



The Parishioner

News of the First Parish in Bedford

Unitarian Universalist

On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts

Spirit...Justice...Community

Volume 59, Issue 3

November 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

Janet Welby, 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, November 2nd *Don't forget to set your clocks back!*

Title: "We Shall Not Be Moved" (*Led by Rev. Jamie*)

A classic protest song says, "We shall not be moved." What is it that we shall not be moved from? What are the elements of Unitarian Universalism that are anchoring us in this moment in history?

Sunday, November 9th

Title: "One Last Sermon" (*Led by Rev. Bill Schulz*)

Bill Schulz was ordained and installed as minister of First Parish on the evening of November 9, 1975, exactly fifty years ago this day. He went on to become President of the UUA (1985-93); Executive Director of Amnesty International USA (1994-2006); and President of the UU Service Committee (2010-16), during the latter of which he served as an Affiliate Community Minister at FPB and preached once a year. Bill returns this Sunday to reflect on whether he's learned anything important over these last fifty years.

Sunday, November 16th

Title: "Try Everything" (*Led by Rev. Annie*)

How do you hopefully persist when situations are daunting or nobody seems to know what to do? We'll explore the strengths and limitations of trying many different approaches and how we can be thoughtful and resilient together.

Sunday, November 23rd

Title: "Wonderful World" (*Led by the Worship Team*)

This all-ages service will feature the Youth Choirs, a story by Nate, and a reflection by Rev. Jamie. In this season of thanksgiving, we celebrate the beauty and fullness of the world and our natural response to care for her and the interdependent web of life. Join us for a service of gratitude and celebration.

Sunday, November 30th

Title: "On Heritage Americans" (*Led by Rev. Jamie*)

Recently there has been an attempt by some in the culture and in the current administration to redefine what it means to be American, and crucially, who counts as American. At a time when our Indigenous neighbors are observing the National Day of Mourning, let's take a critical look at this new language of "Heritage Americans" and what it portends for our collective future.

Next deadline is Nov. 24th

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

A Note from Jamie

Dear First Parish Members and Friends,

What a joy it was to see the debut of the Youth Choirs this past Sunday! Welcome back, Janet Welby! And if you did not have a chance to join us up in the gallery for the art reception after the service, make sure you check out the show, "What Does Democracy Look Like (to you)?" It is powerful and inspiring. Kudos as well to the Music Committee for bringing us the music of Ravel. Maybe you attended that concert fresh from the No Kings Rally organized by the Public Witness Team, which drew 800 people to Veterans Memorial Park in defense of democracy. First Parish is such a vibrant community, and we are finding so many meaningful ways to live into our values and to share that with the larger community. I hope you are feeling that!

Speaking of living into our values: the Capital Campaign is coming! The closer it gets and the more it unfolds (thanks to the remarkable work of the Capital Campaign Task Force!) the more exciting it gets. Last week we had the consultants from GreenerU tour our facility. They are experts in helping congregations go green. With this campaign we have a historic opportunity to do just that as we look at transforming our legacy HVAC systems. But the transformation we are envisioning is bigger than that. We are looking at a plan that will also make us more accessible, with a ramp from the Common exit. The plan will encourage more community, with a modernized range in the kitchen. I have heard so many of you talk about your memories of the multigenerational meals at Ferry Beach and how community building that was. We are planning for more and more events and programs like that, and the kitchen upgrade is a piece of that vision. The proposed soundproofing of 201 will improve our ability to house people in the building for years to come, living into that part of our values and vision. And there is a plan to give our youth some funding of their own with which to develop their own ideas, so they have a stake in our future too and a chance to shape what it looks like.

You will hear more about the capital campaign at the semi-annual meeting on November 9th. Please plan to attend. In the meantime, it has been exciting to hear all the ideas about the future of First Parish that just the process of envisioning the capital campaign has been stirring up. This is a time for reflection on what we love about this community, what its core values are, and what we want for its future. Please keep having that conversation and sharing your ideas with each other and with church leadership. My door is always open and I would love to hear what you're thinking. I know the Board would love to hear from you too.

This is an exciting time for First Parish. Thank you for all you are creating together. It is, as always, a privilege to be a part of it.

Peace,

-Jamie

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "J" and "a" being particularly prominent.

Parish Board Notes

I think we can all agree that our inboxes overfloweth with emails. Some days I'm not even sure where to begin or whether to even try to read them (even the ones I know I "should"). So with that being said, thank you for opening THIS

piece of mail. *The Parishioner* always falls into my “must read” pile and I hope this is, or will become, the case for you, too.

I would like to encourage you to add one more thing to your “must read” pile—**the monthly Parish Board meeting minutes**. These minutes not only capture the business of that particular evening, they also include the ministerial monthly reports which never fail to awe me. Our clergy and faith development teams are a dedicated and busy crew. Here are [September's approved minutes](#). I will provide a link to the most recently approved minutes in my monthly column.

Have you heard there is a Capital Campaign coming? I hope so. We've been spreading the message by word of month, in the order of service, on the list-servs, and even in this newsletter (yet another good reason to put this email in your “must read” pile). I encourage you to read up, ask your fellow parishioners, and begin to think about what you can give to the future of this building and its community.

As mentioned last month, the Parish Board had its annual retreat in September. At our October meeting we refined **our goals for the 2025-2026 program year**. I will be sharing these at our semi-annual meeting on Sunday, November 9 with more explanation. Here they are in their brief format.

1. Strengthen and grow church membership by creating, promoting, and supporting acts of invitation and inclusion.
2. Encourage church members and committees to seek out and utilize existing social justice resources.
3. Equip existing committee leadership with resources and skills that promote individual and group enrichment, in order to enhance communication between the Parish Council and the Board, and ultimately with the congregation at large.
4. Champion the capital campaign.
5. Support other existing spiritual, community, financial, and facilities work.

As always, please feel free to reach out to any of the Board members with any questions or comments.

Best Wishes,
Stacy Chandler, Parish Board President

Office Matters

Since this publication comes out on October 31st.....Happy Halloween!!! 🎃 We start November with the return of the Bedford Lyceum on Sunday, November 2nd at 8:45AM in the Common Room. And don't forget to “fall back.” ⏳

Next Friday, November 7th at 6PM will be our Friday Potluck, followed by a fun new event: Open Mic Night! As always, please be sure to read further in this newsletter and visit the main [Calendar](#) to see all of our upcoming activities.

***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 designation from the drop-down menus in Breeze.** These steps will help us accurately credit your pledge and donations. 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 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

Musical Notes

"No matter what source of difficulties, how painful experience is, if we lose hope, that's our real disaster." - quote attributed to the Dalai Lama XIV (b. 1935), philosopher and present spiritual leader of the dominant school of Tibetan Buddhism

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

Sunday, November 2nd: I will be playing piano.

Sunday, November 9th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. The music will be dedicated to the theme of peace. The adult choir will sing "Something Told the Wild Geese" by Sherri Porterfield, "Verleih' Uns Frieden" ("Grant Us Peace) by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and "Peace Unto You" by Gilbert M. Martin. Sandra will play an organ solo for the offertory.

Sunday, November 16th: Steve Sussman will be playing piano. "Try Everything" from "Zootopia" will be included.

Sunday, November 23rd: Steve Sussman will be playing piano and Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. For this intergenerational service, Janet Welby will be leading our youth choirs by singing the ever hopeful "What a Wonderful World". In anticipation of the holiday season, they will also sing the delightful and fun song, "Everlasting Fruitcake".

Sunday, November 30th: Steve Sussman will be playing piano. "Hope" is the theme for this first Sunday of Advent.

Mark your calendars! On Saturday afternoon, December 13, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. the Back Bay Ringers will return for their bi-annual visit hosted by the Music Committee. This will be a holiday bell spectacular not to be missed! More information is on the First Parish website: <https://uubedford.org/worship/music/>

Have you thought about joining the adult choir? If you're interested, e-mail me at bconner@uubedford.org Besides always singing great music for Sunday morning services, plans for the coming months include a Christmas Eve service featuring 2 cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach, a Good Friday service with music focused on the theme "Beauty in the Shadows" and Music Sunday 2026 (May 3, 2026) will focus on the theme "We Are ..." featuring choral music from various communities of the United States.

Additional rehearsal information about both the adult and youth choirs is below and on the church website: <https://uubedford.org/worship/adult-and-youth-choirs/>

- 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) – Joint rehearsals will be held every **Thursday** from 4:00-4:45 p.m. **AND** every **Friday** from 5:00-5:45 p.m. (please note that rehearsals are scheduled for 45 minutes); the same material will be covered in each consecutive rehearsal every week and participating youth can choose which rehearsal works best with their schedule; all Thursday rehearsals will be in the common room; for Friday rehearsals, the first Friday of every month will be in the sanctuary and all other Fridays will be in the common room
- **KidSing** (Age 5 through Grade 2) On hiatus; reactivation will be announced in the future

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

Youth Happenings

Senior Youth Group (High School)

SYG had a full October featuring a kayak/canoe trip, some sign making for No Kings, and a youth room clean-up day with JYG. We weren't able to get to Belmont for the UU Mass Action training, so they're going to come to us on Nov 2nd!

Sunday Nov 2nd - training from UU Mass Action on Rent Stabilization and signature collection

Sunday Nov 9th - we'll do our signature collection canvassing action during our usual SYG slot, but we'll need a little extra time so we'll meet 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Sunday Nov 16th - we'll be offering a bake sale at community hour to the congregation to raise funds for our larger youth group that is meeting at lunchtime.

Sunday Nov 23rd - we'll have a regular session 11:30 am to 1 pm either doing short film making or a cooking project - stay tuned.

Sunday Nov 30th - NO SYG due to Thanksgiving weekend.

Faith Development for Children

Upcoming Food for Thought – “Unmuted: Bullying and Belonging”

Join us on Saturday, November 15th, from 6–8 PM for our next Food for Thought gathering. This month's topic, “Unmuted: Bullying and Belonging,” invites adults, children, and youth into a meaningful conversation about the real impacts of bullying—online, at school, at work, and in our wider society. Together, we'll explore experiences of bullying, racism, and online trolling in a safe, multigenerational space focused on empathy, courage, and connection. Food for Thought is open to families in the FPB community and Bedford, so invite your friends!

Junior Youth Group (JYG) - Wednesdays, 3:30–5 PM

Take a look at what our youth will be doing in the month of November:

- 11/5: Packing activity boxes for unsheltered neighbors and families in Cambridge (to be distributed by Nate on 11/6)
- 11/12: Bake-Off!
- 11/19: Group Game Gauntlet
- 11/26: **No JYG (Thanksgiving week)**

JYG 2.0 – Sundays, 11:30 AM–1 PM

Our new Sunday JYG 2.0 program focuses on community service and creativity, with food, games, and project planning.

- 11/9: Packing bag lunches for St. Paul's Soup Kitchen (Lowell)
- 11/16 & 11/23: Brainstorming and planning for a 2026 Bedford community Halloween event — featuring a Trunk-or-Treat and Haunted Maze/House!

Vespers Services

Vespers will continue on the second Tuesday of the month, November 11th. 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.

Abásfalva Has a New Minister!

Abásfalva Has a New Minister!

This fall, our Transylvanian partner church, Abásfalva, has said goodbye to their interim minister, Rev Attila Andorkó, and is welcoming their new minister, the Rev. Eszter Lorinczi. In an interview Eszter did soon after graduating from seminary in Koloszvár last spring, she talked about her hopes:

“In the long term, I would very much like to be a pastor in a congregation where I can work with all age groups, where I can apply everything I learned at university and experienced alongside my studies, and where I can realize the plans I made in the sterile institutional environment. I believe that, if not now, then later, God will lead me to such a place and give me the strength to do all this.”

Abásfalva is already embracing her with delight! We look forward to meeting her on our next trip to Romania.

-Sharon McDonald, for the Partner Church Committee

Discussion Group at Carleton Willard Village

Thursday, November 13 at 1pm: Carleton-Willard Discussion Group with Rev. Jamie

Every second Thursday at Carleton-Willard Village we gather for a discussion of interest to UUs and hopefully everyone. Our topic for November is thanksgiving. What are thankful for? What have been the most meaningful gifts in our lives? How do we practice generosity and how has it shaped our lives?

Small Group at Carleton Willard Village

Small Group at Carleton Willard Village with Rev. Annie

We'll meet for our small group in the Bedford Room at 2 pm on Thursday November 20th.

Social Responsibility Council (SRC) Update

*Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.*

~ [Maya Angelou](#)



Going outside requires a little more bundling up these days, and sunset is creeping in earlier and earlier. The growing dark can feel inexorable with the shortening days and the time change—even more so when we look at the world around us.

Fred Rogers said, "Look for the helpers. There are always people who are helping." Heeding this advice can help keep us moving forward in the dark, and this month's Share the Plate recipient is one of those beacons lighting our way.

Come to the service on Sunday, November 2, to learn about [On the Rise](#), an organization that provides safety, community, and advocacy for homeless and formerly homeless women and transgender/non-binary individuals. You can support its good work by contributing to the Sunday offering via cash/check or [online](#). (To contribute to your pledge instead of the Sunday offering, write the word "pledge" in your check's memo field or select "Give to Pledge Payment" online.)

You can be a light yourself and help the helpers [by proposing a Share the Plate or grant recipient](#). Reach out to any SRC member or email socialresponsibility@uubedford.org and we will be glad to guide you.

~ *Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw, Chair, on behalf of the Social Responsibility Council*

First Friday Potluck: November 7th

Please join us for the traditional First Friday Potluck Supper in the Common Room at the church (and if you're so inclined, you can participate in the stand-out on the Common from 5:00 to 6:00 PM....). Attendees are asked to bring either an appetizer, main course or dessert for sharing. The meal begins at 6:00 PM with appetizers (BYOB: adult beverages and/or seltzer/juice/etc.). At 6:45, main courses will be served, with dessert at about 7:30.

There will be a *new* event starting at 7:30 PM: Emory Carroll will be hosting the first ever First Parish Bedford Open Mic Night! You are welcome to either stay at the potluck or to join the fun in our sanctuary. Anyone is welcome to perform: you can sign up at committees@uubedford.org. If you would like to find out more, check the accompanying article in this newsletter about how Open Mic Night works. See you all next Friday!



70th Plant & Craft Fair

Interested in making the 70th Plant and Craft Fair even more fun?

We have made a good start with fliers at Bedford Day. The organizational committee plans to have a brief check-in sometime in November on Zoom. Not into meetings? That is OK just reach out to Bea and Dorothy and Dorothy at committees@uubedford.org! For the 70th it would be fun to have some kind of classic car event, maybe have more food vendors- or your idea!!! Send us how you would implement your idea!

Here is our sign-up page link- spread it around to crafters you know! We plan to put out an announcement to recruit vendors in January.

<https://uubedford.org/events/first-parish-plant-craft-fair/>



Upcoming End-of-Life Planning Programs

Our dominant cultural orientation toward matters of death and dying is avoidance. Hopefully, at First Parish in Bedford, we can help each other be more at ease talking about issues relating to death – our own and of those we love – and also preparing for our dying and death. This is hard, but oh so important work that can truly be a gift to ourselves and our loved ones.

Starting in January and into the spring, Maureen Richichi, FPB's End of Life Doula, will again offer sessions (in person and on Zoom) for parishioners interested in exploring such topics as:

- Considering one's needs and wishes for end-of-life care and informing family and loved ones.
- Advance Planning for end-of-life: Health Care Proxy; Health Care Advance Directive; POLSTs; DNR.
- End-of-life care options: Palliative, Hospice and Death Doula care, as well as alternative options such as not starting/stopping medical treatment; Medical Aid in Dying; Voluntary Stopping of Eating and Drinking.
- Body Care and Disposition options.
- Necessary tasks when a loved one dies.
- Talking about death and dying with children.

Watch for more information in upcoming Parishioners and on Anno and ParishBiz. Please contact Maureen Richichi with any questions or concerns.

Bedford Lyceum

First Parish Lyceum is Back!

The First Parish in Bedford tradition of hosting a Bedford Lyceum on Sunday mornings is making a comeback. As facilitator of the new Lyceum series, Doug Muder's intention is to recreate the spirit of First Parish's lay-led services of decades past, whose purpose was as much to learn about other members of the community and their interests as to inform and educate the congregation.

The inaugural Lyceum will return on Sunday, November 2 when Doug Muder and Maureen Richichi will lead a presentation/discussion on "Life After (someone else's) Death". Both will share their personal stories and thoughts on *moving with loss* after the death of a loved one and lead a discussion.

The session will begin promptly at 8:45 AM in the Common Room and end in time for attendance at the morning's worship service. Coffee and tea will be available before we gather. Parishioners at home can join on Zoom.

We hope you'll join us. Future Lyceums will happen before church in the Common Room on the first Sunday of each month. Dean Groves is slated to lead the December Lyceum. If you have an idea for a future Lyceum, talk to Doug Muder.



New Event: Open Mic!

Are you a singer, musician, dancer, poet, or just a lover of the performing arts? This month, on November 7th at 7:30pm, First Parish will be hosting its first ever open mic! The event will coincide with the monthly potluck, so no need to worry about eating dinner before you come.

Hence the name, the open mic is open to anyone who would like to perform! We would love to see a wide variety of performing arts represented, so please put your name down even if you do something that may seem a bit unconventional. Anyone who would like to watch is encouraged to attend too!

The event will feature a house band led by Emory Carroll. They will perform their own set to begin the open mic. For any singers or other musicians, you can request to have the house band accompany your set!

If you have questions, please reach out to Emory at committees@uubedford.org. See you all next Friday!

Women's Holiday Breakfast: Sat. Dec. 13, 2025 from 9:00-11:30AM!

Please join us in celebrating all of the winter holidays! This event is a potluck (breakfast style), where we will spend some time relaxing together before all the hustle-bustle of the holiday season and the new year. Attendees are invited to bring items to share (pastries, muffins, coffee cake, etc.). There will be power strips for anything that needs a slow cooker. Coffee, tea, and juices will be served.

If you'd like, please bring some item of holiday decor (Hannukah, Christmas, Kwanza, New Year's....) or just something that you really love to brighten up the Common Room (after the event, please bring your décor back home with you....).

Carla Bradford will be sending an announcement to the Anno list: please let her know if you'd like to join in the fun by Fri. Dec. 5.

We hope to see you there!



THE WARRANT

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

MIDDLESEX SS:

To the Clerk, First Parish in Bedford

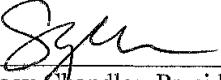
In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby authorized and instructed to notify the legal voters of said First Parish in Bedford in the County of Middlesex to meet in person, or remotely via Zoom on Sunday, the ninth day of November, 2025, at twelve o'clock in the afternoon and then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

- I. To appoint a Minutes Committee. This group of three people will be responsible for reviewing the Clerk's draft minutes of the meeting in a timely manner, prior to the minutes being presented for a vote of acceptance by the parish, with or without amendments.
- II. To hear and act upon the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on June 8, 2025.
- III. To hear the reports of the Senior Minister, Minister of Faith Development, Director of Faith Development for Children, Parish Board President, and the Treasurer.
- IV. To receive an update from the Capital Campaign Committee.
- V. To hear from any members of the congregation who have short statements (less than three minutes) that they wish to make to the assembled group.

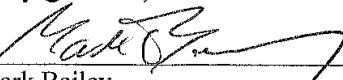
You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof at the Meeting House eight full days prior to the ninth day of November, 2025 and to return this warrant with your doings thereon at said meeting.

Witness our hands this 15th day of October in the year 2025.

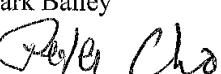
The Parish Board:



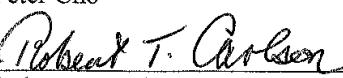
Stacy Chandler, President



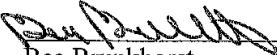
Mark Bailey



Peter Cho



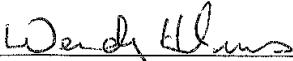
Robert T. Carlson



Bea Brunkhorst



Susan Lincoln



Wendy Innis, Treasurer

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, *Chair*
Corinne Doud (*rotating*)
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
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
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

Interiors Committee

Erin Dorr, *Chair*
Carlough Faulkner-Carroll

Lay Pastoral Care

Liz Connors, *Chair*
Carol Epple
Clinton Fuller
Marge Heckman
Anita Raj
Art Smith
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger

Membership

TBA, *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*

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



First Parish Music Committee



Concert Calendar 2025–2026

First Parish in Bedford, Unitarian Universalist • 75 The Great Road • Bedford, MA 01730

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

RAVEL TRIBUTE TEA

1:00 PM



Saturday,
October 18, 2025



BACK BAY RINGERS HOLIDAY BELL SPECTACULAR!

2:30 PM

Saturday, December 13, 2025

16th Annual VALENTINE'S CONCERT & CHOCOLATE RECEPTION



4:00 PM

Sunday, February 8, 2026



5th Annual IRISH CELEBRATION FAMILY EVENT



5:00 PM

Saturday, March 14, 2026



CONCERT featuring
Valerie Anastasio, soprano
& Steve Sussman, piano DATE & TIME TBD



3rd Annual EVENING OF JAZZ DATE & TIME TBD

www.uubedford.org • 781-275-7994



First Parish is
Wheelchair Accessible



open Mic

at

First Parish in Bedford

75 Great Rd,
Bedford, MA 01730

7:30pm

Nov 7th!

An evening of music, poetry
and performance of every
kind

All are Welcome!

