



The Parishioner

News of the First Parish in Bedford

Unitarian Universalist

On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts

Spirit...Justice...Community

Volume 59, Issue 8

April 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, acting youth choir director
Sandra LaBarge-Neumann, organist
Brenda Rybicki, parish administrator
Claudia Brooks, interim assistant administrator
Joe Mitchell, sexton/custodian

Upcoming Sunday Services*

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

Our April theme is "Hope is freedom."

Friday, April 3rd, 7PM

Title: **"Tenebrae/Good Friday"** (Led by Rev. Jamie)

Join us for a special service of candles, beautiful music by the adult choir and instrumentalists, scripture readings by members of the congregation, and poetry as we explore the theme of loss woven into the passion story culminating on Good Friday. Rev. Jamie will offer a short reflection. Please bring a stone to use during a ritual of remembrance.

Sunday, April 5th, 9AM

Title: **"Easter Sunday – Traditional Service"** (Led by Rev. Annie)

It's Easter! It's Passover! The birds are singing! Green is peeking out of the cold ground, and we return to the stories of our religious ancestors for inspiration. The historic communion silver will make an appearance. Join us! Reverend Annie will be preaching about what it takes to win freedom and how not to lose hope when it seems that violence is winning. Favorite hymns will be included, and the adult choir will be singing music by Dolly Parton and George Gershwin reflecting the uplifting mood of the service. Oh! And one more thing! Don't forget to wear your Easter bonnets!

Sunday, April 5th, 11AM

Title: **"Easter Sunday – Family Service"** (All Ages Service Led by the Worship Team)

Celebrate the spring day with this lively, all-ages service coordinated by Reverend Annie and Reverend Jamie. Through engaging stories, reflection, and interactive elements, we'll explore how hope shows up both in our efforts for justice and in our need for renewal—reflecting on freedom, healing, and the courage it takes to move and to pause, trusting that both are essential parts of a hopeful life. The morning will feature joyful music from our Youth Choirs.

Sunday, April 12th

Title: **"I Call That Mind Free"** (Led by Rev. Jamie)

Unitarian Universalism celebrates the independent mind and the individual's right to discern what is true. How do we preserve our intellectual freedom in the face of official lies, junk science, internet conspiracies, and AI deepfakes? How do we seek the truth in love when facts themselves seem up for grabs? Join us for a reflection on the intersection of reason, freedom, truth, and integrity.

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Sunday, April 19th

Title: "Freedom and Interdependence" Earth Day Service (*Led by Rev. Jamie & the EJC*)
Join us for a service honoring the beauty and resilience of our Earth and our UU value of interdependence. What is the difference between freedom when we conceive of ourselves as isolated independent beings and freedom when we understand ourselves as part of the interdependent web?

Sunday, April 26th

Title: "Let the Storm Rage On" (*Led by Rev. Annie*)
What do senior citizens, women in their 40s and Queen Elsa from Frozen have in common? It's that, in different ways, they are learning to let it go! We'll explore the liberation to be found in giving fewer, ahem, cares, while still caring deeply about what matters.

Next deadline is Apr. 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,

It was an exciting weekend at First Parish this past weekend. The Service Auction raised over \$20,000 for the church and the No Kings rally brought more than 700 people to the Common. This afternoon Sharon McDonald and I will go to Boston to pick up the historic communion silver, which will be on display for our Easter Sunday services, which are themselves a feast of song and story and fun and meaning. First Parish is a wonderful antidote to the challenging things we see when we turn on the news.

I wanted to share with you another potentially exciting thing developing at First Parish. A few weeks ago, a student at Meadville Lombard Theological School, one of our two UU identity seminaries, reached out to us with interest in serving their student internship here at First Parish. This would be a two-year part-time internship which is fully integrated into their coursework. Both Rev. Annie and I are eligible to supervise student interns, and co-supervision is allowed, so this is something we could do collaboratively. The Board has expressed their strong interest. There is a financial component to be figured out, as the original draft budget did not include this possibility. But there is a UUA grant program that could provide some support.

Having a student intern is an exciting possibility and a big responsibility. Historically First Parish has embraced this role. Although it has been a minute (the last intern was before COVID) teaching student ministers is part of your identity as a congregation. This does ask for a significant volunteer contribution from you. Aside from just generally supporting and welcoming and working with the intern, you help supervise them. The intern is supported by a five-person lay Intern Supervision Committee for the full two years. That committee meets once a month with the intern to provide feedback and support and is also responsible for writing periodic evaluations. People have found it very fulfilling to be a part of raising up the next generation of ministers, but it does require time and commitment.

If you think you would be interested in serving on such a committee, beginning in the fall, please email me at minister@uubedford.org. The Board and ministry team will determine the composition of such a committee, but it would be very helpful to be able to gauge now the congregation's interest in supporting this process. We will provide updates in April and May on this whole process as it develops.

In gratitude,
Jamie



P.S. The stewardship drive and capital campaign both end on April 25. We have made excellent progress and still have a way to go. If you have already turned in your pledge, thank you! If not, please consider making a pledge today. You can drop it off at the office or make your pledge online at <https://uubedford.org/get-involved/pledge>. Thank you for your support!

Parish Board Notes



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead, anthropologist

Spring has always been my "begin again" season. I am coming out of a hibernation—a rest period from which I emerge generally more energized and craving connection. First Parish is never short on energy or opportunities to connect. In this vein, I would like to thank:

- our Public Witness team for organizing the No King's event on March 24, as well as our weekly witness events on the Common.
- our Auction crew for a fun, not-like-this-every-auction evening! I can't wait to hear the fundraising results.
- our ministers and worship associates for holding and inspiring us Sunday after Sunday.
- Brad, Steve, Sandra, and all the choir members and musicians who bring us inspiration and meditation with new and familiar songs.
- those of you who serve on committees that beautify our space, empower our immigrant neighbors, fight for our Earth, make our coffee, steward the building, share in small ministry worship, sign cards, teach our youth, make pastoral visits, plant seedlings, and manage our donations.
- those of you who bring your UU values to your work or community volunteerism (Lots of UU faces at Bedford Town Meeting!).
- You, the reader, for being a member of this community, especially if you are thinking as you read this, "but I only come on Sunday morning." We are ALL part of Margaret Mead's "**small group of thoughtful, committed citizens.**"

-Stacy Chandler, Parish Board President

February 2026 Board Meeting Minutes can be found [HERE](#).

Office Matters

Happy April, Happy Passover and Happy Easter! Our busy month is off and running already. When this issue is published....it will be the beginning of Easter weekend. We start with our Tenebrae/Good Friday service on Friday, April 3rd at 7PM. On Sunday, April 5th we will have two Easter services (one at 9AM and one at 11AM), with the Coffee Hour in between services. Next Saturday, April 11th is our traditional Pancake Breakfast and Pole Capping Day. The following day, we have our April Lyceum, on Sunday, April 12th at 9AM, featuring Ginny Steel. As always, please be sure to read further in this newsletter and visit the main [Calendar](#) to see all of our upcoming activities.

***NEW: Pledge & Capital Campaign Payments**.....our new 2026/2027 Stewardship campaign will be kicking off soon, as well as our Capital Campaign. As you send in payments, **PLEASE** make sure to write the appropriate designation on the memo line of your check (i.e. Pledge Year 26/27 or Capital Campaign).

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 Claudia at the office.

***IMPORTANT REMINDER: Leftover Food Policy.....**with all of the food events coming up, this is a reminder about our leftover food policy we put in place with regards to Memorial Services, receptions, parties, etc.... This policy was created in conjunction with the members of the Hospitality Team to address safety concerns (i.e. food allergies) and food waste concerns. Below please find the details:

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

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

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

- Brenda Rybicki, Parish Administrator

Musical Notes

"It's been a long dark night, and I've been waiting for the morning. It's been a long hard fight, but I see a brand-new day a-dawning. I've been looking for the sunshine, 'cause I ain't seen it for so long. Everything's gonna work out fine. Everything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be ok." – lyrics by Dolly Parton (b. 1946), American singer, songwriter, actress, philanthropist, and businesswoman from "Light of a Clear Blue Morning" (1977) to be sung by the adult choir at the 9:00 a.m. Easter service on April 5th

Here's the information for planned music during the upcoming month –

Friday, April 3rd: Tenebrae/Good Friday (7 PM):

Join us for a special service of candles, beautiful music by the adult choir and instrumentalists, scripture readings by members of the congregation, and poetry as we explore the theme of loss woven into the passion story culminating on Good Friday. Rev. Jamie will offer a short reflection. Please bring a stone to use during a ritual of remembrance.

Sunday, April 5th: Easter (9 AM and 11 AM):

It's Easter! It's Passover! The birds are singing! Green is peeking out of the cold ground and we return again to the stories of our religious ancestors for inspiration and the historic communion silver will make an appearance. Join us! Reverend Annie will be preaching about what it takes to win freedom and how not to lose hope when it seems that violence is winning. Favorite hymns will be included and the adult choir will be singing music by Dolly Parton and George Gershwin reflecting the uplifting mood of the service. Oh! And one more thing! Don't forget to wear your Easter bonnets!

At the 11 AM service, the First Parish youth choirs will be led by Nao Okamoto and me in joyous music appropriate to the celebratory mood of the day including the lively Caribbean tune "Halle, Halle, Halle" arranged by Hal Hopson and the delightful "Where Shall We Dance" by Terre McPheeters. During both services we will also sing expected hymns for the day.

Sunday, April 12th (10 AM): Steve Sussman will be playing piano.

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., the church will "leave the building", when the adult choir and Revs. Jamie Hinson-Rieger and Annie Gonzales visit the veterans to host a Spring Sing at the Veteran's Administration Hospital. Along with readings, the choir will sing various cheerful tunes like "High Hopes", "Sing of Spring", "Easter Parade" and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game".

Sunday, April 19th (10 AM): Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. In honor of the Earth Day theme, the adult choir will sing "The Bird's Lullaby" by Canadians Sarah Quartel and E. Pauline Johnson, the latter a Mohawk poet. "The Bird's Lullaby" is a preview of the incredible music coming up on Music Sunday on May 3rd.

Sunday, April 26th (10 AM): I will be playing piano. Carol Epple (flute) and Elizabeth Connors (clarinet) will also be playing. Music for the morning will include springlike pieces by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Antonin Dvořák and Maurice Ravel.

Be sure to mark your calendars: On Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 3 p.m., the Music Committee will present "Why Do They Shut Me Out of Heaven?", a concert featuring Valerie Anastasio (soprano) and Steve Sussman (piano). The concert will feature songs by Richard Strauss, Kurt Weill, Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein. Check out the flyer elsewhere in this bulletin. More details about the event will follow in the coming weeks.

Music Sunday is coming up on Sunday, May 3, 2026. This year's Music Sunday is centered around the theme "We Are ..." and will include lots of inspiring music from various diverse communities of the United States. I hope you will make a special effort to come and be supportive.

Maybe it's time for you to think about joining the adult choir? If you're interested, e-mail me at bconner@uubedford.org. While the church year is winding down, there's still plenty of music to be sung. The door is always open.

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. For youth choirs information, please contact Janet Welby at youthchoirs@uubedford.org

If you know parents with children who are looking for a good youth choir for their kids, send them to Janet Welby for any questions youthchoirs@uubedford.org

Senior Youth Group

Senior Youth Group (High School)

SYG had a fun March that included some smaller SYG sessions, some leadership in our All Ages service, and a field trip with other youth groups to learn about building power and complete some Boda Borg challenges. Here's our April schedule:

Sunday April 5th- Easter - NO SYG

Sunday April 12th - 11:30 am - 1 pm Regular SYG with painting our hand prints on the wall and answering some question box questions

Sunday April 19th - April Break - NO SYG

Sunday April 26th - 11:30 am - 1 pm Regular chill SYG as we return from April Break

Youth FD Programs

We're excited to share what's coming up in April 2026 for our children and youth faith development programs!

Junior Youth Group (JYG) – Wednesdays in March

JYG will continue to meet on Wednesday afternoons 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM throughout the month, with each week offering something a little different:

- April 1 – Stuffing Eggs for Egg Hunt!
- April 8 – Bedford/Community Scavenger Hunt
- April 15 – Group Discussion
- April 22 – Community Service Activity
Junior Youth will partner with the Bedford Community Table Pantry to support our neighbors and learn about food justice.
- April 29 - Outing/Bedford Farms

Bedford Lyceum

On Sunday, April 12, 2026 from 9:00am-10:00am in the Common Room, please join us for the Lyceum – featuring Ginny Steel.

Title: “ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and other paths I have worked on”

Description:

“Before moving to Carleton-Willard Village in 2019, I had lived in Wayland, where I worked on many paths, both literal and figurative. I still draw maps, remove sticks from trails, and co-manage the ESOL program of the Wayland Library. I’ll explain why Ganesha is my favorite Hindu god.”

For those who wish to join on Zoom, here is the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91540056299?pwd=bsXBbw65bBWLcXWqJTe0ikKae2mMpl.1>

Meeting ID: 915 4005 6299

Passcode: 807556

One tap mobile +13052241968,,91540056299#

By phone 1-305-224-1968



Vespers Services

Vespers will meet on the first Tuesday of this month due to a choir related conflict on April 14th. So join us on Tuesday April 7th, 7 pm, for our vespers service of song and silence, reading, sharing and lighting candles.

Women's Book Group

The book for April is "The Emperor of Gladness" by Ocean Vuong. We'll meet at 6 PM in the Common Room on Sunday, April 26. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner.

The schedule for the remaining church year is:

Meeting Date	Book	Author
4/26/2026	The Emperor of Gladness	Ocean Vuong
5/17/2026	James	Percival Everett
6/14/2026	Book Selection for the following year	

SRC Update

*I am not afraid of storms,
for I'm learning how to sail my ship.*
– [Louisa May Alcott](#), Little Women

According to [UNICEF](#), more than 400 million children globally live in poverty, missing out on at least two daily needs such as nutrition and sanitation. Girls in particular face a heightened risk of [discrimination, violence, and sexual exploitation](#).

Our April Share the Plate recipient, [Plan International](#), works with young people, supporters, and partners to tackle the root causes of challenges and inequalities faced by children, especially girls. Their work centers around youth empowerment; inclusive, quality education; early childhood development; skills and work; emergencies; protection from violence; and sexual and reproductive health and rights, so that regardless of where a girl is born or lives, she is safe, free from abuse, and able to fully realize her rights.

Half of the Sunday collection from the March 29 service was shared with Plan International to support their good work. You can add your support by contributing [online](#) (select "Give to Share the Plate Sunday").

Do you know of another organization making a difference that you would like to support? We want to hear about it! Propose a recipient using our [online forms](#) or reach out to socialresponsibility@uubedford.org and we will be glad to guide you.

- Heather Black on behalf of the Social Responsibility Council



How to Reduce Taxes

The Capital Campaign and the Annual Pledge drive have begun! The kick off pledges are very strong!

How do I transfer stock directly to the church as my pledge?

In order to transfer stock, you will need to:

- email me to ask for the Fidelity account numbers and
- specify if the transfer is going to the Capital Campaign or the Annual pledge drive.

I will email you with the Fidelity account numbers. Then you can reach out to your broker and ask for the transfer to take place.

Please notify me when the order has been placed. I will keep an eye on the Fidelity account and notify you of the transfer. It takes about 3 days for the transfer to be completed.

When the transfer is completed, I will sell the stock. (We do not hold stock in our Fidelity account.)

After the transfer is complete:

- I will notify you of the amount of the sale. *The amount I email to you is the amount you will be able to deduct on your taxes in this tax year.*
- You will then need to tell me if the stock transfer is for the Capital Campaign or the annual pledge drive so I can be sure to keep good track of your wishes.

The most important part of this transaction is to be sure the stock transfer goes to the Parish Fidelity account directly.

Thank you for your financial donation to First Parish,
Wendy Innis, Treasurer

Pancake Breakfast – April 11, 2026 8-10 am

First Parish will once again host the community to a Pancake Breakfast from 8-10 am on Saturday, April 11, 2026 before Bedford's annual Pole Capping ceremonies. Enjoy pancakes, sausages, beverages and meet Minutemen from Bedford and neighboring communities.

\$5.00 per person.

All proceeds go to the scholarship fund for students in our partner church village of Abásfalva, Transylvania.

-Sarah Dorer and Marge Heckman for the Partner Church committee



UU Mass Action Virtual Advocacy Day

Watch Party at First Parish - Advocacy Day Thursday, April 16, 10am to 5pm

Register [HERE](#) to attend the UU Mass Action Virtual Advocacy Day.

Zoom in on your own, or join the Watch Party in the Bacon Room starting at 10am and we'll watch together on the TV monitor. Note: Rev. Jamie will be one of the panelists for the 11am Panel on Interfaith Coalitions Against Authoritarianism. For those who can stay for lunch, pizza will be provided.

During the Watch Party, we hope to meet with Senator Barrett (virtual) and Rep. Gordon (possibly in-person). If your legislators are in a different district, use your own computer to zoom in for your legislator meetings. You don't need to commit to the whole day, join for what you can. See below for Advocacy Day Agenda:

- **10-11: Community Gathering**
- **11-12: Panel: The Faith Pillar - Interfaith Coalitions Against Authoritarianism**
- **12-1pm: Lunch/Prep**
- **1-2: Relationship Building Across Congregations**
- **2-3:30pm: Rep Meetings**
- **3:30- 4:30: Sen Meetings**
- **4:30-5pm: Closing Celebration**

Do I have to attend the whole day, from 10am to 4:30pm?

No, attend what you can. For instance, if you want to watch Rev. Jamie as a panelist on Authoritarianism, you could arrive at the Watch Party (or zoom from your own computer at home) at 11am when the Faith Panel starts. Or you may just want to attend the meetings with your legislators.

I hope you consider registering for UU Advocacy Day! Corinne

Discussion Groups at Carleton Willard Village

Carleton-Willard Discussion Forum with Rev. Jamie

Thursday, April 9, 1pm: Forum at Carleton Willard Village

Every second Thursday at CWV we have a discussion of interest to UUs and hopefully everyone. This month's topic is intellectual freedom in UU history and its challenges in the present moment.

Small Group at Carleton Willard Village with Rev. Annie

Rev. Annie will be out of town during our scheduled meeting on April 23rd. Stay tuned for more information!

Capital Campaign Update

The "It's Our Turn" campaign launched in March along with the annual stewardship drive. It's a big ask of our community to support two fundraisers at the same time. Yet both are vital for FPB's future. Stewardship donations cover church operating expenses (e.g. staff salaries, committee budgets, maintenance bills). Capital campaign contributions will go instead toward major infrastructure upgrades (e.g. HVAC, fire safety, power backup).

Stewardship and campaign pledge cards were distributed in mid-March. Please thoughtfully consider your contributions and return completed cards to FPB's office before April 25. Pledges may alternatively be submitted online at <https://uubedford.org/get-involved/pledge/>. Pointing a device's camera towards the QR code below will also lead to the donation website for both fundraisers.

Thank you for financially supporting FPB!

The Capital Campaign Committee

Joan Bowen, Peter Cho, Bob Dorer, Tom Flannery, Jamie Hinson-Rieger & Jenn McClain

PS: Several people have asked about tax implications, IRA withdrawals and other financial matters related to FPB donations. We plan to address these important questions as simply as possible in the coming days



Death Matters

Death Matters Series #4: Your Final Arrangements: Burial, Cremation, and Other Body Disposition Options

Decisions made and communicated before death about your wishes for disposal of your body can make an already difficult and painful time for your loved ones easier. We'll discuss available (and hopefully available soon) options for body disposition (traditional burial, cremation, ecofriendly burials, etc.) and other important tasks for survivors to attend to at this time. Attendance at prior Death Matters sessions is not a prerequisite to coming to this one or future sessions. Please RSVP directly to me so that I can be sure to have room space and am able to distribute resource materials.

There are three opportunities to join the same session:

Sunday, April 26, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM FPB Bacon Room

Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92372956081?pwd=hNLR8NKQwCRO2FKYtMKABhlweWqEwk.1>

Meeting ID: 923 7295 6081

Passcode: 117773

One tap mobile +19292056099, 92372956081#

By phone 1-929-205-6099

Thursday, April 30, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM FPB Bacon Room

Please contact Maureen with any questions or concerns.

-Maureen Richichi, End-of-Life Doula

Ferry Beach Annual Retreat, May 8-10, 2026

Due to the very welcome presence of two additional churches (Keene NH and North Andover MA), our annual retreat has filled up fast! The Ferry Beach committee will be sending out a message to Anno in the next few days to let you know about alternative options, such as the Saco Motel and Air B&Bs. Please note that if you need alternate accommodations, Ferry Beach has updated our meal plan to include Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast.

Do you have activities to offer? Please reach out to Bob Doud and he will put you on the schedule we're putting together with the Keene and North Andover churches. (If you don't have his email, it will go out on the anno list)

Also: did you know that Ferry Beach is now offering a linen service free of charge to all attendees (bed linens, blankets, towels)? This makes things so much easier for those of us who have been hauling these items up to the venue for years!

Check out First Parish at The Beach: <https://uubedford.org/community-life/ferry-beach-retreat/>

You will find more information about our retreat and a link to register.

Plant Sale May 16, 2026!

It's time to sign up your yard or you for digging up heritage plants and other volunteer positions at 70th Plant and Craft Fair!

Spring is here! Sign up on our church webpage- One link is the larger Plant Fair sign-ups and one just for the Bake table: <https://uubedford.org/events/first-parish-plant-craft-fair/>

We are really pushing for folks to sign up to have plants in their yards dug up, as well as to help us dig them up! Do you know of any seniors who need volunteer hours? We had a few last year who were a great help before and at the fair!

Thanks so much to all of those who have already stepped up to help out with the many tasks for the Fair. I would like to mention a few- Joann Glover for the Bake Table - day of the Fair and Marge Heckmann for creating two sign-up geniuses.

Hey- do you have a fun idea of how we can make this 70th Anniversary Plant Fair special? Please come by our table on Sundays and tell us or write to Bea Brunkhorst b_brunkhorst@hotmail.com and Dorothy Africa dorothy.africa@gmail.com. And tell us about your seedlings too!

Below is our crafter sign-up page link- spread it around to crafters you know!

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

PLANT FAIR @ 70

You can't buy happiness, but you can buy plants
—and that's pretty much the same thing!



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 16, 2026

on the Bedford Common

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The Annual Plant and Craft Fair—a tradition for 70 years come next May (Crafts were added a decade-or-so ago)—is coming back with its wide variety of heritage perennials dug from Bedford gardens, herb & vegetable seedlings, as well as stock from local nurseries. We are continuing this tradition with craft and local food vendors, a children's activity table, our famous baked goods table—and music!

For more information about the Fair, go to this web page:
<https://uubedford.org/events/first-parish-plant-craft-fair/>

If you would like more information about being an exhibitor—
please send an email to us:
fpbplantfair.exhibitors@gmail.com



First Parish in Bedford, Unitarian Universalist
75 The Great Road • Bedford, MA 01730 • 781-275-7994
www.uubedford.org

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*
 Joan Bowen
 Bob Dorer
 Tom Flannery
 Gene Kalb
 Jenn McClain
 Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger

Environmental Justice (EJC)

Ginny Steel, *Chair*
 Corinne Doud (*rotating*)
 Ginny Crocker
 Bob McClatchey
 Don Maclver
 Sabrina McClain
 Marjorie Roemer
 Paul Vancutsem

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

March 2, 2026

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
Marilyn Richards
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

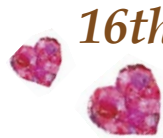
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**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**

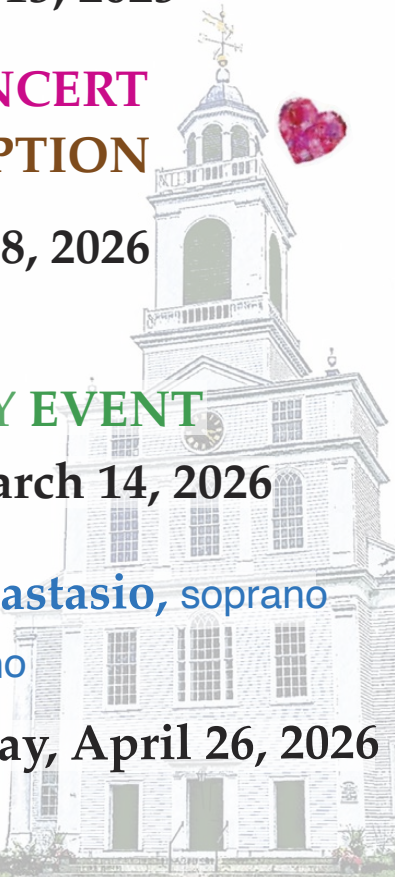
3rd Annual EVENING OF JAZZ



7:00 PM **Saturday, June 20, 2026**

www.uubedford.org • 781-275-7994

First Parish is
Wheelchair Accessible





First Parish Music Committee

presents



Why Do They Shut Me Out of Heaven?

featuring



Valerie Anastasio, soprano

and

Steve Sussman, piano

Songs by Richard Strauss,
Kurt Weill, Aaron Copland
and Leonard Bernstein



3:00 PM Sunday, April 26, 2026

Net proceeds to benefit First Parish in Bedford

Suggested Donations

(gratefully accepted at the door)

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

First Parish in Bedford, Unitarian Universalist • 75 The Great Road • Bedford, MA 01730
www.uubedford.org • 781-275-7994



First Parish is Wheelchair Accessible