



The Parishioner

News of the First Parish in Bedford

Unitarian Universalist

On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts

Spirit...Justice...Community

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April 2025

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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
Joe Mitchell, sexton/custodian

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Upcoming Sunday Services*

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

Sunday, April 6th

Title: "Being Alive and Having to Die " (*Led by Rev. Jamie*)

UU minister Forrest Church said, "Religion is our human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die." This Sunday we will explore the ultimate mystery of death and what it means to live in the shadow of that mystery.

Sunday, April 13th

Title: "The Soul's Right to Breathe" (*Led by Rev. Jamie*)

April 12 to April 20 is Passover. The Exodus story that Passover commemorates, in which God frees the Jewish people from Egypt, has been an inspirational story for liberation movements throughout history. What are different ways that UUs might understand the foundations of liberty and liberation? Is there a sense in which we are meant to be free?

Friday, April 18th – 7PM

Title: "Tenebrae/Good Friday"

Join us for a special service of sacred music, scripture readings, and poetry as we explore the themes of loss woven into the passion story culminating on Good Friday. Rev. Jamie will offer a short reflection. Please bring a stone to use during a remembrance ritual.

Sunday, April 20th – Easter Sunday

Title: "9AM Traditional Service"

Lo, the earth awakes again! The birds are singing! Green is peeking out of the cold ground! There are buds on the trees! Spring is in the air! It's Easter morning! The historic communion silver will make an appearance! Join us! Reverend Jamie will be preaching about hope as a force for liberation. Favorite hymns will be included and the adult choir will be singing music by Haydn and Mozart reflecting the uplifting mood of the service. Oh! And one more thing! Don't forget to wear your Easter bonnets!

Sunday, April 20th – Easter Sunday

Title: "11AM All-Ages Service"

Let's celebrate this season of spring and renewal with songs from our youth choirs, an amazing story by Nate, and a celebratory service for all ages followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on the Common for kids up through 5th grade.

	<p>Sunday, April 27th</p> <p>Title: “Rooted and Resilient - Earth Day Service” <i>(Led by Rev. Jamie and the EJC)</i></p> <p>Join us for a special collaboration between Rev. Jamie and the EJC celebrating Earth Day.</p> <p>Following the service there will be a time for discussion from 11:30 to 12:15 pm in the Bacon Room or by Zoom. Parishioner Bob McClatchey will share some comments on the State of the Global Climate, followed by discussion.</p> <p>Note—this Sunday is also the return of annual Bedford Bike to Church Day, in honor of Charlie Schwerin and Brown Pulliam. So... health, weather, and safety permitting, consider biking to church!</p>
<p>Next deadline is Apr. 28th</p>	<p>The Parishioner is published monthly. Deadline is generally the last Monday of each month.</p> <p>Send submissions to: editors@uubedford.org.</p>

A Note from Jamie

Dear First Parish Members and Friends,

In my March letter to you I said that in the months ahead we would be pivoting from gathering information to taking more direct action with respect to the current political crisis faced by our country. At our second “Post-inauguration, what’s next?” conversation that we had in March, which was attended by 35+ people, there was a clearly expressed desire for First Parish to take action. You may also be feeling that. I wanted to use this letter to share with you just a few things that are going on.

In March, the Immigration Justice Team provided short-term emergency housing for a third migrant family. This will continue monthly. We also continue to speak out and advocate for our immigrant neighbors.

We have organized two successful Friday evening “Standouts for Democracy” along the Common. At the last one more than 40 people joined together to speak out for democracy. These are Friday evenings at 5pm along the Common on Great Road.

The Environmental Justice Committee, in partner with UU Mass Action, held a very successful webinar urging congregations to sign the faith petition against jet expansion. Almost 70 people attended. I was honored to speak at that presentation along with the EJC and many other excellent speakers. You can view the webinar here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oMReTCDzteC_UT1q0O6S09vO3Ecn7lpH/view

We are acquiring a banner which says, “Choose Democracy.” It will be hung on the side of the building facing South Road.

The Parish Board voted to become a sponsor, alongside UU Mass Action, of the April 5th “Hands Off” rally taking place in Boston. We are organizing carpools for that action. You can sign up to be a rider or a driver here:

<https://forms.gle/7SDfzMn6Rjus9GMJA>

There is a Hands Off event happening in Bedford as well, from 1-2pm in Memorial Park. Many First Parishioners have been helping organize for this rally. Turnout looks to be huge!

You can join us at First Parish in person for UU Mass Advocacy Day on April 8, from 10:30am-4pm. We will gather in person in the Bacon Room and then Zoom in together to advocate for legislation in meetings with our representatives. Learn more about Advocacy Day here: <https://www.uumassaction.org/new-upcoming-events/2025/1/11/save-the-date-advocacy-day-2025>

Alongside the activism and organizing, we spent a lot of time in March building community and spreading joy in ways big and small, from Sunday mornings, Circle Suppers, and Friday potlucks, to special events like the Irish Fest and the Service Auction. In the months ahead we will stay focused on joy and connection (Plant Fair - Ferry Beach - Pancake Breakfast - Music Sunday - Wisdom Tea!) and we will continue to look for all the ways we can make a difference in the world.

Thank you for all you do.

-Jamie



P.S. Have you made your pledge for the 25-26 church year? First Parish is possible because of your support, and every pledge matters. If you’ve pledged, thank you! If you haven’t, can you take a moment and pledge today?

<https://uubedford.org/get-involved/stewardship/>

Office Matters

Well, we've made it to April, the official first full month of Spring. Let's hope there are no more snowstorms coming our way, but, again, please stay tuned to WBZ news and ParishBiz for any delays or closures.

By the time you read this newsletter, our April events will be off and running. On the afternoon of Friday, April 4th, we have the Friday night Stand Out in front of the church, followed by our first Friday Potluck. On Saturday, April 5th, there will be a local rally at 1PM in Veterans' Memorial Park. On Saturday, April 12th, we hope you can join us for a beloved tradition....the Pancake Breakfast on Pole Capping Day. And later in the month, we will celebrate Easter with three special services. As always, please be sure to read further in this newsletter and visit the main [Calendar](#) to see all of our upcoming activities.

***NEW: New Pledge Year/Payments**.....we kicked off the new Stewardship campaign on Sunday, March 16th. As you start sending in payments for your new pledge, **PLEASE** make sure to write the appropriate campaign year on the memo line of your check (i.e. Pledge Year 24/25 or Pledge Year 25/26). If you are making an online payment, please make sure to select the appropriate year from the drop-down menus in One Church. 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 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

Well, today as I write this, it does not feel much like Spring even though the calendar insists that it is. I know that the chilly temps will eventually recede and we will soon feel the comforting warmth of a brighter sun. Along with the month of April comes a flurry of activity here at First Parish. Currently we are in the midst of the Stewardship Campaign with just three weeks left. If you have not yet, please pledge now and support our campaign to 'ignite the sacred power of justice so that we may continue to be a beacon of hope'. Let's combine our resources as we continue to care for ourselves and our communities during these uncertain times. This year's Campaign ends on April 20th which is also Easter Sunday. Please note: there are two Easter services; one at 9am and the other at 11am.

The Gallery@First Parish is holding its Gelli Plate (what is that?!) Workshop on April 5th - and has a waitlist. Perhaps they will consider offering it again next year... Bedford is planning its unique Pole Capping event for Saturday April 12th. So, most importantly, that means the FPB Pancake Breakfast is happening from 8am -10am! Huzzah! See you there. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26th from 10am -1pm and join the group effort to open up the gardens around the church. This job is too much for one or two volunteers. So, please - come and bring your gardening gloves! No prior experience required. When your digging-in-the-dirt work is done outside, you are invited to join the folks meeting in the Common Room to play board games at 2pm, if you are so inclined!

Lastly, as we head into Spring and complete our many tasks and hold a myriad of events, we cannot help but sense that our formal church year is winding down. This brings with it many things - but first to mind, of course, is the...General Assembly!! This year the 64th UUA GA will be held in Baltimore, MD (June 18-22). First Parish has been allotted seven delegates. Our budget allows FP to subsidize part of the registration fee for each delegate. There are various ways to attend and participate, so do check it out on the UUA General Assembly website and decide which opportunity calls to you. Will it be in-person, on-line, business, one day or all days? Please speak with Rev. Jamie or a Board Member if you are interested in attending. As always, many thanks to all of you who make First Parish such a vibrant, caring community. This is an important time for us to be together.

-Susan Lincoln, on behalf of the Board (Mark Bailey, Bea Brunkhorst, Stacy Chandler, Peter Cho, Wendy Innis, & Jenn McClain)

Musical Notes

"Music is a great blessing. It has the power to elevate and liberate us. It sets people free to dream. It can unite us to sing with one voice. Such is the value of music."

– Nelson Madela, (1918-2013), philosopher, teacher, politician, and South African anti-apartheid activist

Here's the planned music for 10 a.m. (unless otherwise noted) services in the upcoming month –

Sunday, April 6th: Steve Sussman will be playing piano. The adult choir will be singing about peace including Dan Forrest's sublime *Shalom*, Antonio Vivaldi's *Et in terra pax* from his famous *Gloria* and "Deep Peace" by Douglas Wagner based on the text of the well-known Irish blessing. The choir and Steve will be joined by Carlough Faulkner-Carroll (violin), Melinda Ballou (viola), Nathan Kimball (cello) and Sharon McDonald (sign language interpreter).

Sunday, April 13th: I will be playing piano. Carol Epple (flute) and Elizabeth Connors (clarinet) will join me. We will play "In the Night" by Robert Schumann and, in honor of Passover, we will play "Bow Thine Ear to Our Prayer" from "Elijah" by Felix Mendelssohn and an arrangement of the traditional Hebrew folk song, *Shalom Chaverim* with a few members of the adult choir joining in.

On **Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**, the church will "leave the building", when the adult choir and Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger will visit the veterans to host a **Spring Sing** at the **Veteran's Administration Hospital**. Along with readings, the choir will sing various cheerful tunes like "Easter Parade" and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game".

Friday, April 18th "Tenebrae/Good Friday" (7 p.m.): As I always say, this is one of my favorite services of the year. I know many others at First Parish who echo that feeling. This will be an hour-long story-type service encompassing many of the customary Tenebrae/Good Friday themes. To enhance the proceedings, the adult choir will sing Wolfgang Amadé Mozart's *Ave verum, Qui tollis* from the "Great" c minor *Mass*, *Lacrimosa* from the *Requiem*, *Crucifixus* from the "*Waisenhaus*" c minor *Mass*, and *Kyrie* from the "Coronation" *Mass* in C Major. They will also sing an incredibly moving arrangement of the traditional Hebrew folk song *Adonai Ro'i*. The prelude for the service will be the *Larghetto* from Mozart's beloved Clarinet Quintet. Both Sandra LaBarge-Neumann and Steve Sussman will be accompanying on organ and piano respectively as well as Carol Epple (flute), Elizabeth Connors (clarinet) and Nathan Kimball (cello). "O sacred Head, now wounded" will be one of the hymns to be sung. Combining tradition with a touch of unconventionality, this will be a service of shadows and deep reflection. Be sure to bring a stone with you.

Sunday, April 20th "Easter": For both the **9 a.m** and **11 a.m.** services, Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ and Steve Sussman will be playing piano. At the **9 a.m.** service, the prelude will be the world premiere of a piece entitled "Awakening" composed by Dean Groves especially for the service and featuring Nao Okamoto (violin), Carol Epple (flute), Elizabeth Connors (clarinet) and Nathan Kimball (cello). The adult choir will sing "Come, Lovely Spring" from Franz Joseph Haydn's "The Seasons" and *Sanctus* from Mozart's "Coronation" *Mass*. At the **11 a.m.** service, Natan Wythe will be leading the First Parish youth choirs in joyous music appropriate to the celebratory mood including "Bye, Bye, Butterfly" by Carol Troutman Wiggins, Amy Bernon's "My Soul's Alive with Spring" and an arrangement of the delightful Mexican folk song, "*De Colores*". During both services we will also sing expected hymns for the day.

Sunday, April 27th: Steve Sussman will be playing piano.

Mark your calendars! The Kolozsvár Unitarian High School Choir will be appearing on **Saturday evening, April 26, 2025 at 7 p.m.** at **First Parish in Concord**. Many people on our Partner Church Committee know the leaders of this group and strongly urge you to attend and be supportive. AND DON'T FORGET on **Saturday evening, June 14, 2025 at 7 p.m.** the Music Committee will host **An Evening of Jazz**, their final concert presentation of 2024-2025 featuring First Parish performers. More information is elsewhere in this newsletter and on the First Parish website: www.uubedford.org/music-concert/

And looking ahead ... **Music Sunday** is coming on Sunday morning, May 4, 2025 including Wolfgang Amadé Mozart's inspiring "Coronation" *Mass* with orchestra and soloists, a "Church Sonata" for organ and orchestra and the beloved "Alleluia" for soprano and orchestra.

Have you thought about joining the adult choir? If you're interested, e-mail me at bconner@uubedford.org Simply, it's fun and uplifting and the adult choir sings music of all styles.

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

Our book for the April discussion is "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon. The meeting will be Sunday, April 6 at 6 p.m. in the First Parish Common Room. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck.

From Goodreads: A gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

The schedule for the remainder of the church year is:

Meeting Date	Book	Author
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 **April 8th at 7:00PM.**

69th Annual Plant and Craft Fair



Artisans &
Volunteers: Sign Up
for the May 17 Plant
& Craft Fair!

69th Annual Plant and Craft Fair
10 AM- 3 PM, May 17, 2025

- It takes a village to put on the Plant and Craft Fair- sign up! Here is the link: [FP Plant and Craft Fair Volunteer Sign up 2025](#)
- Join us on April 6th to plant some seedlings!
- We will be having a table on Sundays in April helping people sign up and offering some limited Swag... we have some awesome buttons! Get them while they are in bloom!!!
- This month we need people to sign up for digging up their garden, or someone else's who has asked for help, and/or offer space to store dug up plants. See the sign up or contact Bea Brunkhorst at committees@uubedford.org. The best time to dig is late April.
- Donate your plastic and ceramic pots – no larger than 2 gallons please!! We can also use small pieces of garden statuary. A box will be on the floor under where coats are hung up. Please bring these on Sunday mornings!
- Need more information about the fair? Go to First Parish webpage! <https://uubedford.org/plantfair2025/>



Everyday Canvas Tote
\$12/ ea.

15" x 15"



Navy Baseball T-Shirt
\$25/ ea.

Limited supplies available in
S/M/L/XXL



Cotton Twill Apron in Navy
\$25/ ea.

2-pockets, 100% cotton twill.
Measures 31" long x 29" wide



Coffee cup in Robin's Egg Blue.
\$15/ ea.

11 oz., dishwasher safe

Carleton Willard Discussion Forum

Thursday, April 10, 1pm (NOTE TIME and LOCATION CHANGE) Discussion Forum at Carleton Willard Village in the Meeting Room

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 April, in honor of the protests happening around the country (including here in Bedford) we will discuss protest. What have we done in the past? What do we think of protest as an activity? Is it effective? When is it okay or not okay? What do we want to see now? We will also leave time to share our thoughts about current events in general and how the church and we as individuals are responding.

Legacy Workshop

What will be my legacy? What do I want for my legacy? These are powerful and transformative questions to engage with. You are invited to explore the concept of legacy in a special workshop offered by First Parish member and Life Planner Steve Wightman. The workshop will be held on Sunday, April 6th after the service at 11:30am in the Bacon Room. Participation is limited to 12 people. Please email minister@uubedford.org if you would like to attend.

Talents & Treasures Auction Results

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Auction a fun success! A special shoutout to auctioneers Rebecca and Erin, advertisers Clayton and Gene, kitchen boss Sandy, sound system maestro Natalie, IT expert Delsey and spiritual guide Cath. And to the many volunteers who helped before, during and after the event.

Over 160 items were donated and over 100 people attended. And more than \$17K was raised by this year's Auction. Now everyone can enjoy their winnings with the knowledge that they really helped FPB...

The First Parish Membership from 1991 - 2000

First Parish Membership from 1991 - 2000

Since February, 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 has been publishing the names of the 100 parishioners who have been with us this long.

In our February column where we listed parishioners who have been members for 50 years or more, we inadvertently omitted Chesley Logcher. Chesley joined the church in 1968 – 57 years ago! We apologize for the omission.

This month, we are including the names of 50 parishioners who signed the Membership Book from 1991– 2000.

Cathy and Ron Cordes, Connie and Paul Woskov	34 years
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Frank and Maureen Richichi, Judy Storer	33 years
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Diane Marston, Carol Epple	32 years
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Corrine and Bob Doud, Craig and Margaret Jackson, John Laferriere and	
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Abbie and Mike Siebert	31 years
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Judi Curcio, Mary and Fred Levenstein, John Doty, Bob Johnson, Janet Powers and	
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Chris Yannoni, Chris and Bill Rabinowitz, Luisa Granitto, Marge and Norm Heckman,	
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Diane Martin, Kath McCafferty, Sandra Seitz	30 years
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Deb Picciuto, Joe and Kristine Murphy, Rebecca Neale, Sandra Ferreira, Bob Parkhurst	29 years
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Natalie Brierley, Keith and Lisa Bayen, Melinda Ballou, John Harris and Caryn Libbey	28 years
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Doug Muder

27 years

Abby Hafer

26 years

Dawn Lafrance-Linden, Julia Bosomworth, Ted Carlson, Tina Nappi and Dave Southard 25 years

If we have omitted any names, please reach out to us.

-Sarah Dorer, for the Sustaining Membership Team

We're Having a Rally! **April 5th from 1:00 – 2:00PM in Veterans' Memorial Park**

We've got over 100 committed people and Dean Groves for music. This is sponsored by many organizations: Third Act, Hands Off, Move On, Indivisible, Women's March, and others. Rallies will be happening all over the country but also here at 157 Great Road to fight the undemocratic takeover of our country. Contact Marjorie Roemer for more information; committees@uubedford.org.

Pancake Breakfast, April 12, 8-10AM

Listen, my children, and you shall hear: Saturday, April 12th, is the Town of Bedford's Annual Pole-Capping Day! A zillion minuteman re-enactors from near and far will muster on the Common, tuning up their fifes and drums for the 10:30 am Parade and Traditional Colonial Protest. (Don't let the secret get out, but a Bedford Minuteman is sure to precariously shinny up a 30' pole and defiantly stuff a crimson cap atop it. The Redcoats hate that.)

First Parish in Bedford will start the festivities early with a Pancake Breakfast in the Common Room. For \$5, you'll feast on pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice. (You say you've never rubbed elbows with syrup-sticky minutemen in colonial duds? Procrastinate no longer!)

The Partner Church Committee will be flipping pancakes between 8:00 – 10:00 am, ending in plenty of time for you to finish chewing before you watch the parade step off. Pancake Profits will go to the Partner Church Scholarship Fund. For more info contact Sharon McDonald at committees@uubedford.org



Climate Café April 27th after Earth Day Service

Join us for a climate discussion after the April 27 Earth Day service from 11:30 to 12:15 pm. Parishioner Bob McClatchey, an atmospheric scientist, will share a few comments on the State of the Global Climate. This report is published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and Bob had the opportunity twice in the late 1980's and early 90's to represent the United States at WMO meetings. We will then open it up for discussion facilitated by Rev. Jamie.

This will be a hybrid event. The in-person location will be in the Bacon Room. The Zoom link will be sent via ParishBiz closer to the event.

-Coordinated by the Environmental Justice Committee

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness,
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.
~ Mary Oliver

Social Responsibility Council (SRC) Update

Greetings from your SRC! As I write this, the sun is bright, birds are hopping along the tree branches outside my window, and the landscape is tinged with green.

With hopeful signs of Spring emerging all around, our April Share the Plate recipient is fittingly [Farrington Nature Linc](#), a 100+-year-old organization dedicated to enhancing the well-being of children from low-income communities through a connection with the natural world. Operating on-site at its location in Lincoln, MA, and off-site throughout the Greater Boston area, Farrington's youth programs work to eliminate barriers to accessing nature through parent engagement, accessible locations, bilingual program leaders, teen mentors, transportation, and free access.

Come to the service on Sunday, April 7, to hear more about Farrington from its Executive Director, Wendy Matusovich, and to give what you can to support its good work. You can donate in person via cash/check or [online at OneChurch](#) (select Share the Plate).

You can learn more about [SRC](#), [proposing](#) a grant or Share the Plate recipient, and [past recipients](#) online, or reach out to socialresponsibility@uubedford.org or any 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

Gallery @First Parish

The Gallery@First Parish invites you to our next show **"All the Colors"**, which will open at a reception after church on April 13th from 11:30 to 1:00. We will be presenting the paintings of artist Nicole Stewart, an award-winning artist, whose work is infused with color: from whimsical still life to landscapes, to people and pets. Nicole is also the sister of one of our own parishioners-Vanessa Kirchner-Leida.

-Maria Green and Doris Smith

From your Stewardship Team

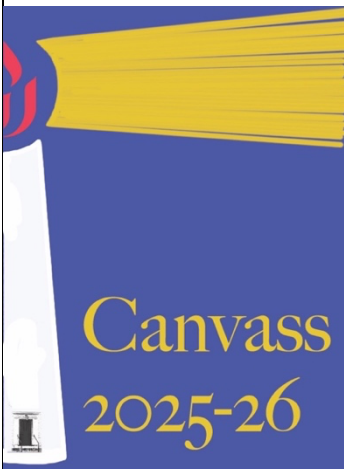
Our Stewardship campaign for the 2025-2026 is now well underway. Once again, the campaign is being kept short so that we can have the information to build the budget for the next church year in a timely manner. Specifically, we are asking that pledges be returned by Easter Sunday, April 20th. How to pledge:

*Complete your pledge card and return it by mail in the self-addressed, stamped envelope, or bring it to the church office.

*If you don't have a pledge packet, please contact the church office promptly at (781) 275-7994.

*Go online to our Stewardship web page (<https://uubedford.org/get-involved/stewardship/>), scroll down, and complete the online form.

The ask for this year's pledge goal is a total of **\$584,000**. Please be as generous as you're able. If you've visited other UU churches, you'll readily appreciate that ours is both unique and extraordinary. It's no understatement that UU Bedford remains a 'Beacon of Light.' Your pledge helps that continue by supporting our superb staff, maintaining our beloved building, and offering all the great programming that we currently provide.



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
 Wendy Innis, *Treasurer*
 [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
 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

Fundraising Teams

Auction

Peter Cho, *Chair*

Plant & Craft Fair

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

Chili Cook-Off

Linda Pollitz
 Gene Kalb

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 Willett, *emeritus*

Hospitality

Catherine Van Praagh
 Carla Bradford
 Kath McCafferty

Memorials Task Force

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

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
 Ginni Spencer

March 13, 2025

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

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. Jamie Hinson-Rieger

Membership

Dave Southard, *Chair*

Outreach Team

Em Bradford
 Joanne Glover
 Benji Linden
 Natalie McClain
 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
 Nina Wampler
 Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, *Staff Liaison*

Music

Lisa Tohline, *Chair*
 Sara Angus
 Dot Bergin
 Mike Boczenowski
 Bea Brunkhorst
 Nancy Daugherty
 Carol Eppl
 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

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

The Kolozsvár Unitarian High School Choir



These are children of the Unitarian High School of Kolozsvár, Transylvania. They have been touring, including a recent visit to Istanbul.

As Unitarians we believe in holistic education and want to show as much as we can from the

world to our children, whom we know will become the future responsible leaders of our societies. It is with this in mind that we are brave enough to think about this choir tour, one of the most challenging projects of my life."

—Zsolt Elekes, tour organizer

EAST COAST CONCERT

Saturday, April 26th

at First Parish Concord

7:00 p.m.

First Parish in Concord • 20 Lexington Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

*For those interested and/or people who have traveled to our Partner Church in Transylvania, FP Concord is holding a **Potluck with the Choir** on SUNDAY, April 27th at 6 p.m.*



save the date!

