



The Parishioner

News of the First Parish in Bedford

Unitarian Universalist

On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts

Spirit...Justice...Community

Volume 58, Issue 6

February 2025

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, February 2nd

Title: "In the Question Lies Love" (*All-Ages "Question Box" Service with Rev. Jamie, Natan and Natan*)

For this special All-Ages service, our Director of Faith Development for Children, Nate Sellers, will share a story and reflection on how questioning and love are tied together. Natan will lead the youth choirs, who will be joined by the adult choir and many special musical guests. And just for fun, in a "Question Box" segment of the service, congregants will have a chance to submit questions (theological, spiritual, cultural, topical, or whimsical) that Rev. Jamie will then answer sight unseen and drawn from a hat. It will be a fun and joyful Sunday!

Sunday, February 9th

Title: "Wonder Upon Wonder Expanding: Evolution Sunday Service" (*Rev. Jamie preaching with Guest Speakers Stephanie Keep and Abby Hafer*)

February 12th is the birthday of Charles Darwin. In his honor, many UU congregations celebrate the second Sunday of February as "Evolution Sunday." For this special service, we will explore the scientific, cultural, and spiritual implications of one of the greatest discoveries of the human mind. How does the truth of evolution lead us to live with more wonder, gratitude, and care? In addition to Jamie's sermon, guest speakers Stephanie Keep and Abby Hafer will share reflections on evolution from their vantage point as evolutionary biologists.

FP Vegetarian Potluck

After the service, join us upstairs in the Bacon room for a follow-up conversation and Q&A (a "talk-back") with Jamie, Stephanie, and Abby.

Sunday, February 16th

Title: "Death and the Biggest Question of All" (*Rev. Jamie preaching*)

UU Minister Forrest Church said, "Religion is our human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die." In this service we will explore the great question of what death is and what lies beyond. But more than that, we will reflect on the even bigger question of how we are to live in the light of death's profound mystery and its unavoidable reality.

	<p>Sunday, February 23rd</p> <p>Title: "Finding the Beauty, Art, and Possibility in the Chaos" (<i>Led by Rev. Jo Murphy of UU Mass Action</i>)</p> <p>Often, we think of chaos as at odds with a strong community. And yet, much of our ecosystems and our own ways of being are at their core chaotic. In a time where many feel we are living in chaos, could we find peace and possibility if we embrace our inherent chaos? There is so much beauty and possibility in chaos—let's explore this through art and beauty, finding resilience where we least expect it.</p> <p>Rev. Jo is the Executive Director for UU Mass Action and is busy mobilizing and organizing with the many UU Mass Action campaigns. She is also quite busy with her 20-month old daughter, Simone, and doing per diem work as a chaplain at Beth Israel. She loves liberation, dreaming, the ocean, and a fine roast chicken dinner.</p>
Next deadline is Feb. 24th	The Parishioner is published monthly. Deadline is generally the last Monday of each month. Send submissions to: editors@uubedford.org .

A Note from Jamie

Dear First Parish Members and Friends,

(Apologies in advance—this is a long one.)

Where to begin? It has been quite a week trying to keep up with the flurry of executive orders coming out of the White House. Of course, the point is that it is impossible to keep up with them. The deliberate “shock and awe” tactic is designed to leave anyone who might oppose these initiatives feeling overwhelmed, helpless, or hopeless.

The best thing we can do, initially, is resist that response. You may want to limit your news exposure to certain times a day (one time a day?), and to reputable sources. This may be a time to limit social media and remove news alerts from your devices. Remember—this is designed to be impossible to deal with, and no one *alone* can deal with it. But we are not alone. People are already beginning to organize and act. Lawsuits are pushing back against some of the most egregious actions and more will come. Some of what is being announced is just symbolic bluster. What the White House can say, and what it can do, are different things. In the meantime, I recommend you focus on only the things you need or want to focus on, remembering others will focus on other things, and no one can focus on all of it. *You are not alone.*

Breathe. Take care of your body. Take care of your spirit. We are in this together for the long haul.

In the meantime, First Parish will in many ways continue to operate and look and feel like it has. I believe it is very important that First Parish remains a place of joy and connection and spiritual growth, of peace and uplift and community. Someone said to me last week, “When I enter the building, I can feel myself begin to calm down.” That is so important!

This past weekend was a fabulous weekend of joy and connection, with our annual Spaghetti supper, the brand new Great First Parish Bake-off, and a baked Potato Lunch courtesy of the Partner Church committee. Just in the next few weeks, we will have the Friday night Potluck, the annual Chili Cook-off, and 15th Annual Valentine’s concert and chocolate reception sponsored by the Music Committee. Also, Natan’s first album is dropping! I hope you are able to avail yourself of at least one of these offerings.

And...

We will have two discussion forums for anyone who wants to come share thoughts about the current climate, just as we did after the election:

- In-person discussion: Thursday, February 6 at 6pm in the Bacon Room
- Zoom-only discussion: Monday, February 10, at 7pm on Zoom. Zoom link will be sent separately.

Outside of this, if you want to share information, strategies, organizing tools, or just generally discuss the current political climate with the First Parish community, please remember that **the First Parish Discussion Email List exists for that purpose**. Please do not use the Anno list for this purpose. If you are not on the Discussion list but would like to be added to it, please email Brenda, our Church Administrator, at office@uubedford.org.

The Immigration Justice Team and I have been attending many trainings on understanding the current (fast changing) climate with regards to immigration, including understanding our legal rights and learning how best to keep people safe. We are in conversation with town officials and with other UU congregations and organizations. You may see new literature around the building. You may see signs at the entrances declaring First Parish as private property. We may offer additional training to the congregation. We will continue to work to support and shelter our migrant neighbors. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

To our trans and nonbinary members and friends and family—We see you. Know that you are loved and that you are beautiful, whole and holy just as you are. No executive order can erase your inherent worth and dignity or your place in this community. I am reaching out to organizations like Pink Haven about how we can best support trans/NB people, here and around the country.

In addition, I am happy to share that the UUA common read this year is *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families*. We will host a discussion of this book sometime in April/May. You will see a separate email about this with more information. You can purchase a copy [here](#) at the InSpirit bookstore. If you need financial assistance purchasing a copy, please reach out to me.

Friends, it has been a week. I am very grateful to have this community in the midst of all this. Thank you for all you do. Please take care of yourself and let's continue to take care of one another.

Peace, Jamie



Office Matters

Well, we made it through January with no significant snowfall. But we're not out of the woods yet. I think we all remember the Blizzard of '78 which occurred on February 5th. Maybe our little groundhog friend Punxsutawney Phil will give us some good weather news. If not, in the event of a blizzard or bad storm, please stay tuned to WBZ news and ParishBiz for any delays or closures.

As we kick off February this weekend....chocolate is definitely on my mind (and others). But perhaps some of you prefer a savory treat. Either way, we have several fun events that we hope you can attend. First, the 14th Annual Chili Cook-Off on February 8th. Then the Music Committee's Annual Valentine's concert on February 9th, which includes a chocolate reception. And later in the month, we have the Vegetarian Potluck Dinner sponsored by the EJC on February 28th. So whether you fancy sweet or savory food....please be sure to read further in this newsletter and visit the main Calendar to see all of our upcoming activities.

***UPDATE: Year-end Giving Statements**.....by now, hopefully you have all received your year-end statements. If you haven't, please contact me at the office for a PDF. As a reminder, at the bottom of the statement, you will also find your 24/25 pledge balance due (if any). If you're sending a check, please make sure to write the pledge year on the memo line.

***COMING SOON: Animal Policy Signs**.....due to the fires in California, our new animal policy signs have been delayed. Once they arrive, the image will appear at both entrances.

***UPDATE: 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. **Also, it's very important to check with the Chairperson on which line item in the budget should be debited.** Once it'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 or our new speakerphone. The camera, phone and all the 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, the speakerphone or request to use one of the adapters, please contact Stacey at the office.

***IMPORTANT REMINDER: Leftover Food Policy.....**with all of the food events coming up, this is a reminder about our leftover food policy we put in place with regards to Memorial Services, receptions, parties, etc.... This policy was created in conjunction with the members of the Hospitality Team to addresses 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

The Parish Council has met twice in the past several months and is chaired by Bea Brunkhorst. The Committee Chairs have been updating their missions, members list, and responsibilities, and collating resources made available on a shared drive. The list of active FPB Committees is being updated and re-organized to more accurately reflect the work that is taking place within our community of volunteers. Check it out (soon) and speak with a Committee chair or member if you find a particular committee intriguing.

Were you one of the many people who participated in the MLK Day clean-up of the church building? If so, thank you! In spite of the chilly weather and overnight snowfall, a surprising number of hardy souls joined in on the work of scrubbing, spraying, dusting, washing, reorganizing, vacuuming and cleaning out our historic home on the Common. It was a

pleasant day spent in community with a productive, shiny outcome. Many thanks to Board Members Stacy Chandler and Jenn McClain for organizing it. Look for our next work day in a few months and please consider joining the effort.

Lastly, the FPB Physical Plant Task Force has met several times and is ready to hear from you. Task Force Chair Peter Cho has scheduled an after-service session to gather input from the congregation. This is a time to brainstorm necessary upgrades along with wishful dreams. Please come and share your ideas about what you would like to see restored, maintained or enhanced. All are invited to join the conversation at 11:30 am on Sunday February 2nd in the Bacon Room. There will be bagels!

-Susan Lincoln, Board President

Board Members: Mark Bailey, Bea Brunkhorst, Stacy Chandler, Peter Cho, Wendy Innis, Jenn McClain

Social Responsibility Council Update

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

February can be bleak — even more so when the world seems to be spiraling somewhere dark and out of our control. This month, your SRC is shining some light by sharing how FPB is enabling good in the world and reminding you that you can be a bearer of light by proposing recipients for SRC funds.

One recently proposed organization is our **February Share the Plate recipient UTEC**, a Lowell-based organization that helps at-risk young people trade violence and poverty for social and economic success and is nationally recognized as a model agency serving justice-involved young adults.

Please give what you can to support UTEC’s life-changing work (via cash/check or online at OneChurch) on **Sunday, February 2**.

The SRC has also been busy dispelling shadows by awarding several grants for projects proposed by parishioners, which can be viewed here along with other prior grant and Share the Plate recipients.

Help drive out the dark with a proposal for a worthy organization to add to our list of recipients.

Please contact socialresponsibility@uubedford.org or any SRC member with questions, hopes, and dreams about social action. In the words of John Lewis, “You are a light. You are the light.”

- Heather Black, on behalf of the Social Responsibility Council

Faith Development for Children

Hey, parents and parishioners! There’s so much happening in our Faith Development for Children program right now, and we’re thrilled to share it with you! From movie-making adventures to exploring social justice, the next few months are packed with exciting opportunities for our kids to learn, grow, and have fun.

Our Junior Youth Group (grades 6-8) is taking creativity to the next level by diving into the world of filmmaking. Not only are they learning about movie-making, but they’re actually creating their own films! They’re currently putting the

finishing touches on their projects, and soon, they'll get to share their work with friends and family. We're beyond excited to see their imagination and teamwork come to life on the big screen!

In addition, Building Bridges (for Grades 6 & 7) is starting an exciting new journey, where they'll explore the history and influence of Christianity. This will be a fascinating experience blending faith, history, and culture, and we know the students will find it both thought-provoking and enriching. And don't worry, we haven't forgotten about our younger grades (K-5). We're planning some fun film or project ideas with them too, before diving into their new curriculum on social justice. It's going to be a creative way to explore these important topics!

Our FDC/RE program is doing well, with 36 enrolled children and youth, plus 12 more who are part of our community but not yet enrolled. On average, we're seeing about 40 kids each week, which is fantastic! Our Wednesday programs continue to be a hit, and we love seeing so many familiar faces every week.

As we look ahead, we're focusing on growing sustainably. We're committed to strengthening the foundation we've already built—whether that means engaging more volunteers, refining our structures, or enhancing the experience for families already involved. Growth is exciting, but it's a journey we can't do without you. If you're interested in getting more involved, we'd love your help!

Thank you for your ongoing support. We can't wait to show you all the amazing things our kids will accomplish. Stay tuned for movie premieres and updates—big things are coming!

Musical Notes

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

— Robert Frost, (1874-1963), American poet, from his poem "The Road Not Taken" (1916)

Here's the planned music for 10 a.m. services in the upcoming month –

Sunday, February 2nd: Steve Sussman will be playing piano. The ever-fantastic First Parish youth choirs will be singing multiple songs under the direction of Natan Wythe. The offertory will be John Lennon's "All You Need Is Love" with members of the adult choir and many First Parish instrumentalists joining in.

Sunday, February 9th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ and piano. I will also be playing piano. The adult choir will sing Randall Thompson's setting of Robert Frost's poem "Choose Something Like a Star" conducted by Sandra.

Sunday, February 16th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ and piano. The adult choir will sing Randall Thompson's setting of the Robert Frost poem "The Road Not Taken" as well as an arrangement of Stephen Sondheim's "No One is Alone" from "Into the Woods".

Sunday, February 23rd: Steve Sussman will be playing piano.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming 15th Annual Valentine's concert and chocolate reception sponsored by the Music Committee on **Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 4 p.m.** And BIG NEWS! The Music Committee is hosting an album release celebration and reception for Natan Wythe's first commercial recording. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 3 p.m.** More details are elsewhere in this Parishioner.

Now that the craziness of the holidays is finished, maybe it's time to think about joining the adult choir? If you're interested, e-mail me at bconner@uubedford.org Besides always singing great music, plans for the coming months include a Good Friday service with 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.

If you know parents with children who are looking for a good youth choir for their kids, send them to Natan Wythe for any questions nwythe@uubedford.org

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 February book is "Rough Sleepers" by Tracy Kidder. The book is about Dr. Jim O'Connell's work to help homeless people in Boston who sleep outside all the time (hard to imagine in this weather). It follows his career from the decision to forgo a prestigious cancer fellowship to a decision to spend his life bringing comfort and medical care to this population.

The meeting is February 2 at 6 p.m. in the Common Room. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck.

Meeting Date	Book	Author
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	

First Annual Great First Parish Bake-Off

On Saturday, January 25th dozens of bakers and cupcake fans of all ages gathered in the Common Room for the first Annual Great First Parish Bake-Off, a multi-generational baking competition hosted by Faith Development for Children. Four teams had 75 minutes to make 24 cupcakes from scratch and present them to a panel of discerning judges, while a live and lively audience joined in person and on Zoom.

The event was produced by Carinna Dogan-West, co-hosted by Carinna and Bob Doud, with Em Bradford as Zoom administrator and Devin Sonpal as primary cameraperson. This event is sure to become a pantry staple in the annual event calendar.

Cupcakes were scored based on creativity, consistency, taste, texture, quality of bake, and frosting. Judges were Thalia Shaw, Eloise Faulkner-Carrol, Nina Sonpal, Jacob Neale, and Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw.

The teams included the Bishops, Love & Cupcakes, Flour Power, and the Kitchen Quacks. Team Love & Cupcakes came in second with a delicious raspberry-filled delight and hints of almond. Judges awarded top marks to the Kitchen Quacks, the team comprised of Rebecca Green Neale, Kristin Hall, and Calvin Hall. The team nailed each category and took creativity over the top with a decadent, complex, and gorgeous chocolate concoction.



Vespers Services

Second Tuesday services will continue! Our next service of silence, song, movement and sharing will take place on [February 11th at 7:00PM.](#)

Imagining FPB Facility Upgrades for the Coming Decade

Every dozen years or so, First Parish undertakes a major effort to significantly improve its physical infrastructure. For example in 2010, the congregation installed a new elevator system as part of a "Bility" campaign to make the entire church building accessible for all. In 2018, FPB installed solar panels on the church roof to reduce its carbon footprint. That effort resulted in a centuries-old building entering the modern-era of climate change mitigation. 2025 is our community's next opportunity to seriously consider how best to physically shepherd our church into the future.

A newly-formed task force invites all FPB members and friends to attend a brainstorming session in the Bacon Room starting [at 11:30 am on Sunday, Feb 2, 2025.](#) Participants will be encouraged to think big about how our historic structure on Bedford's Common could and should be upgraded over the coming decade. We will discuss major infrastructure needs which have long been postponed (e.g. HVAC, fire suppression, organ repair). Other ambitious ideas

like backing up power via electric batteries, installing geothermal heating, upgrading kitchen appliances and overhauling the Common Room's rear entry will also be raised. And of course, fundraising for these large efforts will be addressed.

We hope a large cross-section of the FPB community will join this Feb 2 post-service conversation in person or on Zoom.

-Dan Bostwick, Joan Bowen, Peter Cho, Jamie Hinson-Rieger, Brett Leida, Jenn McClain

Carleton Willard Discussion Forum

Thursday, February 13, 11am Discussion Forum at Carleton Willard Village

Every second Thursday we lead an engaging discussion at Carleton Willard Village on a topic of interest to UUs (and hopefully people in general.) In February we will share ideas about how to cope intellectually and emotionally with the flood of information and misinformation in the news. We will also leave time to share our thoughts about current events.

14th Annual First Parish Chili Cook-Off: February 8th - SEE YOU THERE!



First Parish Chili Cook Off

This wonderful First Parish intergenerational event will take place in the Common Room on Saturday, Feb 8. Bring family, friends, and your appetite!

JUST THE FACTS

What: First Parish Chili Cook-off

When: Saturday Feb 8th, 6:30PM to 8:00ish

Where: Common Room at the Church

Who: Chili cooks and fans

How much: suggested donation \$10/person \$25 family

For more info, please contact Gene Kalb or Linda Pollitz.

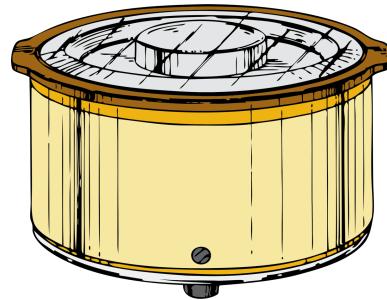
First Parish Vegetarian Potluck

First Parish Vegetarian Potluck Dinner Feb 28

We invite you to **SIGN UP NOW** for the "Vegetarian Potluck Dinner" featuring Neil Dale, Bedford's own singer-songwriter environmental activist on Friday, Feb 28th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the church.

During the dinner we will listen to Neil perform some of his environmental-themed songs with opportunity for discussion. For planning purposes, it would be helpful if you sign-up here: "Vegetarian Potluck Dinner" for who is coming, and the vegetarian dish you plan to bring to share (including an ingredient list for those with allergies).

This in-person event is open to the wider community, and is sponsored by the Environmental Justice Committee, First Parish in Bedford.



Circle Suppers 2025!

Circle Suppers are a great way to get to know some of your fellow parishioners and other friends in small potluck-type gatherings. Volunteers offer to host guests at their home and make the main meal. Their guests provide other parts of the meal (appetizer, dessert, etc.). Signups for those interested in hosting and/or attending Circle Suppers will take place at Community Hour on Sun. Feb. 2, Sun. Feb. 9 and Sun. Feb. 16.

The suppers are scheduled for Sat. Mar. 1 and Sat. Mar. 8. The signup deadline for the Sat. Mar. 1 Circle Supper is Thurs. Feb. 20; and the signup deadline for the Mar. 8 Circle Supper is Thurs. Feb. 27. You can sign up at the Community hour dates, or you can request a signup form or information about these very congenial events at committees@uubedford.org.

Those who volunteer to host are always greatly appreciated!



Auction Catalog Opening

FPB's 2025 Auction will be held on the evening of Saturday, March 29. The catalog will open on Monday, Feb 10. A link to the catalog will be posted on FPB's website.

Everyone is invited to offer Art, Edibles, Events, Getaways, Services and much more for this year's auction. This annual springtime event is always fun and festive. But it depends on many generous donations of Talents, Treasures and Time from the entire FPB community.

So keep your minds open and eyes peeled for the Auction catalog launch in the coming days!

What should I donate?

What do you enjoy?

SERVICES:

- Donate your time! Yard work, massage, gardening, painting, fix-it work, tutoring or organization...
- Teach us something! Yoga, sewing, pickleball, baking, or local tours...

EVENTS:

- Group dinners and themed events are extremely popular! Host a gathering focussed on your favorite cuisine or topic of interest. Everyone loves a fun event!

PLACES:

- Time in vacation homes, beloved B&Bs, or on your boat... People love to get away!

ITEMS:

- Handcrafts - jewelry, woodcraft, quilts, knitwear, art, pottery and photography... What have you been making?
- Lovely items in very good condition that need a new home will be appreciated by others!
- Gift baskets, gift certificates or event tickets; donate for people who will enjoy them!

CUISINE:

- Your signature baked goods, favorite dish, jam, brew or liqueur can be offered that night or for later delivery... What recipes have you been working on?

Questions?

Contact the Auction Team: uubedford-auction@googlegroups.com

The Wisdom Tea – SAVE THE DATE APR. 27, 2025!

The Wisdom Tea – Save the Date: Sunday, April 27, 2025, 12:30 – 3:00pm

For parishioners with 25 years or more of active involvement in the church.

As the Sustaining Membership Team is beginning to plan our Wisdom Tea for later this Spring, we have been looking at our list of active parishioners. Amazingly, we have just over 100 active members and friends who have been involved with First Parish for 25 years and more. Over the next few months in the Parishioner, we will share the names of these people. We start this month honoring those who have been active at First Parish for over 50 years. What an inspiration you are to all of us! Thank you for all you have done to guide us here at church for so long.

Over 60 years!! Dot Ellis (66 years), Lois and Brown Pulliam (65 years)

59 years: Nancy Daugherty, Don Corey, Fran Tyler, Dot Bergin, Pauline Salter

55 years: Doris Smith, Merc Kane

54 years: Joan Bowen, Ginny Crocker, Meredith McCulloch

53 years: Alan Bragg, Art Smith (though he came as a child), Nancy Willett

52 years: Sharon McDonald

51 years: David and Lindy Anderson

In the March Parishioner we will list those who have been here for 40-49 years.

-Sarah Dorer, for the Sustaining Membership Team

(ps. If you know you have been here for over 50 years and your name is not listed above, please contact me directly. We will make sure to correct our files.)



A Message from the Ingraham Family

The Ingraham family thanks those First Parishioners who attended Yoma Ingraham's Celebration of Life on January 18. It was wonderful to have Jodi (Cohen) Hayashida, one of our childrens' youth group members, now a Unitarian Universalist minister, lead the service. For those who may want to view the service, this link should be good for 90 days:

<https://youtu.be/0UpF8Yoe0J4?si=5B8jgn6e7hWpo-Cy>

Thank you.

-Bill Ingraham

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, *Co-Chair*
(rotating chairs)
Renu Bostwick
Don MacIver
Brown Pulliam
Lois Pulliam
Marjorie Roemer
Ginny Steel

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
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
Catherine van Praagh

Information Technology (IT)

Sandy Currier, *Chair*
Renu Bostwick, *google groups*
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
Rich Suval
Lisa Tohline
Rev. Annie Gonzalez
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger

Committee on Ministry

TBD

Membership

Dave Southard, *Chair*

Outreach Team

Ron Green
Deb Picciuto
Chris Tohline
Rev. Jamie, *Staff liaison*

Pathway to Membership Team

Sharon McDonald
Doug Muder
Dave Southard
Rev. Annie, *Staff liaison*

Sustaining Membership Team

Sarah Dorer, *Chair*
Sandy Boczenowski
Carla Bradford
Ron Green
Art Smith
Jenn McClain
Nina Wampler
Rev. Jamie, *Staff liaison*

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
John Gibbons
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
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

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



First Parish Music Committee
presents



THE 15TH ANNUAL

Valentine's Day Concert

Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 4:00 PM

A TRIBUTE to the SONGS of
FRED ASTAIRE & GINGER ROGERS
and piano solo masterpieces
by DEBUSSY and RAVEL



Featuring: Bradford Conner (*piano*)
Cynthia Mork & Ben Sears (*vocals*)



Leslie Amper

Chocolate Reception after the Show!

Net proceeds to benefit First Parish in Bedford
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





First Parish Music Committee
presents



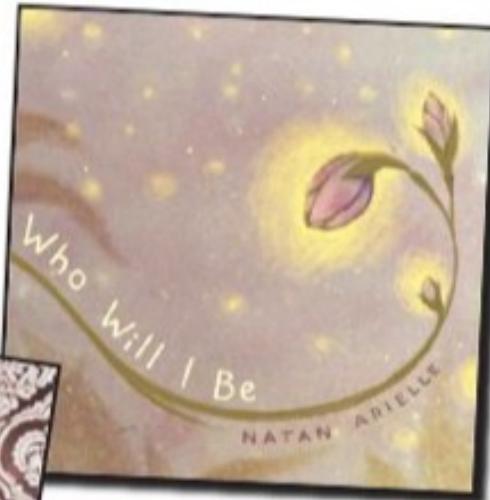
Who Will I Be

NATAN ARIELLE

Sunday, February 23, 2025

3:00 pm

A celebration of
Natan Wythe's
debut album release!



Suggested Donations (accepted at the door)

Adults & Seniors: \$10 Youth 6-16: \$5 Children 5 & under: FREE
Family maximum: \$30

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