



The Parishioner

News of the First Parish in Bedford

Unitarian Universalist

On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts

Spirit...Justice...Community

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Rev. Annie Gonzalez, minister of faith development
Sarah Dorer, parish board president
Rev. John Gibbons, minister emeritus

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Sandra LaBarge-Neumann, organist
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Upcoming Sunday Services*

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

Sunday, April 7th

Title: "Finite Beings, Infinite Interdependence" (Rev. Annie preaching)

Interdependence is simply a fact of life. On this small earth with one atmosphere, one set of oceans, one global economy, what one person does affects life and beings and people all over the globe. How far do we lean into our connections with others and where do we draw boundaries? When is something happening to others our responsibility and when do we focus on our own well-being? We'll explore the inherent tensions in the vastness of our interdependent web and our finite capacities.

Sunday, April 14th

Title: "The Ties That Bind and the Scissors" (Rev. Jamie preaching)

America has a loneliness epidemic, warns a new report by the Surgeon General, with serious consequences for our emotional, physical, and communal well-being. How have we become so isolated in a world in which we also seem to be drowning in communication? What are the forces separating us and how can we begin reconnecting? Join us for a service about the centrality of interdependence to our collective healing.

Sunday, April 21st

Title: "The Joy of Being Just" (Led by Kannan Thiruvengadam and the FPB Environmental Justice Committee)

The guest speaker for our Earth Day Service is Kannan Thiruvengadam. Kannan leads Eastie Farm, an urban farm in East Boston that fosters food security, regenerative land use, and environmental stewardship. He says: "I lost my own mother as a child. Later in life, I learned climate science and realized the risks to our shared mother earth. I sought relief in action, running a farm that empowers young people to be compassionate climate leaders, and an advocacy group fighting for a beautiful coastal habitat. Every day I ask myself: 'Am I healthy enough to be kind? Am I grateful enough to be hopeful? What's my role in the care for creation?' Together, let us explore these questions, and those in your heart."

There will be an opportunity for in-person Question & Answer with Kannan following the service from 11:15 to 11:45 am in the Bacon Room.

<p>Carleton-Willard Group 12</p> <p>Ellen & Rich’s Wedding 13</p> <p>Folk Music Concert 14</p> <p>Jazz Music Concert 15</p>	<p>Sunday, April 28th</p> <p>Title: “The Light of Reason and the Wonder of it All” (<i>Rev. Jamie preaching</i>)</p> <p>As our delegates get ready to vote on the seven proposed core values of UU at General Assembly in June, there is a twist: two new proposed values, courtesy of the amendment process! This Sunday we will talk about the first of these, which is “Reason.” For much of its history, the watchwords of Unitarianism were “Reason, freedom, and tolerance.” Our respect for reason and science is held (by us) to be one of the most distinctive things about our tradition. This Sunday let’s talk about why it’s also one of the most inspiring! (And one that has sometimes led us astray.)</p>
<p>Next deadline is Apr. 28th</p>	<p>The Parishioner is published monthly. Deadline is generally the last Sunday of each month. Send submissions to: editors@uubedford.org.</p>

A Note from Rev. Jamie

Dear First Parish Members and Friends,

Well, March was quite a month at First Parish! I am still soaring from the glorious music (and dance!) of our Easter Sunday traditional service, and from the joyful energy (and dance!) of the all-ages service. We are so blessed as a congregation with the wealth of artistic talent you all bring to Sunday morning. And, of course, we are lucky to have Brad, Natan, Sandra, and Steve on our musical team, bringing it all together and making it happen with dedication, vision, expertise, and an unshakeable spirit of fun!

Before Easter Sunday I was deeply moved to be participating in the powerful Tenebrae service for the first time. And before *that* there was the joyous occasion of my installation service. I am grateful to everyone who took part in making that happen, from the planning team, to the choir, to the musicians, to the staff, to the Board, to the tech crew, to the many colleagues who participated in the service. And, of course, I am grateful to everyone who came out and celebrated with us.

Also in March! An Irish Fest, a Cabaret, the Obertones, games clubs, youth groups, an expedition to see the Addams Family high school musical, listening circles a-plenty, an International Women's Day Service, some regular services, meditations, vespers, pot lucks, book groups, small groups, a BAKED POTATO FUNDRAISER, karaoke, a movie night in the Bacon room, demonstrations at Hanscom, and many other things I am sure I have missed. Whew. What a month!

If that were not enough, we kicked off our pledge drive on March 17. Your pledge of financial support is what makes all this possible, so if you have returned your pledge card, thank you! And if you have not, we'd love for you to drop it off this Sunday. You can also pledge online using this link: <https://www.uubedford.org/submit-your-annual-pledge-to-first-parish/>

Now, here is something that happened in March that you may not be aware of that I want to tell you about. In March, by vote of the Parish Board, First Parish officially became a partner congregation of UU Mass Action. Maybe you remember Rev. Jo giving an energetic welcome from UU Mass Action during my installation service with chants of "Justice! Justice! Justice!" We'd signed the partnership agreement that afternoon.

In their words, UU Mass Action "is the original state-wide UU organizing and advocacy group in the US. [Their] mission is to connect the 140 Unitarian Universalist congregations and 25,000 members, to "work smarter, not harder" for social justice by sharing ideas and joining forces to raise our compassionate voice in Massachusetts so we can have an impact."

UU Mass Action empowers UUs to come together to work collaboratively with other UU congregations and partner organizations on social justice issues like environmental justice, immigration rights, community safety and de-incarceration, housing rights and economic justice, and many other issues of concern to UUs. By joining in partnership with UU Mass Action we get access to training and resources to raise up social justice leaders in our own congregation. And we become more effective in carrying out our mission, because we are not trying to do the work alone.

You can learn more about UU Mass Action at uumassaction.org.

You can specifically learn about the benefits and responsibilities of being a partner congregation here:

<https://www.uumassaction.org/become-a-partner-congregation>

As is often the case, our youth have led the way in building this relationship. Many of our youth have participated in UU Mass Action social justice campaigns in the past. The Board and I met with Rev. Jo in February and March to begin to outline the specifics of our covenant (agreement) together. In the short term, you may notice more information about UU Mass Action in FP communications and more invitations to participate in UU Mass Action events. We encourage you to check them out and get involved. In the long run, our goal is to work with them to build up social justice leaders in our

congregation, grow our relationships in the community, and show up more boldly and effectively in Massachusetts (and beyond!)

I am grateful to the Board for their vision in entering into this partnership and I look forward to all the good work (and good trouble) that lies ahead. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

Peace,
Jamie



Minister's Musings

As of writing this on April 1st, I don't have firm plans for the solar eclipse happening one week from today. Last night at a gathering of friends I casually polled the gathered people: should I try to get to the totality? Is it worth it? Most said yes. "It won't happen again for many years!"; "You love novel experiences!" went the arguments. The no votes centered on traffic and the fact that we'll have a 92% eclipse here anyway without doing anything special. I weighed these things in my brain wishing I could know what will happen. How bad will the traffic be? How much with the baby I'd be traveling with cry? Will we be stuck in Vermont with no way to get home and no food and a very cranky 8-year-old and 1-year-old? Or will it be a magical experience, a fun novelty adventure, bonding time for me with my kid and housemates?

I see that some of you are coordinating too, on the Announcements list. I imagine many of you are weighing the same factors. And this is how life is, we simply cannot predict or control so many aspects of our lives. It's so tempting to want to figure it out and somehow make the right decision. We want to foresee the problems or joys accurately so we can avoid regrets. But the best we can do is take into account what is likely, and make a choice we can feel good about however we frame it. Maybe that's "92% of an eclipse is pretty incredible and that's good enough!" Maybe that's "let's pack the snacks, put on the tunes and have a fun road trip whatever the traffic!" It's usually the case that the best decision is whatever one we make with a positive attitude and a clear sense of what we're choosing it for.

- Annie



Office Matters

We've made it to Spring! Although it seems Mother Nature did not get the memo yet. As we dive into April, we are looking forward to another fun-filled month of events, such as the Talents & Treasures Auction this Saturday, the Folk Music Concert this Sunday, and a Jazz Concert planned for the end of the month.

With all the upcoming activities, 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 again of our food policy with regards to receptions, Memorial Services, 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.

With our new Stewardship Campaign in full swing, I am happily entering each pledge card or online submission form as soon as they cross my desk/email! For accounting purposes, when you start sending in payments towards the new campaign, please try to write the new pledge year on the memo line (24/25). This extra step would be very helpful to Stacey and I. And it will help us keep the most accurate records possible when it comes to following up with everyone in the fall.

Lastly, per my recent email, while we are in this interim period with our regular Sexton (Mark McCarthy) out due to a medical issue, I wanted to take this time to remind you that if you are the last one in the building, please make sure that all of the lights are off, the coffee pots/tea kettles are unplugged, and all of the doors are locked. The lists of weekly events are posted every Monday just inside the Elm Street entrance and also just outside the office on the wall near the Sanctuary entrance. Please look for your group on the list, and if there isn't any other event booked afterwards, you should assume you are the last ones in the building. Please help us save energy and keep our building secure.

-Brenda Rybicki, Parish Administrator

News from the Parish Board

This month, I want to begin by thanking everyone who was involved in planning and executing the very special service and celebration for Jamie Hinson-Rieger's installation as the next senior minister of First Parish. Personally, I found the service and covenanting between Jamie and the congregation, and then later in the service with John Gibbons, especially emotional and poignant as we had Jamie, John, Annie, and Megan all together with us participating in this rite of passage for First Parish. As some parishioners later commented, "It just felt whole!" We are so fortunate as a congregation to have such strong ministerial leadership.

(Selected photos courtesy of Andrea Cleghorn and Ali Hon-Anderson: [Rev. Jamie's Installation Photos](#))

As I write this, the "Keep the Momentum Going" Stewardship Campaign is well underway with promising results. Thanks go to Nancy Daugherty for creating the poster that is enabling us to mark progress as a person climbs from one step up to the next to reach our goal of \$560,000. We set the deadline for this year's pledge drive as Sunday, April 21. This gives

us some time to create the detailed budget which will finance our needs and desires for next year and be voted on at our June 9 congregational Annual Meeting.

Related to this, after two very productive forums with current families with children in Faith Development programming and recent teachers, and with Annie taking on the challenging dual roles of Faith Development for Children as well as her own responsibilities, the Board voted at our last meeting to go ahead and authorize the hiring of a new Director of Faith Development for next year. At Jamie and Annie's urging, we would ideally like to hire a full-time person who would help to grow the program with specifically targeted outreach and social media responsibilities. This full-time position depends on the outcome of our pledge drive.

The Board has also recently signed an agreement to be a partner organization with UU Mass Action (<https://www.uumassaction.org/partners-coalitions>). Our FP youth have been involved with their Youth Corps for a few years, and, knowing how important Social Action is to this congregation, we decided to partner with this UU organization which will help us connect with other groups who are doing the same kind of work that we want to do. See Jamie's related article in this Parishioner.

Finally, a reminder that the Board meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month. Please reach out to any one of your Board members if you have a topic that you want addressed. The minutes of all but the most recent meeting of the Board can be found online in the "About Us" section of the church website, under "Parish Documents" and then "Board Meeting Minutes". They are very thorough and describe what we have been doing each month.

Thank you all for the work you do to keep this beloved community thriving!

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

Treasurer's Update

Thank you for paying your '23-'24 pledges and for returning your '24-'25 pledge cards promptly.

Brenda is working with our new bookkeeper as she completes setting up our accounts on QuickBooks Online.

-Vicki Gaw, Treasurer

Sunday Morning Faith Development for Kids/Youth

We'll have regular Faith Development classes on April 7th and 28th with PreK - 5th grade meeting together to explore our monthly theme of interdependence and Crossing Paths for 6th/7th grade meeting to cover Buddhism and wrap up. On April 14th and 21st we will have "quiet Sundays" where kids and youth are invited to participate in light and fun activities as one all ages group. 8th grade and up are always 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.

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 April on Wednesdays 3:30 - 5 pm in the Common Room except for April 17th which is during April vacation for many schools. Our activities will include a twice postponed treasure hunt, minute to win it games, and a food project.

On Sunday April 21st there will be a Sunday morning outing to Boston for youth 8th - 12th grade with the UU Urban Ministry. The program is called "Seeing Me in the World," and will involve a walking tour, discussion and art project focused on the history of segregation in Boston and racial justice today. Contact Cecile Mercado or Rev. Annie to attend this trip!

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.

Sunday April 7th is regular SYG 5:30 - 7 pm

Sunday April 14th is regular SYG 5:30 - 7 pm

Sunday April 21st there will be a Sunday morning outing to Boston for youth 8th - 12th grade with the UU Urban Ministry. The program is called "Seeing Me in the World," and will involve a walking tour, discussion and art project focused on the history of segregation in Boston and racial justice today. Contact Cecile Mercado or Rev. Annie to attend this trip!

Sunday April 28th is Coming of Age dinner 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Musical Notes

"We cannot adjust the wind, but we can adjust the sails." – comment made in 2006 by country singer, songwriter, musician, entrepreneur and activist, Dolly Parton (b. 1946)

Here's the planned music for 10 a.m. services in the upcoming month –

Sunday, April 7th: I will be playing piano. Carol Epple – flute and Elizabeth Connors – clarinet will be joining me as we play music by Edvard Grieg, Leo Delibes and the famous *Pavane* by Gabriel Fauré; the latter will be danced by Dorothy Anderson-Perales.

Sunday, April 14th: Steve Sussman will be playing piano.

Sunday, April 21st: Steve Sussman will be playing piano.

Sunday, April 28th: Sandra LaBarge-Neumann will be playing organ. In honor of Passover, the adult choir will be singing "Lift Thine Eyes" and "He Watching Over Israel" from Felix Mendelssohn's masterpiece "Elijah". I will join Sandra in a rousing piano/organ duet postlude from Mendelssohn's grand Fifth Symphony.

Mark your calendars! The Music Committee has two spectacular events coming up in April, the last of the Committee concerts for 2023-2024. On **Sunday afternoon, April 7, 2024 at 3 p.m.**, Howie Rashba and Mel Green will present a **Folk Music Concert** with something for everyone. Plan to come, tap your toes and sing along. On **Saturday evening, April 27, 2024 at 7 p.m.**, Steve Sussman, Dean Groves, and Emory Carroll with special guests Buffie Groves and Dave Southard will perform **An Evening of Jazz**. It's going to be a great evening celebrating the deep well of musical talent we have here at First Parish. 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!** Get ready to wear some bling!

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 continues. 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 April 9th.

Food for Thought

Our next multigenerational food for thought event is coming up on Friday April 26th where we will gather for pizza and conversation for all ages on the topic of death. Our initial food for thought event in late January was on social norms and provided a lively and engaging event. We hope to have a meaningful connective experience on the topic of death and what it means to us, inviting families and individuals of all ages to join in.

Flower Express

The "Cookie Express" is an ongoing tradition at First Parish organized by the Lay Pastoral Visitors. In December volunteers keep in touch with many of our older or homebound parishioners with a gift of Christmas cookies and a friendly visit.

Rev. Jamie has suggested we might launch a new tradition of "Flower Express" deliveries following the Flower Communion service in June. We hope to include homebound parishioners in the Flower Communion with a visit and a bouquet. In May we will have **sign-ups** available to contribute or buy extra flowers, create bouquets, and deliver bouquets in person. This year our Flower Communion Service is on June 9th. Stay tuned for more information in May when you can sign up to participate.

-Sandy Boczenowski and Liz Connors

Climate Cafe

Climate Cafe, April 7th @ 11:30am, Bacon Room

The Environmental Justice Committee (EJC) is coordinating a Climate Cafe after the April 7th service to learn more about the Public Comment Period happening NOW (thru May 10) to respond to the developer's DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) for the proposed Hanscom Field hangar project for private jets.

Rick Johnson, former attorney for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will provide a brief overview of the MEPA (MA Environmental Policy Act) and DEIR process, and why it is important for people to submit public comment opposing the project, followed by Q&A (facilitated by Rev. Jamie).

To take a look at the DEIR in advance, go to this link: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7ve7nd2nsapt9d6ehzhsh/EEA-No-16654_Hanscom-No-Airfield-Development_Bedford_DEIR-031524.pdf?Thrlkey=tdi3zcsqxec49favkfp51k22&dl=0.

To see the Coalition's Action ToolKit for making a public comment, go to this link: SPJE.org/DEIRtools

To sign the petition to Governor Healey asking her to stop private jet expansion, go to this link: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/spje/>

Note: If you would like to take home a Stop Private Jet Expansion yard sign, stop by the EJC table after the April 7th service to pick one up.

Social Responsibility Council Update

We are fast approaching the end of the church year and we still have grant money available (though we are meeting on April 3rd so that may change)!! Any parishioner may submit a proposal for a social action project. 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. We look forward to hearing from you! Examples of grants we have funded this year include: Sanctuary Boston, the Bedford High School Tenacity Challenge, Ukrainian Cultural Initiative, and the UU Urban Ministry.

Our Share the Plate schedule for the remainder of the year is likely now full. We will be voting on a proposal for the June Share the Plate at our April 3rd meeting.

- April – Save Our Heritage (Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere)
- May – Transylvania Scholarship Fund
- June – voting at April meeting.

Final totals for February and March were just released and your generosity is amazing:

- February – The Cancer Connection -- \$565.25
- March – Lowell Transitional Living Center -- \$493.00

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

Free UUUM Program

Free UUUM Program on April 21: 8th-12th graders and drivers needed.

The [UU Urban Ministry](#) is offering a program for 8th-12th graders, [Seeing Me in the World](#). They will learn and reflect on the history of segregation and race in Greater Boston with other UU youth, under the guidance of the Community Engagement Manager, a Roxbury youth intern who is reshaping the program to share her community with other young people. It will include a tour of key stops in the neighborhood, lunch in Nubian Square, and interactive activities to keep young people engaged. Just bring money for lunch. It starts at 10 am and ends at 2:30 pm. We will carpool from the church at 9am and we'll be back around 3:30pm.

To sign up, go to the church's Main Calendar (<https://www.uubedford.org/community-life/main-calendar/>) then go to the April 21 date. Click on the "UUUM Seeing Me in the World" event then click the "Sign Up" button and submit the form. You can also contact Cecile Mercado. We also need drivers to sign up. Drivers can join the program, or just help drop off or pick up the youth at 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury, MA. Parking is available.

Ferry Beach Retreat 2024!

Just a reminder that we will be convening at the UUA Conference Center in Saco ME for our traditional Mother's Day weekend retreat (Fri. May 10 through Sun. May 12). We hope to see many of you there for coffee/conversation/games/programs!

Please use the link below to access Ferry Beach registration. You can pay electronically and choose your own room (with included meal plan). You can also try the Saturday-only option (if a whole weekend doesn't work for you), which also includes a 2- or 3-meal plan for the day.

<https://ferry-beach-retreat-conference-center.bookinglayer.com/en/product/first-parish-bedford-church-retreat>

I'll be at Community Hour on Sun. Apr. 7 and Sun. Apr. 21 to answer questions and provide information. I'm ALWAYS looking for parishioners to offer fun programming (A bird walk? Star-gazing? Polarbear plunge? A short-story book club? A trivia contest?). Please contact me if you are interested in providing programming for the weekend, and we can work on scheduling. I'll send an informational document on Wed. May 1 outlining what you should bring, where you should register, etc.

Watch for my Ferry Beach messages on Anno and ParishBiz!

-Carla Bradford

Volunteers Needed!

April is here, and it's time to sign up for Sunday morning volunteer **and custodial 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

The next book group meeting will be at 6 p.m. in the Common Room on Sunday, April 14. Please bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner.

This meeting's book is "Nowhere Girl" by Cheryl Diamond. Feel free to join us if you've read the book, some of it or none of it!

The calendar for the remaining church year is:

2023 - 2024 Church Year Book Group Books		
Meeting Date	Book	Author
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 any questions.



68th Annual Plant and Craft Fair



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

News about the Plant and Craft Fair:

- We will be having a table on Sunday April 7th and other Sundays in April and will be offering some limited Swag... get them while they are in bloom!!!
- Please sign up with Bea Brunkhorst if you need help digging plants from your garden or can help dig! B_brunkhorst@hotmail.com. The best time to dig is late April.
- Donate your plastic pots – no larger than 2 gallons please!! A box will be on the floor under where coats are hung up. Please bring these on Sunday mornings!
- Watch this space and Anno for the Day of Sign-ups- coming soon!

- Unfortunately Chip-in Farm cannot join us this year. If you have a suggestion for what we could do instead, please Contact Bea or Dorothy Dorothy.Africa@gmail.com
- Need more information about the fair? Go to First Parish webpage! <https://www.uubedford.org/the-68th-annual-first-parish-plant-craft-fair-will-be-held-on-saturday-may-18th-2024/>



Everyday Canvas Tote
\$12/ ea.

15" x 15"



Navy Baseball T-Shirt
\$25/ ea.

Limited supplies available in
S/M/L/XXL



Cotton Twill Apron in Navy
\$25/ ea.

2-pockets, 100% cotton twill.
Measures 31" long x 29" wide



Coffee cup in Robin's Egg Blue.
\$15/ ea.

11 oz., dishwasher safe

Social Justice Library Has Moved!

The First Parish Social Justice Library has a new home - now upstairs in Room 201! Our new location makes it easier than ever to browse and utilize this rich resource.

The library contains over fifty books donated by the Peace and Justice Committee and church members, including children's and young adult versions of major works, like the *1619 Project* and Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning*. Well over half of the books address racial justice issues and others explore environmental and economic justice, disarmament and much more.

Readers can borrow books from this rich collection using a simple sign-out and return system. You may also donate books that address these themes by leaving them in the bookshelf container marked "Donations" (please leave a note with your name as donee).

Check it out!

For more information, contact Pam Foresman, Maureen Richichi or Ellen Scheiner.

Carleton-Willard Village Discussion Group

**Carleton-Willard Village Discussion Group:
Thursday, April 18 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 April is "Money, Generosity, and UU!" Oftentimes UUs do not like to talk about money, especially its role in church life. So, let's talk about it! What values were we taught about money growing up? How have those values changed? What lessons did we learn about generosity and from whom? And how do our ideas and values about money play out in our lives and in congregations?

A Message about Ellen Scheiner & Rich Suval's Upcoming Wedding!

Dear Friends - As you may know, Rich Suval and I will be getting married in May, here at First Parish! We hope you can join us for this joyful occasion. The service will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, May 4 at 2:00 PM, followed by an informal reception in the Common Room.

Everyone is welcome!

Please let us know if you can come by Friday, April 12, so we have an approximate headcount. To RSVP, use the SignUp link that we will be posting to the Anno list shortly. It will include all necessary contact info for me (such as my phone # and email address) and will ask you the following questions:

Your name

Do you plan on attending?

If you can attend, how many people are in your party?

We've hired a caterer who will provide the food for our reception, but candidly, we still need help to make this day happen.

If you're interested in helping in some small way, we will be posting a second SignUpGenius link in the Anno shortly. This link will get you to a list of tasks and purchases where we could use a few extra hands.

Here are a few examples of where folks might pitch in: Greeters, ushers, parking attendants, coffee preparation and clean-up, lemonade & lemon water preparation and clean-up, purchase of a few bags of ice, moving the wedding arch from the sanctuary to the Mechanical Room after the service.

Thank you in advance.

Be on the lookout for these notices in Anno!

And if you do not have email access, but would like to help out, please feel free to speak with me during an upcoming Community Hour after church.

P.S. In lieu of any wedding gifts, please consider making a donation to First Parish in Bedford, or to a non-profit organization of your choice that addresses food insecurity or child welfare. (Examples: Greater Boston Food Bank, Oxfam America, World Central Kitchen, Save the Children, Plan International USA). It's your presence that matters to us.

With our sincere thanks, Ellen & Rich





First Parish Music Committee
presents:



FOLK MUSIC



CONCERT

with Howie Rashba
and Mel Green

**April 7,
2024**

3:00 PM

**INCLUDING
WELL-LOVED
SONGS LIKE—**

- **Lemon Tree**
- **Desperate Hands**
- **Blowing In The Wind**
- **If I Had A Hammer**
- **Here Comes The Sun**
- **Wimoweh**

Net proceeds to benefit First Parish in Bedford

Suggested Donations

(gratefully accepted at the door)

\$20 for Adults • \$15 for Seniors/Students



First Parish is
Wheelchair Accessible

FIRST PARISH IN BEDFORD, Unitarian Universalist • 75 The Great Road • Bedford, MA 01730



First Parish Music Committee
presents



AN EVENING OF JAZZ

Saturday, April 27, 2024
7:00 PM

FEATURING:

Steve Sussman

Dean Groves

Emory Carroll



PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dave Southard

Buffie Groves



SAXOPHONE

VOCALS

*Light bar
snacks will
be available*

Net proceeds to benefit First Parish in Bedford
Suggested Donations (*gratefully accepted at the door*)
\$20 for Adults • \$15 for Seniors/Students

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