

THE WAYLAND UNITARIAN

APRIL 2023



Food, Friends, and Fun: *Celebration Dinner, March 2023*

Members of the First Parish community gathered together to eat, sing, and socialize at the Celebration Dinner held on March 18. A cross-generational crowd enjoyed a fun evening of togetherness, something Covid has taught us never again to take for granted. Thanks to all who organized the event and all who attended.



Clockwise from top: Dinner gives way to a multigenerational sing-along led by Dan Lewis and Ted Barnes; Ann Moses; Carol Sawyer and Susan Keyes; Jada Williams; happy friends

Much to Celebrate, Much to Support

As most of you are aware, this year's Stewardship campaign was launched with much fanfare on March 12. Pledge packets were mailed to most people on March 10, and canvassers have been reaching out to their assigned families. The themes this year are celebrating the now and growing the vision together.

We have much to celebrate. First Parish survived the pandemic as strong as ever. We have a vibrant, connected and tight-knit community, and we are still on solid ground financially. We are again seeing full pews during services. In keeping with this theme, on March 18, First Parish hosted an intergenerational celebration dinner attended by about 45 people.

We have also completed our visioning exercises during which we identified many new initiatives to be pursued. It is now time to grow that vision, and to do so, we need funding through stewardship.

Finally, to grow the vision and to continue existing programs, we need everyone to contribute financial support. That includes new members and attendees, old members and anyone who enjoys the benefits and community of First Parish.

We are asking people to increase their pledges this year by about 15%, as they are able. This pledge increase is required to fund

continued on p. 13



Welcome to First Parish

We are a Unitarian Universalist congregation that affirms human dignity, community action, freedom of religious thought, and the power of love. We welcome everyone!

Our Mission

To Build Community

by forging caring connections and supporting one another through the joys, sorrows and mysteries of life.

To Search for Meaning

by creating opportunities for all ages to explore values and principles that orient and guide us through life.

To Deepen Our Spirituality

by gathering to share words and music, by nurturing private moments of reflection, and by cultivating reverence.

To Make a Better World

by engaging in compassionate service and promoting social justice.



In This Issue

- 1 Celebration Dinner Recap
- 1 Stewardship Continues
- 2 Our Mission
- 2 How to Connect With First Parish
- 3 A Month of Sundays
- 3 Lay Minister of the Month
- 4 Reflections from Rev. Stephanie
- 5 Auction, Online and Live
- 5 Spring U.P.
- 6 From the Parish Committee
- 7 April Fools' Day Sing-Along
- 8 Yard Sale, Teal Hymnal Drive
- 8 Sip and Seek, Reading with the Rev
- 9 UU Principles, Summer Plans
- 9 Ongoing Regular Events
- 10 MetroWest Climate events
- 10 Easter Egg Hunt, Poetry Night
- 11 Education and Exploration, SEEK
- 12 From our Intern Minister
- 13 Classical Concert, Tips from Karen
- 14 UUUM Update
- 15 Family Promise Update
- 16 April Calendar

How to Connect With First Parish

Attend Sunday services and other events: Come in person, or when available, attend via Zoom or YouTube livestream. Zoom links to Sunday services and some other events are in the weekly eblast.

Sign up for news: [Visit our website](#) to see what's new and sign up for our newsletter and eblast.

Find us on social media: We have a public Facebook page and a private Facebook group. Contact the office to join. We are also on Twitter and Instagram.

Join our email listserv: Our congregation is a friendly and useful resource for recommendations ranging from plumbers to travel, and all sorts of other non-church-related topics. Contact the office or Chauncey Wilson, listserv moderator, to sign up.

A Month of Sundays
 The morning worship service begins at 10 a.m.

April 2
RE for All: Exploring Humanism
 Rev. Dr. Stephanie May and Alyssa Lee

April 9
Easter
Hope for the Earth
 Rev. Dr. Stephanie May
 SEEK Class

April 16
An Ethical Humanist
 Rev. Dr. Stephanie May
 SEEK Class

April 23
Open to Wonder
 Rev. Dr. Stephanie May and Guests
 SEEK Class

April 30
Love is Love
 Welcoming Congregation
 SEEK Class

Worship Themes

Yearly Theme:
 Encountering Differences

April: Humanism

Sharing Our Plate
UU Urban Ministry

On Sunday, April 9, half of our collection plate will go to support the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry — the [UUUM](#). This social justice organization works across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture and to advance racial, social, and economic justice.

April's Lay Minister

April's Lay Minister is Ted Barnes. Contact Ted if you need a ride, a meal, a friendly, confidential visit, or a chat. We don't publish parishioner contact information in the Unitarian. Contact [the office](#) if you'd like to reach the Lay Minister, or if you need the password to the Parish Directory. The link to the Directory is available on our website [members' page](#).





Exploring Our Human Capacity for Ethical Living and Resilience

What an odd winter we have had with mostly mild temperatures and minimal snow. On the one hand, it departed from our expectations of a "New England winter." On the other hand, for decades we have heard that changes in weather patterns are a very much *expected* outcome of a changing climate.

As we move into April, and turn this month to consider Religious Humanism, my thoughts are entwined with themes of human (mis)action and hope. In the [1933 Humanist Manifesto](#), the writer declares, "The time has come for widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the modern world. ... Science and economic change have disrupted the old beliefs."

Ninety years later we continue to face disruptions as science points to the human role in creating our climate crisis as well as the need for humanity to work together to respond to the global challenges.

How might religion play a part in helping us to meet the coming days? And what kind of hope might religious frameworks provide to help us weather the losses and inequities that our local, national, and global community face?

As a religious tradition rooted in the human capacities to care for one another and this world, exploring Humanism enables reflection on how we might live life ethically and with resilient hope here and now.

Here at First Parish we are facing our own season of changes as we continue to incorporate new ideas from the Visioning process. We are also learning to adapt to the absence of our beloved Music Director, Polly Oliver, as she focuses on her health.

Responding with resilience to an ever-changing environment is part of the DNA of a congregation where each Sunday, each event, each year brings shifting constellations of people, skills, challenges, and commitments. What remains throughout any change is the drumbeat of our Covenant reminding us of why

we are here and how to show up for one another: *With open minds and loving hearts, we gather to search for meaning, to care for one another, and to work together for a better world.*

This covenant unmistakably reflects the thinking and traditions of Religious Humanism. As we journey together into spring and a new season of changes, may we also deepen our connection to the religious roots that hold us to a larger story as well as to one another.

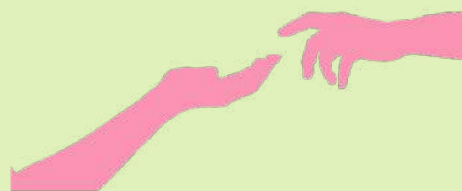
In peace,
Rev. Stephanie

How might religion play a part in helping us to meet the coming days? And what kind of hope might religious frameworks provide to help us weather the losses and inequities?

April is Random Acts of Kindness Month!

During April, look for prompts and activities during community time after service that are designed to make it easy for you to reach out to a fellow parishioner. Send a postcard to brighten someone's day, or decorate a wooden egg for a "good egg" you would like to recognize.

See more details on page 11, and plan to build or strengthen your connections to others during this month of new growth and possibilities.



**'70s Remix: Online Auction Continues, Then
Get Your Groove on at the Auction Party!**
Saturday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.

Part two of the Auction kicks off on April 1. We aren't jive talkin' here; you don't want to miss this. There are more online-only items donated by talented and creative First Parish congregants. To bid, visit uuwayland.org/auction. Bidding for the online-only items will end on April 27 at 5 p.m. This will allow the team to tally the results of these items in advance, which will simplify checkout on the night of the in-person event.

But wait, there is more!! Join us on April 29 at 6:30 p.m. to get your groove on. The night will include far out music, contests for the best '70s outfits, and a photo booth. Our barkeeps will provide '70s cocktails and mocktails and a selection of beer and wine. There will be a nod to '70s cuisine, but our food organization team is far too classy to limit the choices to that era, which featured Jello molds and Swanson TV dinners. Wonderful silent auction items will be available only on that night and our own David O'Leary will host our live auction. Best of all, there will be the wonderful companionship of the congregation. You'll be bummed out if you miss it.

It may be a little counter-culture but please RSVP by calling or emailing Jan Miner or Deb Stubeda. Don't make them track you down! We wanna make sure our slammin' barkeeps and chefs have enough on hand to keep the party buzzing.

Both the silent and live auction items will be posted on the auction website for previewing, but not for bidding. If you are unable to attend but you would like to bid on the live or silent auction items, please feel free to contact the team to bid for you. We will stream the live auction via Zoom.

Remember - All auction proceeds benefit First Parish!



**Join the Second Annual
Spring U.P.**
Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The second annual Spring U.P. is coming soon! On Saturday, May 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., join us at First Parish for fun international activities, tasty foods from Uganda and America, and a chance to come together as a community. This day is, of course, also a chance for First Parish community members to donate gently used toys, children's books, clothing, and other items that will be much appreciated when they arrive in Uganda in several months.

Consult [HERE](#) for more information about Spring U.P. and for a list of what items are needed most, and we will hope to see you on May 6!

If you'd like to know more or to get involved with The Uganda Project, reach out to UP@uuwayland.org. Volunteer opportunities abound, particularly around the time of Spring U.P.!



Mariah Kisiriko teaching special skills at last year's Spring U.P. event.

Common etiquette says not to talk about politics, sex, religion, or money. But we're UUs! We have a long history of political activism, the Our Whole Lives curriculum is all about lifespan sexuality education, of course we talk about religion, and yes, we do need to talk about money. Budget and stewardship are front and center on the Parish Committee's agenda. While we do spend some time playing whack-a-mole (tending to the day-to-day things that crop up), a great deal of our energy goes toward securing the future.

The budget reflects our deepest values—what needs attention and care in people's lives, how do we invest in the next generation, are we a just employer, can we feed our vision to cement the future of First Parish to make a positive difference in the world?

The Parish Committee faces the same budget concerns that you do at home. Gas, electricity, and insurance rates are all going up this year. We want to pay our staff fairly and equitably, in alignment with our mission and values. Covid loans have expired, and we have lost several generous donors.

How do we meet these financial challenges? We do so by working (and playing!) together. First up, there's the auction: Phase One online raised nearly \$3000! Phase II of the online-only bidding begins April 1. Then, of course, the fun-to-the-max, in-person auction, '70s Remix on April 29 will help us meet the goal. Thank you, Jan Miner and Deb Stubeda, for the feel-good time and a chance to support the church we love.

It takes more than an auction to meet budget. Thanks to Larry Green, his team, and YOU, I know the Stewardship Campaign can bring our vision and goals to life. Our pledge is our promise to each other of financial stewardship. **It is important that our pledges feel meaningful, sacred, and just right to each of us.** Thank you for figuring what's right for you.

2022–2023 Parish Committee: Lea Anderson, Heather Felton (Treasurer), Larry Green, Barbara Heffner, Nan Jahnke (Clerk), Lynne Lipcon, Deb Stubeda, Nathalie Thompson, Jada Williams, Jay Woodruff

The Parish Committee faces the same budget concerns that you do at home. Gas, electricity, and insurance rates are all going up this year. We want to pay our staff fairly and equitably.

Funding Our Values

This past month we talked about planned improvements: small scale such as the audio/video system (happening now, thanks to a special gift!) and on a larger scale, the assessment of badly needed repairs to the structure of the Parish House. Thank you, Bill Kenney, Jay and Suzanne Woodruff, Susie Keyes, John Thompson, Lea Anderson, and Mark Forsythe (our property manager).

We grappled with staffing (how do we best allocate and support the staff to meet the congregation's needs?), expanding social justice content in our curricula for all ages, a Juneteenth event planned by a Visioning Implementation group, and our role in the larger community (from making our facilities available to supporting anti-racism work in town).

Did you know the last item on every Parish Committee agenda is "Kudos"?

We identify a couple of congregants whom we especially want to thank and send a note of gratitude. Let me close with kudos to each and every one of you. Thank you for being here. Thank you for the gift of being you, for your time, talents, and, yes, your treasure too!

As we enter the last quarter of the church fiscal year and I near the end my term on the Parish Committee, I think how lucky I am to have served these past couple of years. I have had a chance to work, side by side, with a devoted group, passionate about steering First Parish into the future and growing this special community that we call First Parish in Wayland. Thanks for giving me this opportunity.

Our community is truly fortunate to be

continued on p. 15



COME ONE, COME ALL!

Songs for young and old and everyone in between (led by a number of your First Parish favorites), good humor, and ice cream to boot! Could not be better. Consider inviting friends if you're inclined -- this event is open to the community at large!

First Parish Yard Sale Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

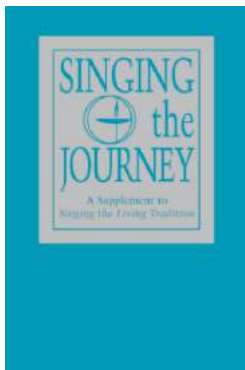
Please mark your calendars for June 3, 9-1 p.m. We plan to offer a similar format as last year, with at least three departments – books, jewelry, and antiques. Kindly save any items you'd like to donate in those categories. And if you'd like to host your own table to benefit First Parish – terrific! We'll supply the table.



Antiques at last year's Yard Sale

We need volunteers for set-up during the week leading up to the sale and for the day of sale. After the sale, we'll need help tearing down tables and for trips to Savers. If you'd like to volunteer, kindly email Suzanne Tiberii or Barb Heffner.

We Need Your Help to Sing the Journey



As we "Sing the Journey" on Sundays, we have noticed a shortage of teal hymnals in the pews. Can you help us replace them?

First Parish will be ordering more hymnals from inSpirit, the UU Book and Gift Shop, at uubookstore.org. We invite you to donate one or more hymnals for \$20 each.

We will insert a personalized bookplate that acknowledges you as donor. The bookplate also has a place for you to dedicate your donation to someone you wish to honor, remember, or celebrate.

How to proceed? The donation form is available online at uuwayland.org/hymnals. You can fill out the form online, or print it and then fill it out. There will also be printed forms available at community time after Sunday services. Instructions and payment options are on the website and on the form.

Questions? Please contact the office or Lucy Pease.



Sip and Seek

**Saturday, April 15, 7 - 8:30 p.m.,
Outside First Parish**

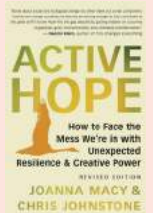
Join in the conversation around the fire pit as we check in and pursue the questions that have us seeking deeper understanding. Will meet indoors in inclement weather. Contact [Rev. Stephanie](#) with questions.



Read Along With the Rev Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy

**Thursday, April 20, 3:00 p.m.
Sunroom and online**

As we turn in April to Humanism, Spring, and Earth Day, our book to read this month is [Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In Without Going Crazy](#) by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. They explore where to find resilience and how to turn towards a life-sustaining society in the face of the climate crisis. Two copies available to borrow in the Commons. Please return books borrowed or pass along to another congregant. Contact [Rev. Stephanie](#) to RSVP or with questions.



Should We Change the Seven Principles? *Share Your Thoughts*

Do you have ideas or feelings about possible changes to the Seven Principles and Six Sources? Would you like to share them in discussion with other First Parishioners, or even be involved in discussions with the larger UU movement?



UUA member congregations like First Parish are being encouraged to gather input from their members on the current initiative to consider changes to Article 2 of our bylaws, or as we know them, the Principles and Sources. (**Read the report here**). First Parish held a discussion on March 26, and we will hold more. Stay tuned for details, or contact Nathalie Thompson or Rev. Stephanie.

Delegates to the UUA [General Assembly](#) (GA) will bring their congregations' recommendations with them to discussions at GA. Please consider taking part in these discussions or being a delegate from First Parish. General Assembly will meet in Pittsburgh, PA, June 21 - 25. Participants can attend in person or — new this year — tune in to just the business assemblies online at no cost.

Keep First Parish in Your Summer Plans *Summer Services and General Assembly*

Now is the time we plan for summer. While we do not have a minister in the pulpit, we do have less formal, summer Sunday gatherings. Might you like to lead one such? If so, please be in touch with Ted Barnes or Nathalie Thompson.

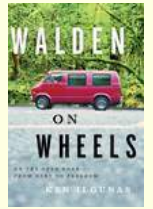
Maybe this is the summer you'd like to explore General Assembly? (See above.) Talk to Reverend Stephanie if you'd like to know more about attending or being a delegate.



Men's Book Club

Thursday, April 6, 8 p.m. on Zoom
Watch the eblast for Zoom log-in info

How to survive student loan debt while pursuing one's dreams? Join us as we discuss this adventure. All who identify as male are welcome. Questions? Contact Keith Sims.



Minister's Lunch

Wed., April 12, 11:30 a.m., Vestry

Join Rev. Stephanie and fellow parishioners for a light lunch and good company. All are welcome! An RSVP requested but not required [by email](#) or 508-358-6133. If Covid guidelines dictate, the lunch will be canceled.

Mid-Day Meditation

Mondays, 12 p.m. on Zoom

Details in weekly eblast

Join together on Zoom for an hour to gather in community to meditate. All are welcome whether you meditate often or are new to the practice. Contact [Kate Holland](#) with questions.

Knit One, Laugh Two!

Most Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
on Zoom

Do you love to knit or want to learn? The knitters are always happy to see new faces. This small group meets on most Wednesdays — now online. Come knit yourself into a new community. Email or call Heather Ryan for log-in information.

MetroWest Climate Solutions Upcoming Events

Hear Bill McKibben Read from His Latest Book *Sun., April 2, 3 - 4:30 p.m. on Zoom*



You're invited to listen to a [livestream](#) from First Parish in Lincoln, where [Bill McKibben](#) will read from his latest book, *The Flag, The Cross, and the Station Wagon*. The book focuses particularly on themes of housing and race. MetroWest Climate Solutions is co-promoting this event.

Bill McKibben is a highly regarded author, educator, and environmentalist, who helped found [350.org](#), the first global grassroots climate campaign.

What's Dinner Got to Do with It? *Food, Farming & Climate Change* *April 11, 7 p.m. on Zoom*

The food we eat, where we buy it, and how that food is grown affects our health and that of the planet. Approximately one-third of human-made greenhouse gas emissions are linked to our food system.



While the food sector contributes to climate change, it's also vulnerable to climate disruption. Water shortages, extreme weather events, pest and disease variations, and rising temperatures will change the crops that can be grown and the viability of farming in some regions.

Progressive farmers are adapting with new techniques in every aspect of their operations. They are implementing soil health and "climate-smart farming" practices to prepare for the future. Learn about the changes that lie ahead for our food system and how we can improve our diets while supporting sustainable farming.

Our speakers: [Jennifer Hashley](#), the Director for the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project at Tufts. [Erin Coughlan de Perez](#), Associate Professor at Tufts and a Technical Advisor to the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. [Winton Pitcoff](#), Executive Director of the Mass. Food System Collaborative. Register [here](#).



Easter Egg Hunt *April 9, 11 a.m.*

Join us after the service for an Eggstravagantly Wonderful Easter Egg Hunt. We will make a container to gather our eggs during SEEK class and have fun finding all of the goodies hidden in the eggs!



Poetry Night *Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.* *Zoom*

Is there a poem you have always loved? Maybe you had a favorite poem as a child or perhaps you shared a poem at your wedding or other major life event? Let's hear about it! Join Ministerial Intern Alyssa Lee to share a poem you love or even one that you wrote. Or, come to listen!



April is Random Acts of Kindness and Connection Month!

Even though we had a mild winter this year, winter always feels to me like a time to hunker down and spend more time at home, rather than out and about.

April feels like it is the release of that hunkering down, and time to reconnect.

My idea for the month of April...

Random Acts of Kindness and Connection

Let's take time this month to perform random acts of kindness and connection. Because who doesn't need more kindness and connection in their lives??

Scientists have done research on the commonalities of people who live healthy lives, and one of them is having [strong social bonds](#). Our First Parish Community gives us those wonderful connections and social interactions that are so very important.

During the month of April we will make it easy for you to do fun activities that will be kind and keep you connected to the folks you know...or maybe find someone you don't know and reach out to get to know them better. At community time after Sunday services, we will have a table with different activities each Sunday to help you reach out. You can use our First Parish Post Office to send a post card to give someone a smile. All you need to do is sit down and write out the card. The directory and stamps are provided, and I will even mail it for you. Another Sunday we will have wooden eggs you can paint to give someone to tell them they are a good egg. I'll even share my good paint pens to make the decorating more fun. We will have a few other easy fun things to do at community time. All you will need to do is sit down and we will make it easy and fun to find ways to be kind and connect.

If you aren't able to come and join us in person then have some fun with our:

[Acts of Kindness and Connection Bulletin Board](#)

Follow the link and leave someone a message or leave them a thank you for a kindness done to you. Share a fun idea on how

to connect or reach out with kindness. Make sure to include your name in the post so we know it is you. I hope you will join the fun this April and make some connections and fill the world with more kindness.

Kate Holland

Director of Education and Engagement

During April we will make it easy for you to do fun activities that will be kind and keep you connected.

SEEK Classes in April

April 2: RE for all

We will be taking time to talk about how the scientific method influences Humanists' views on the world and doing some fun experiments to see what science tells us.

April 9: Easter Sunday

We will gather in class to talk about the story of Easter and after class and service we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt!!

April 16

We will continue to explore the ideas of Humanism.



April 23

We will honor Earth Day by doing some gardening activities.

April 30

We will use Minecraft or other media to make a room that a Humanist group would meet in.



I Get By With a Little Help From My Acquaintances

One of the hidden gems about serving this congregation is discovering the friendships among members of the congregation. I am sometimes surprised

by the relationships in the congregation and how long many of you have known each other and in the different capacities that you have known one another. To me, unexpected friendships are one of the benefits of being part of a community such as this. You are often put in situations with people that you might not otherwise know outside of church, and you can develop deep friendships with them as a result.

There are others, though, with whom you might not develop a deep friendship but more of a warm acquaintance. I have found that, with members of a congregation I am also a part of, I can often talk about what is really going on with my life rather than the more superficial engagement that I might have with other acquaintances. I love these types of relationships. We may not see each other all the time or even talk all that much, but when we do, we can be real with one another. This is still true for people I went to church with 10 to 15 years ago who no longer share my beliefs, but for whom I still have great affection.

I think the people who round out our social circles, not our family and not our closest friends, but all the other people we have affection for, have an important role to play in our lives, one that is often unappreciated. That is one of the losses of COVID that I have mourned the most: all the lost connections with people I was not close enough to stay in contact with when everything shut down. I have now moved out of state and can no longer easily resume those relationships. Sometimes I will be struck by a thought regarding someone with whom I had a burgeoning

friendship or a warm acquaintance and wonder, "What happened there?" and then I remember – "Oh, yeah, COVID."

Unexpected friendships are one of the benefits of being part of a community such as this.



While I mourn the loss of these connections, it has also given me a greater appreciation when they now arise. While I may not stay in contact with many of these people throughout my lifetime, I can relish the ways in which they might bring me joy, or a sympathetic ear, or even a helping hand once in a while. I hope, in turn, that I am able to be the type of person they remember with fondness. Maybe they'll say, "Remember when Alyssa helped us out of that jam we were in?" Or, "Remember when Alyssa made us laugh on the sidelines of that soccer game that time?" In my life, I strive to be a good mom, partner, family member, and close friend, but I also hope that I am a good member of my community. It brings meaning to my life when I can feel good about the way I connect with people around me.

How about you? Were there burgeoning friendships that were cut short by Covid? Are there warm acquaintances you have not spoken to in some time? Maybe call them or send a message. They might be thinking about the missed opportunity for friendship or connection the same way you have been. I think we can never go wrong with reaching out to a potential friend, even just to say: I'm here and I've been thinking of you.

Alyssa Lee
Intern Minister

First Parish friends and acquaintances, from top: Kathy Heckscher, Kathleen Lang, Clare Lewis, Jenny Silberman, Jane Williamson, Mary Trageser, Jim Peyton, John Thompson, Brad Keyes



Celebrate and Support, continued from p. 1

new programs identified during our visioning exercises, to give staff well deserved raises, to make up for lost pledges from lead donors who have passed or moved away, to replace money received from government loans during Covid, and to cover increases in costs due to inflation.

We cannot prepare our budget for next year or determine which visioning projects to fund until we receive your pledges. Therefore, to allow sufficient time to accomplish these goals, we are asking that you return your pledge cards or pledge on-line no later than April 14, 2023. To encourage people to pledge in a timely fashion, we will conduct a drawing each week prior to April 14 of all those who pledged for a gift card from Russells Garden Center. We already have two lucky winners!

Thank you in advance for all of your generous pledges and for everything else you do to make First Parish successful and such a warm and welcoming community.

If anyone has not received a pledge packet or has not been canvassed, please contact me. Also, I welcome any questions people may have.

Larry Green, Stewardship Chair

Question of the Month from the Office:

What should I know that I don't?



Here are some tidbits you should know if you want to be a First Parish "expert!"

> We have an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in the Commons

in case of emergency. Everyone should know where it is. It has instructions and a voice walks you through the process of using it if you ever need to (and it won't let you do anything very wrong to hurt someone).

> We have two public WIFI connections. Their names and passwords are posted in various locations around the building (in the Vestry, in Stokey, in the Parish Office, in the Sunroom).

> There is a bunch of useful information outside the Parish Office, including:

- Reimbursement forms
- Lydia Maria Child Fund reimbursement and grant forms
- Last year's annual report

> We have a Member's page on our website with lots of information, sign ups, directory, etc. (uuwayland.org/members)

> There is a locked mailbox outside the east, Parish House door for donations, pledge cards, etc.

> There is a coded lock on the back, east, Parish House door if you need to get into the building. (Ask Karen for the code.)

> There is a First Aid box AND a tool-box in the kitchen closet.

Tour of Roxbury Rev. Mary Margaret Earl writes, “As we turn the corner toward spring, we prepare for the gifts of a new season – including the opportunity to celebrate this neighborhood. In the months ahead we’ll roll out tours celebrating the beauty and history of Roxbury’s Highland Park and Nubian Square neighborhoods.” Your UUUM delegates here at First Parish are planning a field trip into Roxbury this spring for a tour. Stay tuned for details!

“Community Conversations” Watch Party, Tuesday, April 25, 2:30 p.m. in the Vestry and on Zoom

A New Path to Closing the Racial Wealth Gap The UUUM presents Dr. Karilyn Crockett for the last Community Conversation in this series. Dr. Crockett served in former Mayor Marty Walsh’s Office as the Director of Economic Policy & Research and the Director of Small Business Development for the City of Boston, and as Boston’s first Chief of Equity. Dr. Crockett’s research focuses on large-scale land use changes in 20th century American cities and examines the social and geographic implications of structural poverty and racial formations. She co-founded Multicultural Youth Tour of What’s Now (MYTOWN) an award-winning Boston-based, educational non-profit organization. During 15 years of operation, MYTOWN created jobs for more than 300 low- and moderate-income teens, who led public walking tours for more than 14,000 people. In a White House ceremony, the National Endowment for the Humanities cited MYTOWN as “One of the ten best Youth Humanities Programs in America.” For those interested in an in-person gathering, you are invited to join Rev. Stephanie and Lea Anderson on Tuesday, April 25 at 2:30 p.m. in the Vestry to watch this Community Conversation together. We will offer light refreshments. Or you can watch at your convenience on Zoom at uum.org.

Meetinghouse Update On February 28, the Boston Landmarks Commission voted to officially make First Church in Roxbury a city landmark. The UUUM will celebrate this official designation with an event in the Peace Garden on June 8.

Pews Project Roughly 50% of the pews in the First Church Roxbury Meetinghouse have been sponsored as part of the Meetinghouse restoration project. Each pew costs \$1,000 to restore. If anyone is interested in joining a First Parish in Wayland sponsorship, please let your delegates Lea Anderson or Susan Crowley-Bechtel know. Ten of us each contributing

\$100 towards the Pews Project adds up to a full pew restoration!



The restoration on the building’s interior is still scheduled to be completed by year’s end. The UUUM will then schedule an event in the space when they will welcome all pew sponsors.

To find out more about the UUUM, please visit uum.org

Lea Anderson



SOMEONE recently celebrated a special birthday with all her friends at the March Minister’s Lunch. Happy Birthday to Kate Holland, our Director of Education and Engagement, story teller, child whisperer, sunny greeter, and all around wonderful person. We are so glad you are part of the First Parish community! Thank you for all you bring to us.

Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness 2023 is Back! Sunday, April 30

This is the largest fundraiser of the year for Family Promise. It fuels their mission to transform the lives of families with children facing homelessness across the Metrowest region. All funds raised support the programs that help families stabilize their housing and build brighter futures. Over 80 families were helped last year, including 135 children!!



The Walkathon has been virtual for the past two years but on Sunday, April 30th the Family Promise walk to end homelessness is back!

This year, the Family Promise volunteer team at FPW will offer two walk options on April 30:

- > Walk during the full event in Natick
- > Walk a separate 2-mile (or less) walk on the Wayland Rail Trail.

For the Natick event: Folks will start together at Natick High School where there will be music, food, and fun activities for the kids. Registration begins at 12:15 (although pre-registration is encouraged). The 2.5 mile walk begins at 1:00 p.m., ending again at Natick High School. For Natick walkers, please consider joining UU Framingham's (our lead congregation's) "Jabberwalkies" team. You can register for the walk by clicking this link: <https://www.familypromisemetrowest.org/>

For the Wayland Rail Trail Mini-Walkathon: We will gather at First Parish after Coffee Hour and walk together to the Rail Trail entrance near the Wayland Library. Donations (of \$35 or more) to support Family Promise Metrowest are requested.

Natick Shelter Dinner Hosting

Our next hosting week is May 15-16-17-18. First Parish volunteers will be needed for one of the evenings for meal preparation. More information to come.

Grocery Gift Cards

The combination of low income, high food prices, and expected decreased SNAP benefits is not a family-friendly reality. The staff of Family Promise Metrowest distributes \$25

Family Promise Spring Updates

gift cards to subsidize their enrolled families. We can help by purchasing one or more cards. Please click one of the buttons below and have your gift shipped directly to Family Promise at 6 Mulligan St., Natick, MA 01760. Or you can drop one off in the Day Center mailbox with a copy of the form linked below. Thank you for your empathy and desire to help.

Lois Doerr



To donate grocery gift cards to Family Promise, click below and have your gift sent directly to 6 Mulligan St., Natick, MA 01760:

[Market Basket Gift Card](#)
[Stop and Shop Gift Card](#)

Or drop a card off with [this donation form](#).

Parish Committee, continued from p. 6

filled with members like you who time and again devote themselves with passionate conviction to steward and grow this unique community.

As always, we value your feedback. [Contact](#) us anytime.

Lynne Lipcon, for the Parish Committee

APRIL

- 1** April Fools' Sing-Along
Sat., April 1, 4:00 p.m., p. 7
- 2** Bill McKibben Reads From His Book
Sun., April 2, 3:00 p.m., on Zoom, p. 10
- 4** Poetry Night
Tues., April 4, 7 p.m., on Zoom, p. 10
- 6** Men's Book Club
Thurs., April 6, 8:00 p.m. on Zoom, p. 9
- 9** Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 9, 11:00 a.m., p. 10
- 11** MCS: Food and Farming
Tuesday, April 11, 7 p.m., on Zoom, p. 10
- 12** Minister's Lunch
Wednesday, April 12, 11:30 a.m., p. 9
- 15** Sip and Seek
Sat. April 15, 7:00 p.m., p. 8
- 20** Read Along with the Rev
Thursday, April 20, 3:00 p.m., p. 8
- 25** UUUM Watch Party
Tuesday, April 25, 2:30 p.m., p. 14
- 30** Arts Wayland Classical Concert
Sunday, April 30, 3:00 p.m., p. 13
- Random Acts of Kindness
All Month

The Wayland Unitarian is the monthly newsletter of the First Parish in Wayland, a Unitarian Universalist congregation. A full calendar of events is posted on our website, www.uuwayland.org. A directory of community members is also available; contact the office for the password.

Parish Office Hours

M, T, W, F: 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Th: 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.
In person W & F; 508-358-6133

Worship Service and SEEK (Spiritual and Ethical Exploration for Kids): **See Sunday Schedule, P. 3**

Our Ministers

The Rev. Dr. [Stephanie May](#), Minister
The Rev. Dr. [Deborah Pope-Lance](#), Affiliate Minister
[Alyssa Lee](#), Intern Minister

Our Staff

[Kate Holland](#), Director of Education and Engagement
[Polly Oliver](#), Music Director and Organist
[Karen Plaskon](#), Parish Administrator
[Leo Monzon](#), Bookkeeper
Emma Silberman, Childcare Provider

Unitarian Newsletter Team

Ann Gordon, Barb Heffner, Nathalie Thompson, Chauncey Wilson

First Parish is located at 225 Boston Post Road in Wayland, at the corner of Routes 20, 126 and 27. See our website for parking information.

Our mailing address is:
First Parish in Wayland
PO Box 397, Wayland, MA 01778



What's Happening?

Find all First Parish activities on [our website calendar](#).

Check it out!

