

The Parishioner

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

Spirit…Justice…Community

Volume 60, Issue 1 September 2026

Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, senior minister
Rev. Annie Gonzalez, minister of faith development
Teresa English, ministerial intern
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
Claudia Brooks, 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 September theme is "Interdependence."

Sunday, September 13th
Title: "Ingathering!" *(Led by the Worship Team)*
Welcome back to the start of another church year! Come reconnect with music, stories, and fun. Steve will be playing, the adult and youth choirs will be singing, and the bagpipes will be bagpiping! Dean will perform "It's Not Like This Every Sunday," a First Parish tradition. And we will welcome Teresa English, our new intern minister. After the service there will be bagels, popcorn, crafts, games and more!

As always, during Ingathering we will observe our water communion ceremony. Please bring a small container of water that is in some way representative of your time during the summer (literally or symbolically) to pour into a common vessel. The commingled water will be used for child dedications and other ceremonies throughout the year.

Sunday, September 20th
Title: "Arriving, Belonging, Becoming: A Three-Year Retrospective" *(Led by Rev. Jamie)*
This is the first of two sermon auction winner sermons to be given this year. Three years ago, I arrived from Indiana in this place called Massachusetts to be your new minister. What have been the surprises, challenges, and most meaningful moments of those first three years? And what are my thoughts about what lies ahead?

Sunday, September 27th
Title: "If There Is to Be Peace in the Nation…(On Polarization)" *(Led by Rev. Jamie)*
Dr. King said that we are "caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny." We need each other. We long to live in peace with our neighbors. And we are, as a nation, more polarized than we have ever been. What is driving this polarization? And what, if anything, can we do about it?

Next deadline is Sept. 29th

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,

Here we are at the start of another church year! I am excited that we will soon be together again. Ingathering is September 13 on the Common. It will be great to see you all. In the meantime, I'd like to use this space to tell you about some new things ahead for this year.

We are so pleased to welcome our new intern minister, Teresa English! Teresa has a background in education and church administration (among many things!) and is in her second year at Meadville Lombard seminary. She starts at First Parish on September 1. You will have a chance to meet Teresa at Ingathering, and then we will arrange a special meet and greet reception with coffee and cookies soon. Look for an announcement about that.

There are a few changes and new offerings coming up on Sunday morning that we are excited about. In no particular order:

- The order of service will be changing formats to a more familiar booklet style that we hope will be more readable.
- Our Faith Dev program will have a special insert each Sunday with information about programming for children and youth, to be better welcoming to families (especially new families!) and make Sunday morning easier to navigate.
- We are exploring moving the captions higher up on the screen in a narrower band, to make them more accessible for those who want to read them.
- We are making a change to how we share joys and concerns from Zoom, to mesh better with the flow of the service and with our technical capabilities. People on Zoom will put their joys and concerns in the chat, which will then be read aloud from the pulpit. As with all new things, we will learn and adjust as we go to make this the best experience for everyone. (Joys and concerns in the Sanctuary will continue to be shared open mic, same as before.)
- To better support families who want to stay after the service, we are adding more substantive and nutritious snack options at coffee hour to tide people over, especially our little ones who might need lunch earlier. We welcome feedback from families as we experiment with these offerings.
- Finally, starting on September 20, we are expanding our offerings for fellowship after the service. Every other Sunday, beginning at 11:30, we will offer three additional opportunities to gather outside of coffee hour:
    - There will be a facilitated conversation about the service topic in the Bacon room that we are calling "Continuing the Conversation" (inspired by the tradition of "talkbacks.")
    - There will be a drop-in check-in space in the Overlook room (202) for anyone who wants to connect and share about what's been going on with them. This will be a listening circle format similar to how we check in with each other in our small groups, with opportunities for additional conversation. These will be facilitated by a member of our ministry staff.
    - There will be a separate space for children and youth to gather, with activities provided or just to hang out. Of course, children and youth are welcome to stay with their families and participate in any of the other offerings.

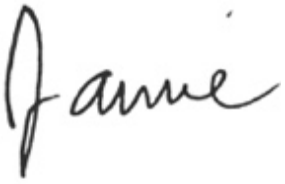
Outside of Sunday morning, we are expanding our pastoral care team this year to better serve the congregation. Rev. Annie and Teresa will be joining me in meeting with the Lay Pastoral Care team every month to coordinate care. Rev. Annie, Teresa, and I will all be available for calls, visits and other pastoral needs, as are members of the Lay Pastoral Care Team. We are exploring additional offerings like support groups or educational events. Look for more communications about pastoral care offerings throughout the year. If you have a pastoral care need, please reach out to me or Rev. Annie directly or call/email the office and ask to be connected to the Pastoral Care team.

Finally, you will also see changes to the building this fall as the capital campaign implementation continues. This year is focused on the organ repair, the HVAC replacement, and lighting. These projects should all be completed in September and October. The capital campaign team will provide updates on these projects.

The overarching theme for our services this year is "Peace." That may seem almost ironic given the state of the world and with the election right around the corner. But that is all the more reason why First Parish should be a place for us to feel grounded, calmed, and cared for. We will connect with the ways that peace is present to us even in tumultuous times. We will tap into our collective longing for peace and explore how we can bring more peace into our lives and communities. And then recognizing that, as Dr. King says, there can be no true peace without justice, we will speak up for justice and show up for justice in the ways that we are able.

Robert Fulghum said, "Peace is not something you wish for, it is something you make, something you are, something you do and something you give away." I look forward to creating more peace together with you all this year, and then, as lavishly as we are able, to giving it away.

Peace,
Jamie



Parish Board Notes

We will gather on September 13 to begin another church season. Our traditional water communion helps me stay connected to my summer days spent on the lakeshore or visiting the ocean. One of my favorite poems by E.E. Cummings captures the wonder and healing power of the sea.

maggie and milly and molly and may
went down to the beach (to play one day)

and maggie discovered a shell that sang
so sweetly she couldn't remember her troubles, and

milly befriended a stranded star
whose rays five languid fingers were;

and molly was chased by a horrible thing
which raced sideways while blowing bubbles: and

may came home with a smooth round stone
as small as a world and as large as alone.

For whatever we lose (like a you or a me)
it's always ourselves we find in the sea

(Copyright © 1956, 1984, 1991 by the Trustees for the E. E. Cummings Trust from The Complete Poems: 1904–1962 by E. E. Cummings)

The Parish Board held its first meeting on August 24 when, among other business, we talked about our upcoming board retreat–on September 16 we will covenant and create our annual goals. We welcome Tom Flannery and Marge Heckman this year, following the departures of Peter Cho and Susan Lincoln, each having served for three years.

To read our June Minutes, click here.

In Peace,
-Stacy Chandler, Parish Board President

Office Matters

Welcome September and welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. We are so excited that Claudia Brooks is part of the office team this fall. Check out her creative social media skills on Facebook, Instagram, etc… and like or share her posts! Our Sexton (Joe Mitchell) will be away from his role for a couple of months. We will be bringing in cleaners on a weekly basis, as well as possibly utilizing some volunteers for other building tasks during his absence. We start the church year with our Ingathering service on Sunday, Sept. 13th at 10AM. Due to the Labor Day weekend, our "2nd" Friday Potluck dinner will be on Friday, Sept. 11th in the Common Room at 6PM. 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 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

"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)

For me every year is the start of a new adventure and I expect the coming church year to be no exception. This September begins my 22nd year at First Parish. **Sandra LaBarge-Neumann** will be back playing the organ, **Steve Sussman** will return to play the piano, and **Janet Welby** will be returning to direct the youth choirs. Plans are also being made for the return of other pianists/instrumentalists making guest appearances. As I say every year, we're very fortunate at First Parish to have such a wealth of diverse musicians whose musical talents I never take for granted. Their contributions help make the texture of the fabric of our music program rich and multilayered.

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

Sunday, September 13th: For In-Gathering the adult choir will sing the beloved song "Over the Rainbow", Steve Sussman will be providing a mix of some delightful tunes, Joanne and Ted Glover will be adding a few melodies on the bagpipes and drum, Dean Groves will lead the congregation in singing "It's Not Like This Every Sunday", Janet Welby will be leading the youth choirs in lively piece of music and the adult choir and congregation will sing "9 to 5" as a celebration of the life of Dolly Parton. It will be a virtual musical cornucopia to start our upcoming church year.

Sunday, September 20th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ.

Sunday, September 27th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. The adult choir will be singing John Rutter's beautiful setting of "A Gaelic Blessing" and Randall Thompson's setting of the Robert Frost poem, "The Road Not Taken" from "Frostiana".

Mark your calendars! On **Sunday afternoon, October 4, 2026 at 3 p.m.**, the Music Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee will be hosting a Gala Event including a reception to celebrate the refurbishment of the First Parish cherished organ. Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing as well as two guest organists, Heinrich Christensen and David Carrier, two of Boston's most respected performers. More information is elsewhere in this Parishioner.

This also gives me a chance to give a HUGE beginning-of-the-year thanks to all the members of the First Parish Music Committee whose tireless efforts producing fundraising events for our community add so much to our musical culture and help bring in so many people to discover what a special place First Parish is. Thank you one and all!

I also hope you'll think about joining the adult choir because we've got terrific plans for 2027-2028 including wonderful music in the fall, winter and spring, including music by beloved English composer and arranger John Rutter for Christmas Eve, music by Ludwig van Beethoven for Good Friday and Easter 2027 and a Music Sunday 2027 service (May 2, 2027) with lots of beautiful music focused on the theme of "peace." Come join us!

Additional information about both the adult and youth choirs 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) TBD
- **KidSing** (Age 5 through Grade 2) TBD

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

Youth Happenings

Senior Youth Group (High School)

SYG has been on hiatus since our Lake House retreat at the tail-end of May and now we're ready to come back and welcome in our new 9th graders! We're going to experiment with an every-other-week SYG this year to accommodate our new programming after worship for community connection. Some of our teens will be working or volunteering with the younger kids on those Sundays that we offer "Continuing the Conversation," facilitated check ins and kids programming.

Sunday Sept 13th - Come join us for Ingathering service and the food and fun afterward!

Sunday Sept 20th - work (if you're 16+ and have gone through our hiring process) or volunteer with our younger kids after worship!

Sunday Sept 27th - SYG cookout and official kick off after church

8th/9th OWL

This year we are running Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education for 8th and 9th graders. We welcome community participation so if anyone you know is interested, please refer them to Rev. Annie!

Sunday Sept 20th - OWL orientation for parents 12:30 - 2 pm room 202

Sunday Sept 27th - first OWL session 10 - 11:30 am room 202

Save the date for our OWL retreat from 4 pm Saturday Oct 3rd to 11:30 am Sunday Oct 4th

"2nd Friday" Potluck

Since Labor Day weekend basically begins on Friday the 4th of September, we are rescheduling the potluck to Friday Sept. 11, 2026. As usual, we ask that you BYOB (seltzer, lemonade, soft drinks, adult beverages, etc.) and that you bring an appetizer, main dish or dessert. Appetizers begin at 6:00 PM, with the main meal at approximately 6:45 and dessert at 7:30.

Please feel free to join the Community Stand-out from 5:00 to 6:00 and then join us inside for the meal. Please note: we will be having a moment of silence for the 25th anniversary of the victims of 9/11 prior to the event.



Sign Up To Help Keep Community Hour Caffeinated!

It takes everyone to make Community Hour after service welcoming! Sign Up Here! Tasks do not interfere with attending the service and there are trainee spots if you need a refresher or want to get some experience. Sign up as often as you like!

How can you contribute?

- **Coffee Setup** - arrive at 9:00 to prep coffee, snacks etc.
- **Setup Trainee** - arrive at 9:00 to help and learn the ropes
- **Coffee service** - arrive during the postlude (11:00) to refresh supplies, wash coffee cups and clean up after
- **Service Trainee** - arrive during the postlude (11:00) to help out and learn the ropes
- **Laundry** - after community hour is finished, collect the basket of linens to launder at home and return to the church
- **Treats to share** - Planning to bake a treat? Bringing nibbles from home to share? Know you'll have extra treats from an event? Sign up to let us know!

Hospitality could use a few more people. It's a very light lift with a big impact.

- Only 1-2 meetings a year
- Help getting materials for Community Hour and keeping the kitchen stocked and organized
- Take part in arranging 1-2 church clean ups through the year

Please contact Cath Van Praagh, Carla Bradford or Kath McCafferty if you are interested! And thanks for all you do!

-The Hospitality Team



Women's Book Group

The first book for the 2026-2027 church year is a novel by Virginia Evans - "The Correspondent". The story unfolds through a series of letters between Sybil Van Antwerp and various people in her life.

The meeting will be a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. in the Common Room on Sunday, September 20th. Please join us!

Our schedule for the year is:

Meeting Date	***Book***	***Author***
9/20/2026	*The Correspondent*	*Virginia Evans*
11/15/2026	*Love and Other Monsters **	*Emily Franklin*
12/13/2026	*The Collected Regrets of Clover: An Uplifting Story about Living a Full, Beautiful Life*	*Mikki Brammer*
1/10/2027	*Book Swap*	
2/7/2027	*The Calamity Club*	*Kathryn Stockett*
3/7/2027	*The Things We Never Say*	*Elizabeth Strout*
4/4/2027	*Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919*	*Stephen Puleo*
5/23/2027	*Whistler*	*Ann Patchett*
6/13/2027	*Book Selection for the following year*	

** The author will be joining us for the meeting*



SRC Update

How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment; we can start now, start slowly changing the world!
~ From the essay "Give" in The Works of Anne Frank

For the Social Responsibility Council (SRC), a new church year means new opportunities to support the good work being done in our community and beyond. And those opportunities start with YOU, the FPB congregation!

The organizations and projects that will be funded this church year — whether they are local, national, international, or previous recipients — will come from the applications YOU SUBMIT on their behalf. This could be an application for a grant (funded by FPB's endowment fund) or for our Share the Plate program (funded by a share of the offerings collected during the first service of each month).

We are accepting grant and Share the Plate applications now—the first Share the Plate collection of the church year will be October 4, and grant funds will start to deplete as time goes by, so don't delay! We would love to add your ideas to the list of worthy projects and organizations we have funded over the years.

Submitting an application is easy — just click here! You can also reach out to any SRC member or email socialresponsibility@uubedford.org if you have questions or need help. We would be glad to connect with you!

Here's to a new church year of making a difference together.

~ Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw (Chair), Heather Black, Stacey Katz, John Laferriere, Jaclyn Olsen, Elise Randazzo, and Ellen Scheiner



Accessibility Campaign

Hello and welcome back from your summer activities. Our Capital Campaign is underway, and First Parish has an opportunity to think about access in general and some specific projects as well. To orient you to what we mean by "access", the concept of accessibility focuses on enabling access to accommodate the needs of all people with diverse abilities. About ten years ago, we asked you to complete a detailed review of all the access issues you face when at First Parish, by specific location and type. You did that, and our former committee Access for ALL responded; as a result, First Parish is a much more accessible church thanks to your input.

We will be reaching out for your input again in October. This time, our ask will be simpler.

When you are at First Parish, what would you like to experience about access that isn't available now? What about the physical spaces gets in your way when you spend time at First Parish? A sentence or two, a short list, whatever you want to tell us. We'll collect what we learn, make a plan, and share it back with some thoughts on possible next steps.

During October you'll receive a request for your thoughts by way of the anno list. We'll also have some little printed requests at Coffee Hour and around the church if that works more easily for you. So, thanks in advance. Here's to addressing some access areas that still exist!

-Lee Vorderer and Noelle Denny-Brown

Treasurer's Helpful Hint:

Remember you can use your Minimum Required Distributions to pay your Annual pledge and/or your Capital Campaign pledge to First Parish. Be sure to move the money directly to First Parish to avoid paying taxes on the donation.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks for caring about Fist Parish!

-Wendy

EJC

The Environmental Justice Committee's first meeting of the new church year will be on Wednesday, September 9, 7:00-8:30 PM. We'll meet in person, in room 202/203, so we can readily check in about our summers and put our heads together on issues of current concern and actions for this year. In addition to members of the Committee, anyone else with an interest in environmental justice is most welcome.

Discussion Forum at Carleton Willard Village

Discussion Forum at Carleton-Willard Village with Rev. Jamie, Thursday, September 17th at 11AM

Every month we have a discussion at Carleton-Willard on a topic of interest to UUs and hopefully everyone. In September, the topic will be polarization and how we can improve the health of our democracy.

Capital Campaign Update

Your Capital Campaign Project Implementation Team has been hard at work this summer, starting with the roof top units that serve the addition. The good news is that the unit serving the Common Room did not fail this past winter leaving us without heat. The bad news is despite several attempts at temporary fixes, the unit is not providing air conditioning. Until the new units arrive, we have a portable AC unit sitting in the Common Room. New units are expected this fall. The organ refurbishing is underway. Thanks to Claudia for sharing some photos of the process on social media. We are looking forward to hearing the organ in the next few weeks.

The team has been working with GreenerU to identify priorities and approaches for other projects including lighting upgrades, and improvements to our fire suppression system. We are hoping to see the lighting installation happen this fall and are trying to line up fire suppression work for next summer.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their 2026-2027 pledges and stay tuned for more updates.

-Your Capital Campaign Project Team, *Peter Cho, Bob Dorer, Jamie Hinson-Rieger, Brett Leida, Jenn McClain, and Joel Parks*

Leona Sussman's Art on Display at First Parish Gallery in Bedford

Art by Leona Mahler Sussman, who will turn 100 on Oct. 12, will be on display at the First Parish Gallery on Sunday, Aug. 30, to Oct. 16.

Viewing is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays when the First Parish office is open at 75 The Great Road, as well as 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays or by appointment.

Currently a Newton resident, much of Sussman's work is of mixed medium although she has worked with oil and watercolor as well as printmaking, monotypes, and collage.

Sussman, a poet as well as an artist, was born in Ohio to parents who immigrated from what is now Lithuania after World War I. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in English, where she was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Sussman then moved to New York and continued her studies at Hunter College and later at the New School for Social Research.

In 1950, she married Morris Sussman and they had four children. Her son Steven is known in the Bedford area as a classical music performer and as the regular pianist at First Parish on the Common.

-Dot Bergin

First Parish Committees
2026-2027

Parish Board
Stacy Chandler, *President* (2027)
Mark Bailey (2028)
Bea Brunkhorst (2027)
Ted Carlson (2028)
Tom Flannery (2029)
Marge Heckman (2029)
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)
Heather Black, *Communications Officer (2028)*
John Laferriere, *Treasurer* (2027)
Jaclyn Olsen (2027)
Elise Randazzo (2027)
Stacey Katz (2029)
Ellen Scheiner (2029)

Nominating
Sarah Dorer (2027)
Jenn McClain (2028)
Susan Lincoln (2029)

Capital Campaign Task Force
Jenn McClain, *Chair*
Joan Bowen
Peter Cho
Bob Dorer
Gene Kalb
Brett Leida
Joel Parks
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*

Finance
Wendy Innis, *Chair & Treasurer*
Vicki Gaw, *Asst. Treasurer*
Joan Bowen
Irene Gravina
Bill Rabinowitz
Jeff White
Tom Flannery

The Gallery@First Parish
Maria Green, *Co-Chair*
Doris Smith, *Co-Chair*
Sara Angus
Bob Batt
Raquel Bauman
Claudia Brooks
Nancy Daugherty
Christine Dudley-Marling
Marlene Myers
Kati Oates
Chris Tohline
Christine Wojnar
Nancy Willett, *emeritus*

Hospitality
Cath Van Praagh, *Chair*
Carla Bradford
Kath McCafferty

Immigration Justice
Luana Read, *Chair*
Christine Dudley-Marling
Debbie Flannery
Sabrina McClain
Cecile Mercado
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*
Sandy Boczenowski
Carla Bradford
Joanne Glover
Ron Green
Sharon McDonald
Doug Muder
Chris Tohline

August 17, 2026

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
Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw

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
Joe Cook
Sandy Currier
Marya Dantzer
Stephanie Keep
Doug Muder
Cath Van Praagh

First Parish Music Committee
presents

Organ Gala Concert

Sunday,
October 4, 2026
3:00 PM

Featuring organists
** Sandra LaBarge-Neumann * Heinrich Christensen * David Carrier*





Playing works by
J.S. Bach,
Felix Mendelssohn,
Gabriel Faure,
Denis Bédard,
Charles Ives, and
P.D.Q. Bach



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