



The Parishioner

News of the First Parish in Bedford

Unitarian Universalist

On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts

Spirit...Justice...Community

Volume 59, Issue 2

October 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

Inside this issue:

A Note from Jamie	2
Office Matters	3
Parish Board Notes	4
Musical Notes	5
Choir Rehearsal Schedules	6
Youth Happenings	6
FP Women's Book Group	6
Vespers	7
Breeze Roll Out	7
Carleton Willard Village	8
SRC Update	9
Sign Up for Small Groups	9
Capital Campaign Committee	9
Gallery @First Parish	10
Bedford Lyceum	10
A Ravel Tea	10
Save the Date: 2026 Auction!	11
FP Committees	12
Music Committee Events	14

Upcoming Sunday Services*

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

Sunday, October 5th

Title: "Enough and Never Enough" (*Led by Rev. Jamie*)

As mortal and finite beings, the scope of our wishes and dreams is always bigger than the time and the resources we have to achieve them. Our lives are measured in years and not centuries. How do we find the grace of enough-ness within our human-ness?

Sunday, October 12th

Title: "All That Can Be Saved" (*Led by Rev. Jamie*)

Once upon a time, our Universalist ancestors had the radical message that all people are saved—that heaven was waiting for all of us, no exceptions. These days UUs are much more focused on building the Beloved Community here on earth. And we know that while we are doing the work, much harm is happening all around us, and will continue to happen despite our efforts. How do we keep hope alive when we are focused on saving all that can be saved?

Sunday, October 19th

Title: "What is Too Much?" (*Led by Rev. Annie*)

Just as we might struggle with knowing what is enough, we may also wonder about the flip side: what is too much? We'll explore boundaries, healing and tools for maintaining perspective outside your own milieu.

Sunday, October 26th

Title: "Ancestor's Memorial Service" (*Led by the Worship Team*)

The last Sunday in October is a time set aside to reflect on honoring our ancestors, as we approach Halloween, Day of the Dead, Halottak Napja and many other similar observances in cultures around the world. Rev. Jamie will give a reflection. This will be an all-ages service.

Next deadline is Oct. 27th

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,

The capital campaign is coming soon!

I want to say a big thank you to our capital campaign consultant, Sara Green, and to the many (many!) of you who came out on Saturday and Sunday to make the capital campaign kickoff weekend a big success. One big takeaway from the weekend, and one clear message Sara had for me and the Board and the Capital Campaign Task Force was, we need to raise awareness about the capital campaign. *A lot.* In October.

So, get used to hearing me say, the capital campaign is coming soon!

I also wanted to share just a little more context about the why of the capital campaign and how I believe it plays into the overall mission and vision for First Parish.

Because on the one hand, some of the projects are necessary but may feel unexciting, like repairing the sprinkler system, or replacing the HVAC units that are at end of life.

But this campaign does provide significant opportunities for us to live more deeply into our values. For example:

- We will be able to replace our end-of-life HVAC units with much greener options, reflecting our environmental commitment
- Repairing the sprinkler system also makes it greener, because it will require less power to work properly
- We can add a ramp to the exit from the Common Room, reflecting our commitment to accessibility, which is really a commitment to honoring and welcoming all people
- We could soundproof Room 101, which we are using to provide temporary housing to vulnerable families, and which would make this effort more long-term sustainable
- We can set aside a portion of the funds raised for the youth to decide how they will be used, empowering our young people

There is another context in which I think this campaign is very important in supporting the mission and vision of this church, and that is in the way it relates to the overall strategic direction of the church. When you called me to First Parish, one thing that you were very clear about was that you wanted the church to grow, and specifically to grow younger. You asked us to grow the religious education program for children and adults, to attract and support families, and just generally to help grow the base that will support First Parish through the next fifty years of its life. We want First Parish to be active and thriving fifty, or one hundred, or one-hundred-and-fifty years into the future. I agree 100% with that vision. And I think this is a pivotal time in the life of the church in that regard. And then also, if you look around at the world, has there ever been a time when what this congregation has to offer is more needed? We should be growing, and I believe we can be.

To that end, your Board has made a strategic decision to invest in what I am going to say is a remarkable staff team and charged us to support you and partner with you in carrying out that vision of growth. The strength of the staff is one of the first things Sara pointed out on Sunday. Your investment in us is a significant commitment and reflects real vision. You have decided to increase your investment in the staff at a time when many congregations are cutting positions or cutting hours.

And what I do not want to see happen, is for that investment in staffing for growth to become quickly unsustainable, because facilities issues are dragging down the operating budget. It is one of the reasons I think financing our needs through borrowing from the endowment would be counter to the overall strategic vision of the church. It would make our staffing unsustainable.

The other thing I do not want to see happen is for the staff to be in putting-out-fires mode during this pivotal time, because they are dealing with a succession of building issues, like when one of the HVAC units failed last winter and the offices were suddenly without heat. We want the staff focused on serving you, growing the church, and growing the reach of the church's values and vision in the community. Think of the capital campaign as putting a solid foundation underneath the staff, or even a springboard, so they can do the work that you really want them to do.

So, I invite you to think of the capital campaign in three ways. It is an opportunity to care for our beloved building and protect and preserve it for the next generation, as the generations before did for us. It is an opportunity to build something even better and to live more deeply into values like environmentalism and accessibility. And it is one piece of our overall investment in growing this congregation, so that we can be a thriving community long into the future.

This was a very long message, and I appreciate you taking the time to hear some of my thoughts. We look forward to hearing more of your thoughts in the coming weeks. And if you take only one thing away from this email, let it be this:

The capital campaign is coming soon!

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.

Office Matters

As I am writing this column, we have officially turned the page to October. It's hard to believe how quickly September flew by. We start this month with our First Friday Potluck Dinner on October 3rd at 6PM in the Common Room. Andrew Van Praagh's Memorial Service is on Saturday, October 4th at 2PM. We also have a Breeze Demo on Sunday, October 5th after services. Our Music Committee never fails to entertain the community. We hope you can join us for the Ravel Tribute Tea concert on Saturday, October 18th. As always, please be sure to read further in this newsletter and visit the main [Calendar](#) to see all of our upcoming activities.

***Reminder: 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 addresses safety concerns (i.e. food allergies) and food waste concerns. Below please find the details:

- Leftover perishable foods can only be served to children/youth the same day;
- Common allergen food labels in bowl/basket to be put out with foods being served to reduce accidental consumption;
- Provide communication to internal/external groups that all food must be removed after the event, with the exception of packaged food or one medium tray per item (i.e. one vegetable tray, one fruit tray, etc...);
- Tape/marker will be left in the kitchen for easy labeling of dates on food;
- Ice cream related toppings need to be checked for expiration dates so they don't pile up.

***Email Lists**.....please find below an explanation of **our three email lists** for use by the First Parish community. For anyone who would like to join one (or more) of the three email lists, please contact me so I can verify whether or not you're already signed up. If you're not, I can add you with your preferred email address. (Note: sometimes these messages might end up in your Spam/Junk folders, so please double-check those folders). As always, we ask that you be mindful of each of their uses, and please remember to be kind and respectful with your communications.

- Parish Business (ParishBiz) List – communicates important news and events from FP staff and leadership to the parish. **We encourage all Parishioners to subscribe to ParishBiz.**
- Announcement (Anno) List – used to *facilitate* announcements of news and events of general interest to the community (i.e. Does anyone know a good chiropractor?).
- Discussion (Disc) List – a means of promoting (*or responding to*) the discussion of issues of general interest to the community.

- Brenda Rybicki, Parish Administrator

Parish Board Notes

Rainy weather did not dampen our spirits for Ingathering on September 7–did any of us really think that it could? In fact the rain only enhanced our annual water communion as far as I'm concerned. Thank you to Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw for steering the organization of that day and to all the countless volunteers who helped.

In my welcoming comments that day, I dared to compare us all to whales when I shared Billy Collins' poem "Whale Day" which begins... "Today I was awakened by strong coffee / and the awareness that the earth is busy with whales."

Our First Parish ocean is definitely teeming with activity upstairs, downstairs, in the sanctuary, and on the streets of Bedford—even if you don't always see the activity, we can each rest assured that we "whales" are busy. I'll leave the specific reporting to our various committees and will instead highlight three things:

1. **The Semi-Annual Member Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 9.** Mark your calendars and watch your inboxes for more details later this month.
2. **The Capital Campaign is coming! The Capital Campaign is coming! Have you heard?** See Rev. Jamie's message and the Capital Campaign Committee update in this newsletter to get caught up.
3. **The Parish Board held its annual retreat on Sunday, September 21.** With every new program year, and new iteration of the board (Welcome Ted Carlson!), we like to take time to gather—for food and fellowship, of course, but also to covenant and set goals for 2005-26. The four-hour potluck retreat hosted by Peter Cho was rich with brainstorming, validation, and hope. The Board will refine its goals at the October 15 monthly meeting.

Just keep swimming,
Stacy Chandler, Parish Board President

Musical Notes

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness." – quote attributed to religious leader and human rights activist Desmond Tutu (1931-2021)

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

Sunday, October 5th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. The adult choir will sing "Goin' Home", a moving arrangement of one of the famous themes from Antonin Dvořák's "New World" Symphony. The choir will also sing "Chrysalis", a new hymn by Dean Groves. Sandra will be playing J.S. Bach's beloved arrangement of "Bist Du Bei Mir".

Sunday, October 12th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. This is one of Sandra's solo organ Sundays and she always makes beautiful sounds on our historic Hook & Hastings tracker instrument.

Sunday, October 19th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. The adult choir will sing Jerry Herman's rousing "One Person" as well as a wordless arrangement of J.S. Bach's famous "Air on the G String" with Nathan Kimball on cello. Nathan will also play *Bourrées I & II* from Suite no. 3 for solo cello in C Major, BWV 1009 by J.S. Bach.

Sunday, October 26th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann the delicious and lively Suite, Op. 157b (1936) by French composer, Darius Milhaud, will be played by Nao Okamoto on violin, Elizabeth Connors on clarinet and Takako Okamoto on piano.

Mark your calendars! On Saturday afternoon, October 18, 2025 at 1 p.m. the Music Committee will host **A Ravel Tea**. This is the first of six Music Committee events planned for the upcoming 2025-2026 church year. The hour-long program in honor of French composer Maurice Ravel will feature First Parish favorite Eric Mazonson on piano, Rebecca Hawkins on violin and cellist Young Sook Lee on cello playing the virtuosic and thrilling piano trio. To begin the program, Carol Epple on flute, Nao Okamoto on violin and I will be playing the well known *Pavane pour une infante défunte* danced by Dorothy Andersone Perales. Cynthia Mork will also join the line-up singing some of Ravel's beautiful and atmospheric songs. After the concert, there will be a lovely reception of tea and cookies. More information is elsewhere in this newsletter and on the First Parish website: www.uubedford.org/music-concert/

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.

At the time of writing this article, we are still working to find a youth choir director. As soon as we have a new director hired, an announcement with relevant information will be posted.

Additional rehearsal information about both the adult and youth choirs is below and on the church website: www.uubedford.org.

- 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) - TBD
- **KidSing** (Age 5 through Grade 2) - TBD

Youth Happenings

Senior Youth Group (High School)

SYG kicked off with a cookout on Sept 14th and is now planning regular meetings right after worship. Here are some of our upcoming events:

Sunday Oct 5th - meet at 11:30 am to go on a kayak/canoe outing on the Concord River. We'll return to the church by 2:30 pm.

Sunday Oct 12th - we'll have a regular session in room 202 11:30 am to 1 pm, having fun with making short movies in small groups to show each other

Sunday Oct 19th - we'll meet with UU Mass Action as part of the Youth Corps to learn about Rent Control as part of housing justice and get trained up on how to canvass for signatures. This event will be in the evening, not our normal time! Location and time TBA.

Sunday Oct 26th - we'll have a regular session in room 202 11:30 am to 1 pm and keep it chill as the Coming of Age retreat will have just ended. Games, discussions, and food as always.

First Parish Women's Book Group

Marjan Kamali will be joining us for the meeting on October 26th at 6 p.m. in the common room. She is the author of "The Lion Women of Tehran", the book we'll be discussing.

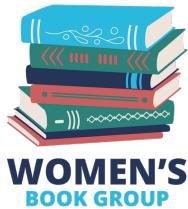
From Amazon: An "evocative read and a powerful portrait of friendship, feminism, and political activism" (*People*) set against three transformative decades in Tehran, Iran.

Please bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner.

Book group schedule:

Meeting Date	Book	Author
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.



Vespers Services

Vespers will continue on the second Tuesday of the month, **October 14th**. 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.

Breeze Will Roll Out to Members on October 6

Dear Members and Friends of First Parish,

After a long time of planning and preparation, we are now ready to introduce you to Breeze, our new church database and management system.

Full disclosure—I love Breeze! Is it perfect? No. Do I use it all the time already? Yes!

On **Monday, October 6**, FP members and friends will get an email that invites each of you to create your Breeze username and password. This will create your Breeze account. You can then follow the link to log in and look around.

For most of you, Breeze will function as your church member directory. With Breeze you can:

- Search for basic contact information of FP members and friends in the People section
- Manage your own contact information in the Profile section, including uploading a photo so we can see each other's beautiful faces
- See a complete list of FP teams and committees and who is on them in the Tags section
- See and manage your pledge and giving information, give online, or set up automatic monthly payments in the Giving section

THIS IS AN OPT OUT DIRECTORY. If you do NOT want your information available to other members and friends, that is no problem. Please email the office at office@uubedford.org and let us know and we will remove you from the directory. You will still have access, but other people will not be able to see you.

There is a handy Breeze app for your smartphone, which we will tell you about on release day.

Here is the beautiful thing: if you do not want one more app or login to keep track of, you do not have to ever use Breeze. You can forget it even exists! The office is always here to answer your questions and to help you with all the things.

But if you *want* to use it, it will serve as a handy online member directory that you can access from your phone. You can see and manage all your church giving in one place. You can see who's on what committee. And if you run a team, there are some additional tools that you may find helpful for running your team. The staff are finding it *very* helpful.

On Sunday, October 5, after the service, we will have a special presentation to walk you through the basic features of Breeze. We will follow up with a list of training sessions, in person and on Zoom, to show you around Breeze and answer your questions.

A small handful of people have automatic payments set up in OneChurch, our former system. We will reach out to you personally to help you transfer those to Breeze, or cancel them if you prefer.

I'm sure there will be hiccups as we roll this out. Thank you in advance for your patience. And thank you to everyone who has already been a part of testing Breeze or is already using it. If you have questions, please email me at minister@uubedford.org. Again—training sessions begin soon.

Peace, Jamie

Discussion Group at Carleton Willard Village

Carleton Willard Discussion group with Rev. Jamie, Thursday-October 9

Every 2nd Thursday, Rev. Jamie leads a discussion at Carleton-Willard Village on a topic of interest to UUs and hopefully everyone. October's topic is "Tales of our Ancestors." What are the stories from our own families that have shaped our lives or our understanding? And what are the significant stories that have shaped Unitarian Universalism?

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-October 23

Social Responsibility Council (SRC) Update

*Seething with speech to defy the tree,
I want the fruit with singing taste,
grown in the throats of men.*
~ [Dante Micheaux](#)



It's October, and that means the [Social Responsibility Council](#) (SRC) is back in action! Thank you to those who have already submitted proposals for Share the Plate weekends. And to everyone else: Please send in your proposals for Share the Plate and grant recipients!

Share the Plate weekends are a great way to build awareness of organizations that need ongoing support. In that vein, our first recipient of the church year is [Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell](#). We'll hear about this organization during the service on Sunday, October 5.

An important reminder about Share the Plate Sundays: On these special days, half of all offerings **automatically** go to the chosen organization, **except** for checks with the word "pledge" written in the memo field—these will go toward your pledge. **Any checks placed in the offertory without the word "pledge" will be split between the Share the Plate recipient and First Parish.**

For me, this time of year always holds a delicious, crisp promise. The cool evenings that beg for all the hot Cs (cider, chocolate, chai), a return to both the ease and rigor of the academic calendar, and the apples. Oh, the apples! As we embark on this new year together, I hope the season brings some of that same promise to us all.

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

Sign Up for Six Month Small Group(s)

It's October and that means it's time to sign up for a Six-Month Small Group at First Parish! These groups are open to anyone and meet monthly from November to May. They're a great way to give small group ministry a try, meet other community members and have meaningful conversations. Look for a link to a sign up form coming out on ParishBiz or contact Rev. Annie to learn more! The sign up deadline will be Monday October 13th.

Capital Campaign Committee

Our 200-year-old home is in need of some TLC not covered by our operating budget. Like any home, big ticket items need to be addressed from time to time, and it's time. In the past this community rose to the occasion and now it is our turn.

We are discussing the need for a Capital Campaign. We are doing our homework, planning and preparing for this once in a decade-and-a-half opportunity to invest in the church, our spiritual home.

This past weekend, we welcomed Sara Green, a consultant from Stewardship For Us who met with leadership and parishioners in groups small and large. Thank you to everyone who came out on a beautiful fall weekend to invest in us.

There will be lots of time to discuss and ask questions. Stay tuned!

The Capital Campaign Committee: Joan Bowen, Peter Cho, Bob Dorer, Tom Flannery, Jamie Hinson-Rieger, Gene Kalb and Jenn McClain

The Gallery@First Parish

Oct 17 - The Gallery Team invites the Friday Sign Holders for refreshments in the Church Gallery to see our latest show "What Does Democracy Look Like? (To you)

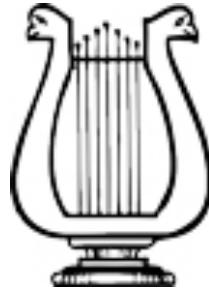
Oct 26 - The Gallery Team invites everyone to visit our newest show entitled : What Does Democracy Look Like (to you)? Join us from 11:30 to 1:00 for delicious goodies and interesting art.

Bedford Lyceum

The Bedford Lyceum will return on **November 2 at 8:45 a.m.**, when Maureen Richichi and Doug Muder will lead a presentation/discussion on "Life After (someone else's) Death". As the date approaches, look for more detailed descriptions of the content on the First Parish email lists and in the announcements in the Sunday order of service.

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.

The intention of the new Lyceum series 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. If you have an idea for a future Lyceum, talk to Doug Muder.



A Ravel Tea Saturday, October 18, 2025 at 1:00 PM

First Parish Bedford UU Music Committee's 2025-2026 season kicks off with a concert and tea celebrating Maurice Ravel. Featured performers are pianist Eric Mazonson, violinist Rebecca Hawkins, and cellist Young Sook Lee.

Eric Mazonson has performed his extensive repertoire in many recitals and appeared with several orchestras in the US, Canada, and Europe. He has performed frequently at First Parish, most recently in September of 2024.

Rebecca Hawkins has been a member of Lexington Symphony since 2002, is a first violinist with the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra at Groton Hill, and performs frequently at local churches. She has played with the New Haven Symphony, the Aspen Music Festival, and the New England Philharmonic.

Young Sook Lee has earned acclaim across North America and Asia. She has performed at renowned venues like Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, UN Center, TD Garden, Boston Symphony Hall, and Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium. Currently, She is the principal cellist of the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra and regularly performs with Symphony New Hampshire, the Lexington Symphony, and Duo Nouveau.

The program will also include performances by Cynthia Mork, Carol Epple, Nao Okamoto, Dorothy Perales, and Brad Conner. Following the concert tea and cookies will be served.

Save the Date: First Parish Annual Auction!

FPB's annual Talents & Treasures auction will be held on **Saturday, March 28, 2026**. As always, this springtime event will be a fun time to socialize, eat, bid, eat, win and eat. So be sure to save this Saturday evening on your social calendars!

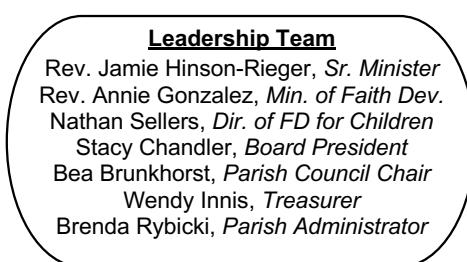


First Parish Committees

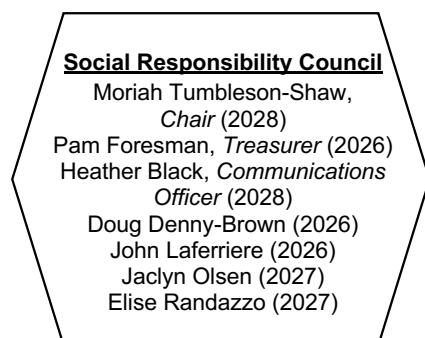
2025-2026



Clerk: Rebecca Green Neale
Moderator: Bob Dorer



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



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
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

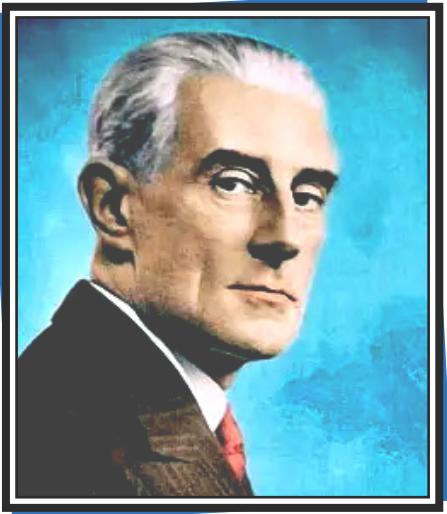
Cecile Mercado
Robert Schmalz

Worship Associates Team

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



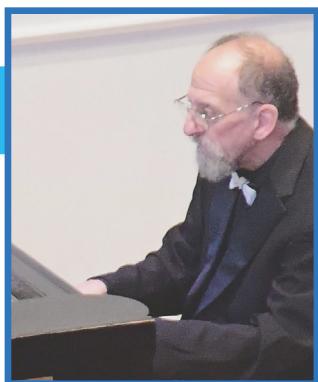
First Parish Music Committee *presents*



A Ravel Tea

**Saturday,
October 18, 2025
at 1:00 PM**

** Featuring pianist, Eric Mazonson*



** Violinist,
Rebecca Hawkins*



** Cellist,
Young Sook Lee*



** Including performances by Cynthia Mork – soprano,
Carol Epple – flute, Nao Okamoto – violin,
Dorothy Anderson Perales – dancer, and Bradford Conner – piano.*



*After an hour of Ravel's wonderful music,
tea and cookies will be served*



Net proceeds to benefit First Parish in Bedford
Suggested Donations (gratefully accepted at the door)
\$20 for Adults \$15 for Seniors/Students





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 and Steve Sussman, piano



3:00 PM

Sunday, April 26, 2026

3rd Annual EVENING OF JAZZ DATE & TIME TBD

www.uubedford.org • 781-275-7994



First Parish is
Wheelchair Accessible

