

The Parishioner

News of the First Parish in Bedford
Unitarian Universalist
On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts

Spirit...Justice...Community

Volume 58, Issue 3

November 2024

Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, senior minister
Rev. Annie Gonzalez, minister of faith development
Nathan Sellers, director of faith development for children
Susan Lincoln, parish board president
Rev. John Gibbons, minister emeritus


Carla Bradford, editor
Bradford Conner, music/choir director
Natan Wythe, youth choir director
Sandra LaBarge-Neumann, organist
Brenda Rybicki, parish administrator
Stacey Katz, assistant parish administrator
TBD, sexton/custodian

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Upcoming Sunday Services*

*To join us via ZOOM, click on: <https://www.uubedford.org/worship/upcoming-services/>

Sunday, November 3rd **Don't forget to set your clocks back!** 

Title: "Memory as Resistance and Resilience" (Rev. Jamie preaching)

The days from October 31st to November 2nd are observed in many cultures and religious traditions as a time to remember and honor the dead. This Sunday we will have a special time during the service to honor our own departed ancestors. We will make space for the complexity of our relationship with those who have come before. And we will explore how memory and connection through time can be a source of resilience and resistance for the challenges we face today.

Sunday, November 10th

Title: "Keep on Moving Forward" (Rev. Annie preaching)

As we experience the presidential election with a variety of emotions and perhaps some echoes of previous upsetting election seasons, we can remember that no matter what happens we move forward together. We'll explore resilience together with courage, persistence, clarity and hope.

Sunday, November 17th

Title: "A Sermon for November 17" (Rev. Jamie preaching)

I will honestly not even attempt to guess what I might want or need to talk about just twelve days out from the election. But I am sure I will have some things to say, and this Sunday I will say those things!

Sunday, November 24th

Title: "Grumblyingly Grateful and Gratefully Grumbling" (All-Ages Service featuring the Youth Choirs!)

The practice of gratitude is one of those fundamental spiritual practices that can grow our resilience and well-being over time. Likewise, the admonishment to "Be grateful!" can also be used to shutdown complaints and avoid dealing honestly with life's rough edges. For this All-Ages service we will take some time to give thanks for all the good things and make some space for the not so good things. And we will do it in a fun, engaging, and spirited way befitting an all-ages service.

A Note from Jamie

Dear First Parish Members and Friends,

As we head into the last days of this extraordinary election and whatever lies beyond, many of us (most of us? All of us?) are carrying extra levels of worry, stress, anger, sadness, or apprehension.

This is hard on the body. I hope you are giving yourself extra time for rest and for those practices that are grounding and peaceful and restorative for your body, whatever those practices may be.

When we are overloaded with feelings is also a time when accidents are more likely to happen. So, please take care. Allow yourself to move at a slower pace, where you can. Allow that your judgment, reaction times, and equilibrium may be a little off. Allow that you may be a little distracted. If you feel like, "Why am I off my game today?" remember: "Oh yeah, there is all this going on."

Allow that others may be off their game as well. This is a good time for us to offer one another extra grace. This is a good time for us to attend to our spiritual practices, our hobbies, our relationships with friends and loved ones, and all those things in general that calm us and balance us and keep our spirits up. This is a good time for deep breaths.

Here is a musical break you can take, if you need a minute of calm in your day. It is a song that Rev. Annie has led us in singing many times. You can sing along to this video of Loosen, by Aly Halpert:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Biv9Yh_z4QU

If taking action is something that works for you, you can find opportunities to get involved with other UUs at UUtheVote.org.

And then take heart. Remember that we were made for these times, and we will face whatever challenges or opportunities lie ahead as a community anchored in UU values and with love at the center. It is in times like these that I am very grateful for UU communities, and I am grateful for this community in particular. Thank you for all you do to support and sustain First Parish. I hope First Parish supports and sustains you as well in the days ahead.

Post-election gatherings:

We will have our usual 7pm evening meditation on Tuesday night, election day, with a little extra space made for processing our thoughts and feelings about the election. And then Wednesday, November 6, we will have a drop-in gathering space from 5-7pm in the Bacon Room for anyone who would like a place to process, decompress, share, or just be. We will create additional times and places to gather as needed.

Peace, Jamie

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie".

Office Matters

We start the month of November with temperatures in the 80's? Welcome to New England in the fall! This is the second month for me to share ***The Parishioner*** in a new way (I hope you enjoy the updated email format). Our first weekend this month is jam-packed (the Friday Night Potluck, the Folk Music Concert on Saturday, and the Art Gallery reception on Sunday). Please visit the main [Calendar](#) to see all of our upcoming events this month.

***Reimbursement Requests.....**there are green reimbursement forms in the office, so if you would like to grab a couple the next time you are in the building, please feel free. Hold on to your receipts and submit them (along with the reimbursement form) to the appropriate Committee Chairperson for approval/signature. Once that's complete, please submit everything to me in the office or leave them in my mailbox out back. Also please remember to include the address where you wish to have the check mailed. Typically, I work on accounts payable every Thursday morning and checks go out in Friday's mail.

***Booking Rooms/Zooms.....**in an effort to accommodate everyone fairly, I ask that all requests for rooms/Zoom meetings be made in advance by at least 3-5 business days. We understand last minute requests will occasionally happen, but if everyone tries to work within these parameters, we will be more successful in meeting your needs.

***Hybrid Meetings/Technology.....**If you're having a hybrid meeting, please reach out to the office and request our OWL camera. The camera and accessories can be found in the locked cabinet under the mailboxes. Also, we now have ethernet cables (and two types of adapters available) in the following rooms: Common Room, 204 and 203. To book the Owl camera or request to use one of the adapters, please contact the office for a code to the cabinet.

***Leftover Food Policy.....**just a reminder about the new food policy we put in place last fall with regards to Memorial Services, receptions, parties, etc.... This policy was created in conjunction with the members of the Hospitality to address safety concerns (i.e. food allergies) and food waste concerns. Below please find the details:

- Leftover perishable foods can only be served to children/youth the same day;
- Common allergen food labels in bowl/basket to be put out with foods being served to reduce accidental consumption;
- Provide communication to internal/external groups that all food must be removed after the event, with the exception of packaged food or one medium tray per item (i.e. one vegetable tray, one fruit tray, etc...);
- Tape/marker will be left in the kitchen for easy labeling of dates on food;
- Ice cream related toppings need to be checked for expiration dates so they don't pile up.

Email Lists.....**please find below an explanation of ***our three email lists for use by the First Parish community. For anyone who would like to join one (or more) of the three email lists, please contact me so I can verify whether or not you're already signed up. If you're not, I can add you with your preferred email address. (*Note: sometimes these messages might end up in your Spam/Junk folders, so please double-check those folders*). As always, we ask that you be mindful of each of their uses, and please remember to be kind and respectful with your communications.

- Parish Business (ParishBiz) List – communicates important news and events from FP staff and leadership to the parish. **We encourage all Parishioners to subscribe to ParishBiz.**
- Announcement (Anno) List – used to *facilitate* announcements of news and events of general interest to the community (i.e. Does anyone know a good chiropractor?).
- Discussion (Disc) List – a means of promoting (*or responding to*) the discussion of issues of general interest to the community.

- Brenda Rybicki, Parish Administrator

Parish Board Notes

November has arrived, heralded along with bright, sunny days and cool, crisp nights. Many of the once vibrant autumn leaves have fallen and garden beds are being put to rest as we look forward to the coming winter months. On Sunday, November 10th at noon, First Parish will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting where you can hear a full accounting of the Parish's previous fiscal year. In addition, we will have updates from the Parish Board, Senior Minister, Minister of Faith Development, and Director of Faith Development for Children. Please plan to attend the meeting after worship services on Zoom or in person. There will be bagels! Pivoting to this year, please read below to learn what the Board will focus on during the 2024-2025 church year.

- Continue to support Rev Jamie as he enthusiastically settles into his second year as Senior Minister at FPB. ~
- Create a task force to conceptualize a 5-year strategic plan to evaluate the needs of our historic building. This task force will also establish a budget and preliminary schedule to inform a capital campaign to fund the necessary upgrades.
- Structure and utilize the Parish Council in a way that will engage, support, and sustain best practices of volunteerism for effective church functioning. ~
- Establish quarterly work days to nurture and beautify the church grounds and building as a service project offered to all interested and able-bodied congregants.

As always, many thanks to all of you who participate in making First Parish such an amazing community. Your presence, willingness and generosity of spirit, treasures and time are what nurtures the very essence of spiritual life here.

-Susan Lincoln, Board President

Social Responsibility Council Update

Greetings from your Social Responsibility Council (SRC)! We are honored to represent the FPB's community's commitment to social action through grants (funded by our endowment fund) and our Share the Plate program (funded by a share of the offerings collected during the first service of the month).

The Share the Plate recipient for November is the [Bedford Food Bank](#), an ongoing service provided by the Town of Bedford to assist and support Bedford residents in need. The Food Bank is run by the Department of Health and Human Services, partnered with the Bedford Community Table/Pantry, and is available to anyone who would find it helpful to access nutritious food and household supplies at no cost. In addition to pantry staples, the Food Bank offers a wide variety of fresh produce, meat and vegetarian protein, dairy products, diapers, feminine care, pet food, and household products. The Food Bank distributes roughly 40 pounds of supplies to approximately 180 households each week.

Please come to the service on **November 3** to hear more about the Bedford Food Bank from Sarah Dorer, a longtime volunteer, and to give what you can to support their good work in the community. You can also [donate online through OneChurch](#) by selecting Give Now and then Share the Plate.

All parishioners are invited to [submit proposals](#) for social action projects or for Share the Plate recipients. Feel free to contact socialresponsibility@uubedford.org or reach out directly to an SRC member: Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw (chair), Heather Black, Doug Denny-Brown, Pam Foresman, John Laferriere, Jaclyn Olsen, and Elise Randazzo.

- Heather Black, on behalf of the Social Responsibility Council

Youth Happenings

Senior Youth Group (High School)

Our SYG is now in full swing, having spent September doing a cookout, a regular SYG meeting and a UU Mass Action training event. In November we'll have a field trip to Eastie Farm, enjoy some bonding, games and snacks, and prepare for our CityReach trip to Boston December 6th-7th.

11/3 - Field Trip to Eastie Farm! Leave First Parish Bedford at 12:30 pm. Let Annie know if you're coming!

11/10 - Regular SYG 2:30 - 4 pm in room 203

11/17 - Regular SYG 2:30 - 4 pm in room 203

11/24 - Regular SYG 2:30 - 4 pm in room 203

Senior Youth Group (SYG) is also accepting donations of blankets, socks, warm gloves and hats for City Reach! Our SYG is heading to the CityReach program December 6th-7th. This is an overnight program in Boston supporting people who are living outside.

One aspect of the program is bringing in donated clothing and similar items. Our group decided to collect new or very good condition blankets, gloves and hats and new socks. Size large is usually best. Stay tuned for when and how you can drop off items!"

Musical Notes

"Take care of this house, keep it from harm. If bandits break in, sound the alarm.... Take care of this house, be always on call, for this house is the hope of us all." - lyric by Alan Jay Lerner (1918-1986) for the musical "1600 Pennsylvania Avenue" (1976) by Lerner and Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990).

Here's music information for upcoming 10 a.m. services –

Sunday, November 3rd: I will be playing piano. Carol Epple - flute and Elizabeth Connors - clarinet will be joining me. The prelude will be the famous *Sicilienne* in honor of the Gabriel Fauré centenary, "October" from Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "The Seasons" and a lively Norwegian Dance by Edvard Grieg will be the offertory and the postlude respectively.

Sunday, November 10th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ and piano. In honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Austrian composer, Anton Bruckner, the adult choir will sing his sublime gradual, *Locus iste*. The choir will also sing an arrangement of Leonard Bernstein's song, "Take Care of This House". Both choral pieces focus on different aspects of resilience in the way we honor, protect and nurture the spaces, people and principles that are meaningful to all of us.

Sunday, November 17th: Steve Sussman will be playing piano.

Sunday, November 24th: Steve Sussman will be playing piano and Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. For this intergenerational service, Natan Wythe will be leading our youth choirs in music with a theme of gratitude in anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday including "A Hymn of Joyful Praise" by Joel Raney and sung by the combined Senior and Junior Youth Choirs. KidSing will sing "I Give Thanks" by Toni Sullivan. The combined choirs will sing Euphemia Allen's delightful "I Want Some Pumpkin Pie" which has become somewhat of an annual and fun tradition.

I hope you've marked your calendars for Saturday evening, November 2, 2024 at 7 p.m. The Music Committee will be sponsoring a fundraising concert for First Parish with the return of the folk music duo Howard Rashba and Mel Green who performed at First Parish last April. They will perform "Our Precious Vote", a show focused on the importance of

voting including songs like "Give the Ballot to the Mothers", "Here Comes the Sun", "Vote 'm Out", "If I Had a Hammer" and "This Land Is Your Land" amongst many other favorites. Just like we say, "Get out and Vote!", for this concert, I'm going to encourage you to attend by saying "Get out to the concert!" Given the importance of the coming election, this is a show not to be missed. More information is elsewhere in this edition of the Parishioner.

Looking ahead to December, the Music Committee will be hosting a "Beethoven Bash" on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 3 p.m. in honor of Beethoven's birthday featuring the return of Paul Bempechat on piano playing the "Moonlight" and "Appassionata" sonatas with a birthday celebration after the concert.

Isn't it time to think about joining the adult choir? If you're interested, e-mail me at bconner@uubedford.org Plans for the coming year include a Christmas Eve service filled the lively and beautiful sounds of Spanish Carols from all parts of the world; for Good Friday 2025 there will be lots of Mozart; and Music Sunday 2025 (May 4, 2025) will be more music by Mozart including his beautiful "Coronation Mass" and his famous "Alleluia" featuring the First Parish Adult Choir, soloists and orchestra.

Additional information about both the adult and youth choirs is below.

- Bradford Conner, Music Director

Rehearsal Schedule of First Parish Choirs for All Ages

- **Adult Choir** – every Thursday from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- **Senior Youth Choir** (Grades 6-12) and **Junior Youth Choir** (Grades 3-5) – a joint rehearsal every Monday from 3:45-4:30 p.m. in the Common Room (please note that rehearsals are scheduled for 45 minutes)
- **KidSing** (Age 5 through Grade 2) every Wednesday from 4:00-4:30 p.m. in the Overlook Room 202/203 (please note that rehearsals are scheduled for 30 minutes)

For adult choir information, please contact Brad Conner at bconner@uubedford.org. For youth choirs information, please contact Natan Wythe at youthchoirs@uubedford.org

First Parish Women's Book Group

The November meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 17 in the First Parish common room. Please bring a dish to share for dinner. We'll discuss the book "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks.

From her website (geraldinebrooks.com):

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.

The dates and books for the remainder of the church year are:

Meeting Date	Book	Author
12/8/2024	How To Read A Book	Monica Wood
1/5/2025	Book Swap	
2/2/2025	Rough Sleepers	Tracy Kidder
3/2/2025	Tom Lake	Ann Patchett
4/6/2025	The Frozen River	Ariel Lawhon
5/18/2025	The Rulebreaker: The Life and Times of Barbara Walters	Susan Page
6/8/2025	Book Selection for the following year	

The Gallery @First Parish Bedford

The Gallery Committee invites everyone to a reception for the art show “**Imagine**” currently in The Gallery@FirstParish on the Common. It will be on Sunday, November 3 from 11:30 to 1:00 in the Gallery.

Please join us as we celebrate the art created by the following artists: Mark David Bailey; Bob Batt; Raquel Bauman; Stacy Chandler; Ginny Crocker; Randi Currier; Linda Darrah; Robert Dorer; Sarah Dorer; Jana Droms; Maria Green; Marge Heckman; Sylvia Mallory; Kati Oates; Cole Parks; Janet Powers; Doris Smith; Anna Trout; Nina Sue Wampler, and Chris Wojnar

We are also looking forward to the music that will be provided by our own talented Dean Groves as well as comments from some of the artists.

Join us for light refreshments after the church service and please feel free to invite friends and family to see and enjoy the art created for this topic.

We also invite everyone to add your vision to the exhibit by sharing “what you imagine...” in words or images. We have left paper and art materials in the gallery. Please share in the “Imagine” journal, or leave your creations on the table in the Blinn Room.

New Immigration Justice Team

A newly-formed Immigration Justice Team (IJT) is focusing on how FPB can assist growing numbers of homeless migrant families in Massachusetts. Our first priority is to help 3 families who are sheltering with Rev. Jamie in the parsonage. Four specific need areas have been identified:

1. Transportation and car rides to/from medical appointments, MA state agency offices and school meetings.
2. Assistance with shopping for food and clothing.
3. Foreign language translation and English as a Second Language (ESL) training.
4. Logistics support including appointment scheduling and bureaucracy navigation.

If you can donate time to any of these areas, the IJT will gratefully accept your help. More volunteers are needed to spread the workload.

We are also considering Room 201 as an emergency, overnight shelter for homeless migrants. Such an action requires town approval, which is being sought. FPB's Board has indicated support for limited respite as an initial experiment for the church. And by a strong showing of hands at a recent Sunday forum, attendees endorsed using Room 201 to provide shelter.

Funds are also needed to defray transportation, food and winter clothing costs. Here's how to make a donation to the FPB Immigration Emergency Housing Support and Action Fund:

- Send a check to the Parish office payable to “First Parish in Bedford” with “Immigration Emergency Housing Fund” in the memo line.
- Use the One Church donation portal at www.uubedford.org/donate. The “Immigration Emergency Housing Support and Action Fund” is listed as an option for your donation.

Any assistance which Parishioners offer will make a real difference in people's lives.

With gratitude, The Immigration Justice Team (Peter Cho, Christine Dudley-Marling, Debbie Flannery, Tom Flannery, Cecile Mercado, Maureen Richichi, Ellen Scheiner [Chair], and Anne Schmalz)

Vespers Services

Second Tuesday Vespers services will continue! Our next service of silence, song, movement and sharing will take place on November 12th.

FPB 101

Calling new visitors, recent members and old friends alike! It's time for FPB 101, a program after worship on Sunday November 17th where we'll explore some of the basics of how First Parish in Bedford operates. Whether you're somewhat new or could use a good refresher, join us from 11:30 am to 1 pm on zoom or in the Bacon Room for sandwiches, a short panel presentation, and plenty of time for questions. If you'd like to attend and/or have a question to submit beforehand please fill out our very short form at bit.ly/FPB101

Bingo Challenge Winners!

Our first winners of the First Parish *Bingo Challenge!* are **Em Bradford** and **Martin Pulliam**! Please find your ribbon at the Welcome Table.

Everyone is a winner when you play *Bingo Challenge!* It's a fun way to be recognized for participating fully in all that First Parish has to offer. New members are encouraged to get involved, and all members may be inspired to try something new!

The game officially started at Ingathering. BINGO cards are available at the Welcome Table. Mark off activities completed *since September of this year*. When you get five activities in a row it's BINGO! Write your name and put completed cards in the box provided.

The prize is the satisfaction of being an active member. Plus, you'll be recognized in the newsletter *and* receive an exclusive *Bingo Challenge!* ribbon for your name tag. It's a great conversation starter at Community Hour. Full bragging rights included. Have fun!

Bingo Card ID 001 Name :

First Parish Bingo Challenge!				
Share during Joys & Sorrows	Attend a Food for Thought event	Take a selfie with our minister, Rev. Jamie	Meditate in the Memorial Garden	Volunteer with youth on a Wednesday afternoon
Attend a Social Action event	Purchase a baked potato at Community Hour	Take the tablecloths home to wash after Community Hour	Introduce yourself to someone new at Community Hour	Sign in and verify your contact info in OneChurch
Pitch in with kitchen clean-up	Read a pamphlet about UUism from the pamphlet rack	FREE SPACE	Volunteer with Children's Faith Development	Attend a Salon
Sign up and participate in Coffee Service	Visit an Art Gallery exhibition	Attend Meditation	Attend a post-service discussion	Sign up for the Discussion List
Sign up to give the focal point (flowers) on Sunday	Attend an introductory membership class	Take a selfie with our DFDC, Nate	Sit at Make-a-Friend table at Community Hour	Attend In-Gathering

myfreebingocards.com

Women's Holiday Breakfast at First Parish!

Announcing the (maybe First Annual? We'll see how it goes....) Women's Holiday Breakfast at First Parish!

The holidays can be a stressful time, but let's put all that aside and come enjoy each other's company for a merry potluck breakfast in the Common Room at First Parish on Tuesday Dec. 10! We'll begin early (7:00 AM) for those of you who have other plans and continue on a drop-in basis until 10:30 AM (of course, you are more than welcome to stay for the entire event!). We'll provide coffee/tea/etc. and ask that you bring something to share for about 4-6 people. We'll have outlets for slow cookers if you bring anything that requires electricity.

We're also crowd-sourcing decorations so things will be nice and festive. If you're so inclined, please bring a decorative item that represents your favorite winter holiday/winter activity/general winter "coziness" (and then also bring that item back home with you when you leave the event.....).

We need to give First Parish a ballpark headcount, so if you plan to attend, please RSVP to me (Carla) at committees@uubedford.org by Tues. Dec. 3.

Hope to see many First Parish members and friends at this event!

Environmental Justice Committee Potluck

At the EJC potluck "Eating with Intention" potluck on Oct. 18, there was a wide variety of delicious vegetarian dishes, including two kinds of soup, and plenty of scrumptious desserts. The 31 people who attended found plenty for every taste, and leftovers to take home afterward. As people ate, lively conversations were facilitated, not only by the organizers, but also by the papers distributed at each table.



These handouts explained the connection between our food choices and our climate, and suggested paths that individuals or families might choose to make changes for the better. Here's a link to the handout: [Eating with Intention Handout](#). A video of the "Meatless Challenge" at Carleton-Willard Village provoked more discussion. This event was organized by Corinne Doud, Renu Bostwick, Marjorie Roemer, Ginny Steel and Mike Akillian, with many helpers at the time. This link https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tOTKBULFYvhJQqLNWWQs3vIwB_ifapKw/edit takes you to a section of the UU website with a multitude of resources on this topic.

Carleton Willard Discussion Group with Rev. Jamie

Every third Wednesday of the month (Nov. 21 this month), Rev. Jamie leads a discussion of interest to Unitarian Universalists (and hopefully to people in general) at Carleton Willard Village at 11am. The topic for this month will weave in themes from the November Sunday services. We will talk about our ancestors, traditions, holidays, resilience, and the practice of gratitude.

Talents and Treasures Auction – Save the Date!

FPB's annual Talents and Treasures Auction will be held on the evening of Saturday, March 29, 2025. Please be sure to mark this fun and exciting event on your calendars!

Support for Rev. John Gibbons and Sue Baldauf

Many of you have asked about support for John and Sue after their house fire of a few weeks ago. (Rev. John Gibbons served First Parish from 1990-2021 and is Minister Emeritus of First Parish.) Please rest assured that Rev. Jamie and other church leaders have been checking in with John and Sue regularly since the fire. They have deeply appreciated all your expressions of care and concern. And as you can imagine, they are still sorting out what might be helpful and what they might need. In the meantime, anyone who would like to make a donation of financial support to John and Sue can do so by sending a check to:

The Caring Circle
c/o Rosemary Brutico
28 Mitchell Grant Way
Bedford, MA 01730

Please put John Gibbons/Sue Baldauf in the memo line.

Bedford Town Common Community Restoration Project

Important information about Bedford Town Common Community Restoration Project

Bedford Town Meeting, Monday, November 18 (article 7)

At last March's Bedford Town Meeting, a warrant article to renovate the Bedford Town Common for the cost of \$350,000 using Community Preservation Funds was defeated by 17 votes. In November, this article is being brought forward again but with a reduced cost and scope.

What's the same: (Quotes are from DPW promotional handout dated 9/4/2024)

- "To begin the study and design component necessary to complete the rehabilitation of the Town Common prior to the 300th Anniversary of Bedford's founding."
- A qualified firm with expertise in engineering, transportation planning, and landscape architecture will be hired to lead the design process and prepare construction and contract documents.
- "Focus on accessibility, restoration, tree replacement and a discrete number of pedestrian improvements including a bus stop shelter on corner of Great Road and South Road (pending proper approvals)".
- Close collaboration with First Parish since we own half - the rear portion of the Common.
A group formed by the Parish Board last year has met with DPW representatives several times since last November. Very specific easements around and on the Common for both the church and the Town were delineated in the Land Court Agreement between the Town of Bedford and First Parish signed in June 1976. These easements will be honored.

What's different:

- Current request is \$185,000.
- A better PR campaign to inform the Town Boards and First Parishioners about the intent and scope of this project.
- The Parish Board, at its October 23 meeting, voted to support this article at TM and has designated someone on the Board to speak officially on behalf of First Parish. **(Remember, that if you, as a parishioner, want to speak to this article, you must do so as an individual and not as an official representative of First Parish.)**

- Loss of public visioning sessions as originally planned – had been thought of as a “once in a generation reimagining of the Common” with an extensive amount of community workshopping.

We hope that those of you who are Bedford residents will attend Town Meeting the evening of November 18 and vote in favor of this revised article.

I am available for any questions, and will make a brief report at our November 10, Semi-Annual Parish Meeting.

-Sarah Dorer, past Board President

FP Community Events Through January - SAVE THE DATES!

November 2: 7 pm - Folk Music “Election Show” – Howie Rashba and Mel Green

November 3: 11:30 am – Gallery Reception

November 15: 6pm – Food for Thought

December 6: 6pm – Friday Potluck Dinner

December 7: 2pm – Artisan’s Fair and Tree Lighting

December 10: 7am – 10:30 am – Women’s Holiday Breakfast

December 14: Cookie Express

December 15: 3pm – Beethoven Birthday Bash

January 3: 6pm – Friday Potluck

January 17: 6pm – Food for Thought

January 24: 6 pm - Annual Spaghetti Dinner

January 25: First Parish Bake-Off

First Parish Haunted House Has Been Retired

The First Parish Haunted House Has Been Retired

All dread things must come to an end, and so it is, after many years, the First Parish Haunted House as we know it has been retired. 2023 was its last year (and a tremendously successful year it was!) See further down in this issue of the Parishioner for a special thank you page dedicated to the many people who made it happen for so many years. What ghoulsh imaginings will take its place? Only time will tell. Only time will tell.

First Parish Committees

2024-2025

Parish Board

Susan Lincoln, *President* (2026)
 Mark Bailey (2025)
 Bea Brunkhorst (2027)
 Stacy Chandler (2027)
 Peter Cho (2026)
 Wendy Innis, *Treasurer* (2027)
 Jennifer McClain (2025)
 Jamie Hinson-Rieger, *ex officio*
 Annie Gonzalez, *ex officio*
 Nathan Sellers, *ex officio*

Clerk: Rebecca Green Neale
Moderator: Bob Dorer &
 Paul Bradford, *Deputy Moderator Zoom*

Leadership Team

Jamie Hinson-Rieger – Sr. Minister
 Annie Gonzalez – Minister of Faith Dev.
 Nathan Sellers – Dir. of FD for Children
 Susan Lincoln - Board Pres.
 Bea Brunkhorst – Parish Council Chair
 Brenda Rybicki – Parish Administrator
 Wendy Innis – Treasurer

Parish Council

Bea Brunkhorst
 Jamie Hinson-Rieger
 Annie Gonzalez
 Nathan Sellers
 [All Committee Chairs]

Social Responsibility Council

Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw,
Chair (2025)
 Pam Foresman, *Treasurer* (2026)
 Heather Black (2025)
 Doug Denny-Brown (2026)
 John Laferriere (2026)
 Jaclyn Olsen (2027)
 Elise Randazzo (2027)

Nominating

Linda Pollitz, *Chair* (2025)
 Sarah Dorer (2027)
 Dave Southard (2026)

Audio Visual Team

Sandy Currier, *audio*
 Bob Dorer, *audio*
 Kath McCafferty, *audio*
 Bill Rabinowitz, *audio*
 Bob Bass, *video*
 Bob Batt, *video*
 Chris Tohline, *video*
 John McClain, *video + zoom*
 Paul Bradford, *zoom*
 Craig Jackson, *zoom*
 Cecile Mercado, *zoom*
 Jerry Ross, *zoom*
 Delsey Sherrill, *zoom*

Environmental Justice (EJC)

Corinne Doud, *Chair*
 Dorothy Anderson-Perales
 Renu Bostwick
 Don MacIver
 Brown Pulliam
 Lois Pulliam
 Marjorie Roemer
 Mary Van der Mude

Faith Development

Annie Gonzalez, *ex officio*
 Nathan Sellers, *ex officio*

Children's FD Subgroup

Kristin Hall
 Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw
 Ian Carroll
 Eloise Carroll (child)

Jr. Youth Subgroup

Mark Bailey
 ADULT NEEDED
 Devin Sonpal (youth)
 Nina Sonpal (youth)

Sr. Youth Subgroup

Bob Doud
 Jerry Ross
 Carinna Dogan-West (youth)
 Taelor Nichols (youth)

Adult FD Subgroup

Randi Currier
 Doug Muder
 Jerry Ross

Finance

Wendy Innis, *Chair & Treasurer*
 Vicki Gaw, *Asst. Treas.*
 Joan Bowen
 Irene Gravina
 Bill Rabinowitz
 Jeff White

Fundraising

TBD, *Auction*
 Karl Winkler, *Haunted House*
 Dorothy Africa & Bea Brunkhorst,
Plant Fair

The Gallery@First Parish

Maria Green, *Co-Chair*
 Doris Smith, *Co-Chair*
 Bob Batt
 Stacy Chandler
 Kati Oates
 Chris Tohline
 Christine Wojnar
 Christine Dudley-Marling
 Nancy Willet, *emeritus*

Hospitality

Kath McCafferty, *Chair*
 Catherine van Praagh

Information Technology (IT)

Sandy Currier, *Chair*
 Renu Bostwick, *google groups*
 Colin Valentine
 Craig Jackson

Webteam

Paul Bradford
 Craig Jackson
 Cecile Mercado

OneChurch Facilitators

Dean Groves
 Dave Southard

Interiors Committee

Erin Dorr, *Chair*
 Carlough Faulkner-Carroll

Lay Pastoral Care

Liz Connors, *Chair*
Sandy Boczenowski
Laurie Groves
Marge Heckman
Anita Raj
Lisa Tohline
Rev. Annie Gonzalez
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger

Committee on Ministry

TBD

Membership

TBD, *Chair*
Pamala Foresman
Dawn La France
Sharon McDonald
Doug Muder
Deb Piccuito
Trudy Sadgepour
Dave Southard
Chris Tohline

Sustaining

Sarah Dorer, *Chair*
Sandy Boczenowski
Carla Bradford
Ron Green
Art Smith
Nina Wampler

Music

Lisa Tohline, *Chair*
Sara Angus
Dot Bergin
Mike Boczenowski
Bea Brunkhorst
Nancy Daugherty
Carol Epple
Dean Groves
Cynthia Mork
Luana Read
Bill Rasschaert
Chris Tohline
Lee Vorderer

Brad Conner, *ex officio*
Natan Wythe, *ex officio*

Partner Church

Sharon McDonald, *Chair*
Dorothy Africa
Nancy Daugherty
Rich Daugherty
Sarah Dorer
Marge Heckman
Linda Pollitz
Ben Sears
Julie Zacharakis
Ron & Cathy Cordes, *emeritus*

Personnel

Bob Dorer, *Chair*
Carol Gregory
Ed Schwartz

Physical Plant

Joel Parks, *Chair*
Bob Dorer
Vern Gaw
Norm Heckman
Brett Leida
Don Marshall
John McClain
Christine Rabinowitz, *Parsonage*

Stewardship

Sarah Dorer, *Co-Chair*
Bill Rabinowitz, *Co-Chair*
Irene Gravina
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, *ex officio*

UU Urban Ministry Delegates

Cecile Mercado
Robert Schmalz

Worship Associates

Jenn McClain, *Chair*
Ian Carroll
Marya Dantzer
Ron Green
Doug Muder
Joe Pompei
Rich Suval
Andrew Van Praagh

AD HOC / TASK FORCES

Memorials

Carla Bradford, *Chair*
Kath McCafferty
Wendy Innis
Rich Suval

Memorial Garden

Sarah Dorer
Dean Groves
Janet Powers

Welcoming

Craig Jackson
Webb Tilney

Immigration Justice Team

Peter Cho
Christine Dudley-Marling
Deb Flannery
Tom Flannery
Cecile Mercado
Maureen Richichi
Ellen Scheiner
Anne Schmalz

THE WARRANT

THE FIRST PARISH IN BEDFORD, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
BEDFORD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX SS:

To the Clerk, First Parish in Bedford

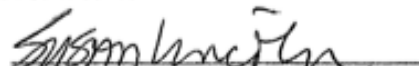
In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby authorized and instructed to notify the legal voters of said First Parish in Bedford in the County of Middlesex to meet in person, or remotely via Zoom on Sunday, the tenth day of November, 2024, at twelve o'clock in the afternoon and then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

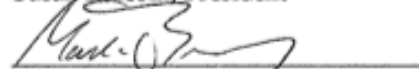
- I. To appoint a Minutes Committee. This group of three people will be responsible for reviewing the Clerk's draft minutes of the meeting in a timely manner, prior to the minutes being presented to the parish for a vote of acceptance by the parish, with or without amendments.
- II. To hear and act upon the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on June 09, 2024.
- III. To hear the reports of the Senior Minister, Minister of Faith Development, Director of Faith Development for Children, Parish Board President, and the Treasurer.
- IV. To hear from any members of the congregation who have short statements (less than three minutes) that they wish to make to the assembled group.


You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof at the Meeting House eight full days prior to the tenth day of November, 2024 and to return this warrant with your doings thereon at said meeting.

Witness our hands this 23rd day of October in the year 2024.

The Parish Board:

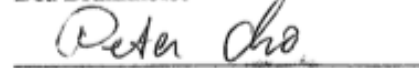

Susan Lincoln, President


Mark Bailey


Stacy Chandler


Wendy Innis (Treasurer)


Bea Brunkhorst


Peter Cho


Jennifer McClain



First Parish Music Committee
presents:



“OUR PRECIOUS VOTE”

HOWIE RASHBA *and* MEL GREEN

*The story of voting in the USA, from 1776 to the
present — through stories & music!*

**Saturday,
November 2, 2024**

VOTE NOVEMBER 5!

7:00 PM

Net proceeds to benefit First Parish in Bedford

Suggested Donations

(gratefully accepted at the door)

\$20 for Adults • \$15 for Seniors/Students

*Blowing in the Wind
Give the Ballot to the Mothers
Turn Me Round
Here Comes the Sun
Slip-Sliding Away
Vote ‘m Out
I Won’t Back Down
If I Had a Hammer
This Land is Your Land*



First Parish is
Wheelchair Accessible

FIRST PARISH IN BEDFORD, Unitarian Universalist • 75 The Great Road • Bedford, MA 01730



First Parish Music Committee
presents



Sunday,
December 15,
2024
at 3:00 PM



A recital featuring

Paul-André Bempéchat,
internationally-reknowned pianist

PIANO SONATAS: "Moonlight," Op. 27, No. 2
G Major, Op. 79 Bb Major, Op. 22 "Appassionata," Op. 57

*Net proceeds to benefit both First Parish in Bedford and
The Shelf (www.massart.edu/food-resources-massart-area)*

Suggested Donations (gratefully accepted at the door)


\$20 for Adults \$15 for Seniors/Students



First Parish in Bedford, Unitarian Universalist • 75 The Great Road • Bedford, MA 01730
www.uubedford.org • 781-275-7994

First Parish is Wheelchair Accessible





R.I.P.

**FIRST PARISH IN BEDFORD
HAUNTED HOUSE**

2007-2010, 2015-2019, 2023

Thanks for all the horror

From the Board of Trustees and a gratefully terrified congregation, a huge thank you to all the many, many people of all ages who made our haunted house such a fun, frightening, fantastical, and truly unforgettable part of the life of this congregation and the larger community for so many years. Thank you for all the scares and thank you for all the memories!

We want to say a special thank you to Karl Winkler for his vision, leadership, and tireless commitment to the First Parish Haunted House over the years!!

What follows is a doubtless incomplete list of the many people who have worked on the Haunted House over the years, not counting the hundreds of others that have been involved as actors, makeup and costumes assistants, kid-wrangling, daytime trick-or-treating, helpers in the Cracked Cauldron and 3-Brooms Gaming, movers of sets and props, setup and breakdown, and assorted other support tasks.

Creator/Producer/Director/Script Author/Tech
Design/Animatronics/Sets and Props Designer & Fabricator/
Publicity/Town code compliance: Karl Winkler
Assistant Director: Cynthia Mork

Actors:

Carol Jean Zelman
Bonnie Kenderdine
Clinton Alvord
Cynthia Mork
Amy Murphy
Caryn L. Johnson
Bob Doud
Mike Nosal



Props, Animatronics, and Tech:

John McClain
Caryn L. Johnson
Ira Perlow
Michael Perlow
Cynthia Mork
Peter Woskov

Haunt Team:

John McClain
Dawn Lafrance-Linden
Mike Nosal
Bob Doud

Makeup and Costumes:

Dawn Lafrance-Linden
Amy Murphy
Cynthia Mork
Caryn Libbey

Sets and Set Design:

Bob Doud
Caryn L. Johnson
Cynthia Mork
Peter Woskov



Scripts & Creative Input

Amy Murphy
Caryn L. Johnson
Cynthia Mork
Money Handling:
Cheri Winkler
Craig Jackson
Margaret Jackson
Carla Bradford

Choreographer/Dancer/Recruitment: Dorothy Anderson-Perales

Poster and Graphics Design: Mike Nosal
Deadford Dungeon of Doom: Peter Woskov
Cracked Cauldron Café: Bea Brunkhorst

See more history and photos at <https://deadford.blogspot.com/>