



# The Parishioner

*News of the First Parish in Bedford*

*Unitarian Universalist*

*On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts*

*Spirit...Justice...Community*

Volume 58, Issue 7

March 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, March 2nd**

Title: "Wonder Upon Wonder Expanding: Evolution Sunday Service" (*Led by Rev. Jamie and Guest Speakers Stephanie Keep and Abby Hafer*)  
(Originally scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>) We will explore the scientific, cultural, and spiritual implications of one of the greatest discoveries of all time. 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.

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, March 9th** ..... *Don't forget to set your clocks forward!*



Title: "Annual Women's Service: Women and Aging"  
The annual Women's Service focuses on women and aging. Organized by, and featuring the thoughts and reflections of, Stacy Chandler, Karen Frederick, Jenn McClain, Rebecca Neale, and Lee Vorderer.

### **Sunday, March 16th**

Title: "Sun's Gonna Shine - All-Ages Service and Stewardship Sunday" (*Led by the Worship Team*)

This all-ages service will celebrate the Spring Equinox with themes of balance, newness, and hope. Nate will share a story about a transformation. We will offer a pagan perspective on first things and new beginnings. The adult and junior choirs will sing in celebration of sunlight and Spring. And Rev. Jamie will tie it all together with a short reflection that also kicks off our 2025 pledge drive.

### **Sunday, March 23rd**

Title: "TBD and Membership Sunday" (*Led by Rev. Jamie*)

In these turbulent times, March 23<sup>rd</sup> is a long way out to know what I might want to be preaching about! This service is set aside to address anything we might need to address that the other services in March don't touch on. Details will be announced as we get closer.

	<p><b>Sunday, March 30th</b></p> <p>Title: "Transgender Day of Visibility" (<i>Led by Rev. Jamie and Guest Speaker Claire-Karl B.W. Müller of UU Mass Action</i>)</p> <p>Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual event occurring every March 31 since 2009 dedicated to celebrating transgender people and their contributions to society. We will celebrate it at First Parish with an uplifting service centering trans stories and voices and featuring amazing music by the choir. After the service, join us for a discussion of the UUA Common Read: <i>Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families</i>.</p> <p>About our guest speaker: Claire-Karl B.W. Müller (they) is a force of nature. They are a 5th generation Germanic settler to Eastern Massachusetts and identify as a white, middle-class, non-binary, small-fat, queer organizer. Their values are curiosity, compassion, truth and people power.</p>
<b>Next deadline is Mar. 31st</b>	<p>The Parishioner is published monthly. Deadline is generally the <b>last Monday</b> of each month. Send submissions to: <a href="mailto:editors@uubedford.org">editors@uubedford.org</a>.</p>

## A Note from Jamie

Dear First Parish Members and Friends,

Thank you to everyone who came out to our virtual “Post-Inauguration What’s Next?” conversation in February. We will have an in-person session in March. The date is TBA, so watch for that.

At the virtual session we discussed how in the immediate aftermath of the blizzard of executive orders, we first focused on supporting the most targeted people. That has meant continuing to help our migrant neighbors in need of housing and other support while also getting up to speed as quickly as possible on how best to protect everyone’s rights on the church property. You may have seen some new signs up around the church about privacy, and more may follow.

To support our transgender friends and neighbors we met with Pink Haven Coalition to discuss ways we could help that organization, some of which are underway. We put a supportive message in our wayside pulpit and are running an ad with a similar message in the program for the Bedford High School musical. And I am reaching out to other UU congregations in the area to see how we can collaborate in providing practical support to families. Stay tuned.

So that was part one—support. Part two includes incorporating more activism. Thank you to everyone who attended the Stop the Coup Rally in Boston on Valentine’s Day. First Parish was a sponsoring congregation for that action.

I wanted to draw your attention to a few more upcoming opportunities to get activated:

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7-9pm in Boston, there is a gathering of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization which will be focused on building relationships between local activists and training-up people’s skills for activism. I am attending to learn more about this organization (and build my own skills!) and I would love it if some people joined me. It is at Union Combined Parish, 485 Columbus Ave. Please email me if you are interested in carpooling, minister@uubedford.org.

March 25, 12-1pm on Zoom, UU Mass Action and Stop Private Jet Expansion are hosting a virtual webinar on the Faith Resolution campaign to stop jet expansion and protect our environment. First Parish in Bedford was the first congregation to sign this Faith Resolution. I will be speaking along with many others on how our values lead us to act for climate justice and what we can do in this moment. [You can register by clicking this link.](#)

April 8<sup>th</sup> is UU Advocacy Day organized by UU Mass Action. UUs gather to get trained on how to effectively advocate with their representatives about upcoming legislation and then meet with those legislators to talk about the issues we care about! It’s a powerful day (10:30am to 4pm) and we hope to have a strong First Parish presence. This year’s Advocacy Day is Zoom only. [You can register by clicking this link.](#)

Undoubtedly you will see more opportunities to get involved, build relationships, and take action. Please continue to share resources, ideas, and events with one another on the Parish Discussion list. (Email Brenda to sign up if you are not on it, at [office@uubedford.org](mailto:office@uubedford.org).)

One final thought: Outreach and activism are things we do as a community. I have learned over the years that sometimes the flurry of social justice activities in a UU congregation leaves individual people feeling like they are not “doing enough.” The reality is that people have different interests and capacities at different times in their life, and that’s a good thing. Activism may not be your thing right now. It may never be your thing. But the really great thing is that because we carry this commitment to social justice as a UU *community*, anything you do to support the community—even if it is just showing up as your beautiful self on Sunday morning—is also supporting that mission. Rest assured, we will continue to promote First Parish as a place of joy, connection, conversation, shared meals, peace, rest, art, learning, singing, etc. etc. etc., and also service and activism. Please come be a part of all these good things in whatever way you can.



Peace, Jamie

## Office Matters

It's hard to believe that March begins this weekend. Although we've been stuck in a nasty pattern of Sunday-Tuesday-Thursday snow, I'm hopeful that we are close to the end. And, in case you're sick of winter....the first day of spring is March 20th! However if another storm does come our way, again, please stay tuned to WBZ news and ParishBiz for any delays or closures.

There is so much going on at First Parish this month! Some events will be somber, and others will be filled with great joy. To kick us off, we have the always fun first Friday Potluck on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by the Annual Women's Service on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Memorial Service to honor and celebrate the life of Brown Pulliam. Following right after, the Music Committee will present the Irish Celebration Concert at 5PM which includes many musical guests AND a delicious Irish stew. Please be sure to read further in this newsletter and visit the main [Calendar](#) to see all of our upcoming activities in March.

**\*NEW: Weekly Announcements**.....starting the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Stacey will be sending an email to the congregation on a monthly basis to remind folks that if they would like an announcement to go in the weekly OS email, they need to let her know by Wednesday of that week (exceptions surrounding some holidays). If you have any questions, you can email or call Stacey at the office for further clarification.

**\*NEW: New Pledge Year/Payments**.....we'll be kicking off the new Stewardship campaign on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. When you start sending in payments for your new pledge, **PLEASE** make sure to write the appropriate campaign year on your memo line (i.e. Pledge Year 24/25 or Pledge Year 25/26). Also, when the campaign is active in One Church, if you are making an online payment, please make sure to select the appropriate year from the drop-down menus. These steps will help us accurately credit your current and future pledge. If you have any questions, please email or call me at the office.

**\*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

It is hard to believe that it is March already! Only four months left in the Church year. We have so much to look forward to this Spring. In addition to the amazing weekly and monthly services, sessions and suppers we also have the annual events which include the Stewardship Campaign, Irish Celebration, Pancake Breakfast, Music Sunday, Annual Auction, and Plant Fair.

One may wonder-how does it all happen? One way is through enthusiastic congregational teamwork. Perhaps you have noticed the updated committee sheets listing most of the many groups that are actively working on projects and passions here at FPB as we follow our values and meet our goals. None of us work in a vacuum - but together and in a variety of ways. We communicate via this newsletter, at Parish Council meetings, and through Sunday morning announcements.

Every month the Parish Board comes together to discuss current church activities, review management of the church's business affairs, set policy and procedures, and oversee and support the efforts of the various committees. We often have Committee Members join the Board Meeting to present ideas, concerns, or updates about their work. In recent months we have had representatives join us from the Physical Plant Committee, the Immigration Justice Team, and the Social Responsibility Council. Please reach out if you would like to have an item added to the agenda and address the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Recent agenda items and discussions have included how to support various Committee operations; ways to enhance church security; how to plan maintenance of our church building; how to stay relevant and responsive to the ever-evolving landscape of the social justice needs of our broader community; options for delivering ministerial performance review, and updating committee charters and Parish Council By-laws. If you would like to see what your Board is discussing, remember there are minutes from every meeting available to Parishioners.

Parish Board Members: Susan Lincoln, (President), Mark Bailey, Bea Brunkhorst, Stacy Chandler, Peter Cho, Wendy Innis (Treasurer), Jenn McClain

-Susan Lincoln, Board President

## Musical Notes

*"Little darling, it's been a long, cold, lonely winter; little darling, it feels like years since it's been here. Here comes the sun, and I say, 'It's all right.'"*

— George Harrison, (1943-2001), member of "The Beatles", musician, singer, songwriter, spiritualist, from his song "Here Comes the Sun" (1969)

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

**Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** (rescheduled from Sunday February 9th): Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. I will 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. For the prelude Sandra will play a Prelude and Fugue by Johann Sebastian Bach and for the postlude she will play Fanfare on Agincourt Hymn (*Deo Gracias*) by Charles Callahan.

**Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**: Steve Sussman will be playing piano. The offertory will be sung by "Voices of Hope", a local chorus with 150+ members that is dedicated to fighting against cancer by raising awareness and funds for cancer research one song at a time! You can find out more information about "Voices of Hope" at [www.vohboston.org](http://www.vohboston.org)

**Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**: Steve Sussman will be playing piano. Buffie Groves will be playing guitar. **Music for the Spring Equinox**. The combined adult and youth choirs will sing George Harrison's "Here Comes the Sun". The adult choir will sing "Golden Sunlight" by Antonin Dvořák and "The Sun is Gonna Shine Again" by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell from the musical "Bright Star". For the latter the choir will be joined by guest vocal soloists Grace Allendorf and Todd McNeil.

**Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. The prelude will be the *Adagio in Sol minore* by Reno Giazatto with Carlough Faulkner-Carroll on violin. For the offertory and postlude, I will join Sandra to play piano/organ duet arrangements of tunes from the *Sacred Harp*, "Morning Trumpet" and "Sawyer's Exit".

**Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**: Steve Sussman will be playing piano. The adult choir will sing Jonathan Larson's "Seasons of Love" from the musical "Rent" and Dolly Parton's "Travelin' Thru" from the film "Transamerica". One of the songs to be sung by the congregation will be the beloved song, "Over the Rainbow".

**Mark your calendars!** It's back for a fourth year! The Music Committee will host the **"Irish Celebration: A Family Event"** on **Saturday evening, March 15, 2025 at 5 p.m.** The music will be provided by our very own Ian Carroll and guest Celtic music experts Joy Grimes, Emily Peterson and Rosanne Santucci. Natan Wythe will play guitar and mandolin as well as lead the First Parish youth choirs in some familiar Irish tunes. There'll also be some great story telling by First Parish's Director of Faith Development for Children, Nathan Sellers. There will also be delicious Irish Stew (both meat and vegetarian)! More information is elsewhere in this newsletter and at <https://uubedford.org/music-concert/>.

Have you thought about joining the adult choir? If you're interested, e-mail me at [bconner@uubedford.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bconner@uubedford.org). For youth choirs information, please contact Natan Wythe at [youthchoirs@uubedford.org](mailto:youthchoirs@uubedford.org)

## First Parish Women's Book Group

We'll meet on **Sunday, March 2** in the Common Room at 6 p.m. to discuss Ann Patchett's book "Tom Lake". Please bring a dish to share for the potluck.

The schedule for the remainder of the 2024-2025 church year is:

Meeting Date	Book	Author
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	

## Vespers Services

Second Tuesday services will continue! Our next service of silence, song, movement and sharing will take place on **March 11th at 7:00PM**.

## Considering FPB Facility Upgrades for the Coming Decade

The Capital Campaign Definition Task Force hosted a brainstorming session on Feb 2 where everyone was encouraged to think big about FPB's infrastructure over the coming decade. High energy and interest-level were evident among the 40 participants in ideas raised and questions posed.

Most suggested infrastructure projects fall into three broad categories:

### Basic power, heating & safety work

- HVAC
- Geothermal heating & cooling
- Power co-generation
- Fire suppression
- Power backup
- Additional solar panels

### Church interior work

- Organ repair

- Kitchen appliances
- Improved sound accessibility
- Parsonage upgrades

#### **Church exterior work**

- Common Room rear entry
- Backyard landscaping
- Digital wayside pulpit

Some of these proposals are mutually exclusive, while others may be blocked by considerations beyond FPB's control. Before these ideas can be reasonably ranked, accurate cost estimates are needed for most of them. The task force will try to obtain such costs before June 2025.

We also need a realistic assessment of how much money can be raised by a capital campaign. The task force has recently received a feasibility study proposal from a UU Stewardship Consultant. The proposal and its cost will be carefully considered in the coming weeks.

Once reasonable dollar estimates are known for proposed infrastructure expenses and capital campaign income, the FPB community can make an informed decision about how many and which major upgrade projects to pursue over the coming decade.

We look forward to another congregational conversation about FPB's physical future in spring 2025.

-Dan Bostwick, Joan Bowen, Peter Cho, Jamie Hinson-Rieger, Brett Leida & Jenn McClain (Email address: [capitalcampaigndefn@googlegroups.com](mailto:capitalcampaigndefn@googlegroups.com) )

## **Carleton Willard Discussion Forum**

### **Thursday, March 13, 1pm (NOTE TIME CHANGE) 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.) Please note the time change to 1pm so we don't conflict with the Third Act event earlier in the day. In March we will discuss the topic of aging and transformation. We will also leave time to share our thoughts about current events.



## **Sunday, March 23 Q&A After the Service**

### **Sunday, March 23 Q&A after the service: What is the Lay Pastoral Care Team?**

The Lay Pastoral Care Team supports the ministers in providing for the overall pastoral care of the congregation. What this means and looks like, and how care for the congregation happens, has changed over time. Come learn what the Lay Pastoral Care Team does, meet some of its members, ask questions, and maybe even think about getting involved. We are actively looking to grow the team at this time, so this is a great opportunity to get connected if it turns out this is the right team for you! This conversation will be facilitated by Rev. Jamie.

## Talents & Treasures Auction

**FPB's 2025 Auction will be held on the evening of Saturday, March 29.** This annual springtime event begins with a silent auction at 6 pm. A wide array of edibles, jewelry, household goods, art pieces and more will be on display in FPB's Common Room. Write down your best bid next to each item you want to win.

The live auction starts at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Bidding on dinners, parties, vacation retreats, services and more goes until 9 pm. Keep your paddles up as auctioneers determine winners of these popular offerings.

Throughout the evening, enjoy savory and sweet tasty delights. And after all bids have been tallied, in-person and in-spirit attendees will be digitally informed about their winnings. Physical auction items will be ready for taking home at the end of the night.

FPB's auction is always fun and festive. But it depends on many generous donations of Talents, Treasures and Time from the entire church community. So check out the auction catalog on your phone, tablet or computer at [auctria.events/fpbauction2025](https://auctria.events/fpbauction2025). Or use the QR code below to navigate to the catalog website. Please donate your auction items via the website before Monday, March 17.

All FPB community members plus friends and family can then look forward to a fun evening on March 29! Childcare will be provided. For anyone who cannot attend in person but would nevertheless like to bid, the auction team will put you in touch with a proxy bidder if you send an email to [auction@uubedford.org](mailto:auction@uubedford.org).

Your website address is [auctria.events/fpbauction2025](https://auctria.events/fpbauction2025) 



Event website QR code

## The First Parish Membership from 1976 - 1990

### First Parish Membership from 1976 - 1990

Last month, in preparation for the Wisdom Tea being held on Sunday, April 27 for members and friends who have been at First Parish for 25 years or more, the Sustaining Membership team published the names of the 21 parishioners who have been with us for 50 years or more. We have approximately 100 parishioners who have been here for 25 years or more. Really impressive!

This month, we are including the names of 35 of us who signed the Membership Book from 1976 – 1990. (If you know you started coming between 1976 and 1988 and your name is not listed here, please be in touch!)

**Congratulations to:**

- Lyrl Ahern (49 years)
- Bill Ingraham, Sue McCombs, Rich Daugherty, Ron Green (48 years)
- Mary Hyatt, Bob Batt, Diana Finer, Maria Green (46 years)
- Jeannie Balfour, Joanne Glover, Ben Sears, Walter Schafer, Linda Conrad (45 years)
- Karen Frederick (44 years)
- Linda Sullivan, Richard Conrad, Michael Akillian (42 years)
- Judith Frediani, Nathan Kimball, Andrea Cleghorn, Trudy Sadeghpour (40 years)
- Robert and Sarah Dorer (39 years)
- Nancy Hair, Cindy Haynes (38 years)
- Carol Akillian, Ed Lowry, Alan MacRobert, Carol Hamilton, Peter Johnson (37 years)
- Sandy and Mike Boczenowski (36 years)
- John Gibbons, Laura Perkinson (35 years)
- We look forward to seeing many of you later this Spring!

-Sarah Dorer, for the Sustaining Membership Team

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## **Help Spread the Word-Faith Resolution Webinar- Stop Private Jet Expansion**

So far, the First Parish in Bedford [Signed Faith Resolution Opposing Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere 10.3.24](#) followed by five more churches who adopted a Resolution to send to Gov. Healey ([Learn more here!](#)). Help us spread the word about this webinar to other churches that you may be connected with:



**People of Faith: A Call to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere**

**Tuesday, March 25, Noon to 1:00 pm EDT**

Webinar on SPJE Faith Resolution Campaign

with Speakers Rev. Jim Antal, Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, and others (see [flyer](#) for details).

[Register Here](#)

**People of Faith** - *Act on climate justice by opposing private jet expansion! Learn ways faith communities can take action against an environmental injustice that encourages a small number of the ultra-wealthy to pollute our world in an unconstrained way that contributes disproportionately to the climate crisis.*

*We are calling on congregations in MA to adopt a Resolution urging Gov. Healey to stop private jet expansion at Hanscom Field airport or anywhere. [Learn more here!](#)*

Co-sponsored by UU Mass Action ([UUmassaction.org](http://UUmassaction.org)) and the Coalition to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere ([SPJE.org](http://SPJE.org))

### SPJE Call to Action: Opportunities for UUs to take action!

- We are calling on Unitarian Universalist congregations in MA [to adopt a Resolution](#) urging Gov. Healey to stop private jet expansion at Hanscom Field airport or anywhere. [Learn more here!](#) For questions, contact: [faith@stopprivatejetexpansion.org](mailto:faith@stopprivatejetexpansion.org)

See how Lexington First Parish passed a Resolution: [Activists keep heat on Hanscom with new faith-based resolutions against expansion](#) (Lexington Observer)

- Join March 25th Call to Action Webinar (see above)
- Please take action as an individual by signing [this petition](#) to the Governor.

### Looking for a Fun Event in April?

The Gallery Team invites you to join us for an introductory Gelli Plate printing workshop on Saturday, April 5, from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the church. This technique is simple, fun, and perfect for all skill levels. No experience needed!

In this session, you will learn the basics of gel printing and experiment with layering color and texture and creating your own unique prints. By the end of the session you will leave with a collection of prints and inspiration to continue at home; plus, you will have your own Gelli plate and brayer.

Our instructor, Taline Saatjian, is a graphic designer and a mixed media artist with a passion for blending traditional and digital techniques. She will bring a Gelli print kit for each person that contains everything you will need for the project. To help pay for the kit, we ask that you donate \$10.00 payable on the day of class.

*IMPORTANT: We have a strict limit of 12 participants.*

For questions and to save your spot, please contact Maria Green at [committees@uubedford.org](mailto:committees@uubedford.org). You should receive a confirmation from me once you register giving me your name and telephone number. Join us for this fun, easy, art form.



# 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)  
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, *ex officio*  
Rev. Annie Gonzalez, *ex officio*  
Nathan Sellers, *ex officio*

**Clerk:** Rebecca Green Neale  
**Moderator:** Bob Dorer

### Leadership Team

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

### Parish Council

Bea Brunkhorst, *Chair*  
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger  
Rev. 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)

### Environmental Justice (EJC)

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

### Faith Development

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

### Children's FD Team

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

### Jr. Youth Team

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

### Sr. Youth Team

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

### Adult FD Team

Randi Currier  
Doug Muder  
Jerry Ross

### Finance

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

### The Gallery@First Parish

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

### Hospitality

Catherine Van Praagh, *Chair*  
Carla Bradford  
Kath McCafferty

### Information Technology (IT)

Sandy Currier, *Chair, Lead Network*  
Renu Bostwick, *Lead Workspace, Google Groups*  
Craig Jackson, *Lead Website*

### Worship Technology Team

Audio Team  
Sandy Currier  
Bob Dorer  
Abby Hafer  
Kath McCafferty  
Natalie McClain  
Bill Rabinowitz

### Camera Team

Bob Bass  
Bob Batt  
John McClain  
Chris Tohline

### Church Database Team

Dean Groves  
Dave Southard

### Video/Zoom Team

Em Bradford  
Paul Bradford  
Craig Jackson  
Cecile Mercado  
Cath Van Praagh

### Lay Pastoral Care

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

**Membership**

Dave Southard, *Chair*

***Outreach Team***

Joanne Glover  
Deb Picciuto  
Chris Tohline  
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, *Staff Liaison*

***Pathway to Membership Team***

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

***Sustaining Membership Team***

Sarah Dorer, *Chair*  
Sandy Boczenowski  
Carla Bradford  
Ron Green  
Jenn McClain  
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, *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  
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  
Jenn McClain  
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, *ex officio*

**AD HOC, TASK FORCES & TEAMS**

**Capital Campaign Task Force**

Peter Cho, *Chair*  
Dan Bostwick  
Joan Bowen  
Brett Leida  
Jenn McClain  
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger

**Council on Ministry Team**

Ian Carroll  
Sharon McDonald  
Kiya Nicoll  
Joe Pompei

**Fundraising Teams**

***Auction***

Peter Cho, *Chair*

***Plant & Craft Fair***

Dorothy Africa, *Co-Chair*  
Bea Brunkhorst, *Co-Chair*

***Chili Cook-Off***

Linda Pollitz  
Gene Kalb

***Pancake Breakfast***

Membership Team

***Spaghetti Dinner***

Membership Team

**Immigration Justice Team**

Ellen Scheiner, *Chair*  
Christine Dudley-Marling  
Deb Flannery  
Tom Flannery  
Carolyn Grose  
Sabrina McClain  
Cecile Mercado  
Luanna Read  
Maureen Richichi  
Anne Schmalz

**Interiors Team**

Erin Dorr, *Chair*  
Carlough Faulkner-Carroll

**Memorials Task Force**

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

**UU Urban Ministry Delegates**

Cecile Mercado  
Robert Schmalz

**Worship Associates Team**

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



FIRST PARISH MUSIC COMMITTEE  
*presents*



# Irish Celebration: A Family Event

**Saturday, March 15, 2025**  
**5:00 PM**

Featuring **Celtic Music** Experts

**Joy Grimes, Emily Peterson, & Rosanne Santucci**



**Ian Carroll**



ALSO! the **First Parish Youth Choirs**,  
led by Director **Natan Wythe**

## Dine with us!

**Delicious Irish Stew (meat or vegetarian) included!**

Suggested donations (accepted at the door)

**Adults: \$20 Youth 6-12: \$10 Children 5 & under: FREE Seniors: \$15**

**Family maximum: \$50**

First Parish in Bedford, Unitarian Universalist • 75 The Great Road • Bedford, MA 01730  
781-275-7994 • [www.uubedford.org](http://www.uubedford.org) • First Parish is Wheelchair Accessible

