



The Parishioner

News of the First Parish in Bedford

Unitarian Universalist

On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts

Spirit...Justice...Community

Volume 57, Issue 7

March 2024

Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger, senior minister
Rev. Annie Gonzalez, minister of faith development
Sarah Dorer, parish board president
Rev. John Gibbons, minister emeritus

Carla Bradford, editor
Bradford Conner, music/choir director
Natan Wythe, youth choir director
Sandra LaBarge-Neumann, organist
Brenda Rybicki, parish administrator
Stacey Katz, assistant parish administrator
Mark McCarthy, sexton/custodian

Inside this issue:

A Note from Jamie	3
Minister's Musings	4
Office Matters	4
News from the Parish Board	5
Treasurer's Update	5
Parish Nose	6
Youth Happenings	6
Musical Notes	7
Choir Schedules	8
Vespers	8
Games! Games! Games!	8
Talents & Treasures Auction	9
Abásfalva Fundraiser	11
SRC Update	11
Hanscom Expansion Update	12
Volunteers Needed!	12
FP Women's Book Group	13
We Need You!	13
68 th Plant & Craft Fair	14
Coffee Hour Karaoke	14

Upcoming Sunday Services*

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

Sunday, March 3rd

Title: "The Parable of the Second Samaritan" (*Rev. John Cullinan preaching*)

Jesus used the parable to answer the young man's question, "Who is my neighbor?" But he didn't really dive into the "as yourself" portion of the Great Commandment. So, the questioner returns to Jesus in the evening to ask the rest of his question, "How do I love myself?"

Rev. John Cullinan has served as minister of the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos, NM since 2007.

Sunday, March 10th Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour:



Title: "Women's Bodies – International Women's Day Annual Service"

In the wake of the Barbie movie throwing a spotlight on how society looks at women's bodies, our annual Women's Service will reflect on how society and medicine treat women's bodies. What messages do women and girls hear about their bodies? How does that impact people individually and us as a community? What impact has male-centric medicine had on our ability to diagnose illnesses or neurodiversity in girls and women? We will touch on how these messages have changed over the years and our role in keeping that momentum going.

The service is coordinated by Jenn McClain and Rebecca Greene-Neale and features a reading by librarian Renae Nichols and a dance performance by Dorothy Anderson-Perales and First Parish youth.

Sunday, March 17th

Title: "Antidisestablishmentarianism Is More Than a (Fake) Word" (*Rev. Jamie preaching*)

Continuing our monthly exploration of the seven proposed core values of Unitarian Universalism that will be voted on at General Assembly this year, this month we look at the theme of Generosity. Once upon a time churches like First Parish were supported by taxes. Today the free church is freely supported by the generosity of its members. But generosity as a core value is about more than finances—it's a spiritual value that connects us to gratitude, hope, and our need for one another. *And it's*

Carleton-Willard Group	14	about finances. This Sunday kicks off the 2024-2025 annual pledge drive. Join us and make your commitment of support to the future of First Parish.
First Parish Cabaret	15	
Irish Celebration	16	Saturday, March 23rd - 3PM Title: "Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger's Installation Service"
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger's Installation Service	17	Sunday, March 24th Title: "This is Your Brain on Scarcity" (<i>Rev. Annie preaching</i>) Scholarship on generosity and scarcity show interesting ways that behaving generously or having feelings of scarcity can impact our health, happiness, cognitive function and empathy. How can we use spiritual practice to support our own path toward generosity? Friday, March 29th – 7PM Title: "Tenebrae by Candlelight/Good Friday" Join us for a special service of sacred music, scripture readings, and poetry as we explore the themes of loss woven into the passion story culminating on Good Friday. Rev. Jamie will offer a short reflection. See the Musical Notes section for more description of this powerful service that ends in silence and darkness. Please bring a stone to use during a remembrance ritual. Sunday, March 31st – Easter Sunday Title: <u>"9AM Traditional Service"</u> Morning is broken! The birds are singing! Spring green is peeking out of the cold ground! It's Easter morning! Join us! Reverend Jamie will be preaching an Easter sermon. Favorite hymns will be included, and the adult choir will be singing music which will reflect the uplifting mood of the service. The historic communion silver will make an appearance. And one more thing—don't forget to wear your Easter bonnets! Title: <u>"11AM All-Ages Service"</u> Let's celebrate this season of spring and renewal with songs from our youth choirs and a celebratory service for all ages followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for kids up through 5th grade.
Next deadline is Mar. 31st		The Parishioner is published monthly. Deadline is generally the last Sunday of each month. Send submissions to: editors@uubedford.org .

A Note from Jamie

Dear Members and Friends of First Parish,

I want to say a big thank you to everyone who has joined me for one of my informal chats in January/February or welcomed me to visit your small group. I have a few small group gatherings remaining in March, and then, when all is said and done, I will have met with over one hundred and fifty FP members and friends. Through all these gatherings I've been privileged to get to know you better, hear and answer your questions, and learn more about your hopes and concerns for First Parish. It has been invaluable. It has also been a lot of fun. Thank you!

A big topic of conversation is always the religious education program, which is very important to First Parish. I imagine after the unexpected departure of Lisa Maria, our Director of Faith Development for Children, you may have wonderings about what comes next. I wanted to use this space to give you some information and some reassurances.

The reassurances part: First, as Lisa Maria expressed in her goodbye letter, her departure is not a reflection on First Parish. She made the hard decision to leave FP to pursue an opportunity that is more beneficial for her family, which I think we can all understand. I am happy for her that she had that opportunity, and, of course, sad for us. She has had nothing but positive things to say about First Parish, our community, our kids and families, and her time with us.

The second reassurance: Rev. Annie and I have met and gone over the needs of the RE program for the rest of the year to make sure everything is covered and programming will continue uninterrupted. Things are in good shape and good hands. Rev. Annie put out a request for some extra volunteer support, and many of you have already responded. Thank you! If you have any questions or concerns about the spring or summer programs, please reach out to me or Rev. Annie.

Now I wanted to give you some information about next steps. Rev. Annie and I met with Sarah Dorer (your Board President) and Bob Dorer (Personnel Committee) to review the hiring process and timeline. Any time there is a staff departure it is an opportunity to review staffing holistically and rethink how the needs of the congregation might best be met. As a part of that, we are having multiple listening sessions to learn more about what those needs are. The first listening session, for parents with children and youth currently in the RE program, is Friday March 8, from 6-8pm. Food and childcare will be provided. The second listening session, for RE volunteers more generally and people who have recently had children and youth in the program, will be March 17, right after church. We want to hear from people actively engaged with the RE program what your wants, needs, and hopes for the program are.

Armed with that information, and after our own thoughtful review of the program and the overall needs of the church, Rev. Annie and I will present a range of staffing options to the Board for consideration. This could include hiring a traditional DRE, a Director of Family Ministry, an RE Coordinator, a volunteer coordinator and outreach specialist, or some mix of the above. We have mapped out some initial possibilities to start thinking about. Your input will help us get to a recommendation and a final decision. Of course, what is possible will also depend on the budget and the success of the pledge drive.

We hope to have our staffing determination made at the March Board meeting. Once we know exactly what we are hiring for, we will convene a search team or a hiring task force, advertise the position(s), and go through the hiring process in April. Our assumption is we are hiring for a start day of August 1.

Underlying all of this process is our commitment to support and grow the religious education program at First Parish, support our families, and support the community. The Religious Education program is a core mission of First Parish. I believe it is one of the most important things we do. I am looking forward to working with our talented staff, and with all of you, to bring that program into the next phase of its life at First Parish.

Peace,
Jamie



Minister's Musings

The only thing you can really count on in life is change. We've all learned that lesson many times and we were reminded once again, as our Director of Faith Development for Children spent her last Sunday with us on February 18th. I am so grateful for the 2.5 years Lisa Maria spent working with us. During times of great transition, she brought a positive creative attitude to Faith Development. The restructuring of the Faith Development Committee, the creation of Games Club, and the new "Food for Thought" programs are all thanks to her leadership and will continue to be part of our faith development program. I will truly miss working with her and I'm grateful that she has set me up for success in keeping programs running in her absence as we work toward hiring new staff to best serve our congregation. I wish her well in her next chapter and I know she will miss us too.

I'm also incredibly grateful for you all as you are already meeting the volunteer challenges we now have. Five of you have signed up to help as a second adult on a Sunday morning or Wednesday afternoon, some of you volunteering many times, and I thank each of you! For anyone who hasn't yet taken a look, please consider checking out the SignUp Genius at bit.ly/FPBchildrenspring24. We do still have slots open on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons!

- Annie



Office Matters

March is a busy month at First Parish, with lots of wonderful events ahead (Bi-Annual Cabaret, Irish Celebration, Rev. Jamie's Installation Service, etc...). We also have some beloved Spring events already on our radar, like the Talents & Treasures Auction and the 68th Annual Plant & Craft Fair.

With the preparations underway for these festivities, there may be an increased need for booking rooms/Zooms for your meeting. In order to better serve you, please contact Stacey (skatz@uubedford.org) **at least 3-5 business days in advance** so we have plenty of time to schedule heat/air-conditioning (here's hoping!). And we ask the same for booking a Zoom meeting. Please reach out to me at parishadministrator@uubedford.org **at least 3-5 business days in advance**.

Given some of these events will involve tasty treats and beverages, I wanted to take this time to remind everyone of our food policy with regards to Memorial Services, receptions, parties, etc.... 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.

Lastly, once again, please find below an explanation of our three email lists for use by the First Parish community. Please contact me with your preferred email address if you would like to be added to any of the lists. 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

News from the Parish Board

I want *This month we would like to focus on three different ways for us to continue our stewardship of First Parish in March.*

#1). Rev. Jamie's Installation Service: Saturday, March 23, 2024. Please join us for Jamie's Installation Service at 3pm in the Sanctuary or on Zoom. As mentioned in last month's Parishioner, an Installation Service for a new, called minister celebrates the covenantal relationship between the minister and the congregation with a spoken ritual that involves all who are present. Be on the lookout for requests for help from the members of the Installation Planning team as well as the Zoom link if you are not able to attend in person. *(Please see the flyer further in this newsletter for more details.)*

#2). Financial Stewardship of First Parish. March marks the month in the church calendar when the Stewardship Team comes before the parish with the request for financial pledges for the next church fiscal year. Most of the money we need to provide the ministries, music programs, children and youth programs, office administration and physical plant upkeep that we have come to value and expect comes directly from us each year. Last year, we had a very successful stewardship drive reaching 94% of our goal with pledges totaling \$515,000. It was a complicated ask as we were moving to a 13-month fiscal year for FY '23-'24 to get us in better alignment with our church year. The percent increase that we asked for last year merely covered that extra month as well as a portion of staff compensation increases that had been recommended by the UUA. This year, the Parish Board has set a goal of \$560,000 for next year – yes, an ambitious goal, we know! We have some significant physical plant needs that must be attended to as well as pay the next portion of our staff compensation. Our plan is for two full-time ministers and to continue faith development programming for children, youth and adults with staffing. Please pay close attention to the literature from the Stewardship Team, the presentation from Vicki Gaw, our treasurer, on Sunday, March 10 and the messages from our ministers and parishioner testimonials. The budget that we pass in June for next year will be dependent on what we pledge later this month. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

#3). GA (General Assembly) June 20 – 23. Calling all who are interested in becoming a delegate from First Parish this year. GA is the annual gathering of Unitarians and Universalists to conduct the business of the Association. The General Assembly will be entirely virtual this year with the option of participating either as a Fully Registered participant (fee-based) or a Business-only participant (donation). First Parish is entitled to send 7 delegates. The church has budgeted money for the registration fee and the sooner you commit, the cheaper it will be. Among other agenda items, delegates will be voting on the proposed revision to Article II of the UUA Bylaws. For more detailed information about GA visit <https://www.uua.org/ga> , and if interested in attending, please contact Jamie at minister@uubedford.org .

Thank you all for what you do to be stewards of this beloved community!

Sarah Dorer, for the Board (Mark Bailey, Peter Cho, Vicki Gaw, Susan Lincoln, Jennifer McClain and Alan MacRobert)

Treasurer's Update

Please join our Treasurer, Vicki Gaw, in the Common Room on Sunday, March 10th after the service and community hour, for a presentation and discussion of current First Parish finances.

Parish Nose

We are sad to report that Marcia Bushnell, a friend of First Parish, recently passed away. You may remember Marcia from her time on the Peace and Justice Committee or from her art shows in the First Parish Gallery. Please keep her friends and loved ones in your thoughts. You can read her obituary here:

<https://www.shawsheerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Marcia-Marie-Bushnell?obId=30802600>

You can view Marcia Bushnell's artwork here: <https://mmcbushnell.com/>

Please send items for inclusion in the Parish Nose to minister@uubedford.org by the last Friday of the month.

Youth Happenings

Sunday Mornings for Kids/Youth

We'll have regular Faith Development classes on March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th, with PreK - 5th grade meeting together and Crossing Paths for 6th/7th grade meeting to cover Islam and more! 8th grade and up are welcome to remain in worship or assist with the younger children. Kids younger than PreK can go to the nursery or stay with their families in worship - we welcome their noises. On March 31st we'll have an Easter service for all ages at 11 am with an Easter egg hunt for kids 5th grade and younger right afterward!

Youth Happenings

Junior Youth Group (Middle School)

Our Junior Youth Group (JYG) is going strong with a dozen youth attending regularly. All 6th - 8th graders are welcome for snacks, check in, games and a mini-service project. We'll meet in March on Wednesdays 3:30 - 5 pm in the Common Room. Our activities will include drawing games, active games, a treasure hunt, making decorations for Rev. Jamie's installation and filling Easter eggs for the egg hunt.

Senior Youth Group (High School)

Our Senior Youth Group (SYG) is a small but enthusiastic group of high schoolers excited for community service, food and of course, games. All 9th - 12th graders are welcome to any SYG events.

Saturday March 2nd we're volunteering with Household Goods in Acton. Meet at 12 pm at First Parish with a 4:30 pm return time. We'll help sort household items and furniture for those who cannot afford them.

Sunday March 3rd is a UU Mass Action Youth Corps event in Framingham 1-4 pm for canvassing for the No New Women's Prison campaign. Let Annie know if you want to join!

Wednesday March 6th is a Coming of Age Field Trip to The Sanctuary Boston, a unique UU worship community that meets on Wednesday evenings. We'll leave from First Parish a little after 5 pm.

Sunday March 10th is regular SYG 5:30 - 7 pm

Sunday March 17th is regular SYG 5:30 - 7 pm

Sunday March 24th is Coming of Age dinner 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Sunday March 31st is Easter - no SYG

Musical Notes

"If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one." – comment made in 2014 by country singer, songwriter, musician, entrepreneur and activist, Dolly Parton (b. 1946)

Here's the planned music for 10 a.m. (unless otherwise noted) services in the upcoming month –

Sunday, March 3rd: Steve Sussman will be playing the piano.

Sunday, March 10th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. The music for the service will salute International Women's Day with 3 compositions by women composers/arrangers/editors: the prelude will be a beautiful choral piece by Renaissance composer Josquin des Prez edited by our very own Buffie Groves; the very special offertory will be sung by the treble voices of the adult choir conducted by Sandra and will be a charming choral piece entitled "March" by composer/performer Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, the sister of famed German composer Felix Mendelssohn; and the postlude will be an organ piece, *Larghetto* by Swedish organist, composer and conductor Elfrida Andrée. It will be a noteworthy morning of music honoring very talented women.

Sunday, March 17th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ.

Saturday, March 23rd "Jamie Hinson-Rieger's Installation Service": (3 p.m.) Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ and Steve Sussman will be playing the piano. There will be special songs and music selected by Rev. Jamie. The music will include Cynthia Mork singing the prelude and the adult choir will sing "Seasons of Love" from Jonathan Larson's groundbreaking musical, "Rent". I hope you will make a special effort to attend this significant event in honor of Rev. Jamie.

Sunday, March 24th: Steve Sussman will be playing the piano.

Friday, March 29th "Tenebrae/Good Friday" (7 p.m.): As I always say, this is one of my favorite services of the year. I know many others at First Parish echo that feeling. There will be an hour long story-type service encompassing many of the customary Tenebrae/Good Friday themes. To enhance the proceedings, the adult choir will sing music by Baroque composers – two works J.S. Bach ("Sheep May Safely Graze" and "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring", the latter arranged by Dean Groves), Antonio Vivaldi ("*Et in terra pax*" from his famous "*Gloria*") and 3 choruses from Georg Frideric Handel's "*Messiah*". On organ Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will play Bach's famous masterpiece, "*O Mensch, beweine dein' Sünde gross*". Steve Sussman will be there accompanying on piano as well as Carlough Faulkner Carroll – violin, Melinda Ballou – viola, Nathan Kimball – cello, Carol Epple – flute and Elizabeth Connors – clarinet. "O Sacred Head, now wounded" will also be sung. Combining tradition with a touch of unconventionality, this will be a service of shadows and deep reflection. Be sure to bring a stone with you.

Sunday, March 31st "Easter": For both the 9 a.m and 11 a.m. services, Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ and Steve Sussman will be playing piano. At the 9 a.m. service, the prelude will feature Nao Okamoto – violin playing the famous *Intermezzo* from Italian composer Pietro Mascagni's "*Cavalleria Rusticana*" and will be danced by Dorothy Anderson-Perales. The adult choir, joined by Carol Epple and Elizabeth Connors, will sing the "Easter Hymn" also from the same work. At the 11 a.m. service, Natan Wythe will be leading the First Parish youth choirs in joyous music appropriate to the celebratory mood. During both services we will also sing expected hymns for the day. Don't forget to wear your Easter bonnets!

Let's celebrate the return of the First Parish Cabaret! Produced by our youth choirs director, Natan Wythe, the Cabaret will be on **Saturday evening, March 2, 2024 at 7 p.m.** A flyer with more information is elsewhere in this Parishioner and on the First Parish website: www.uubedford.org. While it may be a little late to sign up to perform in the show, please come to the performance and support Natan and our youth! The net proceeds will benefit First Parish.

Mark your calendars! It's back for a third year! The Music Committee will host **"Irish Celebration: A Family Event"** on **Saturday evening, March 16, 2024 at 5 p.m.** The music will be provided by guest Celtic music experts Joy Grimes, Emily Peterson and Rosanne Santucci with Natan Wythe on mandolin and guitar. The Carroll Clan will also be appearing as they are able. They'll also be some great story telling by Rev. Jamie. And don't forget there will be delicious Pub food! More information is elsewhere in this newsletter and on the First Parish website: www.uubedford.org.

And looking ahead ... **Music Sunday** is coming on Sunday morning, May 5, 2024. I hope you like Dolly Parton!

Maybe it's time to think about joining the adult choir? If you're interested, e-mail me at bconner@uubedford.org. You can see some of the great music that is planned. Rehearsals are filled with good singing, humor and many musical rewards.

And speaking of joining choirs, do you know any youth who would like to sing in our youth choirs? Natan Wythe picks great music and singing in the choirs is just plain fun. If you know of any interested youth or have any questions, reach out to Natan at youthchoirs@uubedford.org.

Additional rehearsal information about both the adult and youth choirs is below and on the church website: www.uubedford.org.

- 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) every Monday from 3:45-4:30 p.m. in the common room (please note that rehearsals are scheduled for 45 minutes at this time)
- **KidSing** (Age 5 through Grade 2) every Wednesday from 4:00-4:30 p.m. in room 202/203 (please note that rehearsals are scheduled for 30 minutes at this time)
- **Junior Youth Choir** (Grades 3-5) every Friday from 4:00-4:45 p.m. in the common room (please note that rehearsals are scheduled for 45 minutes at this time)

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

Second Tuesday Vespers

Second Tuesday Vespers had our first fully lay led service in February, which went well thanks to Randi Currier and Richard Golembeski. These services in the Bacon Room and on Zoom will continue on the second Tuesday of the month, replacing the weekly meditation group at 7 pm. Silence and song, readings and sharing. Come for some stillness and to be together. Our next one will be March 12th.

Games! Games! Games!

Come play some games with fellow parishioners and friends on Sunday, March 24th, from 2 to 5 PM in the Common Room. All ages are welcome, but we do ask that kids come with a designated adult. Bring some favorites to play with someone new or play something new with some favorite people!



The Talents and Treasures Auction is Saturday, April 6!

Save the Date! Our Annual Talents and Treasures Auction is April 6th at 6pm. The silent auction runs from 6:00 - 7:15pm, and the live auction starts at 7:30pm. Enjoy good company, drinks and finger-foods along with a chance to bid on some great items!

It's Time to Submit Your Donations! Donate...Volunteer...Attend...

Why donate?

This is First Parish's largest fundraiser and we encourage all parishioners to think about how they can help make it a success. The Auction is an opportunity to support our church by offering your unique skills, interests, and goods to the First Parish Community. Donated items should be new or in excellent used condition (sorry, we are unable to accept clothing or shoes).

How do I donate?

You can register your items online: use this link: <http://auctria.events/fpbauction2024> or look for the gavel icon at www.uubedford.org. Please include a detailed description and a photo (nothing fancy). Folks want to see items before the Auction!

When do I donate?

Submit your items online now through March 18. Please submit early! The Auction catalog takes time to construct and edit, and people need time to consider their bids. Please note the donation deadline is March 18; we'd hate to have to decline your contribution! Details on when to drop off your submitted items will follow in the coming weeks.

What should I donate?

What do you enjoy?

SERVICES:

- Donate your time! Yard work, massage, gardening, painting, fix-it work, tutoring, organization...
- Teach us something! Yoga, sewing, pickleball, baking, local tours...

EVENTS:

- Group dinners and themed events are extremely popular!
- Host a gathering focused on your favorite cuisine or topic of interest. Everyone loves a fun event!

PLACES:

- Time in vacation homes, beloved B&Bs, on your boat..... People love to get away!

ITEMS:

- Handcrafts - jewelry, woodcraft, quilts, knitwear, art, pottery, photography... What have you been making?
- Lovely items in very good condition that need a new home will be appreciated by others!
- Gift baskets, gift certificates or event tickets; donate for people who will enjoy them!

CUISINE:

- Your signature baked goods, favorite dish, jam, brew or liqueur can be offered that night or for later delivery... What recipes have you been working on?
-

Questions?

Contact the Auction Team: uubedford-auction@googlegroups.com



The Talents and Treasures Auction

Is Saturday, April 6th
&
It's Time to Submit Your
Donations!

Donate...Volunteer...Attend...

Why donate?

This is First Parish's largest fundraiser and we encourage all parishioners to think about how they can help make it a success. The Auction is an opportunity to support our church by offering your unique skills, interests, and goods to the First Parish Community. Donated items should be new or in excellent used condition (sorry, we are unable to accept clothing or shoes).

How do I donate?

Register your donation online:

use this link: <http://auctria.events/fpbauction2024>
or look for the gavel icon at www.uubedford.org

Please include a detailed description and a photo (nothing fancy). Folks want to see items before the Auction!

When do I donate?

Submit your items online
now through March 18th

Please submit early! The Auction catalog takes time to construct and edit, and people need time to consider their bids. *Please note the donation deadline is March 18th*; we'd hate to have to decline your contribution!

Details on when to deliver your submitted items will follow in the coming weeks.

What should I donate?

Something you enjoy!

SERVICES:

- ☐ Donate your time! Yard work, massage, gardening, painting, fix-it work, tutoring or organization...
- ☐ Teach us something! Yoga, sewing, pickleball, baking, or local tours...

EVENTS:

- ☐ Group dinners and themed events are extremely popular! Host a vibrant gathering focussed on your favorite cuisine or topic of interest. Everyone loves a well-prepared meal or fun event!

PLACES:

- ☐ Time in vacation homes, beloved B&Bs, or on your boat... People love to get away!

ITEMS:

- ☐ Handcrafts - jewelry, woodcraft, quilts, knitwear, art, pottery and photography... What have you been making?
- ☐ Lovely items in very good condition that need a new home will be appreciated by others!
- ☐ Gift baskets, gift certificates or event tickets; donate for people who will enjoy them!

CUISINE:

- ☐ Your signature baked goods, favorite dish, jam, brew or liqueur can be offered for that night or for later delivery... What recipes have you been working on?

Questions?

Contact the Auction Team: uubedford-auction@googlegroups.com

Baked Potato Fundraiser for Abásfalva Scholarship



The Partnership Church Committee will be holding a baked potato fundraiser after Church during Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 10. Warm your belly and your heart, knowing the proceeds will help fund the Partnership Church Scholarship for students in the village of Abásfalva, Romania.

Just the Facts

When: Sun. March 10, 11:14 am (ish)

Where: Common Room during Coffee Hour

Cost: \$5

Value: Priceless!

Social Responsibility Council Update

Our Share the Plate total for January is listed below. Unfortunately, it was the weekend of our one big snowstorm and the service was on Zoom. Hence the number is lower than what is usually collected. As a result, we are considering a second Share the Plate for Save Our Heritage in April.

- January – Save Our Heritage (Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere-- \$174.00)

Final totals for February are not yet available. Going forward, the Share the Plate schedule for the remainder of the year is:

- March – Lowell Transitional Living Center
- April – Save Our Heritage
- May – Transylvania Scholarship Fund
- June -- open

We have not received any new grant proposals this month.

We are honored to represent this community's commitment to social justice causes. For those new to First Parish, the goal of the Social Responsibility Council is to act on behalf of the parish to coordinate and fund social action projects that express Unitarian Universalist values within our community. In addition, the Council is responsible for determining recipients for half of the first Sunday offering as part of the Sharing the Plate program as well as the recipients for our Christmas Eve offerings. We receive an annual budget that is funded through First Parish's endowment fund.

All parishioners are invited to submit proposals for social action projects or for recipients for our Share the Plate program. Additional information about the Council and all application forms can be found at <https://www.uubedford.org/social-action/social-responsibility-council/>. Simply download the form, complete it online and email it or print it out and mail to the church office.

For any other questions, feel free to contact the Council chair, Marge Heckman at committees@uubedford.org or speak to any member of the committee (Pam Foresman, Nat Marcum, Heather Black, Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw, John Laferriere, and Doug Denny-Brown).

-Marge Heckman for the Social Responsibility Council

Hanscom Expansion Happenings

Public Information Session: North Airfield Ventures, the developer of the Hanscom hangar project, will hold a pre-DEIR (draft environmental impact report) filing **Public Information Session**, on **Monday, March 4, 6-8 pm**, Middlesex Community College, Campus Center, 591 Springs Road, Bedford, or attend virtually by registering at <https://bit.ly/hanscom-public-session>

SPJE (www.StopPrivateJetExpansion.org) **Webinar: Wednesday, March 6th at 7pm:**

If you can only attend one event, this is the one to hear the latest updates on:

- The private jet hangar expansion plans – what the developers are saying
- Climate impacts of the proposed expansion & why it's a **statewide issue**
- Next steps in **MEPA** state environmental review - and your public comments!
- What you can do to help stop this reckless private jet expansion

Special remarks by Naomi Oreskes on the proposed private jet hangar expansion and its implications, co-author of *Merchants of Doubt*, world-renowned public speaker on science, climate change, and corporate efforts to undermine climate action

Panel

- **Neil Rasmussen**, president of Save Our Heritage, tracking Massport-owned Hanscom Field since 1998
- **Chuck Collins**, co-author of report *Hanscom High Flyers: Private Jet Excess Doesn't Justify Airport Expansion*, *Institute of Policy Studies*
- **Alex Chatfield**, St. Anne's Climate Justice Ministry
- **Moderated by Diane Proctor**, League of Women Voters Concord-Carlisle

Register here for the Webinar [editors: here is the link: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/stop-private-jet-expansion-march-6th-webinar/>]

DEIR Update: The developers plan to file their DEIR on March 15, and about a week later the 4-week public comment period will begin. To be alerted when it's filed and be sent the tool kit for how to submit public comment, sign the petition to Governor Healey so you will get action alerts from the Coalition: Share and [sign the petition](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/spje/) <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/spje/>

-Corrine Doud for the Climate Justice Committee

Volunteers Needed!

March is here, and it's time to sign up for Sunday morning volunteer opportunities! Sign-ups can be found here: <https://www.uubedford.org/coffee-usher-signups/> or by clicking on the "Calling All Volunteers" link on the [FPB homepage](#).



First Parish Women's Book Group News

Join us for the next book group meeting at 6 p.m. in the common room on Sunday, March 3! It will be a potluck dinner so please bring a dish to share.

We'll be discussing "River Sing Me Home" by Eleanor Shearer. From the Observer:

This beautiful, page-turning and redemptive story of a mother's gripping journey across the Caribbean to find her stolen children and piece her family back together is a "celebration of motherhood and female resilience".

The calendar for the remaining church year is:

2023 - 2024 Church Year Book Group Books		
Meeting Date	Book	Author
4/7/2024	Nowhere Girl	Cheryl Diamond
5/19/2024	Under the Whispering Door	TJ Klune
6/9/2024	Book Selection for the following year	

Please e-mail committees@uubedford.org with questions.



We Need You!

As always there are so many ways to participate in making First Parish run and we need you! We know that many of us have super full lives and that all of us have different abilities and amounts of energy to offer. We hope that everyone in our community is finding ways to give of their time so that it's not a hardship and so that our work is distributed widely throughout our community.

1. Join "Sustaining Membership" on the membership committee

Our Membership Committee has recently split into 3 sub-groups: one focused on Outreach, one focused on engaging existing members, and one that we're calling Pathway to Membership. The group focused on sustaining our existing membership could use some additional folks after a bit of a reshuffle on the committee. If you are interested in how we support and stay in touch with our current members, please reach out to Rev. Jamie!

2. Sunday morning Coffee volunteers

We always need these! It's a simple and super helpful way to participate in First Parish. Go to uubedford.org/community-life/volunteering to find the Coffee and Usher Volunteers Sign Up Genius.

3. Sunday and Wednesday Faith Development volunteers

As noted, we need adult volunteers for Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons due to Lisa Maria's departure.

Check out bit.ly/FPBchildrenspring24 to see what slots need filled still!

68th Annual Plant and Craft Fair



68th Annual Plant and Craft Fair
10 AM- 3 PM, May 18, 2024

Join us for a “Planting Party” on March 17th after the Service!

Spring is in the air, in the longer days if not the temperature. Plans for the 68th First Parish Plant and Craft Fair are already well underway, but much remains to be done. We need a Volunteer Coordinator- if you like to make spreadsheets/sign-up genius this could be the job for you! We also need someone to coordinate the distribution of the Fair lawn signs, people to house dug-up heritage plants from people’s gardens and help with children’s activities.

If you have a favorite part of the day, and want to be sure it happens this year, let us know you are ready to take it on. As we get closer, we will be recruiting for the day-of-needs, so watch this space! If you know of crafters who may be interested in being at the fair- please send them this URL. Note that we are reaching out to all the crafters from the December Holiday Fair. <https://forms.gle/5mH622ahBRkhrcEs5>

The Plant Fair Team

Coffee Hour Karaoke is Coming!

Coffee Hour Karaoke is Coming! March 10

Join us in the Sanctuary immediately after the service on March 10 for All-Ages Karaoke during the community hour. All are welcome. Bring a friend!



Carleton-Willard Village Discussion Group

Carleton-Willard Village Discussion Group: Thursday, March 21 at 11am

Carleton-Willard Village residents are invited to join Rev. Jamie every third Thursday at 11am at CWV for a lively discussion on a topic of interest to Unitarian Universalists. Our topic for March is “Peace as a Unitarian Universalist Value.” As many of you know, UU delegates will be voting on seven core values to replace the language of the seven principles in the UUA bylaws. A recent amendment proposes “Peace” as an 8th core UU value. How do we think about peace in the face of all the conflict and violence in the world? How do we work for peace, as individuals and as members of a religious community?



First Parish Music Committee
presents



Saturday March 2, 2024

7:00 PM

FIRST PARISH CABARET

in the Sanctuary

**An intergenerational evening
featuring
First Parish Youth, Adults
—and much more!**

To sign yourself up
—or your child / children—
to perform, contact
Natan Wythe at
nwythe@uubedford.org

**WHAT'S
YOUR
TALENT?**

Suggested donations (accepted at the door)

Adults: \$10 Youth 6–16: \$5 Children 5 & under: FREE

Family maximum: \$30

First Parish is
Wheelchair Accessible



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



First Parish Music Committee
presents



Irish Celebration: A Family Event

Saturday, March 16, 2024

5:00 PM

FEATURING **CELTIC MUSIC EXPERTS ...**

Joy Grimes



Emily Peterson



Rosanne Santucci



Also featuring First Parish's Youth Choir Director **Natan Wythe**
on **mandolin and guitar**



The Carroll Clan

**Ian
Emory
Carlough
Eloise**



PLUS—Storytelling by the inimitable
Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger

An IRISH "PUB DINNER" is included!

Suggested donations (accepted at the door)

Adults: \$20 Youth 6–12: \$10 Children 5 & under: FREE

Seniors: \$15 Family maximum: \$50

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





The First Parish in Bedford, Unitarian Universalist
invites you to the
Installation of
REV. JAMIE HINSON-RIEGER
as our Senior Minister

Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 3pm ET
First Parish in Bedford, 75 Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730
A Zoom option is also available: <https://bit.ly/RevJamieInstallation>

A celebration will follow with light refreshments and desserts
Clergy and other religious professionals are invited to gather at 2pm ET
to robe (if robing) and process

Childcare will be available

RSVP appreciated but not required to minister@uubedford.org



The First Parish in Bedford
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST