



The Parishioner

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

Spirit...Justice...Community

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June 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
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Upcoming Sunday Services*

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

Our June theme is "Hope is found in celebrating the beauty all around us."

Sunday, June 7th

Title: "Choosing to be Queer" (Led by Rev. Annie)

In a society that is simultaneously more queer and more homo/transphobic than years previous, how can we choose queerness, regardless of our own orientations? We'll explore narratives of authentic self and celebrate those who charted the way and those who are changing the landscape in this Pride service.

Sunday, June 14th

Title: "Flower Communion All-Ages Service" (Led by the Worship Team)

Join us for our traditional end-of-the-church-year service in which we sing familiar beloved songs, acknowledge the year's births and deaths and transitions, and share in our annual Flower Communion. The Flower Communion (also known as the Flower Celebration) is a ritual in which we each bring a flower(s) to share, and everyone leaves with a different flower than the one they brought. Rev. Jamie will offer a reflection on the meaning and history of this special ritual.

After the service, stick around for the annual meeting at noon!

Next deadline is TBD

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,

As we come to the close of the church year and prepare to head into summer, I want to thank the incredible First Parish staff for all they do. Someone said to me recently, in wonder, “We church *hard* during the church year.” It’s true. And the staff has been churching as hard as anyone. So, it is good that we all get a little bit of downtime over the summer. The office is still open and things will still be happening. There will be a lot of physical work on the facilities this summer. There is the Jazz Concert and a Juneteenth service in June. We are excited to be offering a week-long summer program for children and youth in August. There will be social events and gatherings. But the pace of church life slows. I hope this feels like a time to rest and recharge for you. Annie and I will be taking some vacation and study leave this summer, at the end of June and then again from mid-July to mid-August. We’ll coordinate our schedules so one of us is available.

Please note, the organ repair will begin on June 15 and continue through the summer. The Sanctuary will be unavailable for use from June 15 – June 20 while the organ is being disassembled. Once disassembled, the pipes will be laid out in boxes, covered by tarps, on the outermost column of pews along the Elm street side. The Sanctuary will be available, but with $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pews thus obstructed from use.

This summer we are once again collaborating with other area UU churches to offer the “Summer Consortium” Sunday services. The consortium churches are Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Follen, Lexington, Lincoln, and Waltham. We are thrilled that this group has been growing over time. We are now collaborating not just on summer Sunday services, but also on social justice events and programming for young adults, children, and youth. There will be more to come in the new church year.

The first consortium service will be a livestream of the UUA General Assembly Sunday service, June 21 at First Parish in Concord at 11am. Gathering for coffee and fellowship will begin at 10am. The Bedford hosted services will be August 23 and 30. The schedule for the entire summer of services will be up on our website soon. Please see uubedford.org for information.

It has been an amazing year, with much to celebrate, from the success of the capital campaign, to the artistic triumph of Music Sunday, to the inspiring example of our youth at the Youth-led Service, to the amazing community building events like the Plant Fair and the gallery shows, to all our acts of public witness, service, and justice-making on the Common and beyond. I could go on and on. You church hard during the church year. Now I hope you get some rest.

As always, it is a joy to be a part of this community and a privilege to be your minister.

Peace,
Jamie

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie".

Parish Board Notes

As you may recall, I referred to us all as “whales” in my opening remarks at Ingathering last September. Billy Collins begins the poem “Whale Day” with “Today I was awakened by strong coffee / and the awareness that the earth is busy with whales.” That notion of majestic beings living their busy whale lives, largely unseen by humans, made me think about how much is done behind the scenes by individuals and groups within our own community to keep our UU-ecosystem alive. For this I know I, for one, am incredibly grateful.

On June 7, the Parish Council will be hosting a Committee Fair during community hour—the one that involves traveling for ice cream toppings while you learn about all of our volunteer opportunities! Yum. If this newsletter comes out after this event, I hope you found a “pod” to swim with.

Flower Communion *and* Annual Meeting are on Sunday, June 14. I hope you will arrive at church with spring bouquets and then head home with democratic spirit in your hearts after coming to the 12pm Annual Meeting (bagels will be available at coffee hour to sustain you).

Further in this issue, please find the warrant, which will be posted on Friday, June 5. As you will see we have new Board members, Social Responsibility Committee members, and a new Nominating Committee member to vote on, along with other business.

Here are our [April minutes](#) as approved at our May meeting. At the end of the newsletter, you will find the warrant, to be posted.

Just keep swimming,

-Stacy Chandler, Parish Board President

Office Matters

It's very hard to believe that this is my sixth (fifth solo) end of church year newsletter. Where has the time gone?! As we look forward to the slower pace of summer, we still have lots going on this month. We start off with the first Friday Potluck on Friday, June 5 at 6PM. On Sunday, June 7, the Bedford Lyceum will begin around 9AM featuring our Personnel Committee Chair, Carol Gregory. That same morning, we'll have our First Parish Committee Fair, with Bedford Farms ice cream at 11:30AM. On June 14, there's the beautiful Flower Communion service and our Annual Meeting at 12PM. As always, please be sure to read further in this newsletter and visit the main [Calendar](#) to see all of our upcoming activities.

***REMINDER: Pledge & Capital Campaign Payments**.....our new 2026/2027 Stewardship campaign and Capital Campaign have officially ended. 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 contact 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

"Somewhere over the rainbow skies are blue and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true." – lyrics from the song "Over the Rainbow" from the film "The Wizard of Oz" (1939) by Jewish songwriter and political activist, E.Y. Harburg (1896-1981)

Here is the planned music for the remaining three 10 a.m. Sundays of this church year –

Sunday, May 31st: Steve Sussman will be playing piano. The youth choirs will be singing under the dynamic direction of Janet Welby. This will be the last appearance of the youth choirs for this church year. They will be singing *Banuwa*, a

Liberian folk song with Dean Groves playing percussion. They will also sing the powerful song, "Give Us Hope", by Jim Papoulis. We look forward to their return in the fall.

Sunday, June 7th: (Pride Sunday) Steve Sussman will be playing piano. The adult choir will sing Leonard Bernstein's "Somewhere" from "West Side Story" and a new song, "Our Doors are Open", by Leah Orchinik. The choir and congregation will also sing the beloved song, "Over the Rainbow".

Sunday, June 14th: Sandra LaBarge Neumann will be playing organ/piano and Steve Sussman will be playing piano. The adult choir will sing the energetic song "Rhythm of Life" as an encore from Music Sunday; they will also sing "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor" in honor of those who have and continue to support immigrants who have come to this country for a better life. The congregation and choir will sing First Parish's traditional year-end anthem by Dean Groves, "Another Year", as well as hymns including Jason Shelton's "Life Calls Us On" and the traditional "The Sweet June Days". As the postlude, Sandra will play a beautiful arrangement of Irving Berlin's "God Bless America". Carol Epple (flute), Elizabeth Connors (clarinet), Benjamin Sears (vocal) and I (piano) will perform an arrangement of "High Hopes" during Flower Communion.

Before launching into summer, I would like to personally thank all the musicians who made this past year at First Parish a year of extraordinary music making. We are blessed to have a group of immensely talented, flexible and dedicated choir members and instrumentalists who continue to be part of the music program and generously share their talents with us. I want to also give thanks to the members of the youth choirs and youth instrumentalists as well as their parents. I would be remiss if I didn't give special thanks to Sandra LaBarge-Neumann, Steve Sussman, and Bob & Fran Tyler for their highly professional and heartfelt contributions this past year. I also want to thank all the guest musicians who came to fill our spaces with beautiful melodies and positive energy as well as Dorothy Anderson-Perales for her uplifting dancing. Much gratitude is owed to the Music Committee for their continued work and devotion on behalf of the music program and more broadly to First Parish in general. I want to give a huge thanks to Janet Welby whose return brought all of us great joy by sharing her musical skills and inspiration with us, especially our youth. Finally, I want to give an extra special thanks to Reverends Jamie and Annie, and Brenda Rybicki and Claudia Brooks for their incredible and constant support. First Parish is indeed a very special place.

Finally, I also hope you'll think about joining the adult choir because we've got terrific plans for 2026-2027 including wonderful music in the fall, winter and spring, including music by beloved English composer and arranger, John Rutter, for Christmas Eve, and a Music Sunday 2027 service (May 2, 2027) with lots of beautiful and melodic music by Franz Schubert featuring the First Parish Adult Choir, soloists and orchestra. Have a great summer!

- Bradford Conner, Music Director

Junior Youth Choirs

Greetings – I am happy to conclude a wonderful year with our Youth singers at First Parish this year. Going forward, I'd like to include as many singers who want to join our choirs as possible. Here is a link to a survey about which choir you might be interested in and what days and times work well for you in the Fall. This is not a sign-up and does not commit you to anything, simply gives me an idea of where to schedule my time.

If you have more than one singer, feel free to put more than one name where indicated and all choirs and times involved. There is a place for comments.

This year we had a combined Junior/Senior Choir. If numbers permit, I would love to restart KidSing and possibly the Junior Choir. Be sure to spread the word.

I also plan to bring back the Cabaret next year. Stay tuned.

Here is the link to the survey:

<https://forms.gle/wrj6mbHTC3fjXdte9>

Musically yours,
Janet

Senior Youth Group

SYG had a relaxed May where we mostly focused on our Lake House Retreat. We'll be saying goodbye to our seniors and getting ready to welcome in our rising 9th graders.

Sunday June 7th- 12 - 1:30 pm Cookout for all SYG + rising 9th graders (current 8th graders) Last SYG of the year! Have a great summer!

Youth FD Programs

As the church year winds down, Faith Development for Children has several upcoming events and transitions for children, youth, and families this June.

Junior Youth Group (Grades 6–8):

JYG 2.0 will meet from 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM in Room L05 on June 7th for our final Sunday gathering of the church year, featuring games, conversation, and community-building. Beginning this fall, Sundays will become the regular meeting time for Junior Youth Group.

Wednesday afternoon drop-ins will also continue through the end of the school year. Youth in grades 6–8 are invited to join us on June 3rd and June 10th from 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM for snacks, games, and conversation.

To celebrate the close of the year, Junior Youth Group will also hold an overnight at the church on June 19th, beginning at 6:00 PM and ending Saturday morning at 8:30 AM. Additional details for families will be shared soon.

PreK–5th Grade Faith Development:

The final regular PreK–5th grade Faith Development class of the church year will take place on June 7th.

On June 14th, children and families are warmly invited to participate in the annual Flower Communion service, a cherished multigenerational UU tradition celebrating beauty, diversity, and community.

Building Bridges:

Building Bridges will conclude the year with a Jeopardy-style review game in Room 204 on June 7th during the usual Sunday class time. Led by Peter Cho, the session will give youth an opportunity to revisit many of the world religions and traditions explored throughout the year.

Thank you to all of the families, volunteers, youth helpers, and teachers who helped make this year in Faith Development such a vibrant and meaningful one.

-Nate Sellers, Director of Faith Development for Children

Young Adult Picnic

Sunday June 13th, 6-8pm

Local UU young adults (graduated high school or equivalent up to early 30's) are invited to a picnic right here on our Common. Please bring your own picnic and a blanket or chair. You're welcome to bring a partner or friend if you wish. Young adults who might be home from college are also welcome!



Women's Book Group

Our final meeting for this church year will be on Sunday, June 7 at 6 p.m. It's a potluck at Margaret Jackson's house (5 Richard Road, Bedford). We will be picking books and meeting dates for the next church year.

Please RSVP if possible.



SRC Update

*"O, let America be America again—
The land that never has been yet—
And yet must be—the land where every man is free."*
— [Langston Hughes](#), Let America Be America Again

Our last Share the Plate recipient for the 2025–2026 church year is [Lawyers for Civil Rights](#) (LCR), a Boston-based organization that works with communities of color and immigrants to fight discrimination and foster equity through creative and courageous legal advocacy, education, and economic empowerment.

LCR was born out of a 1963 meeting between President John F. Kennedy, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, and 250 American lawyers who came together in a tumultuous time to discuss the role of the legal profession in the civil rights

movement. The Boston chapter, established in 1968, was the first of eight national affiliates working to advance equality and justice across areas like housing, education, immigration, and voting rights.

LCR's work is more important than ever in the tumultuous time of today — in a landscape marked by significant federal rollbacks and the dismantling of civil rights and voting rights protections. Half of the Sunday collection from the June 7th service will be shared with LCR to support its good work. You can add your support by contributing [online](#) (select “Give to Share the Plate Sunday”).

Supporting organizations like LCR is one of the ways we can live our values. Do you know of another organization making a difference that would benefit from visibility and financial support? While our Share the Plate slots and grant funds are distributed for the 2025–2026 church year, we are already looking ahead to the fall! Have a direct impact on a cause close to your heart by proposing a grant or Share the Plate 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



FPB Committee Fair

How do the committees at First Parish contribute to the vibrancy of this Church and what can you gain from joining one? It's easier than you think! You can participate by doing small actions such as making a phone call, sending a card, dropping off a casserole and more! Find out June 7th after service at a Make your own Sundae event!



EJC Events/Items

UU Mass Action & Mass Power Forward Events – June 10 & June 11th

First Parish in Bedford is partnered with UU Mass Action (uumassaction.org) and Mass Power Forward (mapowerforward.com), so please consider participating in these events:

- **MassPowerForward is planning three rallies for People Over Utility Profits** across the state on June 10th, in Boston, Pittsfield and Springfield. Energy utility corporations are raking in record profits while we're struggling to pay our energy bills. Utilities are attempting to increase our reliance on expensive and polluting fossil fuels, destroying our health and our planet. The rally in Boston begins at the Eversource headquarters at 1 pm and moves to the State House at 2:30 pm. [RSVP here](#).
- **UU Mass Action Talent Show and Fundraiser:**

June 11, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd, Concord MA

At the Talent Show and Fundraiser, we will gather in joy, song, and celebration – and show off our talents! We will celebrate UU Mass Action's accomplishments over the last year, and fundraise for our efforts moving forward. Everyone is invited to participate in the talent show, or just enjoy a night of fun and connections. We invite you to think about talents broadly, as we are a welcoming audience. You could tell a joke, jump rope, sing off key, or more. [RSVP Here](#) that you're coming and to sign up to perform a talent.

Note: The Mass Power Forward Coalition meets virtually every two weeks on Wednesdays from 9-10 am. First Parish members are welcome to attend, so if you would like to attend, please let us know by sending an email request to: environmental-justice@uubedford.org

Take Two Quick Actions to Oppose Private Jet Expansion

1. Sign the [SPJE Petition](#) urging the Governor to Stop Private Jet Expansion (SPJE)

When the Hanscom Airfield SDEIR (Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report) is released, we need many voices opposing the Hanscom North Airfield development expansion plan for private jets. When you sign the petition you will also be notified when the report comes out and when the SPJE Coalition Toolkit becomes available to help you write your comment during the public comment period (which could happen as early as June).

If the proposed Hanscom expansion happens for private jets, it would add:

- 522,00 sq. ft of new development
- 6,000 more flights per year
- 150,000 tons of CO2 added annually
- 20 acres of trees destroyed

And be a direct and immediate threat to MA efforts to reduce carbon emissions to Net Zero by 2050.

2. Help Push REJECTION of So-Called "Sustainable" Aviation Fuel Tax Credits

TAKE ACTION NOW: [Click here for a sample letter to send to your legislators, urging them to oppose the legislation that would allocate \\$30 million of tax credits towards SAFs.](#)

Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs) are deceptively appealing with their promise of clean and green flights. However, a large body of independent research shows that current forms of SAFs at scale would do more harm than good. Data

shows that current forms of SAFs would actually increase carbon emissions and cause a torrent of cascading harms. [Click here to see why.](#)

The MA Supplemental Budget Bill, currently in Conference Committee, includes a provision for \$30 million in tax credits for SAFs over three years in the House version of the bill (H.5280).

Passage of these tax credits could have serious implications for the developers' next report in the ongoing state environmental review of the proposed Hanscom expansion, the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report (SDEIR). Secretary Tepper said in her [Rejection of the Draft Environmental Impact Report \(DEIR\)](#) that "The SDEIR should not take credit for any measures for which actual implementation is not yet definitive (such as solar installation or usage of SAF fuel)."

The proposed tax credits would put a rubber stamp on SAFs as a credible climate solution, allowing the developers to argue that the use of SAFs are now a "definitive" measure in Massachusetts. This would bolster Massport's claims about the "sustainability" of the proposed private jet expansion in the SDEIR.

We can't let this happen. The SAF tax credits would tie Massachusetts to a failing climate strategy such as "clean coal" and "green" ethanol fuel for cars, whose claimed climate benefits were later revealed to be flawed or false. Please send a letter to your legislators today!

Discussion Group at Carleton Willard Village

Forum at Carleton-Willard Village with Rev. Jamie, Thursday, June 11 at 1PM

Join us for a discussion of interest to UUs and hopefully everyone. This month we will talk about the Unitarian encounter with fascism in WW2. From the Sharps to the flaming chalice to the Flower Communion that we celebrate in June, many UU ideas and traditions come out of that fateful moment in our history.

Note: This is our last discussion forum at Carleton-Willard before we break for the summer. We will reconvene again in September.

Flower Express 2026 Happening on June 14th!

Following the Flower Communion service on June 14th, the Lay Pastoral team will create floral bouquets to be delivered to homebound parishioners. Might you bring extra flowers on the 14th to be used in creating bouquets or can you help to deliver a bouquet and have a visit with one of your fellow parishioners? We could also use just a couple of people to help with putting the bouquets together.

Please use the Sign Up Genius link below to sign up. Thank you!

[Flower Express Sign Up](#)

-Marge Heckman for the Lay Pastoral Team



Juneteenth

The Juneteenth Observance will be on June 20 this year, around mid-day, exact time TBA. I am having cataract surgery this June so I would appreciate help with the set up. If you can make the iced hibiscus tea (tea provided), contribute some baked item(s), or help set out one of the long tables and some chairs, outdoors or in depending on the weather, please let me know (committees@uubedford.org)

Capital Campaign Update

The "It's Our Turn" campaign officially ended in April. As of late May, over \$1.7M has been generously pledged to cover FPB's many major physical needs. According to payment scheduling information helpfully provided by donors, we anticipate FPB's campaign account to receive approximately \$970K, \$380K and \$350K over the next 3 fiscal years.

Infrastructure upgrades will begin this summer. In particular, refurbishing of FPB's historic organ will start in June soon after this church year ends. Organ repairs are expected to be completed over the summer. The music and capital campaign committees look forward to hosting an organ concert next fall to celebrate FPB's renovated instrument!

Moreover, energy consulting firm GreenerU has been preparing detailed plans to address the rear addition's HVAC needs. HVAC work will likely begin this summer and possibly finish by early fall. The church's heating system should then run reliably for many winters to come.

A big thanks to everyone who submitted capital campaign pledges this spring. While the fundraiser exceeded its financial goal, we still would like to significantly increase its current 55% community involvement. So please consider making an any-sized pledge if you have not yet participated.

With gratitude...

The Capital Campaign Committee

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

Crafts and Plant Fair



We did it again!! A really great Plant Fair! Thanks to all the volunteers you make this Fair happen!

So many thank you's to convey- to the esteemed Plant Fair Committee: Dorothy Africa & Bea Brunkhorst co-chairs; Plants- Dorothy and Paul Vancutsem; Crafters and Treasurer – Bea; Bake Table- Susan Lincoln and her co-chair Sara Angus; Heritage Plant digging- Clayton Springer, Paul & Dorothy; Entertainment- Linda Conrad, Melinda Ballou and Marie Duprey; Youth outreach (seedlings) Melinda & Sandy Boczenowski; Publicity- Gene Kalb, Christine Bennet; Facilities – Joel Parks.

We had 38 crafters and 3 information tables- an increase from last year.

Amazing music from the Waltham American Legion Dixieland Jazz Band, Crescendo Suzuki- our own Carlough Faulkner-Carroll's violin school, Plant Fair String Quartet (FPB's Nathan Kimball and Melinda Ballou), Dean and Buffy Groves performing folk, and finally FPB's Marie Duprey & Families' group Lantern Light. So many from our Church Community!

Due to the great success (> \$7000 profit), we will be donating \$1000 to the Bedford Food Bank.

Here is a fun video that Bedford TV took: <https://youtu.be/wOdGp9xYogA> and Bedford Citizens Article: [Plant and Craft Fair](#)

Thanks again!

-Bea and Dorothy on behalf of the FP Plant and Craft Fair Organizational Committee

Looking for Summer Gardening Help at First Parish

I could use some help during the summer with weeding and taking care of the church gardens. There are at least 7 beds that need regular weeding and it is too much for one person.

My vision would be that a few people might step forward and "adopt" a bed or two to weed and keep under control during the summer. Ideally, if one goes up every two weeks and spends an hour or two, these gardens stay under control.

The garden beds are:

- the two on the back side of the church on either side of the steps from the Common Room
- the Blueberry patch near the Elm Street entrance to the church
- a bed that runs parallel to, and close to, South Road
- the little garden patch under the Wayside Pulpit
- the Memorial garden itself (though I like to take care of it)
- and the two garden beds on either side of the main steps to the church.

If you might be interested, please let me know by emailing me sdorer@aol.com, or speaking to me in person. Hopefully, I will hear back from some of you and once I do, I will set up a time to meet and show you around.

Thanks for your consideration!

Sarah Dorer

ps. If someone wants to grow veggies or flowers in the raised beds, please do. HOWEVER, you must be the one to take care of them and water them during the summer.



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

To the Clerk, First Parish in Bedford

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby authorized and instructed to notify the voters of said First Parish in Bedford in the County of Middlesex to meet in person or remotely via Zoom on Sunday, the fourteenth day of June 2026, at 12 o'clock in the afternoon and then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

- I. To elect a Clerk and Moderator to serve from now until the June 2027 meeting. Nominees are **Rebecca Green Neale**, Clerk; and **Robert Dorer**, Moderator.
- II. To appoint a Minutes Committee. This group of three people will be responsible for reviewing the Clerks' minutes of today's meeting in a timely manner, prior to being presented for a vote by the parish.
- III. To hear and act on the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on November 9, 2025.
- IV. To hear the reports of the Senior Minister, Parish Board President, Minister of Faith Development, Director of Faith Development for Children, and Treasurer.
- V. To elect two members-at-large to the Parish Board. Nominees are **Tom Flannery** (term ending 2029) and **Marge Heckman** (term ending 2029).
- VI. To elect two members to the Social Responsibility Council. Nominees are **Ellen Scheiner** (term ending 2029) and **Stacey Katz** (term ending 2029).
- VII. To elect one member to the Nominating Committee. Nominee is **Susan Lincoln** (term ending 2029).
- VIII. Move to authorize the Parish Board to borrow up to \$200,000 from the endowment to meet cash flow needs associated with the "It's Our Turn" Capital Campaign Projects. Any such loans shall be repaid from payments received to fulfill "It's Our Turn" Capital Campaign Pledges, and/or funds received as rebates or other incentives for "It's Our Turn" Capital Campaign Projects. This authorization shall be in effect for the duration of the "It's Our Turn" Capital Campaign Projects.
- IX. To adopt an Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
- X. To authorize the Parish Board to approve funding for programs and services based on additional pledges received during the first six months of the fiscal year.
- XI. To hear from any members of the congregation who have short statements (less than three minutes) that they wish to make to the assembled group.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof at the Meeting House eight days before the fourteenth of June 2026 and to return this Warrant with your doings thereon at said meeting.

Witness our hands on this 24th day of May in the year 2026.

The Parish Board:

Stacy Chandler, President

Mark Bailey

Bea Brunkhorst

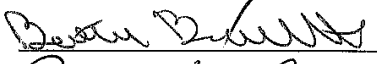
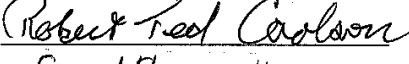
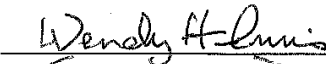
Ted Carlson

Peter Cho

Wendy Innis

Susan Lincoln





Signed Electronically
5-28-26



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 MacIver
 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
 Sabrina McClain
 Luana Read
 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

May 5, 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

PRESENTS

AN EVENING OF

JAZZ

Saturday, June 20, 2026

7:00 PM

Steve Sussman

PIANO



Dean Groves

ELECTRIC BASS



Buffie Groves,
Cynthia Mork

VOCALS



Emory Carroll

DRUMS



Dave Southard

SAXOPHONE



Ian Carroll

SAXOPHONE



★ **PLUS** a special appearance by **Fretless:**

Alison Weaver, Becky Linton, David Getty, Grant Hicks, Clark Jarvis

VOCALS



Light bar
snacks will
be offered

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
781-275-7994 • www.uubedford.org

First Parish is Wheelchair Accessible

