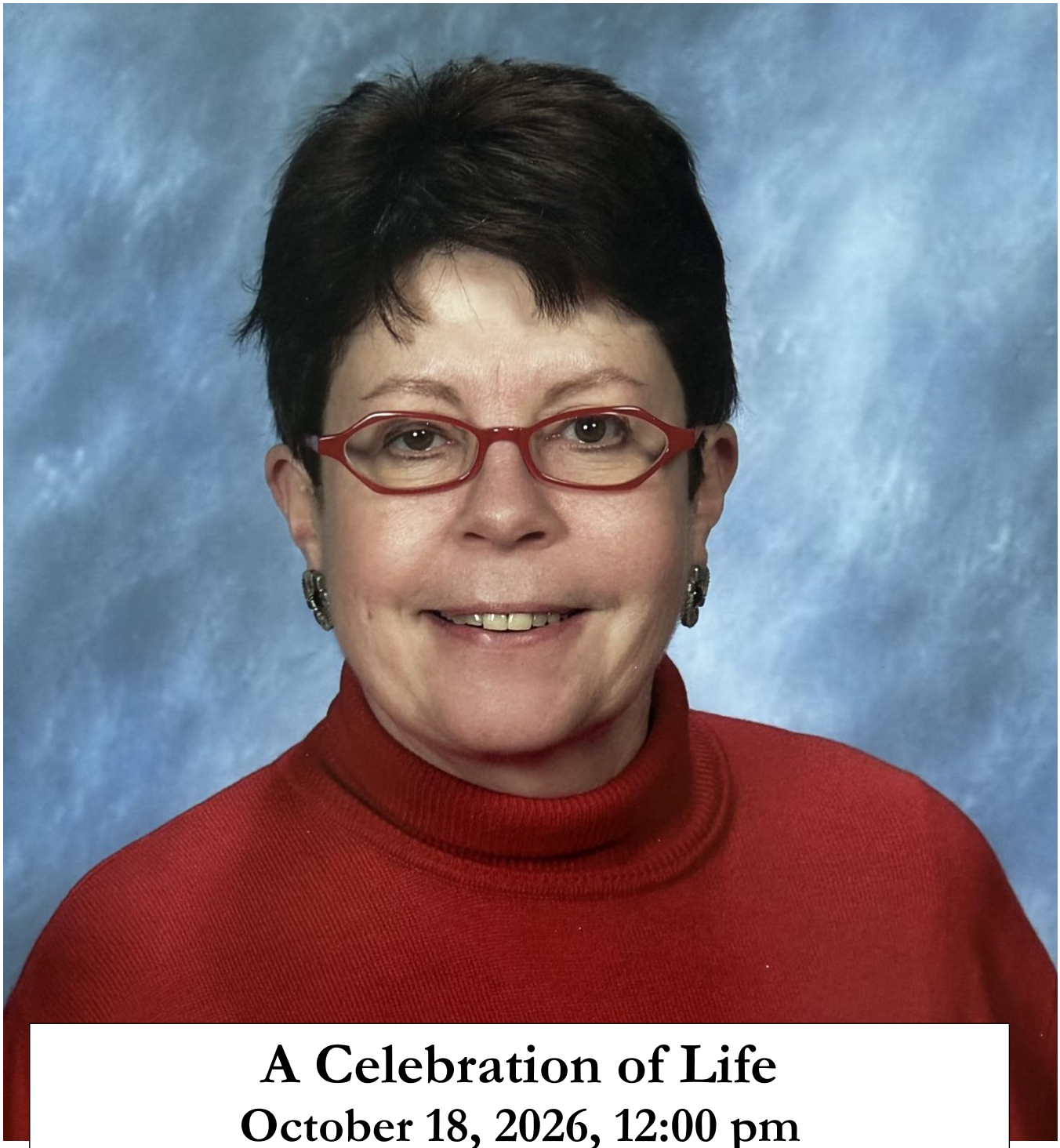
Joan Elaine Tighe

September 19, 1948 – August 9, 2026



A Celebration of Life

October 18, 2026, 12:00 pm

Church of the Covenant

67 Newbury Street, Boston MA

A Celebration of Life
Joan Elaine Tighe
September 19, 1948 – August 9, 2026

Prelude *Air from Orchestral Suite No. 3* J. S. Bach

Welcome & Opening Prayer Rev. Rob Mark

One: Peace be with you.
Many: And also with you.

*** Call to Worship** – Psalm 36

One: For with you is the fountain of light
Many: In your light, we see light.

*** Opening Hymn** PH (blue) 464 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing foundation, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

Sacred Reading – Psalm 46:1-7 Karen Henry

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; God utters God's voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us.

Remembrances

- Reflection – Brad Day
- *9 to 5* – Ellen Cassedy & Alliance for Young Families, read by Mocky Day

Musical Meditation *Ave Maria* Franz Schubert
Violin – Anita Gram

Sacred Readings Rachel Day

Jeremiah 29:4-5,7, 11-13

Thus says the God of hosts, to all the exiles… Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to God on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

Micah 6:8

And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Remembrances

- Tent City – Barry Shelley, PhD, Former Board Member
- Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation and Fairmount Collaborative – Kimberly Lyle, CEO
- Family Ties – Katie Day Fewlass (read by Karen Henry), Rachel Day, Daniel Day

*** Song** NCH (black) 595 *Some Glad Morning (I'll Fly Away)*

Some glad morning when this life o'er, I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.
Refrain: I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away. *Refrain*

O how glad and happy when we meet, I'll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on our feet, I'll fly away. *Refrain*

Prayer of Gratitude Rev. Rob Mark

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi *(in unison)*

God, make us instruments of your peace:
where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Creator, grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

***9 to 5* as sung by Dolly Parton (on video)**

Tumble out of bed and I stumble to the kitchen
Pour myself a cup of ambition
And yawn and stretch and try to come to life
Jump in the shower and the blood starts pumpin'
Out on the street, the traffic starts jumpin'
With folks like me on the job from 9 to 5

Workin' 9 to 5, what a way to make a livin'
Barely gettin' by, it's all takin' and no givin'
They just use your mind and they never give you credit
It's enough to drive you crazy if you let it
9 to 5, for service and devotion
You would think that I would deserve a fair promotion
Want to move ahead, but the boss won't seem to let me
I swear sometimes that man is out to get me, mm

They let you dream just to watch 'em shatter
You're just a step on the bossman's ladder
But you've got dreams he'll never take away
In the same boat with a lot of your friends
Waitin' for the day your ship'll come in
And the tide's gonna turn and it's all gonna roll your way

Charge & Benediction

Let us go forth from this place, to Love God, And Love the people; to Serve God and Serve the people. Go in Peace

Passing of the Peace

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Following the service, all are invited to join us for a reception downstairs in Bates Hall lovingly provided by our Board of Deacons.

Service Participants

Officiant – Rev. Rob Mark, Lead Pastor, Church of the Covenant
Minister of Music – Thomas Handel, Minister of Music, Church of the Covenant
Violinist – Anita Gram
Readers & Remembrances – Karen Henry, Brad Day, Ellen Cassedy, Mocky Day, Rachel Day, Barry Shelley, Kimberly Lyle, Katie Day Fewlass, Daniel Day
Reception – Board of Deacons
Audio-Visual Tech Team

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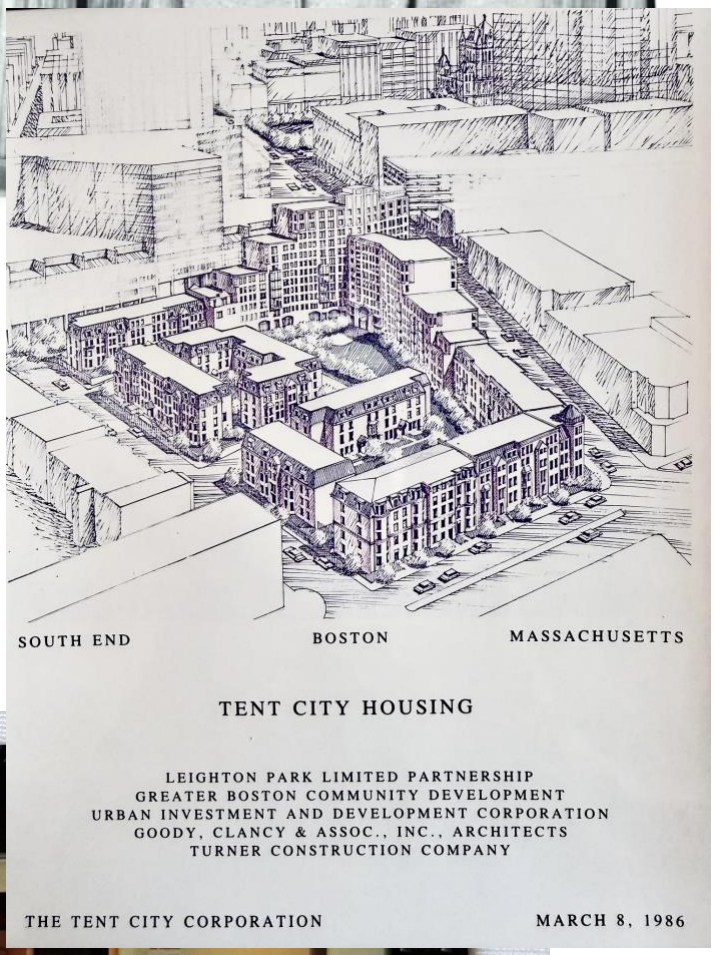
Parking Bargain – Worshippers may park at the Back Bay Garage [Clarendon Street, between Boylston and St. James] on Sundays between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm for the first three (3) hours for only $5. To get this discounted rate, please ask an Usher before or after the worship service for a parking discount sticker.



SOUTH END BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS

TENT CITY HOUSING

LEIGHTON PARK LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
GREATER BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
URBAN INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
GOODY, CLANCY & ASSOC., INC., ARCHITECTS
TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

THE TENT CITY CORPORATION MARCH 8, 1986

Joan Elaine Tighe, Boston Leader for Social Justice, died peacefully, on Sunday, August 9, 2026, at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center in Roslindale, MA. Joan was born in New York City, to the late Charles Tighe and Natalie (Newbery) Tighe. Joan attended Convent of the Sacred Heart, a private all-girls school in Manhattan, attained a bachelor's degree at Wheaton College in Norton, MA, and two master's degrees, one in Theology and Social Change at Goddard Cambridge Graduate School, and the other at Boston University School of Social Work. She was a member and leader at Church of the Covenant, in Boston, since 1973. After college, Joan lived in Boston's South End before moving to her home in Dorchester. For decades, Joan worked tirelessly to create greater justice and equity, for all people, in our city and beyond. She served in many leadership roles. As the Chair of Tent City Corporation, she collaborated with her friend, Mel King, and many others, to ensure that housing would be constructed on vacant land in the South End. In 1988, 269 units were built and named Tent City. Early in her career, Joan served as Executive Director of Alliance for Young Families, which educated young women in order to reduce and prevent teen pregnancy. She was instrumental in the founding of 9 to 5, the National Association of Working Women. Later, Joan advised and collaborated with Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation and other organizations to substantially increase transportation options for underserved communities in Boston. The result was the expansion and improvement of the Fairmount Line. Joan rode on the train with Governor Deval Patrick and other dignitaries on the initial run of the new service. Joan advocated for the preservation of artists' housing and studios in the city. She was a revered leader in Uphams Corner, where she lived for over 40 years and served as President of the neighborhood association. She engaged in countless other community building activities. She was honored many times by local organizations and elected leaders, yet she never sought the spotlight. Joan was modest in manner and powerful in effect. Joan made time to travel widely and to enjoy social occasions and holidays with friends and chosen family. Joan was beloved by many members of her church and a wide community of colleagues, neighbors and loved ones. Joan is survived by her godchildren, Rachel Day Wiley of Ewing, NJ, Daniel Day of Nantucket, MA; and longtime friends, Mocky and Brad Day, Marnie Warner and rosi Olmstead, and Christine Gratto of Boston, MA. An occasion for remembrance and Celebration is planned for October 18, 2026, at noon, at Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. Reception to follow. Donations may be given in Joan's memory to the Church of the Covenant, cotcbos.org or to the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation, dbedc.org

Church of the Covenant
Boston Massachusetts

67 Newbury St., Boston MA 02116 | (617) 266-7480 | www.cotcbos.org

Worship at Church of the Covenant is the heart and soul of our life together as a community of faith. Since 1932 we have been a federated church, maintaining membership in the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA) and welcoming pilgrims from all traditions to our life and work. Through our prayer and praise, in our concerns and celebrations, by word and sacrament, art and silence, we seek empowerment, together and individually, as a covenant people, for the work of Christ.

Jesus taught that the Spirit invites all people, including society's marginalized, to enjoy seats at God's table. This congregation seeks to demonstrate that vision by welcoming individuals and families without regard to race, gender identity, age, physical/mental condition, or sexual orientation. We rejoice in the presence of children among us as integral to our community. We maintain vital ties of faith with the Church of the Poor in the community of the Sweet Name of Jesus, in Northwestern Nicaragua.

We believe God's blessings are found in marriage equality for all. Thus, we joyfully welcome the opportunity afforded us by our Commonwealth and both denominations to join couples of any sexual orientation in fully legal and holy marriage.

Covenant's sanctuary resides on the ancestral and unceded lands and waterways of the Massachusett people. We lament the pain of displacement, honor the ongoing work of repair, and give thanks for all past, present and future stewards of this sacred place.

In our worship we use language and imagery that reflect the wonderful diversity of the image of God in humanity and all of creation; that transcend the exclusive language of the church's past. And as stewards, we seek to live into the Spirit's blessing as we move in solidarity on this shared and sacred, common home we call earth. We invite you to join us in the journey toward God's justice and peace for all of Boston and beyond!

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Sara Garrard, *Transitional Associate Pastor*
Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*
Bill Brown, *Building Manager*
Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator*
Nancy Stockford, *Parish Administrator/Financial Secretary*
Jesús Vargas, *Sexton*
Venkatesh Balasubramanian, *Music Composition Fellow 2025-2026*
Soyoung Cho, *Childcare Provider*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Brian Bigler, *President of the Corporation*
Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*
Anita Gram, *Moderator of the Board of Deacons*
Faith Perry, *Treasurer*