

The Parishioner

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

Spirit...Justice...Community...

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Rev. John E. Gibbons, senior minister
Rev. Annie Gonzalez Milliken, minister of faith development
Rev. William F. Schulz, affiliate community minister
Deborah Weiner, developmental director, faith development for children
Sarah Klockowski, youth coordinator
David Southard, parish board president

Carla Bradford, editor
Bradford Conner, music/choir director
Janet Welby, youth choir director
Robert Noble, organist
Joan Petros, parish administrator
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Upcoming Sunday Services*

*All via Zoom - See www.uubedford.org/worship/upcoming-services/

Sunday, October 4 at 10:00AM

"The Lawn Chair Liberation Front: Thoughts Toward a Suburban Contextual Theology, Part 1...Redux"

Rev. John Gibbons preaching

Way back in 1992, not long after I came to Bedford, I preached two sermons about suburbia. In 1994, this even led to an ambitious conference First Parish sponsored on the future of suburbia. Noticing that Trump has now adopted a "suburban strategy" for reelection, I re-read those sermons and was surprised at how fresh and relevant they remain. So, I'll again preach them both this month, nearly verbatim. After these sermons, however, there will be special "talk-back" discussions to consider what I got right, wrong, and what I'd say today.

Sunday, October 11 at 10:00AM

"Deep Listening" - A Multigenerational Service

Join us for a service by and for all ages focused on the monthly theme of Deep Listening.

Sunday, October 18 at 10:00AM

"The Lawn Chair Liberation Front: Thoughts Toward a Suburban Contextual Theology, Part 2...Redux"

Rev. John Gibbons preaching

Sunday, October 25 at 10:00AM

Access for ALL: "That's Where the Light Gets In"

Access for ALL is holding its annual service with a very special guest. Our former assistant minister Diane Teichert will be our speaker for the service. She'll focus on her journey through her stroke and the ways that she's learned to value the cracks that emerged in her life and the successes that followed.

—Continued on next page



Next deadline for submissions is October 25th

Upcoming Services (continued from p. 1)

Also on Sunday, October 25 at 7:30PM

Samhain Vespers

Join members of our ministry team for an evening virtual worship honoring the pagan tradition of marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the dark part of year. We will move into this time of cold and dark with intention, honoring the sacredness of the seasons.

Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84869960940> By phone: +1 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 848 6996

Common Thoughts

I'm often curious about how evangelical churches "do" church. Somebody observes that because at their core they hold tight to a more rigid Jesus-centered dogma, they're quite flexible about the forms, structures and ways that dogma is communicated. By contrast, more liberal churches like ourselves have a more fluid core or no dogma whatsoever. Thus, by contrast, we hold more tightly to customary and traditional forms, traditions and "the ways we do things." The conservatives preach old-time religion but if they feel like buying a vacant mall and making that their church, they do. They ditch their old pipe organ and set up a rock band. Last fall, I visited "Elevation Church" in North Carolina and, upon entering their building (in a mall) we were given – not an order of service – but earplugs and a free t-shirt! I believe our *message* is more contemporary and relevant than theirs but sometimes our *forms* are staid.

And so I watch what the evangelicals do and, occasionally, they influence what we do at First Parish...ways to be more hospitable, how NOT to overwhelm visitors, being more informal than formal and still being meaningful. What is sometimes perceived as "entertainment" at First Parish is, in my view, part of an attempt to mix it up and build a larger, stronger, and more diverse congregation. By most standards, we've been successful. But now we face unprecedented challenges.

Evangelicals, too, are waking up to the prospect of a changed world, post-Covid. One of their prognosticators is a Southern Baptist named Thom Rainer. I recently zoomed into one of his webinars and here's a summary of his forecast:

Here are the consequences I currently see impacting the church:

- *The revival of simple church*
- *Major staff realignment*
- *Attractional outreach will diminish*
- *The growth of the micro-church*
- *A new unchurched to reach*
- *Ministry training will change drastically*
- *Pastors will move to second and third chair roles*
- *Acceleration of denominational decline*

Churches, he says, will be less busy and over-programmed but will concentrate on whatever is essential. (*This is NOT to say that ministers will be less busy – possibly the opposite – but that's another story.*) He also suggests that "those who participate at the core of church membership will grow even closer. Those who participate at the fringes will become even looser." That rings true for us. At First Parish, while our Sunday online attendance is even greater than it would be in-person (so far), there are plenty of people we used to see once in a while whom we now don't see at all. Herding cats has always been difficult; now with so many under the bed, it's harder.

One thing for sure: community-building, always a priority, is an even greater priority now, *among and beyond* our own friends and members. Our recent face-to-face, masked-and-distanced, meet-and-greet gathering outdoors on the Common with staff, teachers, kids and classes was a huge success. So too are our weekly Covid Testing Tuesdays. Outdoor BLM rallies, picnics, the vigil for RBG, the Lyceum, on-line drop-ins and small groups are more vital than ever.

One thing Thom Rainer advises is to seek out new collaborations with the community – with non-members, businesses, non-profits who share our mission, even government. Providing sanctuary and supporting immigration justice already are huge commitments for us. We do this as well with the Bedford Research Foundation, Carleton-Willard, and (in the old days) with the Bedford Family Connection, Al-Anon, the VA, and many others. Rainer even approvingly cites as an example a church that invited the local police to make their church a substation! We value a good relationship with our police but uh, no, we will not be a substation.

The bottom line remains: Now is a critically important time for our most creative out-of-the-box and innovative ideas, even if they challenge old or even cherished assumptions about how we "do" church. I want to hear what you think, or dream, or imagine.



John Gibbons

Minister's Musings

"Not again. Not again." I couldn't stop crying and I couldn't stop thinking those same thoughts. It was Friday September 18th and I had just learned of the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Earlier that day I had gone on a walk with a friend and an old interpersonal issue between us had surfaced. The interpersonal issue with the friend reminded me of a cyclical conflict with my mother that has never been resolved. And then RBG died and I thought "It will be the Kavanaugh hearings all over again. I can't do it. And then the election. All over again. Can't do it." Maybe you feel this way sometimes too. Maybe sometimes you feel like you are in an endless loop where the same conflicts, horrors, mistakes, all just keep happening. Personally and politically. On repeat.

That night I just cried to my partner Lucas and went to bed in despair. But the next day I got up and unloaded the dishwasher, made the coffee, and had my cereal while reading my favorite magazine, Bon Appetit. Like I do every morning. Again. The soothing ritual of my sacred morning time helped ease away the panic of feeling trapped in an endless cycle the night before. The truth is that the 2016 election did traumatize many of us, and collectively we are in a kind of political spiritual PTSD this fall. And that's not to mention any of the other political cycles (forest fires, police shootings, non-indictments, etc.) nor the personal ones. It's numbing and enraging and scary.

So as we work to UU the Vote and ready ourselves for the streets, as we learn and Standup for Black Lives, as we heal and forgive ourselves and others, as we slowly surely find new patterns and habits, we can also use repetition to root us. Maybe it's your morning coffee ritual, maybe it's a song you listen to on repeat, maybe it's a monthly small group ministry that is there month after month, or the friend who is always on the other end of the phone when you need them. Maybe it's your daily walk or meditation practice. But whatever those life saving rituals are for you, keep them sacred. And if you don't have them, create them. Start small. But let us work to stay steady in this destabilizing time, use ritual to help us steadily move out of traumatic cycles and into the world we want to be living in.

Annie



BOARD MATTERS

Rev. Annie's sermon on Sunday Sept. 27 especially spoke to me. Her message of overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges "bird by bird" – in the context of the story, meaning that what we consider "impossible" can be overcome just by doing the next right thing, which is right in front of us, one step at a time.

Even in a non-pandemic year, the challenges facing First Parish right now might be considered intractable. By next spring we must recruit and hire a new Parish Administrator and office staff, a new Director of Faith Development for Children, and a new Interim Senior Minister. We must as a congregation express our deep gratitude and love for our retirees. Meanwhile we must continue to minister to the well being of our community, provide faith development programs for all ages, and make plans for continued growth and engagement in social justice.

If I may make a clumsy parallel for the First Parish community, today we will meet these challenges "task force by task force."

We are constantly in need of fresh perspectives and renewal across all of our committees and task forces. So often we turn to "the usual suspects" who have pitched in time and again to keep our community going. At the same time, we need to welcome first-time participants. We need to learn from the experience of our current leaders, and pass that wisdom along to emerging leaders among us.

May I make a suggestion? If you have been serving on a committee for more than two years, invite someone to *take your place*, be their *mentor* as they learn your former role, and join a *different* committee or task force to expand your knowledge and bring new energy to that task. If you have not yet served the congregation, volunteer for a task force--it is a relatively short-term commitment that serves an urgent need.

Here is a sampling of roles that need your participation now:

- Assistant treasurer
- Office automation task force
- Administrative staff search team
- Interim minister search team
- Director of Faith Development search team
- Minister retirement farewell team
- Administrator retirement farewell team
- Physically-distant fundraiser coordination task force

We are currently seeking volunteers and nominations for all of these roles (and more). If you can serve First Parish during this pandemic, now is the time to step up. Please contact me or any Board member to discover how you can help.

David Southard,
Board President

“In Liminal Time” - Thoughts from Deborah Weiner, Developmental Dir., Faith Development for Children *On the Precipice*

It's Sunday late-afternoon. I am tired, really tired...but exhilarated. Today's worship service included a beautiful KidSing video of some of this congregation's beloved children singing four songs from around the world – engineered and directed by Janet Welby. Gorgeous. Annie's sermon and worship service – about the blessings of naïveté and how sometimes, not knowing can help us get to the next place we need to go – was moving and important. And following the worship service, after virtual community hour and an energized “UU the Vote” gathering (thank you, Jerry Ross) the kids started arriving at church.

Scattered around the church grounds were groups of PreK-K- and First graders, telling stories and singing songs with their teachers; there were 2nd through 4th graders in another spot, hearing a story, sharing thoughts about the ways in which they want to share with and treat one another in the weeks and months going forward; and there were 5th through 7th graders in yet another location, talking about the Bible stories they will hear and read (and perhaps, act out!) while learning why the Bible can be a really important book to guide our understanding of faith and belief today.

Later the new 8th grade group, called “Taking Flight,” gathered to get to know one another better and talk about how we'll explore sexuality education topics while viewing films and media that help us understand our values – fourteen kids are now signed up for that class! And then the church's new Coming of Age program kicked off, led by Annie and our youth coordinator Sarah Klockowski, with youth and parents gathered in a circle outside, to bless the youth on their journey of exploring their beliefs and values and faith.

No wonder I'm tired, and no wonder I'm also super-excited: Our thanks and gratitude go out to the many volunteer teachers and staff who are making the faith development program move forward, with creativity and spirit. in this time when there are so many strikes against our kids, our society, our congregation – still, we survive, we find new ways to do things that will be important, uplifting AND safe. As the song by the group “Emma's Revolution” says, we are “never turning back” and we can't even think that we should – for there is too much to accomplish, too many possibilities that we must claim, and all the beautiful children and youth of this church who we must support and nurture.

Friends, we are on the precipice. It is that time of sometimes feeling like we are taking one step forward, one back – but don't ever start to believe that we aren't pushing on. We are people of resilience and vision, and here on the edge, we will continue to be on the move, creating change in the world.

Faithfully, *Deb*

Faith Development News

All of our faith development classes are now underway! If you have not registered your child or youth for our programs, please do so now: <https://forms.gle/B1hoo051564vgM467> is the form to complete and it's the only way you'll know, on a regular basis, about what's going on with the programs we're offering for children and youth!

We would still welcome additional support for our faith development programs from adults who could give a little time each month to one of our classes or interest groups. Can you spare a bit of time to have fun with some of our energetic kids? Please contact Deb Weiner <dre@uubedford.org> to say ‘yes’ to this opportunity!!

Did you know? During the summer we launched an online D&D (that's “Dungeons and Dragons”) group for middle and high schoolers. It's been a hit, and our sincere thanks go out to Tim Bennett, Benji Linden, and Clayton Springer, who have been coaching and supporting the group. And there's more online fun: one of our new curricula-related interest groups, focused primarily on middle and high schoolers, is engagement in the new program “ChUurchcraft,” in which participants use the online game “Minecraft” to explore different faiths and build ‘rooms’ in a virtual faith center which represent different religious traditions. We have an adult team about to launch the effort, including Andrew Bramley, Kiya Nicoll, and Peter Cho, as well as a team of teen mentors and resident experts who we'll introduce you to next month. We can't wait to see how “ChUurchcraft” takes shape...and we anticipate inviting *you* to visit the space that is built next spring!

We continue to brainstorm ideas that might be appealing for children and youth and faith development programming. If you have an idea that you think might work – try it out on us! We want to know more. And finally – we always hope that our worship services are appealing to all in our congregation – including the furry friends. Here's a picture of Ryder – who lives with Betsy Gardella – watching Ernie from Sesame Street, along with Aaron Neville, singing “I Don't Want to Live on the Moon.” (We hear Ryder's a big fan of Ernie's, and we're glad!)



Notes from the

 MUSIC
 DIRECTOR

“Autumn, our poor garden is now flowerless and bare, yellowed leaves are flying in the wind.”

– A.K. Tolstoy (1817-1875),
 Russian poet, novelist and playwright, from the
 “Autumn Song” (1858)

Here’s the music for upcoming Sunday services (10AM on Zoom):

Oct. 4: Steve Sussman will be playing piano and Bob and Fran Tyler will sing “Wind Beneath My Wings”, a video created to celebrate Bob’s 90th birthday. Also, Pete Seeger will sing Malvina Reynold’s “Little Boxes”. John Gibbons has other musical surprises up his sleeve. “It’s not like this every Sunday!”

Oct. 11: For this intergenerational service, we will premiere a new video of the First Parish combined adult and youth choirs of the Sonny and Cher classic, “And the Beat Goes On”, arranged for voices, instruments and percussion by Dean Groves, with special lyrics by Lois Pulliam, and filmed on the Common in front of First Parish on September 26. We will also reprise a video by KidSing and there will be performances by the Okamoto family as well.

Oct. 18: Guest musicians Mariana Green-violin and Keith Sanders-violin/viola will be playing Mozart and a medley of hymns. Carol Epple-flute, Elizabeth Connors-clarinet and I will be making an appearance playing “Oct.: Autumn Song” from Tchaikovsky’s “The Seasons” from a December 2018 service. We will also reprise the song “Little Boxes” sung by the group “Walk off the Earth”.

Oct. 25: Steve Sussman will be playing the postlude. We will also watch emotional performances of “Everything Must Change” performed by Nina Simone and Leonard Cohen’s “Anthem”.

Isn’t it time to think about joining the adult choir? We meet each Thursday evening, sometimes we sing, sometimes we talk, sometimes we watch musical videos, but every time we share our stories and energy as we all deal with life’s present situations. If you’re interested, e-mail me at bconner@uubedford.org. Plans for singing opportunities are ongoing including the possibility to create a couple of virtual choir videos. Let’s take advantage of the circumstances we’ve been dealt and continue to discover the joy and comfort of music.



Covid-19 Testing Continues - every Tuesday (with the exception of Oct. 13)

Covid-19 testing continues at First Parish in collaboration with the Bedford Research Foundation. Register on-line: www.bedfordresearch.org/product/first-parish and you’ll be given a number and a time-slot. Everyone waits in their car until called.

While in the rare case of a positive test, people are notified by phone within 24 hours, a recent change is that all results are sent by email the next day.

Though the subsidized cost of the test is \$95 and a form is available so that may be submitted to insurance, First Parish also offers – thanks to generous donors – to subsidize anyone for whom cost is a barrier. As neither BRF nor First Parish profit from this testing (and actually do so at considerable cost), there’s an opportunity to contribute online so that those unable to pay may be subsidized. If anyone has questions: jgibbons@uubedford.org.

The Bedford Lyceum

*A Forum on the Arts, Spirituality,
 Science, and Justice*
 Ellen Scheiner, Coordinator

**Sunday, October 11, 4:00-5:00PM:
 “The Climate Crisis”**

The climate crisis affects all of us and it is up to us to solve it. As part of Climate Reality’s “24 Hours of Climate Reality: Countdown to the Future”, we will have Corinne Doud, a Climate Reality Leadership Corps member, lead a discussion and present slides developed by former Vice President Al Gore. The presentation is an excellent resource for reviewing the science, the societal changes, and the solutions necessary to curb global warming and address the effects of climate change. Joshua May, founder of the Climate Reality Business Working group and cofounder of the Boston Metro Chapter of Climate Reality, will also be on hand to answer questions during the Question and Answer portion. Corinne Doud is chair of First Parish in Bedford’s Environmental Justice Committee and co-coordinator of the Mothers Out Front Bedford Chapter. Learn how climate change affects our world and what you can do the help address this challenge. Join us for this engaging session!

*** All First Parish in Bedford Lyceums are FREE and open to the public. ***

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429685798?pwd=anAwbEtRTnFGQzM4Tm5zTS8vd2ZxQT09>

Meeting ID: 834 2968 5798

Passcode: 116304

By phone: +1 646 558 8656

NOTE: We welcome your suggestions for future topics and speakers! The First Parish in Bedford Lyceums are free community forums, providing an excellent opportunities to learn and share ideas on a wide range of subjects. Have an idea? Please contact Ellen Scheiner at mountainbreeze52@gmail.com.

Considering What Matters Most

In church years past, during this Autumn season, we've had services, workshops and presentations about end of life matters. Unfortunately, this pandemic time doesn't allow for us to gather in person to consider the importance of sharing wishes with loved ones. But we do have ZOOM! And there is a game (*HELLO – The Conversation Game about Living and Dying and What Matters Most*) that lends itself to online small groups.

I first "played" this game at a workshop two years ago. The questions we considered were non-threatening, intriguing, and clarifying. Hearing other participants' answers helped me consider other viewpoints or possibilities. The basic format is that the leader (*me*) poses a question, participants (*limited to about 8 folks*) write their answers, and then we share...or can choose not to share...our answers. Here's an example: *What is your earliest memory of attending a funeral or memorial service?* The best part is that there are no wrong answers and you can change your answer at any time!

I invite you to one of the following sessions:

Thursday, October 22 at 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Monday, October 26 at 7:15 PM – 8:30 PM

Just email me your session of choice OR if there are more than one session that works for you. I will send information and a ZOOM link. I'd be happy to explain the game further and answer any questions – just call or email.

Maureen Richichi, End of Life Doula
maureen.richichi@gmail.com

Short Bios Requested

Given that we are still unable to meet in person, the Membership Committee thought we might try to get to know each other a little better through short little autobiographies that we write to introduce ourselves to each other (even if we have been at the church forever!). Our hope is that additional personal connections can be made. In the past few years, Nina Wampler has interviewed newcomers and posted their interviews in *The Parishioner*. The response we got at the time was that others wished to have the same opportunity. So here it is! Take a few minutes to introduce yourself in a paragraph. Tell us whatever you feel is most important to you to share: for example, things such as where you are from; how long you have been affiliated with First Parish; details regarding family, work, issues, hobbies, etc. The Membership Committee will publish these periodically throughout the year and hopes to attach the document to our new online membership directory. You may send your personal introduction to sdorer@aol.com. Thanks so much!

Sarah Dorer for the Membership Committee

Online Membership Directory Photos

As of Sept 26, forty-nine people have signed onto our new Online Membership Directory. If you have not already done so, please sign on and create your secure password at <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> Contact Nina Wampler at Nina.Wampler@gmail.com, if you have any problems.

After you log on, you can review your contact information and take note of the "Import Image" button under the space on the left where your photo would appear. If you already have a photo of yourself or your family, you can click on that button and upload your picture. One of our three directory editors will review it and approve it.



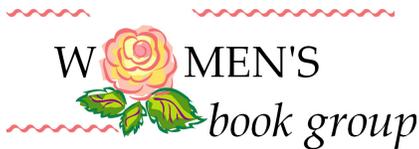
If you take your photo with your cell phone, you can then email that photo to yourself and save it to your computer, making note of where you store your photo.

Here are some suggestions for taking your own photo:

1. *Your photo should include just your shoulders and head/face.* Photos of full bodies will not allow others to see your face clearly.
2. *Lighting.* Be sure your face/faces are not in shadow; turn your face the source of light (lamp, window). If outdoors, open shade is the best.
3. *Background.* Try to make the background as non-distracting (or "busy") as possible. Simple furniture is acceptable as a background. You may stand in front of a wall (but don't stand too close to the wall and get unwanted shadows).
4. *Expression.* A sincere smile; not a face-distorting grin.
5. *Pose.* Turn slightly so the photo isn't quite straight on. If taking a selfie, hold camera somewhat above eye-level (avoids double-chin look).
6. *For families of two or more people:* Stand/sit as close together as possible. That makes it so your faces will be bigger (therefore more recognizable) in the frame. Remember to focus your photo to include just shoulders and heads.

Feel free to try it out – it's easy to change your family photo whenever you want. Keep an eye out for new additions to our Online Church Directory.

Nina Wampler
 Co-Chair, Membership Committee



The next book is "Trick Mirror" by Jia Tolentio. We'll discuss it on **October 25 at 7PM**. The zoom link will be available the week before the meeting.

A description of the book from GoodReads:

Trick Mirror is an enlightening, unforgettable trip through the river of self-delusion that surges just beneath the surface of our lives. This is a book about the incentives that shape us, and about how hard it is to see ourselves clearly in a culture that revolves around the self. In each essay, Jia writes about the cultural prisms that have shaped her: the rise of the nightmare social internet; the American scammer as millennial hero; the literary heroine's journey from brave to blank to bitter; the mandate that everything, including our bodies, should always be getting more efficient and beautiful until we die.

The other books for the upcoming church year are:

The Alchemist (Paulo Coelho) - November 15

Book Swap - January 10

In Regalia (Erin McCormick) - February 21

Unaccustomed Earth (Jhumpa Lahiri) - March 21

The Tattooist of Auschwitz (Heather Morris) - April 18

The Book of Longings (Sue Monk Kidd) - May 16

The Giver of Stars (Jojo Moyes) - June 6

For information or with questions, contact Margaret Jackson at mjacksonfpb@yahoo.com.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Auction of David Moore's Works is still coming in the Fall!

That's right! David Moore has generously donated 17 of his works. Did you see them highlighted in Janet Welby's "Loons" piece at the end of the "Music, Connection and Meaning" Service on August 23? These are modern art compositions inspired by travels to Ireland, Iceland, and the events and nature around us.

In lieu of generating money from live in-person concerts, David had donated his works to be auctioned off by the Music Committee with proceeds going to First Parish.

We are still working out the details! Look for a special announcement in October!

The Music Committee



Climate Book Discussions Moved to January

The climate book discussions scheduled for October have been **rescheduled to January**: Sunday, **January 24**, 3-4PM, and Tuesday, **January 26**, 7:30-8:30PM

The discussions will take place via Zoom – the link will be posted in January.

For the discussions, First Parish Environmental Justice Committee (EJC) agreed it would be better to know who will be leading our country since the direction the climate work takes is very dependent on election outcome. All are welcome to participate in one or both of the discussions (even if you have not read the book).

In the book: **"On Fire: The Burning Case for a Green New Deal"** Naomi Klein makes the case for a Green New Deal explaining how bold climate action can be a blueprint for a just and thriving society. She is a New York Times best-selling author and was a keynote speaker at General Assembly.

We have extra books, so if you would like to order a copy from EJC for \$15, please fill out the order form in the link below (if you have trouble with the form, contact Carol Reynolds to give her your order (carolannbenoit@aol.com or 781-275-1347). Let Carol know if you want to pick up book(s) at her home in Bedford, or if you live in Bedford and would prefer an EJC committee member to deliver book(s) to your home. If those options don't work for you, check out your local library or bookstore to get the book.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWMrkIVrwWZbu6WYBW79aOfvBJKBtzt_TdHAvYzbp4LjaPEw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1

Corinne Doud, Environmental Justice Committee



Stewardship Reminder

Thank you for your generosity during the 2020-2021 pledge drive. Pledge payments and donations are always needed. You can send a check by mail to First Parish Bedford, 75 Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730 or donate electronically using Give Plus or by texting **1-833-765-0091** on your smart phone (credit card information will be required).

For additional info and details, please see: www.uubedford.org/giveplus

Thank you!

Vicki Gaw, FP Treasurer

Peace and Justice Committee

"To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself but for one's community." —The Notorious RBG

One of the inspiring things about First Parish is the number of people who not only believe Justice Ginsberg's words, but try to live them. There are many ways of doing so, but one is involvement in any of our social justice committees, like Sanctuary, Environmental Justice, or serving meals in Lowell. And many people care for our congregational community by teaching our children, giving us music, or caring for members in need.

The Peace and Justice Committee focusses on our 6th Principle, the goal of world community with peace and justice for all. We work to educate our congregation and provide links to groups in the community who have greater power to act than we would alone. The issues we track depend on the passions of our individual members. I am concerned about nuclear disarmament, for example, so that is one of them. For someone else, its inequality. In the past it has been Palestinian rights or criminal justice. One of the things we would like to work on is racial justice, but we need someone to lead the charge.

The world community is a hurting place right now. If you want to help make it more just and peaceful, please join us. We need you.

Jerry Ross
for the Peace and Justice Committee

Bedford Cultural Council Grants

In these challenging times, artistic and cultural projects and activities are needed more than ever, and there are grants available to support them. Consider applying for a Bedford Cultural Council (BCC) grant this year. Since in-person activities are limited, virtual or digital programs and activities are encouraged.

The BCC provides grant money to individuals and non-profit organizations. These grants support a variety of artistic and cultural projects and activities in Bedford, including concerts, theater productions, festivals, workshops, lectures, exhibits, field trips, and more.

The BCC will begin accepting on-line applications for grants for the 2020-21 grant cycle commencing Oct. 1. Applications will be accepted through Nov. 16. Info is available at www.mass-culture.org/Bedford or on the Council's website www.bedfordma.gov/cultural-council. More detailed information on the grant process can be found at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.aspx.

If you have any questions please email the BCC at BedfordMACulturalCouncil@gmail.com.

~Christine King Wojnar (www.ChristineWojnar.com)



On Aug. 19, Annie Gonzalez Milliken officiated at the zoomed memorial for *Corinne Doud's* step-brother "Tuxy" who died in March in NH... Annie also organized a heartfelt memorial on Aug. 21 for *Benjamin*, a courageous friend and asylum-seeker... On Sep. 22, *Roger Rivet, Jr.*, once a multi-millionaire and later homeless, was remembered at a graveside service in Shawsheen Cemetery with John Gibbons officiating... We also mourn the unexpected and untimely death of *Ralph Gants*, Chief Justice of the MA Supreme Judicial Court. He was a friend of First Parish, preached here, and buried his parents in our Memorial Garden ("a beautiful garden, with interesting people, across the street from a Jewish (*sic*) deli." A family service for Ralph will be held in the garden in October... Our thoughts are also with another friend of First Parish, *Marv Goldschmitt*, on the recent death of his wife *Kathy*... Note that a new "leaf" has been added to our sanctuary's Legacy Tree of Life, in appreciation of *Dee Russell's* remembrance of First Parish in her estate... Our hearts go out to the *Nappi/Southard Family* after the recent death of *Tina's* mother... *Hans Peter Klein*, former husband of parishioner Lola Klein, and father of Rika, Tom, Beate, Martin, Hans and Tina Klein, passed away in Cambridge on Aug. 20 – the day after his 97th birthday.

News from the Parish Nose

As noted in the last *Parishioner*, several FP families are moving, some due to Covid disruption. Add to these *Kristina and Ross Philipson* who have moved to NH, and *Margaret Gebhard and Don Perkins* who have moved to Hamilton... A new shipment of FPB t-shirts and *au courant* FPB-logo face-masks are available. Contact John Gibbons to arrange to get yours... *Irene Gravina* has happily dispensed with her gall bladder... And Rich Suval will soon have back surgery... What a surprise to receive greetings from former FP young adult *Blake Murphy* (son of Joe and Kristine), now living with his own family in London and TRUSTEE of his non-religious ("Believe in Good") Unitarian Church (<https://www.new-unity.org>)!... With sadness and necessity, *Bob Johnson* reports that his wife *Ilona* has moved to an assisted living residence in Acton but has been lengthily hospitalized until her meds can be stabilized... *Cathy Cordes* organized a well-attended vigil for RBG on the Bedford Common... In the lab and office, *Delsey Sherrill* is now working with Ann Kiessling at the Bedford Research Foundation and – at the Kiessling/Hagan Farm – tending to goats... Much felicitation on the occasion of Bob Tyler's 90th: hoopla, drive-by parade, jazzy! —tpn



Important Info & Ways to Stay in Touch

While the church building may be closed to face-to-face events, the church community remains OPEN and ACTIVE!

The best way to stay in communication and involved in all that is happening is to be sure you are subscribed to the First Parish Electronic lists (www.uubedford.org/community-life/email-lists/) – especially the **ParishBiz** list. This Google Group sends out important messages from church staff and leadership. And for news for families with children and youth, we have the **uubedford-re** google group. If you are not subscribed, or need help in any way with subscribing to any of the lists, send an email to: uubedford-it@googlegroups.com.

The church website (www.uubedford.org) is updated regularly and contains lots of useful information.

The **Main Calendar** of events on the website (www.uubedford.org/main-calendar/) is also being regularly updated with listings of all virtual events happening within the First Parish community.

All events, including Worship Services, are taking place via the Zoom (www.zoom.us) platform. If your committee or group would like to meet remotely, contact the church office (office@uubedford.org) and Parish Administrator Joan Petros will be happy to get your meeting set up.

FP Bedford Sunday Services on YouTube

To find FPB services on YouTube: Go to the church website: www.uubedford.org.

The homepage has a list of quick links in a column on the right side. The fourth one down is titled "[Sunday Services on YouTube](#)". Click on this button and you will be taken to a YouTube search page set for FP Bedford services; however, they are not always in chronological order. To put them in such order look for a symbol in the upper left corner of the page labeled "FILTER", click on it and five columns will show, the right most being "SORT BY", below that click on the words "Upload date" and the order of the videos listed will change to show the latest service first and getting older as you go down the page. There will be a few videos of First Parish events other than Sunday services intermixed.

From the Video Team:
Bob Bass, Bob Batt, and John McClain



Here are some of the Zoom events coming up that can offer support and connection to you and yours.

(Note: Always good to check the [Main Calendar](#) and [website](#) in case any of these meeting links need to be changed.)

Day/Time	Event	Hosted by	Details
Friday, Oct. 2, 6:30PM	First Friday Potluck	Ron Green, convener	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87697104799 By phone: 1-646-558 8656, meeting ID: 876 9710 4799
Sundays at 10AM	Sunday Worship & Community Connections	FP Staff	https://zoom.us/j/936829478 Meeting ID: 936 829 478 by phone: 1-646-876-9923; use meeting ID 936 829 478#
Sunday, Oct. 11 4:00-5:00PM	The Bedford Lyceum	Ellen Scheiner, coordinator	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429685798? pwd=anAwbEtRTnFGQzM4Tm5zTS8vd2ZxQT09 Meeting ID: 834 2968 5798 Passcode: 116304 By phone: +1 646 558 8656
Thursdays at 9:30AM	Short Stories Discussion Group	Short Stories Group	Open to all – Each week a story is assigned and then is discussed on Thursdays. If you'd like to join in the discussion, email (office@uubedford.org) for the Zoom info
Thursdays, 4:00-4:45PM	KidSing (PreK, K & 1st Grades)	Janet Welby	https://uml.zoom.us/j/97837900760
Thursdays, 5:30-6:30PM	Junior & Senior Youth Choirs	Janet Welby	https://uml.zoom.us/j/94922636094
Thursdays at 7:00PM	Story Time for Children	Ministerial Staff	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/771525457
Thursdays at 7:30PM	Adult Choir Check-in and Rehearsal	Brad Conner	https://zoom.us/j/197342633 By phone: 1-646-876-9923, meeting ID:197342633#
Sunday, Oct. 25, 7:30PM	Samhain Vespers	Ministry Team	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84869960940 By phone: +1 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 848 6996 0940