



# The Parishioner

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

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

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September 2019

**Rev. John E. Gibbons**, senior minister  
**Rev. Annie Gonzalez Milliken**, parish minister  
**Rev. William F. Schulz**, affiliate community minister  
**Deborah Weiner**, interim director of religious education  
**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.  
**Joe Perriello**, sexton

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## Upcoming Services

**Sunday, August 25 at 10:00 AM**

**"To See The World in a Grain of Sand"**

*Deborah Weiner, Interim Director of Religious Education*

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand*

*And a Heaven in a Wild Flower*

*Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand*

*And Eternity in an hour*

So begins William Blake's poem, "Auguries of Innocence." Having spent some of the summer traveling in the Northwest, I've had a number of experiences which lift up all that can be seen in miniature, at unexpected moments and even in odd spaces. We'll explore the ways in which such surprises of the spirit can move us and bring learning, growth, or joy. Child care will be provided and there will be music to enjoy as well.

**NOTE: There will be no service on Sunday, Sep. 1<sup>st</sup> - Labor Day weekend**

**Sunday, September 8 at 10:00 AM**

**"Be Water, My Friend" – Ingathering Extravaganza!**

Our Choir and Tyler Family, the Stuart Highlander Pipe Band, entertainment from the Boston Circus Guild (Acacia is a hat juggler, fire performer, stilt walker and hula hoop extraordinaire), the wisdom of ministers, bagels from the Board, and you!! Bring a small amount of water from your summer places to mingle for future child dedications. Bring folding chairs, blankets, and a spirit of eagerness!



"Be Like Water," a quote from martial artist Bruce Lee, is a slogan of the pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong. Lee said: "Be like water making its way through cracks. Do not be assertive, but adjust to the object, and you shall find a way around or through it. If nothing within you stays rigid, outward things will disclose themselves. Empty your mind, be formless. Shapeless, like water. If you put water into a cup, it becomes the cup. You put water into a bottle and it becomes the bottle. You put it in a teapot, it becomes the teapot. Now, water can flow or it can crash. Be water, my friend."

—Upcoming Services continued on next page—



**Newsletter  
Deadline**

The deadline for the next newsletter will be Sep. 29. It will be published on Oct. 2.

The Parishioner is published monthly. Deadline is generally the last Sunday of each month. Send submissions to: [editors@uubedford.org](mailto:editors@uubedford.org). Church office is open weekdays 9AM – 5PM. PHONE: 781.275.7994 E-MAIL: [office@uubedford.org](mailto:office@uubedford.org) WEB: [www.uubedford.org](http://www.uubedford.org)

**Upcoming Services** *(continued from p. 1)***Sunday, September 15 at 10:00 AM****“Teflon and Velcro”***Cantor Barbara Ostfeld is our guest preacher*

Barbara is the first female cantor in the history of Judaism. Her story is, uh, a big deal. She is a pioneer, a heroine, a glass-ceiling breaker. She served Jewish congregations, then became the director of placement for all Reform cantors. She is, to some, a goddess. To me (John Gibbons), she was my lab partner in freshman biology at York High School in Elmhurst, Illinois. We messed with fruit flies and dissected earthworms and frogs. She remembers some other things, some of which she divulges in a new memoir, *Catbird, A Memoir by Barbi Prim* (we’ll have copies for sale). Barbara lives in Buffalo, NY with her family. As for her sermon with us, Barbara says, “Slippery lessons and sticky lessons as the High Holidays approach. The things one Jew has learned about repentance.”

**Sunday, September 22 at 10:00 AM****“Preemptive Radical Inclusion”***CB Beal, guest preacher*

CB Beal, M.Div. specializes in facilitating learning experiences that involve issues of marginalization, oppression, and privilege; helping participants hold the complexities of our lives in perspective, and co-creating a safe[r] brave[r] space within which people can learn and grow. CB is a frequent presenter and consultant in congregations and schools in the northeast in anti-bias education, Preemptive Radical Inclusion, safer communities/congregations, and supporting LGBQ and gender creative and trans/non-binary children and youth in schools and youth-serving organizations. They are sexuality and consent educator and an Our Whole Lives trainer and trainer of trainers. Prior to full-time consulting, CB was a Director of Religious Education for 16 years.

**Sunday, September 29 at 10:00 AM****“(Not) Famous (Not) Last Words”***Rev. John Gibbons preaching (before embarking on a 3-month sabbatical, Oct thru Dec)*

Including a Ceremony of Child Dedication

**Common Thoughts**

I’d never heard of Ann Snitow when I read her obituary last week. She was a feminist writer, teacher, and passionate activist. She was a pro-sex partisan in the 1970’s “sex wars” that had feminists battling one another over issues of sexuality and pornography. While she took sides, the obit notes, “Ms. Snitow was known for being analytical not polemical, for raising questions, not supplying answers, and above all, for embracing ambiguity and uncertainty.” She said, “Feminism keeps changing – and should. Uncertainty: What an odd banner to fly under – but there it is.”

Reading Snitow’s words, I found myself thinking that the best attributes of her kind of feminism are also the best attributes of Unitarian Universalism. Feminism, she said, is about “feeling powerful, feeling alive, feeling in possession of my own life.”

See if what Snitow says about feminism doesn’t also describe our kind of Unitarian Universalism:

“Feminism offers a life of significance, as does work in any great social movement. It gives individuals a feeling of being in history, of being actors no longer sequestered

or left outside,” and of being capable of changing their situation. “To believe that,” she said, “and to act on that belief even with skepticism, is to have an extremely exciting and kinetic relationship not only to ourselves but to the world.”

As we embark on another year at First Parish, often beset by calamities both political and personal, and facing enormous unknowns, may we take sides, while also embracing the ambiguities and uncertainties. May we embody lives of significance, knowing that we can make history and that we are capable of changing our situation. May we continue to raise questions, even when we are short of answers.

May we too feel powerful, feel alive, and feel in possession of our own lives.

Like Snitow’s kind of feminism, we Unitarian Universalists keep changing – and should. We too fly under the odd banner of uncertainty. But there it is.

Long may we wave,



John Gibbons

## Minister's Musings

September has always been my favorite month. Partially it's because I was a nerdy little kid who loved going back to school more than I loved summer vacation. Partially it's because the fall, with beautiful leaves, cozy sweaters and delicious autumn foods is my favorite season. Partially it's because my birthday is in September. Perhaps then it's not surprising that I also got married in September. And I seemed to have passed on my love for the month to my child who was due in mid-August four years ago and held out as long as she could, finally emerging into this world around 2am on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

But it's more than just the weather, food, birthdays and anniversary. It's also something about the in-between feeling of September. It's not quite summer but it's not quite fall yet. It's warm and cool. It's a time of transition for students and teachers. Plus it's transition time for church life, out of a time of quiet back into the fullness of our community life. Transition can be unsettling. We humans are creatures of habit, we love routines and familiarity. Yet transition is also exciting, opening us to new possibilities, disrupting our patterns enough to allow us to find new ways of moving in the world.

As we enter this church year I am excited for us to lean into the beautiful uncomfortable possibilities of transition. We are leaning toward John's well-earned 3-month sabbatical October through December and toward one more year with Deb as our interim Director of Religious Education. We are leaning into the unknown of continuing as a sanctuary congregation. We'll also be leaning this fall into what UU consultant CB Beal calls "preemptive radical inclusion." What does it look like for our congregation to be proactive about fully including everyone who is or could be in our community? I'm excited to find out with you all!

So take a deep breath. Can you smell the apples growing? The cider donuts frying? The smell of fresh school supplies being opened? Let's embrace this September magic as we move back into our church year together.

Annie

## Notes from the Music Director

*"Choral Music is not one of life's frills. It's something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community and our souls. You express, when you sing, your soul in song. And when you get together with a group of other singers, it becomes more than the sum of the parts. All of the people are pouring out their hearts and souls in perfect harmony ... which is kind of an emblem for what we need in this world. That's a lesson for our times and for all times. Music connects the human race, and choral music is a supreme example of this wonderful and beautiful power."*

— composer, arranger, conductor, educator John Rutter (b. 1945)

For me every year at First Parish is the start of a new adventure. This begins my 15<sup>th</sup> year at First Parish. **Robert Noble** and **Steve Sussman** are back as our regular keyboard players (with **Bob Tyler** and other pianists/instrumentalists making guest appearances) and **Janet Welby** will continue to be our terrific director of the Senior and Junior Youth Choirs and Kidsing.

Here's the music for upcoming Sunday services –

Sep. 8: For In-Gathering we will have the return of the Stuart Highlanders bagpipers. As many know, they add a special thrill to the proceedings. Bob Tyler will also be joining us to play piano along with Fran Tyler to add vocals. Other exciting guests may show up as well! The adult choir will make a brief appearance singing "When I'm Sixty-Four" by Paul McCartney (in honor of Grandparents Day) with an appearance by Elizabeth Connors – clarinet. It will be good to be together again!

Sep. 15: Steve Sussman will be playing piano.

Sep. 22: Robert Noble will be playing organ. The adult choir will be singing a perennial favorite, "Over the Rainbow," with a slight Hawaiian twist and accompanied by Dan Prior on ukulele.

Sep. 29: Steve Sussman will return playing piano and the adult choir will sing Randall Thompson's evergreen, "Choose Something Like a Star".

Oct. 6: Robert Noble will be playing organ; the music of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy will be featured as the adult choir reprises "Hear My Prayer" with Cynthia Mork as soloist.

Isn't it time to think about joining the adult choir? Now is a great time to do that! We've got terrific plans for this coming year including music for Christmas Eve honoring New England composer, Randall Thompson, as well as delightful carols arranged by British composer, David Willcocks, in honor of his centenary; other musical plans include music in the winter and spring to honor the Beethoven bicentenary, and great music by Handel, Haydn and others for Music Sunday 2020. Don't wait. Join now!

—Bradford Conner  
Music Director

### ***In the Interim – Dreaming***

The calendar says it's still summer (and the temperatures do as well), but the reality is that we're looking ahead toward Ingathering Sunday, the coming of fall, and the church year that lies ahead. Your ministry and support staff at First Parish are now moving back into 'church work and ministry' mode and preparing for Sundays from the end of August well into the fall and winter.

For me it's been a summer on the move: a mix of continuing education, service, and relaxing. General Assembly in Spokane included learning about building worshipful communities and dismantling white supremacy through changes in our governance and ways of 'doing church' together; a brief visit to Glacier National Park; attending the Association of UU Music Ministries conference which included learning about dismantling white supremacy and exclusionary behaviors as witnessed through our practices of offering, and leading, worship and music. I also traveled to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, the poorest community in the US, to work with the Lakota people preparing for their ritual Sun Dance; visited the town of Deadwood, SD (inspiration for the HBO series, "Deadwood"), visited the graves of Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane in the midst of the second-largest biker gathering in the US (there are stories - ask me!)

Just this week, I joined friends on the banks of Lake Winnepesaukee for a real retreat...painting, reading, playing board games, visiting Canterbury Shaker Village, cooking, napping...delicious. I tried not to read the New York Times or Washington Post, kept looking at the sun and the loons, and focused on the ways that we, as members of faith communities, can keep hope alive in an increasingly dysfunctional society.

And now, we're back...and soon we anticipate that you will be, too. So this seems like a good time to ask some of the forward-tilting questions that might guide us onward: how do we want to provide religious growth and faith development here at First Parish while too many say "I don't have time to volunteer"? Or when the much-beloved athletic coach requires children and youth to practice on Sundays instead of joining in faith formation activities? How do we offer the best youth programs, Our Whole Lives programming, and teaching teams when our lives are full of too-much-going-on?

Our religious education teaching teams need your support in order to function effectively. So if you have been delaying your offer to help, for your church, your children, grandchildren or the youth you smile at in church – please know that we need you, NOW. I welcome your email or phone call to me or any member of the Religious Education Committee to ask, "how can I help?"

It is time to dream: an exciting dream rather than one that is ordinary. Dreams come in many shapes and sizes – practical and fantastic. To fulfill the dreams of the members and friends of First Parish, all of us need to be willing to put our hands, and hearts, to the work – and those imaginations will lift the congregation higher. In this time of soft remembering of summer and gazing toward the autumn, I invite your dreams and your hands to join in a labor that has the promise of yielding great things.

Welcome and welcome home, yet again.

*Deb*

### **Religious Education News**

#### ***Our RE Library is Nearly Ready for Business!***

The new REsource Room and Lending Library in room L01 (next to the elevator, lower level) is almost ready for its grand opening! Our professional organizer helped us set up the room with curricula – neatly organized and tagged – and thanks to many of you who have donated books, we've got a lovely children/youth library ready to go. We could still use a few items: an area rug, a small table and a couple of comfy chairs for younger children (bean bag chairs might be a nice option). A couple of soft standing lights might also be welcome. If you have an item to donate, please let Deb Weiner ([dre@uubedford.org](mailto:dre@uubedford.org)) know.

#### ***Story Basket Makers - the Time is Now!***

Spirit Play, the Montessori-based program that helps young children understand UU values and beliefs through stories, shared experience, and free play, will be making its debut at First Parish this fall for our Kindergarten and Grade 1 children! The curriculum uses story baskets to help tell beloved stories with UU values. We have our list of stories that we'll be using ready to go and now's the time for us to bring together people who enjoy using their creative skills to assemble story baskets for the stories that we have selected for this program. Are you interested in helping us make our Story Baskets? Please contact Deb Weiner! [dre@uubedford.org](mailto:dre@uubedford.org). We will be having a story basket workshop (and you can also work on them independently).

#### ***Pre-emptive Radical Inclusion: A Workshop for All – and especially those who teach or mentor children and youth***

At First Parish we continue to support the religious growth and learning of our teachers and mentors. We are delighted that CB Beal, M.Div., will join us on Sunday, Sep. 22 to lead worship and facilitate a workshop that will explore how we live covenant and connection as a community in a way that increases inclusion, equity, and justice. Preemptive Radical Inclusion is about engaging "all of us together" for the purpose of living our principles in a new way. We will examine our commitments, our openness to intentionally create a community of welcome, and our willingness to put down past assumptions, beliefs and behaviors in order to move collectively in a way that helps bend the moral arc of the universe toward justice.

The workshop will begin at 11:45 with a light lunch and will conclude at 3:00; child care will be offered and we hope that all teachers, mentors, advisors, teen teachers AND all of the congregation will join us. Watch for more information about signing up!

## All Ages Dinner- Friday Sept. 27

The Green Sanctuary Committee is hosting an all-ages pasta dinner at the church on Friday evening, Sept. 27, from 5:30-8:30PM, and you're invited! Join us and let's connect, young and old. Childcare will be available (please contact Deb Weiner at [bedforddre@gmail.com](mailto:bedforddre@gmail.com) or 781-275-7994 for childcare). RSVP to Corinne Doud at [cordoud@gmail.com](mailto:cordoud@gmail.com): it would be helpful for dinner planning. There will also be some earth focused activities at the event. Please let Corinne know if you can provide transportation to parishioners who are unable to come otherwise. If you want to contribute locally grown veggies for the salad or homemade bread for the event, please contact Janet Powers ([yapofarm@gmail.com](mailto:yapofarm@gmail.com)).

## Plant Fair Planning

There will be a planning meeting for the Annual First Parish Plant and Craft Fair from 7-8:30PM on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at First Parish. The meeting will be in one of the upstairs classrooms, so check the schedule board when you come in. If you cannot be there but would like to put forward a suggestion for discussion, send it to [dorothy.africa@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.africa@gmail.com). See you there!

## Access for All

Rides from Carleton Willard to First Parish for Sunday services: For those people needing rides from Carleton Willard, we'll have the same procedure as last year: if you want a ride, call Joan Petros in the Church Office (781-275-7994) by noon on the Friday before the service. On Sunday morning, the driver for that Sunday will meet those who need a ride at the Main Entrance to Carleton Willard, near the information desk, at 9:30AM. Thanks all!



—Lee Vorderer



## Haunted House 2019 - It's... coming for you!

This year's Haunted House schedule is moved back a week from last year, to the weekend of Oct. 25 & 26, so get it on your calendars!

The committee is hoping to find someone who can run the daytime Trick or Treat event on Sat. the 26<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Karl Winkler ([karlwinkler@verizon.net](mailto:karlwinkler@verizon.net)) if interested in helping in that capacity or

in any other, such as actors or behind-the-scenes support.

## Dying Well Looking for Your Feedback ... and FPB Death Doula

A few years ago, a small group of parishioners formed an *End of Life Committee* to offer education, resources and opportunities for open conversation on matters of death and dying. These conversations and programs will continue and expand this church year with a renamed *Dying Well Committee*. We want to hear from you about what information you might need or want, and what end of life issues you want to explore more fully.

On a personal note...I want to expand and deepen my work with these issues. I believe that faith communities have a vital role to play in this process. This summer I completed training to be a death doula. A death doula, or end of life doula, assists in the dying process, much like a birth doula does with the birthing process. Death doulas help care for someone holistically (physically, emotionally, spiritually) in the last stages of life. Doulas offer guidance, compassionate support and companionship to the dying person and their family and loved ones before, during, and after death. Doulas can help create rituals and vigil plans and sit with a dying person to bear peaceful witness. Doulas often work for hospitals or hospices or have private practices. I am imagining another model. I would like to offer doula assistance to those in our congregation should they desire help in reimagining what death might look like for themselves, and in actively planning for their death when the time comes. The work we could do together could take many forms.

To share your thoughts or needs on future *Dying Well* programming AND to hear more about or ask questions about what a FPB death doula role might look like, please join me **after Sunday service on September 29 at 12:00PM in Room 204**. Light lunch snacks will be available.

Maureen Richichi  
[maureen.richichi@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.richichi@gmail.com)  
781-775-3602

*p.s. from John Gibbons: Congratulations to Maureen on her new status as a death doula. I've shared this news with the Board and together we are enthusiastic to promote her work and that of the Dying Well Committee. Much as we are proud to offer the OWL program of comprehensive sexuality education, a program of Dying Well is not a one-shot program but rather a continuing and integral part of a wholistic approach to life. Deepening our awareness of all aspects of living is what this church is all about.*



## WOMEN'S

### book group

The women's book group will meet on seven Sunday evenings during the upcoming church year. We'll share a potluck dinner and discuss the book selected for that night. Please join us for one, or some, or all of the meetings during the year!

The first discussion/potluck will be on **October 20** from 6-7:30PM in the FPB Common Room. The book we're reading is "The Narcissist's Daughter, A Meshugenah Love Story" by Bedford author Mindy Pollack-Fusi (who will be joining us).

The second meeting will be held on **Nov. 17** (also from 6-7:30PM in the Common Room). The book is "Fight Like a Mother: How a Grassroots Movement Took on the Gun Lobby and Why Women Will Change the World" by Shannon Watts.

Please e-mail or call Margaret Jackson if you have any questions: [mjacksonfpb@yahoo.com](mailto:mjacksonfpb@yahoo.com) or 781-275-6580.

### Bell Ringing on August 25 at 3:00PM

On August 25, 1619, the ship the *White Lion* arrived at Point Comfort, now known as Fort Monroe National Monument in Hampton, Virginia. The ship contained enslaved Africans. This is the first recorded arrival of Africans in America. This year, this anniversary will be commemorated at Fort Monroe as a day of healing and reconciliation.

The park and its partners are inviting all 419 national parks, National Parks Service programs, community partners, and the public to come together in solidarity to **ring bells simultaneously across the nation** for four minutes – one for each century – to honor the first Africans who landed in 1619 at Point Comfort and to commemorate 400 years of American history.

Come join the ringing of First Parish's bell.

### Partner Church Scholarships

The school year begins soon for ten Transylvanian Partner Church teenagers. There is no high school in the area, so they must go to Udvarhely, the nearest city. First Parish sends \$300 scholarships to all whose families are from Abásfalva. This greatly helps pay the kids' expenses. Would you like to offer your support? Folks usually share one person @ \$150. Contact Sharon McDonald at 781-275-5643 or [shar.mcd77@gmail.com](mailto:shar.mcd77@gmail.com).

### The church is IN the building...

Some of you may already know what a great community FPB is. We do all kinds of wonderful things to care for those less fortunate and for the planet. We do our best to look out for each other in any way we can, but did you know we also have a Lay Pastoral Care team?

Lay Pastoral is a special group of trained lay people. We meet regularly with the ministers for updates on parishioners who might appreciate or benefit from some extra attention. Some of us have trained as medical professionals and some of us have a lifetime of experience to share. We try to help John and Annie care for all parishioners from birth thru death and all the bumps in the journey between.

We work closely with the Caring Crew to help meet the needs of all parishioners. While Caring Crew arranges for meals, rides and short term help, we provide emotional support, visits, cards, and clinics/workshops at church. We try to connect the generations thru activities such as the monthly "caring cards" table, Mystery Friends and the Cookie Express. We are always on the lookout for anyone needing help be it thru the "joys and concerns" of the candle stand or word of mouth from parishioners.

If you or someone you know could use a little extra love, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We will do whatever we can to help with whatever comes your way.

Warmly,

*Liz Hanegan, Nancy Daugherty, Maria Green,  
Sandy Boczenowski, Bob Batt, Susan Lincoln, Marge Heckman*

### Caring Crew Survey

One of the most beautiful aspects of First Parish is that we take care of each other. Yes, we meet each other's spiritual needs through emotional support, worship, small groups, choir, calls, visits and cards from the lay pastoral team, pastoral care from your ministers and other staff. In addition, we try to meet each other's more tangible needs. That's why we have the Caring Crew! When an illness, injury, death or family crisis strikes it can be overwhelming. Even joyful events like a new baby can make life chaotic. How to get to that medical appointment, what to feed yourself for dinner, who can take the kids... it's hard to navigate those needs on top of the emotional aspect. This is what the Caring Crew is for.

We know that this congregation is full of people who have gifts and expertise to offer as well as needs that you may be hesitant to share. That's why we've designed a brief survey that we hope every parishioner will fill out. It will ask some simple questions about what life experiences, skills and practical support you can offer this community and what type of support you might need in return. Please take a few minutes and help us help each other: [bit.ly/caringFPB](http://bit.ly/caringFPB). For a paper version please see the monthly Caring Cards table at coffee hour or look for a blank copy in the pews that can be returned to your parish minister Annie Gonzalez Milliken in her mailbox or in person.

## September Caring Crew



If you or someone you know at First Parish needs temporary assistance with meals, rides to medical appointments or other errands, please let us know. We have a team of volunteers who are ready to help. The Coordinator for the month of September is Susan Lincoln. She can be reached at 617-319-1662 or by email: [Susanmlincoln@gmail.com](mailto:Susanmlincoln@gmail.com)

Please see Rev. Annie's article on the previous page, for how you can be involved in this supportive network that brings so much meaning to our caring community.

~Sandy Boczenowski

## Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN)

BIJAN serves those who are being held in immigration jail and upon their release. They maintain a bond fund, a 24-hour hotline, support in court/ICE check-ins, and transportation.

The following items are requested for folks when they are released. (Most are dropped at South Station with a travel voucher and nothing more, and often times have to travel many hours.)

Please donate any of the following items as you are able to one of our areas resources for immigrants. There is a blue box under the table outside the common room. It will be there until the end of September. Any Visa Cards/cash donations should be given directly to Joan in the office.

- plain T-shirts (sizes small & medium most needed) new or great condition
- backpacks (new or great condition)
- new socks
- shoe laces
- belts
- nutritious & nonperishable snacks
- travel-sized items of toothpaste/toothbrush/tissues/pillows/hand sanitizer
- VISA gift cards (\$10-\$50 increments)
- quarters

Marlene Myers  
865-456-4040



Congratulations to *Amy Theobald and Sal Porras* who, on July 27, were joyfully married in Roswell, GA with John Gibbons officiating... Our thoughts are with *Peggy Duesenberry* and family on the recent death of Peggy's brother, John... Also in our thoughts is *Martha Gruson*, whose son died this summer... There will be an informal memorial gathering for long-time parishioner *John Huenefeld* on Saturday, September 28 from 1-4 in our Common Room, with remembrances shared at 1:30... In a loving private ceremony, *Mike Seibert's parents'* ashes were interred in our Memorial Garden on August 11.

Congratulations to the *Waters Family* of Chelmsford on the joyous dedication of one-year old *Ella Rose* on Aug. 4 in our sanctuary with John Gibbons officiating. Ella's parents are Kia and Eli; her sisters are Mia and Sophia. We hope to see them all this fall!

## News from the Parish Nose



*Louise Curtis* is back home at Carleton Willard after a hospital sojourn for an infection... *Paul Vears* continues to recuperate at CareOne in Concord, hoping to return home soon... *Tom Larkin* had bypass surgery this summer and is still recuperating at home... Our *Transylvanian partner village* is celebrating its annual Village Days, including a photo exhibition of scenes from the WWI & WWII eras. Bedford photos from that time are included... *Merry Kassoy*, feeling less energetic, welcomes visits and calls from friends... *Ian Watt* is lighter by the weight of his appendix... *Marcia Chertok's husband, Allan*, is recuperating after being airlifted from the Vineyard for heart troubles... *Kieran Binney* and *Giuliana Knox* had wondrous times as Star Island Pels (Pelicans, staff members)... *Chesley Logcher* had a beatboxing gala 80<sup>th</sup> birthday bash at FPB... Among others, *AGM* spoke at the 7/12 Lights for Liberty vigil on the Common protesting immigration policies, and on 8/14 *JEG* spoke at the interfaith response to Gun Violence... *Julie Zacharakis* is relieved and totally OK after thyroid surgery... *JEG* recently visited *Deb Picciuto's 103-year old mother Clare* who sends greetings to all at First Parish... Halos to *Kath McCafferty, Karen Frederick, Bob Dorer, Joanne Glover, Bob Bass, and Bob Batt* who recently cleaned our closets... Did you know that *John and Jennifer McClain* have purchased 8 Maple Street (behind the church) and will move there after significant renovations?... Note there are new leaves on our Tree of Life "Legacy Society" plaque, recognizing those who have remembered FPB in their estate planning. Also new leaves and bricks recognizing those interred in our Memorial Garden. Check them out!... And did you notice that floors have been refinished in our Common Room, kitchen, and chancel?... On a road trip in the South, *JEG* visited a Park Service civil rights interpretive center on the road between Selma and Montgomery. Who should be immortalized in a prominent quotation on the wall? Our late parishioner *Grace Lindquist* who participated in the 1965 march! —tjn



# First Parish Upcoming Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>August 25</i></p> <p>10:00 am Summer Service (COM) 7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204orL02)</p>	<p><i>August 26</i></p>	<p><i>August 27</i></p> <p>7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)</p>	<p><i>August 28</i></p> <p>12:00 pm -3 Sanctuary Team (204) 7:00 pm [Memb Com Mtg] at the home of Marcia Morgan</p>	<p><i>August 29</i></p>	<p><i>August 30</i></p>	<p><i>August 31</i></p>
<p><i>September 1</i></p> <p>7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204orL02)</p>	<p><i>September 2</i></p> <p> Labor Day - Office Closed</p>	<p><i>September 3</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Peace &amp; Justice Com 7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)</p>	<p><i>September 4</i></p> <p>4:00 pm Leadership Team (MS)</p>	<p><i>September 5</i></p> <p>5:30 pm -9 R.E. dinner (COM) 7:15 pm SGM Grp (204) Mom's Small Group  7:30 pm -9 Adult Choir Reh (S)</p>	<p><i>September 6</i></p> <p> 6:30 pm First Friday Potluck (COM)</p>	<p><i>September 7</i></p>
<p><i>September 8</i></p> <p>10:00 am Ingathering Service - On the Common 7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204orL02)</p>	<p><i>September 9</i></p> <p>6:00 pm -9 R.E. dinner (COM)</p>	<p><i>September 10</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Parish Board (204) 7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)</p>	<p><i>September 11</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Plant Fair Mtg (202)</p>	<p><i>September 12</i></p> <p>3:30 pm -6:30 Youth Choirs (COM) Jr Choir (3:30-4:15); KidSing (4:15-5); Sr Choir (5:30-6:30)  7:30 pm -9 Adult Choir Reh (S)</p>	<p><i>September 13</i></p>	<p><i>September 14</i></p>
<p><i>September 15</i></p> <p>10:00 am Worship service (S) 7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204orL02)</p>	<p><i>September 16</i></p>	<p><i>September 17</i></p> <p>7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202) 7:30 pm Phys Plant Com (L06)</p>	<p><i>September 18</i></p> <p>7:00 pm -8:30 Green Sanct Com 7:00 pm Soc Resp Council</p>	<p><i>September 19</i></p> <p>3:30 pm -6:30 Youth Choirs (COM) Jr Choir (3:30-4:15); KidSing (4:15-5); Sr Choir (5:30-6:30) 6:30 pm Lay Pastoral Care Tm 7:30 pm -9 Adult Choir Reh (S) 7:30 pm Partner Church Com</p>	<p><i>September 20</i></p>	<p><i>September 21</i></p> <p>5:00 pm -8: Workshop (BR or 202)  Bedford Day</p>
<p><i>September 22</i></p> <p>10:00 am Worship service (S) 11:45 am -3 Inclusivity workshop (COM) 7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204orL02)</p>	<p><i>September 23</i></p>	<p><i>September 24</i></p> <p>7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)</p>	<p><i>September 25</i></p> <p>2:00 pm -8:30 Sanctuary dinner (COM+K)</p>	<p><i>September 26</i></p> <p>3:30 pm -6:30 Youth Choirs (COM) Jr Choir (3:30-4:15); KidSing (4:15-5); Sr Choir (5:30-6:30)  7:30 pm -9 Adult Choir Reh (S)</p>	<p><i>September 27</i></p> <p>5:30 pm -8:30 Green Sanct event (COM)</p>	<p><i>September 28</i></p> <p>1:00 pm -4 Mem gathering-Huenefeld (COM) for John Huenefeld</p>
<p><i>September 29</i></p> <p>10:00 am Worship service (S) 12:00 pm -1 "Dying Well" pres (204) 12:00 pm -1:30 Mex border trip pres (202) 6:00 pm -7:30 Wmns Book Grp (COM) 7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204orL02) Newsletter deadline</p>	<p><i>September 30</i></p>	<p><i>October 1</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Peace &amp; Justice Com 7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)</p>	<p><i>October 2</i></p> <p>4:00 pm Leadership Team (MS) Parishioner published</p>	<p><i>October 3</i></p> <p>3:30 pm -6:30 Youth Choirs (COM) Jr Choir (3:30-4:15); KidSing (4:15-5); Sr Choir (5:30-6:30) 7:15 pm SGM Grp (204) Mom's Small Group  7:30 pm -9 Adult Choir Reh (S)</p>	<p><i>October 4</i></p> <p> 6:30 pm First Friday Potluck (COM)</p>	<p><i>October 5</i></p> <p>6:00 pm -10 MuCom event (S+COM)</p>

Bracketed events happen off-site -- All other events happen at the church