



# The Parishioner

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

*Spirit...Justice...Community*

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September 2025

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

**Carla Bradford**, editor  
**Bradford Conner**, music/choir director  
**TBA**, youth choir director  
**Sandra LaBarge-Neumann**, organist  
**Brenda Rybicki**, parish administrator  
**Marika McGrath**, assistant 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, September 7th

Title: "Season of Care: Ingathering!" (Led by the Worship Team)

Welcome back to the start of another church year. Our annual Ingathering service will celebrate the beginning of another season of care and connection. During these challenging times we need each other more than ever. Come reconnect with music, stories, and fun. After the service there will be food and games--bagels, popcorn, facepainting, and more!

As always, during Ingathering we will observe our water communion ceremony. Please bring a small container of water that is in some way representative of your time during the summer (literally or symbolically) to pour into a common vessel. The commingled water will be used for child dedications and other ceremonies throughout the year.

### Sunday, September 14th

Title: "A Meditation on Hope" (Led by Rev. Jamie)

The overarching theme for this worship year is "Hope." We will be exploring all different aspects and expressions of hope. In September, the theme is "Hope is openness." To start the year off, the September 14 service will be a meditation on hope itself—what it is and what it isn't, how we find it, how we create it together, and where we might be seeing it in the world around us.

### Sunday, September 21st

Title: "Hope Looks Like Welcome" (Led by Rev. Jamie)

Welcoming is a hopeful act, rooted in an openness to new relationships and a belief that we come to each other as strangers bearing gifts. When the spirit of welcome is lost, what replaces it is fear, real or manufactured. Which guiding spirit will we choose for our nation's future, hope or fear?

After the service, all are welcome to join the Immigration Justice Team upstairs in the Bacon Room for a presentation and Q&A on the immigration justice work First Parish is doing. Come learn how you can get involved!

### Sunday, September 28th

Title: "Facing Ourselves, Open to Change" (Led by Rev. Annie)

Being open to change is a hopeful stance, and not always easy when it comes to changing ourselves. In this season of self-reflection in the Jewish tradition, we can all spend some time facing ourselves with some support from our communities.

**Next deadline is Sep. 29th**

The Parishioner is published monthly. Deadline is generally the **last Monday** of each month. Send submissions to: [editors@uubedford.org](mailto:editors@uubedford.org).

## A Note from Jamie

Dear First Parish Members and Friends,

With Ingathering fast approaching, it feels very bittersweet to welcome you all back into community, knowing that some beloved members of this community are no longer with us. Natalie Brierley, Abby Hafer, and Andrew Van Praagh, you are missed and so, so, loved. I know others at First Parish have experienced the losses of parents, siblings, and friends. Many of you are facing challenging personal circumstances of one sort or another. Amidst all the familiar delights of New England summer, this has been a season of particularly sharp sorrow. Our hearts go out to everyone who is grieving or struggling.

At General Assembly this year, I happened to purchase a collection of prayers by UU ministers (and others) called *Conversations with the Sacred*. A line from a prayer by Khatija Dadabhoy caught my attention: "I know I live within a field of love and benevolence."

Do we live within a field of love and benevolence? It doesn't always feel that way. The world doesn't always look that way. But that is what we are doing here, I thought. That is what UU community is. We are creating a field of love and benevolence, for each other and for the world around us. And then we are inviting people in.

Welcome back to our field of love and benevolence, where we may be comforted and strengthened. Ingathering is September 7 at 10am. It will be good to be together.

Peace,

-Jamie



## Minister's Musings

I feel like I'm running out of ways to say things like "what a time we are having" and "things are so much right now." Events in our country continue to frighten, enrage and appall when we have the stomach to read or listen to the news. In the congregation we've had deaths this summer of dear members who have shaped our community profoundly, some that were far too soon. Many of our key members continue to deal with the challenges of aging. Many of us have other losses and challenges in our own lives and the lives of our family and friends. So much feels heavy. So much feels hard.

And our community has never mattered more. Many of us are engaging in public witness, mutual aid and community care through this congregation. Many of us are offering pastoral care and practical support to others. Many of us are benefitting from care and support, or from having our courage strengthened and our hope renewed by others at First Parish in Bedford.

I am so grateful that we are re-starting the full life of our community together this fall. I'm grateful to be trying to start a young adult group and to be trying a slightly new version of Coming of Age for our 9th and 10th graders. I'm grateful for

the small group at Carleton Willard and the many small groups you all run yourselves, keeping yourselves connected. Grateful for the meditative supportive space of Vespers and the rowdy space of Junior Youth Group. For our awesome Director of Faith Development for Children who has excellent visions for the fall programming. For multigenerational gatherings and our incredible senior youth and for the opportunity to think more deeply about ministry to parents. In all times, but especially in hard times, I am so grateful for First Parish in Bedford.



## Office Matters

Here we are.....a new church year and Ingathering! As summer starts to wind down, we are looking forward to kicking off the 2025/2026 season. In many ways, it's been a difficult summer for our church community. It will be good for us to gather and, maybe even comforting, to step back into our fall routines.

We start September with our First Friday Potluck Dinner on September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6PM in the Common Room. On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at Ingathering, we will have many fun aspects, including bagels, ice cream and a face painter. As always, please be sure to read further in this newsletter and visit the main [Calendar](#) to see all of our upcoming activities.

**\*NEW: Welcome our new Assistant Administrator**.....if you haven't met her already this summer, please join me in welcoming **Marika McGrath**! Marika has many years of diverse administrative experience. I know she will be a great addition to our staff.

**\*NEW: Breeze is coming!**.....please make sure to read Rev. Jamie's article about our new church database Breeze.

**\*REMINDER: New Pledge Year/Payments**.....our 2025/2026 Stewardship campaign is well underway. As you send in payments for your 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). Also, if you are making an online payment, please make sure to select the appropriate year from the drop-down menus in Breeze. 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 Wednesday 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 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 Marika 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

I officially have two teenagers in high school this fall—it feels like just yesterday that they were preschoolers and we arrived at First Parish. In that same vein, I can't believe I am writing to you as your new Parish Board president because I feel like I only just arrived. I am humbled and excited to step up to this role, and surprisingly not too nervous. I attribute this to the amazing group that comprises our current board, and you, our ever-supportive and curious community.

The Board will maintain its habit of meeting once a month (day TBD). Parishioners are welcome and encouraged to reach out to us with questions, input, or requests to present at a meeting.

A Capital Campaign committee is being formed to refine our priorities and develop workplans for the coming months. **We will host a weekend workshop with our consultant from September 26-28—all are invited to attend.** More details will be forthcoming.

Also, **save the date for our Semi-Annual Membership meeting on Sunday, November 9.**

In the meantime, I am excited to see everyone at Ingathering on September 7. I have always loved our kick-off to a new year together—the hope and fellowship feel especially needed right now.

Best wishes, Stacy Chandler



## Musical Notes

For me every year is the start of a new adventure and I expect the coming church year to be no exception. This September begins my 21<sup>st</sup> year at First Parish. **Sandra LaBarge-Neumann** will be back playing the organ, **Steve Sussman** will return to play the piano, and **Bob and Fran Tyler** will continue to occasionally serenade us with their inimitable stylings. Plans are also being made for the return of other pianists/instrumentalists making guest appearances during the upcoming year. We're very fortunate at First Parish to have such a wealth of diverse musicians whose musical talents I never take for granted. Their contributions help make the texture of the fabric of our music program rich and multilayered.

At the time of writing this article, we are still in the throes of the Youth Choir Director search. I will be sure to keep the First Parish community abreast of the progress and here's hoping I have news very soon.

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

**Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>:** For In-Gathering the adult choir will sing the song *High Hopes*. Bob and Fran Tyler will be providing their usual mix of delightful tunes. Joanne and Ted Glover will be adding a few melodies on the bagpipes and drum. There will be uplifting songs including Dean Groves leading "It's Not Like This Every Sunday". It will be a cornucopia of music to start our upcoming church year and hopefully we will also be welcoming a new Youth Choir Director.

**Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>:** Steve Sussman will be playing piano.

**Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>:** Steve Sussman will be playing piano. The adult choir will be singing music around the theme of immigration including Irving Berlin's setting of the Emma Lazarus's poem "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor", Alan Mencken's "God Help the Outcasts" from the Disney film "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and a beautiful setting of the Shaker hymn "More Love" as arranged by Sid Davis.

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>:** I will be playing piano joined by Carol Epple - flute and Elizabeth Connors - clarinet. Be prepared for some beautiful instrumental music!

**Mark your calendars!** On Saturday afternoon, October 18, 2025 at 1 p.m., the Music Committee will be sponsoring a performance featuring the music of French composer, Maurice Ravel, honoring the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. The program will include Ravel's thrilling and virtuosic trio featuring Eric Mazonson on piano, Rebecca Hawkins on violin and Yougsook Lee on cello. Cynthia Mork will be singing a set of Ravel's sublime songs joined by Carol Epple on flute. Carol with Nao Okamoto on violin will join me in playing an arrangement of the famous *Pavane pour une infante defunte* danced by Dorothy Anderson Perales. Following the program, the Music Committee will host a "tea" of light refreshments including tea and cookies. More information is elsewhere in this Parishioner.

This also gives me a chance to give a HUGE beginning-of-the-year thanks to all the members of the First Parish Music Committee whose tireless efforts producing fundraising events for our community add so much to our musical culture and help bring in so many people to discover what a special place First Parish is. Thank you one and all!

**Isn't it time to think about joining the adult choir?** If you're interested, e-mail me at [bconner@uubedford.org](mailto:bconner@uubedford.org) Plans for the coming year include a Christmas Eve service filled with the wonderful music of Johann Sebastian Bach; for Good Friday 2026 there will be music by a variety of composers around the theme "Beauty in the Shadows"; and Music Sunday 2026 (May 3, 2026) will be music in honor of the U.S.'s 250th anniversary reflecting the diversity of our country around the theme "We Are ..." and featuring the First Parish Adult Choir, soloists and First Parish instrumentalists.

Additional information about both the adult and youth choirs 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, first rehearsal on Thursday, September 4, 2025
- **Senior Youth Choir (Grades 6-12)** time TBD after hiring new Youth Choir Director
- **KidSing (Age 5 through Grade 2)** time TBD after hiring new Youth Choir Director
- **Junior Youth Choir (Grades 3-5)** time TBD after hiring new Youth Choir Director

## Youth Happenings

### Junior Youth Group (Middle School)

Our 6th - 8th grade middle school youth group will re-launch after summer break on Wednesday September 10th from 3:30 to 5 pm in the Common Room at First Parish. We'll meet on the rest of the Wednesdays of September (the 17th and 24th) as well. This year our youth group will continue bonding and enjoying snacks and games while also incorporating more field trips and community service into our plans.

### Senior Youth Group (High School)

Our 9th - 12th grade Senior Youth Group warmed up in mid-August with a field trip to Boston to attend a youth-led protest against deportations. We'll be getting our regular programming started again this month. Parents - stay tuned to the SYG email list. Youth - make sure you're in the SYG WhatsApp group. More soon!

## Knot Committee!

The KNOT COMMITTEE has been meeting during the summer working to get many unfinished projects done. What do we do? We stitch! We crochet, knit, quilt, mend, embroider, and one of us does this fascinating stitching called Temari. We share tips about how to do what we do, like how to join yarn without a knot (haha). And we chat about our lives, leaving the world of politics behind.

We meet on **Mondays at 1:00** in the natural northern light of the Bacon Room. As the days grow shorter, we plan to continue to meet and get things done. You are welcome to join us.

Chris Rabinowitz

## First Parish Women's Book Group

This is the list of books and dates for the women's book group. We will have the author at two of the meetings and of course the annual book swap will take place in January. Please join us for one or more meetings! They are all potluck followed by discussion.

The first meeting will be **Sunday, September 28th at 6 p.m.** in the Common Room. The book is "The Extraordinary Live of Sam Hell" by Robert Dugoni.

Meeting Date	Book	Author
9/28/2025	The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell	Robert Dugoni
10/26/2025	The Lion Women of Tehran *	Marjan Kamali
12/7/2025	The Serviceberry	Robin Wall Kimmerer
1/11/2026	Book Swap	
2/1/2026	Hidden In Plain Sight *	Julie Brill
3/8/2026	March	Geraldine Brooks
4/26/2026	The Emperor of Gladness	Ocean Vuong
5/17/2026	James	Percival Everett
6/14/2026	Book Selection for the following year	

\* The author will be joining us at the meeting.



## Vespers Services

Vespers will re-start on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 9th**. Come join us for a short simple service of silence, song and sharing. We meet at 7 pm in the Bacon Room and all are welcome to find a moment of peace and comfort with us. You can also join by zoom.

## SAVE THE DATE!! Visioning Workshop

**SAVE THE DATE!! Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm, VISIONING WORKSHOP** with Sara Green, our new capital campaign consultant. Help shape the next 25 years of life at First Parish. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

## Breeze is Coming Soon!

What is Breeze? Breeze is our new church database. For FPB members, Breeze will provide you with an online member directory (with photo), an up-to-date listing of committees and committee members, and access to the church calendar so you can view upcoming events. Breeze is also where you can view and manage your pledges and online giving. You will be able to access Breeze online or with an easy-to-use app for your phone.



If you are leading a team or committee, Breeze will provide you with helpful tools for organizing and communicating with your team.

If you are staff—Breeze will help the staff manage the church's programs in so many ways! We are excited.

Keep watching for updates! Breeze will launch in the fall. After we roll it out, we will provide regular ongoing Q&As and training sessions to get everyone on board who wants to be on board. (And if you don't want to use Breeze at all, we promise, you don't have to!)

## Discussion Forum at Carleton Willard Village

**September 11** (and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday during the church year): Discussion Forum at Carleton Willard Village with Rev. Jamie, **11am**. Come discuss a topic of general interest to UUs and hopefully everyone. September's topic is "What is bringing you hope in this moment?"

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## Small Group at Carleton Willard Village

We'll meet for our small group in the Bedford Room at **2 pm on Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup>**.

## Social Responsibility Council (SRC) Update

*One river gives its journey to the next.*

~ [Albert Ríos](#)



Greetings from your [Social Responsibility Council](#) (SRC)! We are so excited for a new church year of supporting good work being done in our community and beyond. This support is provided via grants (funded by FPB's endowment fund) and our Share the Plate program (funded by a share of the offerings collected during the first service of each month).

So how do we decide who will be a grant or Share the Plate recipient? **Proposals for recipients come from YOU, the FPB congregation!** The organizations and projects that will be funded this church year — whether they are local, national, international, or previous recipients — will come from YOUR IDEAS. We have funded a wide variety of worthy projects and organizations over the years, and we would love to add your ideas to [the list](#).

Grant applications are being accepted now and the first Share the Plate will be Sunday, October 5, so get those proposals going! **Submitting a proposal is easy** — [just click here](#)! You can also reach out to any SRC member or email [socialresponsibility@uubedford.org](mailto:socialresponsibility@uubedford.org) if you have questions or need help.

Here's to a new church year of making a difference together.

~ Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw (Chair), Heather Black, Doug Denny-Brown, Pamala Foresman, John Laferriere, Jaclyn Olsen, and Elise Randazzo



## Capital Campaign Update

Last year, a Capital Campaign Definition Task Force identified multiple physical needs for FPB's historic building on the Bedford Common and parsonage over the coming decade. Projects were ranked according to safety and urgency considerations. In some cases, candidate options differing in cost and environmental impact exist:

### High priority

- Replacement of end-of-life HVAC rooftop system serving the rear addition which is 25 years old
- In-kind replacement of three units, least green (uses natural gas for heating), estimate \$120K
- Replace all four units with dual fuel units (running on natural gas or electricity), more efficient in heat pump mode, estimate \$208K
- Variable Refrigerant Flow air source heat pump system (for heating & cooling) with improved zoning within building, even more efficient, estimate TBD
- Geothermal heat pumps for heating & cooling, very efficient, estimate \$750K
- Backup power: Information gathering in process. Options include batteries and/or emergency generator
- Organ repair: Estimate \$56K
- Replace gas range in main kitchen: Estimate \$10K - \$20K. Options include:
  - \* Replace in kind with new gas range, least green
  - \* Induction range, electric powered, more green
  - \* Induction cooktop with new counter below, more green
- Continued improvements to the fire suppression/water sprinkler system: Estimate \$140K

### Medium priority

- Common Room rear ramp for ADA accessibility, estimate \$75K
- Parsonage bathroom renovation for improved accessibility, estimate \$75K

Over the summer, a new Capital Campaign Committee (CCC) was formed to continue the work started by last year's task force. Its members include Joan Bowen, Peter Cho, Bob Dorer, Tom Flannery, Jamie Hinson-Rieger, Gene Kalb and Jenn McClain. During September, the CCC is preparing to meet with UU consultant Sara Green who will help guide FPB towards a spring 2026 campaign. The committee then intends to meet the following milestones during this church year:

Nov 2025 Semi-annual meeting: Announce feasibility study led by UU consultant

Nov/Dec 2025: Consultant performs feasibility study

Jan 2026: Special congregational meeting to vote on undertaking Capital Campaign

Apr 2026: Capital Campaign runs in conjunction with Stewardship Campaign

2026-2029: FPB receives pledged campaign funds from congregation

Over the coming months, the CCC will actively communicate with the congregation via Parishioner blurbs, Parish Biz/Anno emailings, and pulpit announcements about this year's upcoming Capital Campaign.

Peter Cho For the Capital Campaign Committee

## Protest Sign Making Event

**Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00PM**

Are you interested in being more involved in the Friday 5PM actions on the common? Looking to sharpen your messaging and create impactful signs? Join us Friday, September 12 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the Common Room to make signs and learn about ways to get more involved. Pizza and ice cream will be served.

Parishioners and allies gather on the Common each week to hold up a vision of the beloved community where all people are welcome, where diversity is seen not as a threat but as a gift, and where freedom and democracy are a framework within which we care for, support, and protect one another. We call on the current administration to cease its abuses and work for a society that cares for us all.

In this spirit, the Public Witness team is hosting an event immediately after the 5:00 - 6:00 action on the Common to make protest signs. Whether you're a Friday night regular, an occasional attendee, or looking to get involved for the first time, you will be very welcome. Materials will be available, or bring your own.

## The Gallery@First Parish

### WHAT DOES DEMOCRACY LOOK LIKE?

The Gallery@First Parish will kick off the church year's shows with "What Does Democracy Look Like?" (to you). Hopefully members of the Congregation (and beyond) have been putting their thoughts on this important concept into artforms and will bring their creations to our Call for Art.

Submissions will be accepted September 11 from 5:00-7:00 PM or September 12 from 3:00-5:00 PM. Please have your piece(s) show ready. Show will be hung 9/13. A reception will be scheduled. If you have questions, or need a different drop off time, please contact Kati Oates or Chris Wojnar at [committees@uubedford.org](mailto:committees@uubedford.org).

## Immigration Justice Forum/Cafe

**Sunday, Sept. 21 from 11:30am – 1pm, Bacon Room**

Please join us for an informative, immigration justice forum/café immediately after coffee hour on Sunday, September 21 from 11:30am – 1:00pm in the Bacon Room.

The purpose of this forum is to outline the work that the Immigration Justice Committee has done, is doing, and will do thanks to the support of First Parish parishioners. The Committee will also highlight ways that individuals can advocate for immigration justice at the local level.

The presentation will touch on our temporary emergency hosting of unhoused immigrant families at the church and in parishioners' homes, as well as the wide range of support that First Parish and the Committee have provided to these families. Rev. Annie will also give a brief overview of the current landscape of detention and ICE enforcement.

The presentation will be followed by Q&A. All are welcome.

Please note: This forum will be held in-person only and will not be recorded due to the sensitivity of some of the information that will be shared.

## **A Message from Sue Baldauf and John Gibbons**

Dear First Parish Friends:

John & I moved back into 37 Mitchell Grant Way, Bedford, August 22 & wanted to let the FP community know of our deep appreciation & gratitude for all you have done to help us cope with this 10 month ordeal of rebuilding our house after the fire last October. All of your many kindnesses, from food to donations, support, encouragement, understanding, reaching out, notes, & cards - all were helpful & kept our spirits up. Thank you all for the support. This has been the roughest thing we have had to endure to date & your care & attention helped to get us through. We are still unpacking & trying to find things & are a bit disoriented but are mostly here.

Fondly, Sue

## **Memorial Service for Abby Hafer**

There will be a Memorial Service for Abby Hafer on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 4PM in the Sanctuary. There will be food served in the Common Room following the service. All are invited. A site to RSVP will be out soon.

# First Parish Committees

## 2025-2026

### Parish Board

Stacy Chandler, *President* (2027)  
 Mark Bailey (2028)  
 Bea Brunkhorst (2027)  
 Ted Carlson (2028)  
 Peter Cho (2026)  
 Susan Lincoln (2026)  
 Wendy Innis, *Treasurer* (2027)  
 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*  
 Stacy Chandler, *Board President*  
 Bea Brunkhorst, *Parish Council Chair*  
 Wendy Innis, *Treasurer*  
 Brenda Rybicki, *Parish Administrator*

### Parish Council

Bea Brunkhorst, *Chair*  
 Rev. Annie Gonzalez  
 Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger  
 Wendy Innis, *Treasurer*  
 [All Committee Chairs]

### Social Responsibility Council

Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw,  
*Chair* (2028)  
 Pam Foresman, *Treasurer* (2026)  
 Heather Black, *Communications*  
*Officer* (2028)  
 Doug Denny-Brown (2026)  
 John Laferriere (2026)  
 Jaclyn Olsen (2027)  
 Elise Randazzo (2027)

### Nominating

Sarah Dorer (2027)  
 Jenn McClain (2028)  
 Dave Southard (2026)

### Capital Campaign Committee

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

### Environmental Justice (EJC)

Ginny Steel, *Co-Chair (rotating)*  
 Corinne Doud, *Co-Chair*  
 Ginny Crocker  
 Bob McClatchey  
 Don MacIver  
 Sabrina McClain  
 Marjorie Roemer

### Faith Development

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

### Children's FD Team

Christie Martin  
 Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw  
 Ian Carroll

### Jr. Youth Team

Mark Bailey  
 Nora Bailey-Black (youth)  
 Nina Sonpal (youth)

### Sr. Youth Team

Bob Doud  
 Jerry Ross  
 Carinna Dogan-West (youth)  
 Taelor Nichols (youth)  
 Nao Okamoto (youth)  
 Devin Sonpal (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  
 Christine Dudley-Marling  
 Kati Oates  
 Chris Tohline  
 Christine Wojnar  
 Nancy Willett, *emeritus*

### Hospitality

Cath Van Praagh, *Chair*  
 Carla Bradford  
 Kath McCafferty

### Immigration Justice

Cecile Mercado, *Chair*  
 Christine Dudley-Marling  
 Debbie Flannery  
 Tom Flannery  
 Sabrina McClain  
 Luana Read  
 Ellen Scheiner  
 Anne Schmalz  
 Ginni Spencer  
 Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger

### 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

### Video/Zoom Team

Em Bradford  
 Paul Bradford  
 Craig Jackson  
 Cecile Mercado  
 Cath Van Praagh

August 19, 2025

**Interiors Committee**

Erin Dorr, *Chair*  
Carlough Faulkner-Carroll

**Lay Pastoral Care**

Liz Connors, *Chair*  
Carol Epple  
Clinton Fuller  
Marge Heckman  
Anita Raj  
Art Smith  
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**

Jenn McClain  
Sandy Boczenowski  
Carla Bradford  
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, *Staff Liaison*

**Music**

Lisa Tohline, *Co-Chair*  
Sara Angus  
Dot Bergin  
Mike Boczenowski  
Bea Brunkhorst  
Nancy Daugherty  
Carol Epple  
Karen Frederick  
Dean Groves  
Cynthia Mork  
Bill Rasschaert  
Luana Read  
Chris Tohline  
Lee Vorderer  
Brad Conner, *ex officio*  
Sandra LaBarge-Neumann, *ex officio*

**Partner Church**

Sharon McDonald, *Chair*  
Dorothy Africa  
Bea Brunkhorst  
Brad Connor  
Nancy Daugherty  
Rich Daugherty  
Sarah Dorer  
Marge Heckman  
Dorothy Johnson  
Ben Sears  
Ron & Cathy Cordes, *emeritus*

**Personnel**

Carol Gregory, *Chair*  
Bob Dorer  
Ed Schwartz

**Physical Plant**

Joel Parks, *Chair*  
Bob Dorer  
Brett Leida  
John McClain  
Christine Rabinowitz, *Parsonage*

**Stewardship**

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

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**AD HOC, TASK FORCES & TEAMS**

**Council on Ministry Team**

Ian Carroll  
Sharon McDonald  
Kiya Nicoll  
Joe Pompei

**Fundraising Teams**

**Auction**

Peter Cho, *Chair*  
Erin Dorr  
Rebecca Green Neale  
Gene Kalb  
Linda Politz  
Clayton Springer  
Cath Van Praagh

**Plant & Craft Fair**

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

**Chili Cook-Off**

Linda Pollitz  
Gene Kalb

**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

