



The Parishioner

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

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

Volume 54, Issue 3

November 2020

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
Katie Johnson, administrative asst.

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Upcoming Sunday Services*

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

Sunday, November 1 at 10:00AM

“Tether Yourself: Past, Present and Future”

Rev. Annie Gonzalez Milliken preaching

In these increasingly anxious and uncertain times, we need solid places to tether ourselves to get through the storms. We'll honor our ancestors, attend to our bodies and practice disciplined hope in this worship service to begin November more grounded.

Remember to turn back your clocks



Sunday, November 8 at 10:00AM

“What Now? Part 1”

Rev. John Gibbons preaching

Sunday, November 15 at 10:00AM

“Pandora’s Box” or “What, if anything, have we learned?”

Deborah Weiner preaching

With the formal part of the election behind us and many questions still unclear, we'll explore what happens when we open Pandora's Box and we sort out what lessons we might have learned. Music by Brad Conner and Ben Sears among others!

Sunday, November 22 at 10:00AM

“Beyond Band-Aids: Healing in a Turbulent World”

An All Ages worship led by Annie Gonzalez Milliken and Deborah Weiner

Coming two days after Transgender Day of Remembrance and four days before Thanksgiving, this multigenerational service will focus on healing. Grieving what has been lost and telling the truth about why are important parts of the healing process and we will explore them together.

Sunday, November 29 at 10:00AM

“What Now? Part 2”

Rev. John Gibbons preaching



Next deadline for submissions is Nov. 29th

Common Thoughts

In September at our ingathering, I reported to you that there are species of beetle (*Regimbartia* and *Bombardier*) that are eaten by frogs but then make themselves so unwelcome that the frog is forced to poop or puke the beetles such that they emerge from the frog's gut... "soiled but alive!" With the many anxieties of politics and the pandemic that threaten to consume us, I suggested that we, too, ought gird ourselves and "use every ounce of our strength to brace ourselves for an arduous crawl through the belly of the beast that we may be puked out or, perchance, tickle the cloacal sphincter and be expelled from this nightmare – soiled but alive!"

Today I write as the Senate has steamrolled the confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court and election anxieties bear down upon us ominously. Yet again, however, the *New York Times* (10/27/20) heralds good news from etymology: the headline reads, "A Beetle That Just Refuses to Be Squashed Like a Bug!" This time it's *Phloeodes Diabolicus*, a mottled black beetle that was experimentally run over by a Toyota Camry. And survived. Twice! Though the bug appeared dead, researcher Dr. Jesus Rivera discovered that "it's playing dead." He assessed the tensile strength of the beetle's ironclad exoskeleton and found it to be "packed with proteins that enhance its durability....encasing the beetle in a shell with an airy buffer underneath."

Though at times we too may appear defeated and crushed, we are not dead! We are not flattened! We are not road-kill! Yea, my Fellow Beetles *Diabolicus*, we survive! Let us pack with protein, encase ourselves with an ironclad exoskeleton and an airy buffer beneath! And together let us sing the glorious anthem, "Just like the *Phloeodes Diabolicus* by the roadside, we shall not be rolled!"

Diabolically,



John Gibbons

Special Commemorations:

Day of the Dead (*Hallotak Napja*)

On November 1st at 7PM, like our friends in Transylvania, we will light candles in our Memorial Garden and remember those who have died. Masked and distanced we will meet outdoors to hear brief prayers, remembrances, and violinist Carlough Faulkner-Carroll. All are welcome.

Kristallnacht

Remembering the 1939 "Night of Broken Glass" in Germany, Kristallnacht was a harbinger of the Holocaust. Each year, we vow never to remain silent in the presence of hate and injustice. Though November 9 is the anniversary, a video commemoration created by local clergy will be available and distributed after November 3.

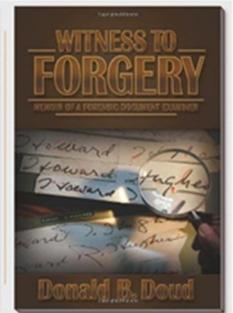
The Bedford Lyceum

A Forum on the Arts, Spirituality, Science, and Justice

Ellen Scheiner, Coordinator

Sunday, November 22, 2:00-3:00pm: "Forgery!"

Scandal! Notorious Deeds! First Parish's Bob Doud will speak on the forensic science of handwriting and forgery investigation. Bob worked with his father – a noted Forensic Document Examiner, Donald Doud – for a number of years. Bob will relate some of the high-profile investigations that he was involved in, including King Henry VIII's will and the Howard Hughes cases.



Bob Doud is a Technical Marketing Director in the cloud security field and worked as an assistant to his father during high school and college. He and his wife have been First Parish members for 25 years and active on numerous church committees, including the Building Committee where he coordinated the 1999-2000 addition project. In his spare time, Bob enjoys working with and mentoring middle and high-school youth through various church programs and the Rotary RYLA program.

Come and enjoy this engaging presentation!

Zoom Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429685798?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429685798?pwd=anAwBtRTnFGQzM4Tm5zTS8vd2ZxQT09)

[pwd=anAwBtRTnFGQzM4Tm5zTS8vd2ZxQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429685798?pwd=anAwBtRTnFGQzM4Tm5zTS8vd2ZxQT09)

Meeting ID: 834 2968 5798 Passcode: 116304

By phone: +1 646 558 8656

Questions? Contact Ellen Scheiner at mountainbreeze52@gmail.com.

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

Minister's Musings

It seems to be one of the cruel ironies of this pandemic that just as we need one another more than ever, community and connection is harder and harder to access. As COVID rates rise and temperatures drop, any increased access that some of us may have enjoyed due to outdoor gatherings or in person activities during lower rates seems to be disappearing.

At First Parish we are thinking about this. We've heard some of your ideas: vespers services, more support for small group ministry, and bringing back the staff drop-ins are all good ideas that we are working on or considering. We're also looking into ways to make it easy and comfortable to sign up for pastoral care.

In addition, the Membership Committee is working on two ways to connect more with others at First Parish: an online directory and a series of member bios. Inspired by the experience of hearing the name of a parishioner but not being able to put a face to it, they've created an online directory that Nina Wampler is coordinating and promoting. Check it out if you haven't already! You can find information and the link in emails from Nina. Also: after too many memorial services where she found herself wishing she'd known more about a person when they were alive, Sarah Dorer is collecting brief autobiographies of members. Just a paragraph so folks have a bit more context about who you are. Send those along to Sarah at sdorer@aol.com.

Times are wild, and we will keep doing what we can to keep our community connected. If you have ideas and suggestions about that, please do send them my way at agonzalez@uubedford.org.

Annie



BOARD MATTERS

At this season, there are many opportunities to take action in our greater community. Scanning events of the past month, there have been calls to UU the Vote, forums on Getting Ready:

The Election and Beyond (direct action to support democracy), and a webinar on Community Safety (implementing appropriate policies toward police). We have established Action Reflection Circles to encourage social action as an important focus of our congregation. I'd like to acknowledge and appreciate those who have taken leadership on these critical issues.

Meanwhile, the Board held a socially-distanced retreat to plan for the routine business of the congregation. We invite all to attend our Semi-annual Meeting on November 8, when we will hear reports from Ministers, Faith Development, Treasurer, and the Board. We will also hear a report from the Administrative Staffing Task Force on recommendations for staffing our church office, to support long-term aspirations for our active and growing congregation. I would like to highlight just one aspect of that forthcoming report.

A key recommendation from the Task Force is to choose a comprehensive church management software package and to incorporate it into office operations by next summer. To make that happen, we need a Software Selection Task Force to investigate several available products, evaluate them, recommend a solution, and assist with setup of the software within First Parish information systems. If you would like to help the congregation modernize our church administration systems, please contact the Board to express your interest. We will be forming this Task Force shortly. To hear the full report, you are invited to attend our Semiannual Meeting, 4pm on Sunday November 8.

Dave Southard,
President, Parish Board

Church Finances



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

Meeting of the Parish Sunday, November 8 at 4PM

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Parish will take place via Zoom. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend and let your voice be heard.

The Warrant for the meeting can be found on page 9.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83676104778?pwd=VzFWZkljNTd3NEs4OURPRVBNdTZaQT09>

By phone: +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 836 7610 4778 Passcode: 894818



In Liminal Time - Thoughts from Deborah Weiner, Development Director - Faith Development for Children

The Waiting Game

On this Sunday afternoon near the end of October, I'm filled with questions and with a sense of waiting, even though it's way before Advent (the time leading up to the celebration of Jesus' birth and his impact on the world).

We return to Standard time in a week – our descent into the dark time of the year. COVID-19 infections are up across the world, and in this state they are rising – with numbers higher (as of this writing) than they have been since May. We're awaiting word from the Bedford school superintendent about whether a COVID outbreak will mean the high school has to go virtual for at least two weeks...because people were out partying – so says the news.

And of course, we're waiting for election day to come. It's been election day for a long time in the sense that people have been voting remotely for several weeks. But here we are, nine days out from what is arguably the most important election in the history of this country, and I don't know many people who are voting age or older (and a lot who are not yet able to vote) who aren't feeling the anxiety from the wait – and the potential outcomes.

Stir all that up with a good dose of “should we allow our kids to trick or treat?”, “is it safe to have a Thanksgiving dinner with anyone from our family/friend group?”, not to mention “will my business close down?”, “can I get another job?”, and “do I have enough money to buy groceries this week?” and you've got the sense that this is a time of hanging on tenterhooks. It makes me want to head for the covers on the bed. And stay there for a month.

I will say that, during this time of ultimate liminality, I've been so incredibly proud of who and what First Parish is. You have continued to show up on Zoom for worship and participate in a variety of ways. You have gathered outside as singers, instrumentalists, dancers, supporters – in socially distanced ways – to help record the elements of worship services that make the experience so beautiful for all. You have trusted the Faith Development committee and staff with your children and youth, and we've been able to meet outside for class gatherings since late September – to help us make connection and deepen friendships. That is priceless.

Well, I'm a Game of Thrones fan (still!) and I'll tell you the truth: *Winter is coming*. The Leadership Team of the church has committed to supporting and affirming the actions of the school superintendent and town manager when they feel that moving to virtual education is necessary. While we know that being on Zoom is not the same as seeing one another, we also know that we'll do what is needed to defeat the virus. So, we'll hang in, because that's who we are – people who get what it takes to win the waiting game.

I, and we, appreciate you so much. We appreciate and love you, your children and grandchildren and 'adopted' kids and friends, too. We are grateful beyond measure for the teachers and advisors and mentors and volunteers who help to make the place hum with activity...even if we hear the humming through the computer screen or phone line. Winter is coming. Bundle up. We're New Englanders – we're gonna wait it out and make it through!

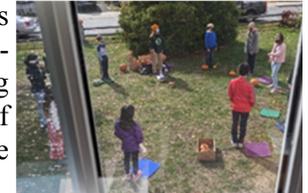
Faithfully, *Deb*



Faith Development News

Fun, Games, Special Activities!

Our Faith Development programs have continued to operate – mostly outdoors – through the month of October. If you haven't been around the church on Sundays, here's a little taste of what's been going on (this is a picture of the grade 5/6/7 group, playing games recently). Notice how great everyone's being about distancing and wearing their masks – lots of hand sanitizer use too, for every class!



We've also started offering special programs and activities for each class group on a rotating schedule, which is one of the true benefits of Zoom technology. We had UU artist and illustrator Suzanne Cook, who lives outside Atlanta, Georgia, in a program with our grade 2/3/4 children. Check out the image below which shows Suzanne sharing tips on making 'scribble figures' with the kids!



Then there's our friend, Kemp Harris – musician/storyteller/teacher. Kemp's performed at First Parish before and he joined our littlest folk for a fun morning. Here's a picture of Kemp telling one of his stories!



There's more to come. Poet/performance artist Regie Gibson will be joining our 5/6/7 grades soon, and artist Paris Stone will be sharing her talents with us as well. This is great stuff and we're excited to mix these activities in with our religious education curricula.

More Faith Development News...

Teachers - Still Seeking a Few Generous Folk: 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](#) to say 'yes' to this opportunity!! We add our sincere thanks to all those who are already contributing to our Faith Development program as teachers, mentors, advisors. It takes a village, and we are grateful to you all!

ChUurchcraft is now online! Our online "Dungeons and Dragons" group has concluded its gaming for now, with big thanks to Clayton Springer, Benji Linden, and Tim Bennett for advising the group. And now a new "ChUurchcraft" group has started up! Some of you know the online game "Minecraft" and this adaptation helps youth explore different faiths and build 'rooms' in a virtual faith center which represent different religious traditions. BIG thanks to team leader Kelly Umstott, who along with adults Andrew Bramley, Kiya Nicoll, and Peter Cho, as well as a team of teen mentors and resident experts, are offering the program for 4th through 9th graders!

All Ages Worship Services - Seeking Youth and Children to Shape Our Programs! We'll be offering All-Ages worship services each month, and we really want children and youth involved at every part of the development and presentation process. In November our theme is "Healing," and if your child or youth has ideas about ways in which this theme can be offered to the congregation, email Deb dre@uubedford.org or Annie parishministeruubedford@gmail.com to find out more!



Choirs are happening!

Youth Choirs KidSing is having fun singing, dancing, and drumming. I know that because there are lots of smiles and laughter. In addition to learning songs to perform at a masked and social distance, they've been learning how to decode music, both through reading music and listening to it. We've had some great sessions where stuffed animals sing solfege syllables and show us their skill in counting rhythms.

The combined Junior and Senior Choir is working on a couple beautiful choral pieces that we also hope to record at a safe time, socially distanced and masked on the Common. Additionally, we are also creating a play and the theme is... "Wearing Masks." There are a few surprises planned so stay tuned (or is that, "stay in tune?")

Musically yours, *Janet Welby* et al

Music Notes



"Roots hold me close; wings set me free; Spirit of Life, come to me." – lyrics (1981) by Carolyn McDade (b. 1935)

Here's the music for upcoming Sunday services on Zoom –

Nov. 1: The prelude will be "Spirit of Life", arranged by Dean Groves, sung by Cynthia Mork with soprano saxophone accompaniment by Ian Carroll, danced by Dorothy Anderson-Perales, Ann Budner, and Anne Schwartz, recorded on the Bedford Common on Oct. 24. The offertory will feature Carol Epple-flute, Elizabeth Connors-clarinet and me playing "November: *Troïka*" from Tchaikovsky's "The Seasons" from a service in Dec. 2018. Robert Noble will be playing the postlude, *St. Michael Antiphonies* by Carson Cooman.

Also on Nov. 1 (special service at 7PM): For this Hungarian Day of Remembrance service led by John Gibbons, Carlough Faulkner-Carroll-violin will play the slow movement (*Topogó/Pe loc*) from Bartok's haunting *Roumanian Folk Dances* as well as an Hungarian hymn.

Nov. 8: Guest violinist Mariana Green-Hill, who played for us at our Oct. 18 service, will return to play J.S. Bach's beautiful *Partita* No. 2 in d minor for solo violin as the prelude. An encore showing of the Sonny and Cher classic song, "And the Beat Goes On", arranged by Dean Groves, with special lyrics by Lois Pulliam, and featuring the First Parish combined adult and youth choirs singing and playing percussion, filmed on the Common on Sep. 26 will be the offertory. Steve Sussman will play the postlude on piano.

Nov. 15: Steve Sussman will be playing piano and Cynthia Mork, Benjamin Sears and I will perform Hamlisch's "What I Did for Love" from "A Chorus Line" and the Fain and Kahal classic, "I'll Be Seeing You".

Nov. 22: For this pre-Thanksgiving multigenerational service, there will be a premiere of two videos which include First Parish musicians. The song "What About Us?" by Moore, Mac and McDaid featuring the First Parish youth choirs (with a little assistance from the adult choir) will be led by Janet Welby. Denham's "We Laugh, We Cry", arranged by Dean Groves, will be performed by a guitar ensemble and a quartet of vocalists (recorded "live" on the Common on Oct. 24). Finally, Mina Bostwick will play a hymn tune on violin.

Nov. 29: For the prelude, offertory and postlude, we will hear pieces by Dvořák, Groves and Gershwin, respectively, performed by guest wind ensemble *Kammerwerke* from their archives of performances recorded in the sanctuary at First Parish.

Bradford Conner, Music Director

From the Membership Committee

The theme for us this year is *Connections* – maintaining those we have and making new ones. In this era of COVID, without in-person services, it is more critical than ever that we work hard at staying connected. With this in mind, the Membership Committee has two initiatives that we need your help with.



#1) Online Membership Directory
Periodically, First Parish publishes a hard-copy directory complete with photographs and contact information. This would have been the year to do it again. However, due to

COVID, this is not possible. We are working with a secure, online church directory service called Instant Church Directory which is password protected. A PDF can eventually be printed so you can have a hard copy should you want it. It can be found at this address: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

The link will live on the front page of our church's website, so you won't have to remember this address.

Nina Wampler has input all the names, addresses and emails that Joan Petros has on record for all of us who did not contact Nina to say they didn't want to participate. Nina is also working on adding some "Activity" pages, as well as a cover page and staff member section.

If you have not yet gone online to this site, we respectfully ask that you do so soon. Thank you to those of you who already have. Parishioners can log in with their email address and create a secure password. You can update family information and add a family photo. Signing on is a simple process. You can view all of the members and friends of First Parish in Bedford.

Benefits: Contact information and photo identification of other First Parishioners.

If you have questions, contact Nina Wampler at Nina.Wampler@gmail.com.

#2) Brief Autobiographies of you and your family.

This is your opportunity to introduce yourself to others in the church. This is not an essay – just a paragraph where you can highlight anything you would like to share with other parishioners.

We will publish these in two places: the monthly *Parishioner* and in the Instant Church Directory on the Activities pages.

You can send your paragraph to me at sdorer@aol.com. Thank you to those of you who have already done this.

Sarah Dorer <sdorer@aol.com>, Co-Chair Membership Committee

Introducing Ourselves

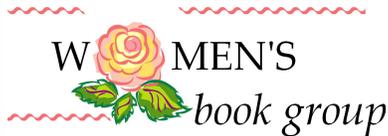
David and Ginni Spencer –

“Originally from the Philadelphia area, we moved to the Boston area for David to attend graduate school. Later, we moved to Bedford (1972) when David got his first job at Raytheon in Burlington. We raised two children here and have stayed because we love this community and find it a nourishing and fun place to live. Our two daughters and seven grandchildren are nearby; one in Bedford and one in Westford. We attended the Congregational Church for many years and joined First Parish officially about five years ago. We had long been “in and out” of First Parish as visitors and attendees at various events and sort of evolved slowly into Unitarianism as it became obvious that it better reflected our beliefs and values. We are both retired now; David started and ran his own business in recycling (which still exists in Bedford) and I was an HR professional with a specialty in start-up staffing. We have lots of interests – David serves on various business and academic boards, is a serious wine buff, and still loves to ski. I have spent a lot of volunteer time over the last several years as a board member and writing contributor to *The Bedford Citizen*, which remains a passion. No skiing anymore but I do enjoy the wine! We both love to read non-fiction books about politics and political history, and I also read a lot of fiction with a local book club and FP's short story discussion group. We have a summer home in Gloucester which has become a great family gathering place that we cherish more every year.”

Nina Wampler and John Doty –

Nina Wampler and her husband John Doty have been members of First Parish in Bedford since 1995. However, they moved to the mountains in Colorado in 2004 and returned to Massachusetts in 2017. Nina is a retired cancer epidemiologist who has worked with Native American communities across the country. She currently serves as treasurer for the Native Research Network and serves on the Native American/Indigenous Community Affairs Committee of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. John Doty is an astrophysicist. John and Nina together run Noqsi Aerospace, Ltd, a two-person consulting firm that provides scientific design and data evaluation for space missions. Nina and John have two children, Matthew Wampler-Doty and Emma McBurney, who live in the Boston area. Matthew and his wife Somayah Ranbalooch were married by John Gibbons in a Persian/Unitarian Universalist ceremony in June 2018. Emma and her husband Matthew McBurney have two children, Madison age 4 and Caroline who is 3 months old. Nina enjoys her time as grandmother. She is currently one of the co-chairs of the Membership Committee.





The next meeting of the First Parish Women's Book Group will be on **Sunday, Nov. 15 at 7PM.** Margaret will send the Zoom info the week before.

November's book is "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho. From the back cover:

Paulo Coelho's enchanting novel has inspired a devoted following around the world. This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and soul-stirring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried near the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles in his path. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within. Lush, evocative, and deeply humane, the story of Santiago is an eternal testament to the transforming power of our dreams and the importance of listening to our hearts.

Upcoming books/dates for the church year are:
 Virtual 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

Please contact Margaret Jackson with any questions: mjacksonfpb@yahoo.com / 781-275-6580.

Access for ALL

As you may recall, some of us are trying to determine how to add closed captioning to ZOOM meetings. We have identified a few possibilities, and at various times during November and December will be looking to try them out. If you are willing to be a field tester (whether you need closed captioning or not), please let Lee know. When we're ready to test, I'll get in touch and let you know what you'll be doing. Thanks in advance!

Lee Vorderer (781-275-5230)
lvorderer@comcast.net

Meet Your Committee on Ministry!

During this unusual time, the Committee on Ministry (CoM) wants you to know who we are and our purpose. The CoM is a standing committee that supports the overall ministry of First Parish and the specific work of its ministers.

The committee generally consists of three members who are appointed upon recommendations from the ministers and approval of the Parish Board. Current members include Marge Heckman, Larry Herz, and Tina Nappi. The meeting schedule for the committee is flexible. Most years, CoM would typically meet four times during the year or additionally at the request of the ministers. Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic last spring, we have met at least monthly with John and Annie to provide additional support.

The committee reflects, shares and discusses pertinent issues related to ministerial work in both the church community and in the local community. It offers support and guidance to the ministers as needed, and acts as a sounding board and a conduit for information between the congregation and the ministers. Of course, the ministers always welcome your direct comments and sharing as well. Feel free to contact any CoM member should you have any questions.

Marge Heckman maheckman@gmail.com

Larry Herz lawrence.herz@gmail.com

Tina Nappi tinanappi@msn.com

Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Goes into Force

Yes, you read that right. On Oct. 24, the 50th nation ratified the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, bringing the agreement into effect. US press has paid little attention to this agreement, heralded by much of the world. Under its provisions, the possession, threat of and any actual use of nuclear weapons is an international crime. Of course, the nuclear nations and their allies have boycotted it. In fact, in a last-ditch effort to undermine the treaty, the US sent a letter to its signatories urging them to withdraw from it. But its implementation is a watershed moment in the long fight to eliminate these horrific weapons. It will not cause nuclear weapons to disappear any time soon, but will over time erode their legitimacy and force nations to move to a new framework for international security.

In 2017 the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) won the Nobel Peace Prize for bringing together 122 nations in the UN to craft and approve this treaty. It required ratification by 50 of the signatories to come into force. The treaty is based on the recognition that the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are so horrendous that no nation should possess them. It is remarkable and fitting tribute to the United Nations that this treaty was signed on the 75th anniversary to the day of its founding, and a resounding reaffirmation of the power and need for this global institution for world peace.

Jerry Ross for the Peace and Justice Committee



If you or someone you know at First Parish needs temporary assistance with meals or errands, please let us know. We have a team of volunteers who are ready to help. **The Coordinator for the month of November is Joan Bowen.**

Reach her by email at jrcbowen@verizon.net or by phone at 781-222-4094. Please note that the phone number will remain the same every month to reach the current Caring Crew Coordinator as we are now using Google Voice.

We would like to provide rides to medical appointments again. A safe protocol is necessary for both the driver and the rider. Current thinking is that both will wear masks and any passengers will sit in the rear seat. If the weather allows, we would also recommend that the windows are open. **If you feel comfortable offering your help as a driver** to appointments, please email Sandy Boczenowski at sandyboz@gmail.com.

News from the Parish Nose

The *Leiby Family* has donated a tall antique pie safe to First Parish. It's temporarily in our Common Room, awaiting auction or ???... *Dave Trigg* and *Patrick Oates* are recuperating after hip surgery... *Evan Seitz* broke his elbow in a bike accident... *Tom Einstein* will be having carpal tunnel surgery... *Ilona Johnson* has moved to the Atrium in N. Chelmsford and dances whenever possible... A pair of new wrought iron candelabras have been gifted to FP and are now on our chancel awaiting our return to the sanctuary. Made by blacksmith artist Michael Saari in CT, they are replicas of ones in the UUA chapel in Boston. "(Gail Woodbury says, "Beyootiful!")"... *Nancy Willett* is recuperating after a fall in her front yard... Ask *Brown Pullivan* about his newest invention to clean waxy hearing aids... *Ed Lowry* is home after valve replacement surgery... Our Physical Plant Committee has their hands full with repairs to leaks in our emergency sprinkler system... Plans are underway for an outdoor drinking fountain, semi-circular stone wall, and new bike racks adjacent to our Memorial Garden... Our Covid-19 Testing Tuesdays have expanded to include early morning hours for teachers... Numerous friends in Abásfalva and elsewhere in Transylvania have been diagnosed with Covid; so far all are recuperating... John Gibbons recently visited *Norman Porter* at SBCC in Shirley. Norman considers FPB his church home... So good to have *Ladi Volicer* and *Joyce Simard* regularly zooming into our Sunday services from Tampa, FL. Joyce, btw, is founder of Namaste Care (<https://namastecare.com/about/>), working especially with those with dementia and their families... *David McClain* has begun immunotherapy treatments for melanoma... Thanks to *Joe Pompei*, *Larry Herz*, and *MANY others*, 1500-2000 get-out-the-vote postcards to swing states were generated from First Parish. Wow! —tpn



Parishioner *Georgia Huenefeld* died on October 22 at age 92. She and her husband John joined First Parish in 1959. Free-thinking and skeptical of religion, Georgia was less gregarious than John but together they maintained many close friendships and were partners in the Huenefeld Company that gave valued guidance to small book publishers across the country. Loyal devotees to their family, they supported many good government and progressive causes. Both Georgia's and John's names are signed to the 1964 "Good Neighbor Pledge" that advocated racial justice in Bedford and is now framed on a wall in our Common Room. Georgia's ashes will be interred with John's in our Memorial Garden.

Our thoughts are with *Cynthia Mork* on the recent death of her mother after a lengthy illness... Husband, father, and Chief Justice of the MA Supreme Judicial Court, *Ralph Gants* was remembered in a small family service in our Memorial Garden with John Gibbons and Rabbi Susan Abramson officiating... Congratulations to former student minister *Jennifer Johnson* on her recent ordination by the First Parish in Chelmsford and the First Universalist Society in Franklin!

Curbside Composting

If you've ever considered signing up for Black Earth Composting, NOW IS THE TIME! Compost More Items, with the convenience of curbside pickup!



Bedford's DPW has graciously offered to cover the starter fee for the next 25 Bedford Black Earth sign-ups – a \$34 value – FOR FREE! The promotion is available whether you sign up for monthly pay or a six-month subscription. WHAT'S MORE, that 25 should put us over the 200 Bedford residents mark to drop the subscription cost per household by 30%!

Learn more or [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#) by entering your zip code! Act quickly, this offer only runs for a limited time. Share the offer with your friends!

Testimony from Cathy Cordes: "It is soooooo easy. We keep a small can on our countertop (or under the sink) and it is AMAZING how much less "trash" we generate. Wheel the can to the curb on Tuesday night and it gets picked up. This is a GREAT deal! Do this, for the Earth!"

Erin E. Dorr
<erin.e.dorr@gmail.com>

THE WARRANT

THE 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 legal voters of said First Parish in Bedford in the County of Middlesex to meet remotely via Zoom on Sunday, the eighth day of November, 2020, at four o'clock in the afternoon and then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

- I. To appoint a Minutes Committee. This group of three people will be responsible for reviewing the Clerk's minutes of the meeting in a timely manner, prior to being presented for a vote by the parish.
- II. To hear and act upon the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on June 14, 2020.
- III. To hear the reports of the Ministers, Parish Board President, Treasurer, and the Developmental Director of Faith Development for Children.
- IV. To hear a report from the Administrative Task Force regarding plans for staffing the church office.
- V. 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, including two Sundays, before the eighth day of November, 2020 and to return this warrant with your doings thereon at said meeting.

Witness our hands this 13th day of October in the year 2020.

The Parish Board:

David Southard, President
Deb Bodeau, Victoria Gaw, Catherine Van Praagh,
Chris Gittins, Alan MacRobert, Jennifer McClain,

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83676104778?pwd=VzFWZklnNTd3NEs4OURPRVBNdTZaQT09>

By phone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 836 7610 4778 Passcode: 894818

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 grant this year. Since in-person activities are limited, virtual or digital programs and activities are encouraged.

The Bedford Cultural Council 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 many more projects.

The Bedford Cultural Council will begin accepting on-line applications for grants for the 2020-2021 grant cycle commencing October 1, 2020. Applications will be accepted through November 16. Information 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)

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. Click on "[Sunday Services on YouTube](#)". 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

Below 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
Sundays at 10AM	Sunday Worship & Community Connections	FP Staff	NOTE: New URL as of 10/26/20: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/936829478?pwd=eFUrbnZYbVZoSDUrWWIRrk5TWUfUT09 Meeting ID: 936 829 478 Passcode: 485478 by phone: +1 646 876 9923
Friday, Nov. 6, 6:30PM	First Friday Potluck	Ron Green, convener	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87697104799?pwd=K2Zad1V0ZndEUctmRDVmb2I5VUdUZz09
Sunday, Nov. 8, 4PM	Semi-Annual Meeting of the Parish	The Parish	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83676104778?pwd=VzFWZkijNTd3NEs4OURPRVBNdTZaQT09 Meeting ID: 836 7610 4778 Passcode: 894818 By phone: +1 646 558 8656
Sunday, Nov. 22 2:00-3:00PM	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 – 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/84853706255?pwd=cUI2VFVCaG9aM3d5aGZhWjc5Z3lQZz09
Thursdays, 5:30-6:30PM	Junior & Senior Youth Choirs	Janet Welby	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86016021142?pwd=RE9ucUFzTGIldE15d2szNnArTkkrUT09
Thursdays at 7:30PM	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://us02web.zoom.us/j/197342633?pwd=bVpjcUxNVHJkdNINIFoxRkJ1UINEdz09

ONLINE AUCTION and LIVE VIEWING of works by David Moore, one of Boston's most accomplished and respected artistic talents

This event is sponsored by the Music Committee of First Parish in Bedford.

Live Art Viewing: Saturday October 31, 2020 from 1:00-4:00 pm, First Parish Bedford (Front Door Narthex), 75 The Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730

Online Auction Week: Saturday October 31 – Saturday November 7, 2020

Online Auction Grand Finale: Saturday November 7, 2020, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Auction Website: <https://uubedford.org/fpb-art-auction>

Contact: uubedford-auction@googlegroups.com



Boston-based artist David Moore has generously donated 17 of his paintings for auction by the First Parish in Bedford Music Committee, with the net proceeds to benefit First Parish. Moore's works have been exhibited at esteemed galleries in Boston, New York City, and throughout the northeast. The auction features modern art compositions in an abstract form inspired by Moore's travels to Ireland and Iceland, national affairs, and natural environments. They span nearly two decades of Moore's artistic creation.

A live viewing of the works up for auction will be held on Saturday October 31, 2020 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Greeters will help negotiate the protocols of the socially-distanced live viewing event. Groups of no more than 4 persons will be allowed in the viewing area at one time. Free timed-entry ticket reservations (highly recommended!) are available online at <https://uubedford.org/fpb-art-auction>.

Online bidding takes place for one week only: noon on Saturday, October 31 through noon the following Saturday, November 7. The auction will culminate in a "Grand Finale" event (broadcast live via Zoom videoconference) on the evening of November 7, beginning at 7:00 pm. In addition to the last round of bidding on artworks, the finale will feature entertainment by First Parish's top musical talents as well as a raffle drawing.

Full details and the latest updates on these events are available at <https://uubedford.org/fpb-art-auction>. Visit the website to learn more about the artist and his work, to view the catalog of paintings available in the auction, to reserve free tickets for the live viewing, to participate in online bidding, and to purchase raffle tickets.

A special animated montage of Moore's paintings is featured in his film "Sraith Reflections" with original music composed by Janet Welby (Youth Choirs Director at First Parish) and performed by local musicians Carol Epple, Elizabeth Connors and Steven Sussman. The film may be viewed online at <https://vimeo.com/178931245>.

First Parish in Bedford, a Unitarian/Universalist congregation and a recognized 501(c)3 organization, is located at 75 The Great Road Bedford MA 01730, and online at uubedford.org.