



# The Parishioner

*News of the First Parish in Bedford*

*Unitarian Universalist*

*On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts*

*Spirit...Justice...Community*

Volume 59, Issue 5

January 2026

**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/>

***Our January theme is "Hope is a Leap into the Unknown"***

### **Sunday, January 4th**

Title: "A Vision for the New Year" (Led by Rev. Jamie)

It's 2026! In the light of the year we just had, what could be more foolish than trying to predict the year ahead? And yet, with no crystal ball in hand, Rev. Jamie will lay out a hopeful vision for the coming year(s) for First Parish and for Unitarian Universalism. After the service, there will be a talk-back so you can offer feedback and also share and discuss your own hopes, ideas, and hopeful ideas about the future.

### **Sunday, January 11th**

Title: "My Phone, My Frenemy" (Led by Rev. Jamie)

In the last few years, stories about the addictive nature of cellphones and social media have become more commonplace in the media. Both are identified as significant contributors to mental health problems and negative well-being, particularly for young people. Arguably, they have played a role in destabilizing our democracy itself. But also, I love my phone, and I rely on it for so many important things. What do we do about it? This sermon discusses the issue generally but will also offer some useful hacks that individuals and families can try to get a handle on phone use in their own life.

### **Sunday, January 18th**

Title: "To the Light of Human Conscience" (Led by Rev. Annie)

There are many difficult realities in our society that can be hard to face. And if people aren't ready to see an ugly truth they may respond very poorly to its revelation. It can feel risky to tell some truths. How do we bring injustice and other pain "to the light of human conscience" as MLK Jr. wrote, in productive ways that bring people together and allow healing?

### **Sunday, January 25th**

Title: "On Lowering the Temperature" (Led by Rev. Jamie)

It is easy for uncertain times to become anxious times to become angry times, but this progression is not inevitable. This Sunday, to the accompaniment of beautiful choir songs by Schubert and Mozart, we will talk about how to lower our own reactivity and cultivate more inner peace, which can often also lower the reactivity of those around us. Perhaps we can collectively face the unknown with more hope and less anger and anxiety. Anyway, we can certainly try!

**Next deadline is Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>**

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,

Welcome to the New Year! 2026 is going to be an exciting year for First Parish, and we kick it off very quickly with an important decision about the capital campaign. The vote to embark on this adventure will be February 8. That means the Capital Campaign Task Force has about a month remaining to get you the information you need, to explain what the capital campaign is all about, and to answer all your questions. You are going to be hearing from us a lot in January!

We have two fantastic groups of consultants helping us gather and present information about the needs of our facilities and our various options for maintaining or improving them. I would like to say just a little bit more about the values behind this capital campaign. Why are we proposing this? In our conversations with you over the last year, three values have emerged: legacy, community, and environmental sustainability.

Legacy means that we recognize we have inherited a great legacy in First Parish, now approaching its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The generations who came before us made the decision to invest in its future, and now it is our turn to do the same. We know there is work needed on the core systems of the building (HVAC, fire suppression, power supply) to sustain the legacy of First Parish. An architect team is doing an “existing conditions” assessment of the building to identify any other issues for us to attend to. We want to have our building in good shape for the future.

Maintaining our historic organ is part of maintaining our legacy. But it is also part of how we build community every Sunday. Music brings us together! Community is another core value of the capital campaign. It is seen in projects like upgrading the stove, so we can have more events where we cook together. Food is always community building!

We want our community to be accessible and inclusive. We would like to see an accessible exit off the common room. We are looking at various soundproofing upgrades, which would help us live out our mission of housing vulnerable people in the church, but more generally would make our spaces more inclusive and welcoming. Poor sound quality in a room can lead to people feeling left out of an event. We want to improve that experience where we can. We will look at enhancing air filtration for the building as part of the HVAC upgrade, thinking about our learnings from COVID, and how important air quality is to health and accessibility. A power backup system will insure that people with mobility devices can exit the building quickly and safely in an emergency. Together these things communicate: “We are building a safe and inclusive community for everyone, because we want you to be a part of our community.” In many respects, this capital campaign continues the work of the ‘Bility campaign.

Finally, environmental sustainability is a core value to First Parish. This proposed capital campaign builds on the work of the solar campaign and the eco task force plan that came before it. The various consultants are going to help us identify ways to make us as energy efficient as possible. And they are going to help us with a plan to replace our existing HVAC systems, which are at end of life, with greener solutions. These may be immediate solutions, or it may look like a staged plan to get more green over time. This is the project where there is the most variability in expense and timeline, and where we will have the most tradeoffs to consider between investment of resources and return on our values. But the goal is a greener campus.

These are the values that inform the capital campaign: legacy, community, and environmental sustainability. This capital campaign, unlike some others, is not one big thing. It is a lot of medium-sized things and a few smaller things. But some of those medium-sized things are critically important to the future of the church, if we want that future to be in our beloved historic building. Others would make that building an even better expression our values, an eco-friendly and inclusive space where we can build community together for the next generation. We look forward to sharing more with you and answering your questions in the month to come. Look for a capital campaign table each Sunday in the common room during coffee hour beginning in January.

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

After last month's lengthy musings on the meaning of ministry as volunteers, let me keep it brief this month:

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to the seasonal mood of our church and community during December—from the decorations to the food to the music to the readings to the coffee to the presence in the pews and on Zoom. So, I guess that is EVERYOne! What a joy to feel the welcoming spirit among us.

**Save the date!** Sunday, Feb 8 is the Capital Campaign official vote and launch. See *The Parishioner* or *Capital Campaign Newsletter* for more details.

Read the [November 2025 Board Minutes](#) here.

Happy New Year!  
Stacy Chandler, Parish Board President

## Office Matters

Happy New Year! As we welcome in 2026, it looks like we are in for a blustery January. ☃ Please remember to stay tuned to WBZ news and ParishBiz for any closing or delay announcements. Given the holiday on Thursday, our first Friday Potluck will be on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM in the Common Room. Then on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, the EJC is coordinating a book discussion/Climate Café in the Bacon Room (a Zoom option will be made available). And looking ahead a bit, don't forget to get your chili recipes ready for our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. 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. **Year end giving statements will be going out by the end of the month.**

**\*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

*"I dream a world ... where wretchedness will hang its head and joy, like a pearl, attends the needs of all mankind - of such I dream, my world!"*

– Langston Hughes (1901-1967) American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist from his poem "I Dream a World" published in 1941 (December 10, 1964)

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

**Sunday, January 4th:** Steve Sussman will be playing piano.

**Sunday, January 11th:** Steve Sussman will be playing piano.

**Sunday, January 18th:** Steve Sussman will be playing piano. The adult choir will sing two anthems with texts by Langston Hughes, "I Dream a World" and "Dreams". The former with music by David Brunner and the latter a world premiere and a commission written especially for the First Parish, Bedford adult choir composed by Innocent Ndubuisi Okechukwu.

**Sunday, January 25th:** Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ and Steve Sussman will be playing piano. To honor the birthdays of both Wolfgang Amadé Mozart and Franz Schubert, the adult choir will sing a setting of the text *Dona nobis pacem* with music by Franz Schubert, an arrangement based on his beloved *Impromptu* for solo piano in G Flat Major, Op. 90, No. 3. They will also sing *Cum Sancto Spiritu* from Mozart's Mass in c minor, K. 139, a piece Mozart wrote when he was 12 years old. Finally, they will sing a beautiful setting of *Psalm 23* by Schubert.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming 16th Annual Valentine's concert and chocolate reception sponsored by the Music Committee on Sunday, February 8, 2025 at 4 p.m. Check out the flyer elsewhere in this bulletin. More details about both events will follow in the coming weeks.

Now that the craziness of the holidays is finished, maybe it's time to think about joining the adult choir? If you're interested, e-mail me at [bconner@uubedford.org](mailto:bconner@uubedford.org) Besides always singing great music for Sunday morning services, plans for the coming months include a Good Friday service with music focused on the theme "Beauty in the Shadows" and Music Sunday 2026 (May 3, 2026) which will focus on the theme "We Are ..." featuring choral music from various diverse communities of the United States.

Additional information about both the adult and youth choirs is below.

- Bradford Conner, Music Director

## Rehearsal Schedule of First Parish Choirs for All Ages

- **Adult Choir** – every Thursday from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
- **Senior Youth Choir** (Grades 6-12) and **Junior Youth Choir** (Grades 3-5) – 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](mailto:bconner@uubedford.org). For youth choirs information, please contact Janet Welby at [youthchoirs@uubedford.org](mailto:youthchoirs@uubedford.org)

## Youth Happenings

### Senior Youth Group (High School)

SYG had a full SYG had a good December with some planning for CityReach, some games and some semi-competitive holiday festivities.

**Sunday Jan 4th** - 11:30 am - 1 pm regular SYG session with discussion, games, CityReach prep

**Sunday Jan 11th** - 11:30 am - 1 pm regular SYG session with discussion, games, CityReach prep

**Sunday Jan 18th** - 11:30 am - 1 pm regular SYG session with discussion, games, CityReach prep

**Friday Jan 23rd - Saturday Jan 24th** - overnight trip to CityReach in Boston!



## Faith Development for Children

January may be cold, but the Faith Development for Children (FDC) program will be staying warm and busy indoors as we head into the new year together.

Junior Youth Group (JYG) returns on **January 7th** and will continue meeting every Wednesday throughout the month from **3:30–5:00 PM**. Each week offers a chance for connection, creativity, and service:

- **January 7** – Community Discussion
- **January 14** – Choose-Your-Game Day
- **January 21** – Community Service: Writing letters to refugee children living in Lowell, MA
- **January 28** – Bake Off Wednesday, where two teams will make the same recipe and Dorothy and Nate will judge to determine which is best

We're also excited to gather on **January 23rd**, following youth choir rehearsal, for our next **Food for Thought** event, **At Our Family Table**, beginning at **6:00 PM in the Common Room** and concluding at **8:00 PM**. We'll welcome the new year with a community potluck, inviting families to bring a dish their family enjoys to share—along with a story or memory connected to it, if they wish. Together, we'll reflect on family traditions, ancestry, and what matters most to us, while sharing food and conversation across generations.

We look forward to a cozy, connected, and meaningful start to the year.

-Nathan Sellers, Director of Faith Development for Children

## Vespers Services

Vespers will continue on the second Tuesday of the month, January 13th. 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.

## Women's Book Group

We'll start 2026 with the annual book swap potluck on Sunday, January 11th at 1 p.m. at Corinne Doud's house (4 Redcoat Road).

Please bring a wrapped gift (can be one or more books, used is fine) and something for the potluck lunch.

The book group calendar for the remaining church year is:

Meeting Date	Book	Author
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	

\* Author will join us.

## First Parish Book Discussion Climate Café January 18 - Serviceberry

Even if you have not read the book, join us after the service on January 18, 11:30 - 12:15 pm, in the Bacon Room for a discussion of the book:

### **The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World**

By Robin Wall Kimmerer

Several excerpts from the book will be read aloud followed by discussion facilitated by Rev. Jamie. The in-person location will be in the Bacon Room, and a Zoom link will be sent via ParishBiz closer to the event.

The Environmental Justice Committee has a book left for purchase for \$12 (to pick up at church), and several "lending" books you may borrow to read and return. If interested to buy or borrow a book, please send your request to: environmental-justice@uubedford.org

-Coordinated by the Environmental Justice Committee



## Discussion Group at Carleton Willard Village

### **Carleton-Willard Discussion Group with Rev. Jamie**

The next meeting of the discussion group at Carleton-Willard Village is Thursday, January 8 at 1pm. We will talk about our hopes and concerns for the coming year.

## 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 January 22nd.

## Evening Grief Group

We'll meet on Wednesday, Jan. 7th in the Bacon Room and Thursday, Jan. 22nd in Room 202 from 7-8 pm. This group is a drop in group open to anyone who is currently living with grief, members, friends or community members.

## **“First Friday” Potluck: Fri. Jan. 9, 2026**

Because of the unfortunate timing of New Year’s Day being on Thurs. Jan. 1, 2026 we are moving the “first” Friday potluck to the SECOND Friday in January. Please join us for the “Second Friday” Potluck Supper in the Common Room at the church. 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.



### **Preparing for Death...Why it Matters and How to Start**

In our culture we tend to avoid talking about death and dying, a life experience that touches each of us. We may avoid taking time to clarify our values and wishes for end-of-life care and/or feel uncertain or anxious about sharing this information with family and friends. Yet this preparation and these brave conversations would be such a gift to ourselves and our loved ones, and may increase the odds of having the kind of deaths we want. Have you given thought to your own wishes for end-of-life care? Are you unsure about how to even begin this process? Wondering how to have a conversation about your care wishes with loved ones? Are you caring for elderly parents or other loved ones who are ill or possibly facing death in the near future? If so, are you aware of their wishes?

Come learn about why this preparatory work is so important and how to begin doing it. FPB End of Life Doula, Maureen Richichi, will offer three sessions in January:

- Thursday, January 15, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM in the Bacon Room
- Thursday, January 15, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Virtual Session Zoom Meeting
- Saturday, January 17, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM in the Bacon Room.

All are welcome. Coffee/Tea will be available (those attending on Zoom please bring your own cup!). Registration is not required to attend, but Maureen would appreciate knowing if you’re interested and for which session option. Please contact Maureen with any questions or concerns.

### **Food for Thought Young Adult Edition: Friday Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm**

#### **First Parish in Lexington**

Our summer consortium congregations have been collaborating this year and this time we're holding a joint young adult event. All UU affiliated "young adults" (whatever that means to you, but out of high school and under 35) are invited to join for Qdoba food and some structured socializing. RSVP: [tinyurl.com/UUYAJan9](http://tinyurl.com/UUYAJan9)

## The First Parish Public Witness Team reminds all that:

Our weekly **Standout For Democracy** on the front of the Common is happening all winter, Saturday mornings from 10 to 11. Regardless of the weather! It has become a community and sometimes a party with music! Cars beep for us like crazy. Signs available. Bring your flag.

-Alan MacRobert



## Capital Campaign Update

As we look toward a special congregational meeting on February 8, 2026, we need to thoughtfully consider caring for our historic home. February's "go/no-go" capital campaign vote will be about more than just maintaining a building. Fundamentally, the vote will be about more than just maintaining a building. Fundamentally, the vote will center on the importance of church infrastructure upholding FPB's values and sustaining its core mission:

FPB Values	Our Mission in Action	Potential Infrastructure Projects
<b>Caring Community</b>	<b>Hospitality and safety.</b> We protect the dignity and security of all by ensuring life-saving systems, providing safe passage for those with mobility challenges, and respecting our church staff work environment.	Power backup generator, common room egress, soundproofing temporary guest family room, parsonage bath upgrade.
<b>Climate Change</b>	<b>Path towards decarbonization.</b> We morally pivot away from fossil fuels by taking critical steps toward a green campus. This campaign moves FPB towards an energy future that protects the health of our planet.	HVAC strategic overhaul and decarbonization roadmap.
<b>Children &amp; Curricula</b>	<b>Safeguarding our youngest members.</b> Our RE program represents our future's heartbeat. We ensure our classrooms will remain warm, safe, and protected from fire.	HVAC reliability and fire suppression system repairs.
<b>Culture &amp; Cuisine</b>	<b>Nurturing the soul.</b> We celebrate the beauty that feeds our communal life by preserving our 150-year-old musical heritage. We also modernize our kitchen to sustain shared meals and fellowship.	Organ overhaul and kitchen gas range replacement.
<b>Conversation &amp; Connection</b>	<b>Deepening human bonds.</b> We ensure every voice can be heard in the warmth of our community. We seek to transform a path to backyard safety into a place of beauty that invites the spirit outdoors.	Common room noise mitigation, common room egress, backyard patio.

# The Chili Cook-Off is Coming Soon!!!

15th Annual First Parish Chili Cook-Off – Saturday, February 7, 2026 - SEE YOU THERE!

This wonderful First Parish intergenerational event will take place in the Common Room on Saturday, Feb 7, 2026. Bring family, friends, and your appetite!

## JUST THE FACTS

**What:** First Parish Chili Cook-Off

**When:** Saturday Feb 7th, 6:0pm to 8:00ish

**Where:** Common Room at the Church

**Who:** Chili cooks and fans of all ages

**How much:** suggested donation \$10/person, \$25/family

More information, contact Gene Kalb or Linda Pollitz at [committees.uubedford.org](mailto:committees.uubedford.org)



First Parish Chili Cook Off

## Ferry Beach Retreat: SAVE THE DATE May 8-10, 2026

Our annual Mother's Day weekend retreat at [Ferry Beach](#) is a beloved long-time tradition at First Parish for attendees of all ages. Whether it's for both nights, one night, or just for the day on Saturday, come and talk, laugh, and relax with old friends and new!

**New in 2026!** We are adding some structured, supervised activities for kids on Saturday and Mother's Day Tea on the porch!

So mark your calendars for this relaxing weekend of building community and falling asleep to the sound of the ocean.

Registration begins in February, but your Ferry Beach team is already preparing for a great weekend. If you have an activity you would like to offer, please reach out to the office and Bob Doud, Activities Coordinator, will be in touch!

More info on our website: <https://uubedford.org/community-life/ferry-beach-retreat/>

# 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!



#### CHRISTMAS WITH THE BACK BAY RINGERS



2:00 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](http://www.uubedford.org) • 781-275-7994



First Parish is  
Wheelchair Accessible



First Parish Music Committee  
*presents*



THE 16TH ANNUAL

# Valentine's Day Concert

Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 4:00 PM

THIS HEART OF MINE –  
THE SONGS OF HARRY WARREN

*and* virtuosic romantic violin masterpieces



Featuring: Bradford Conner (*piano*)  
Cynthia Mork & Ben Sears (*vocals*)



Haig Hovsepian (*violin*)

## Chocolate Reception after the Show!

Net proceeds to benefit First Parish in Bedford

Suggested Donations

*(gratefully accepted at the door)*

\$20 for Adults • \$15 for Seniors/Students



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