



Reflections from Rev. Stephanie **The Story of First Parish Continues**

My first Sunday at First Parish was April 27, 2014, for the start of Candidating Week. Just two weeks earlier, I had been formally ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister at my internship congregation in Sherborn. When I arrived here, I felt excitement and great uncertainty.

Colleagues with years more experience were whispering to me how hard it would be to follow a minister of 38 years. What I found when I arrived was a congregation eager for a loving, hopeful relationship of care with their new minister. During that Candidating Week, you and I talked together about dreams for First Parish...for more social action, for more members, and for younger members. There was a robust conversation about community on Wednesday evening. And there was even a music and arts soiree where I learned about many of the amazing talents in the congregation.



Then-Parish Committee Co-Chairs Brad Carver and Lynne Morrison with Rev. Dr. Stephanie May at her Installation at First Parish, October 2014

Since that first week together, the congregation has both changed and stayed true to its core. Music, arts, and community remain central. With the advent of the Lydia Maria Child Fund, the opportunity to engage in more social action has become real. And, we have welcomed in new members of many different ages and generations, including families with young children. Later this month, on May 21, we will welcome even more into membership.

There have also been unexpected changes—such as the use of new technology due to the pandemic as well as a reckoning with racism in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement. There have also been fun surprises such as my first Rummage Sale when I learned just HOW BIG the sale really was!

continued on p. 4

Get Involved In Shaping First Parish **Join a Visioning Project!**

In November 2021, the Parish Committee set in motion a major visioning exercise to help First Parish set its course to the future.



Off to a great start. From the beginning, our community has enthusiastically supported the idea that we should do new things to engage both our current and potential members, and also engage more fully with the community around us.

- Things got started when 114 congregation members participated in a far-ranging survey that asked them to set forth their vision, dreams, and priorities for the church.
- Later, several dozen people participated in focus groups to come up with specific ideas for putting these dreams and priorities into motion. 85 ideas were combined into a total of about 40 possible projects.
- Last summer, eight Visioning Exploration Groups dug deeper to see which ideas had traction and developed plans to implement them.

Where do we stand today? Over the past few months, implementation teams have been working to carry out a first wave of visioning projects. For instance, one group working on non-traditional celebrations is dedicating our first summer service to educating our members about the Juneteenth national holiday. Other

continued on p. 8

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 Reflections from Rev. Stephanie
- 1 Our Visioning Work
- 2 Our Mission
- 2 How to Connect With First Parish
- 3 A Month of Sundays
- 3 Lay Minister of the Month
- 3 Sharing Our Plate
- 4 Summer Services
- 5 From the Parish Committee
- 6 From the Interim Minister Cmte.
- 7 Annual Meeting Notice
- 8 Roxbury Tour
- 8 Poetry Night
- 9 SpringUP!
- 9 Jazz Concert
- 9 Sip and Seek, Read with Rev
- 10 MetroWest Climate event
- 10 Protecting Pollinators, Spreading Joy
- 11 Yard Sale!, Recurring Events
- 12 SEEK, Education and Engagement
- 13 From Our Intern Minister
- 13 Tips from Karen
- 14 UUUM Update
- 14 Family Promise Update
- 15 May 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 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.

May 7

RE for All: Exploring UUism
Alyssa Lee, Intern Minister

May 14

A Sustainable Future
Rev. Dr. Stephanie May
SEEK Class

May 21

Our Spiritual Home
Rev. Dr. Stephanie May
SEEK Class

May 28

The Ripples of Community
Alyssa Lee, Intern Minister
SEEK Class

Sharing Our Plate

MetroWest Worker Center

On Sunday, May 14, half of our collection plate will go to support the work of [the MetroWest Worker Center](#), an immigrant worker-led organization based in the MetroWest area, which organizes to defend and expand the labor, civil, and human rights of all workers.

May's Lay Minister

May's Lay Minister is Erik Felton. Contact Erik 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 need the password to the Parish Directory. The link to the Directory is available on our website [members' page](#).

Worship Themes

Yearly Theme:
Encountering Differences

May: Unitarian Universalism



Welcome Back, Polly Oliver! 



Reflections, continued from page 1

We have also faced many losses together. The first Memorial Service I led was for Priscilla Spaulding, during which a friend fondly remembered their time together at Woodstock and how fabulous Priscilla looked in a bikini. The most recent Memorial Service I led was for Collin Wallace, a young man who died of a suspected overdose. He had attended RE classes here as a boy and gathering in the familiar space brought some comfort to his family amidst tragedy. Supporting families and the wider community in such times of grief has been one of the most meaningful aspects of my time as your minister.

As I prepare to leave in July, I do so with enormous gratitude for your embrace of a new minister as well as for all that you and I have done together in these past nine years.

The story of First Parish for each of us, and all of us, typically includes experiences of joy, challenge, comfort, and loss. We gather in religious community for support in making sense of the complexity of life, as well as for the simple gifts found in caring for one another and in working together.

Whenever we began with this community, we entered into a place and a people already underway. At more than 375 years old, the congregation predates us all. And the hope is that it will outlast us all to continue to be a place for finding meaning, connecting with others, and doing good in the world.

As I prepare to leave in July, I do so with enormous gratitude for your embrace of a new minister as well as for all that you and I have done together in these past nine years. I stayed longer than today's average ministry length of seven years and definitely longer than those skeptical colleagues predicted I would last. (By the way, befriending Ken as Minister Emeritus was a great part of being a minister here!)

In choosing to leave, I do so with sadness to say goodbye but also with confidence that you will continue to be as you were when I arrived—a community of caring, thoughtful, talented people who cherish First Parish and the principles of Unitarian Universalism.

At its core, a congregation is the people...is you. My hope is

that each of you finds a meaningful way to be part of the next chapter of the story of First Parish—for your sake or for the sake of others who need this place to remain strong and vital. The minister may change, but the story of First Parish continues.

In peace,
Rev. Stephanie

Summer is
Coming!



And so are Summer Gatherings. We love the summer tradition at First Parish of offering less formal services, mostly led by parishioners, on a wide variety of fascinating topics, in person and over Zoom.

Now that we are in a time of ministerial transition, perhaps exploring varieties of worship topics and formats is even more intriguing? As is using these events as a way to continue to support and grow our sense of community.

If you have an idea for a service you'd like to lead, contact Ted Barnes or Nathalie Thompson and stay tuned for updates on our full summer schedule.

Preparing for a New Chapter

No one ever became poor from giving -Anne Frank

As Stephanie nears the end of her time with First Parish, the Parish Committee is focused on the next two months. Lea is working actively to create a search committee for the Interim Minister (see page 6). This Interim Search Committee will work on the search until completion in early June at the latest, only a month away! Typically an Interim Minister will start August 1 and serve for two years, during which time the congregation will search for a new Settled Minister who would begin service in August 2025.

The Parish Committee approved a proposal from Paul Langner to dedicate a young chestnut tree to Lauren Dunne Astley. The chestnut tree is growing on the lawn between the church's

Boston Post Road driveway and Kirkside; there will be a small granite marker placed by the tree dedicated to Lauren's memory.

We find ourselves rapidly approaching the end of the 2022-2023 church year. It is a time when spring is in the air, the sun is finding its way back to New England, flowers are thinking about blooming and the budget planning process for the coming year starts. As such, the remainder of the PC meeting was spent on all things financial.

Heather Felton reported on First Parish's financial picture. We are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through our fiscal year and have spent $\frac{3}{4}$ of the proposed budget. On the income side, around 80% of pledged funds for the current church year (2022-2023) have been received. To finish the fiscal year with the approved deficit of \$18,000, we need to receive the remaining 20% of pledged funds and recognize the April 29 auction and June 3 Yard Sale

The Parish Committee approved a proposal from Paul Langner to dedicate a young chestnut tree to Lauren Dunne Astley.



income. Please come to these events and support First Parish!

The treasurer's report was followed by the stewardship report. Stewardship is the driving source of church funding and we cannot continue to thrive without the generosity of all our members. Indeed Larry Green, our stewardship chair, reported on received pledges through April 13. We had 88 individuals/families pledge thus far with another 15 (or so) outstanding. While the stewardship goal of \$350,000 (or more) had not been reached on the 13th, we remain hopeful that we will attain our target. We thank everyone who has pledged for next year and ask that if you have not submitted a pledge card to please reach out to a Parish Committee member who can work with you on the pledge process.

Finally, Finance Committee chair Susie Keyes joined the PC meeting to discuss the 2023-2024 budget. A preliminary budget was created for 2023-2024 which incorporated known increases in insurance and utility costs. Discussion regarding the staff budget and necessary changes, in light of Stephanie's candidacy and likely call to be Settled Minister at First Church in Boston, were initiated. Susie and Heather will continue to refine the budget in the coming month and finalize a proposed 2023-2024 budget that will be presented at annual meeting for vote.

Submitted by Heather Felton on behalf of the Parish Committee

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

A Message from the Interim Minister Search Committee

Since the news of Reverend Stephanie's candidacy for the position of Settled Minister at First Church in Boston, the Parish Committee has formed an Interim Minister Search Committee which has been hard at work. Unlike the process of choosing a Settled Minister, which is a 'call' by the congregation, the Interim Minister is hired by the Parish Committee. As chair of our Parish Committee, Lea Anderson has stepped forward to chair the search team, working with Nathalie Thompson, Clare Lewis and Robert Baker. We are confident that we represent deep knowledge of First Parish past and present and have the skills necessary to select our Interim Minister. By the time you read this, our application will have been submitted to the UUA. Names will be released to us on May 1st at which point we have just over two weeks to interview, check references, and zero in on our chosen candidate.

As news of Rev. Stephanie's departure has settled in, there has been a wide range of emotions. More than a few of you have asked, "Why do we need a two-year interim period instead of just one?" Transitions take time. During the last three years under the stresses and strains of Covid, we have had to redirect our energies in many ways. Now we need to take time and consider who we are as a congregation in this changing world. Another question many have asked is, "Do we need to sign a two-year contract with the Interim Minister?" All interim contracts are now one year at a time, so that we can re-evaluate after the first year to determine whether we feel the Interim Minister is a good fit.

We need time this Spring to say goodbye to Rev. Stephanie appropriately, to experience all those feelings of loss, nervousness, and of course gratitude for her ministry with us. We will enter the Fall with all sorts of questions. In the first year of the interim, the new minister is just getting to know us. It is a luxury to be able to take that time — time to think about how we want to put together our search committee, what is the process we will use to select the committee, what vehicle do we want to use to assess what we are looking for in our next minister? Survey? Cottage meetings? Who are we without Rev. Stephanie? Who are we post-Covid?

By Spring 2024, we will have put together a Settled Minister Search Committee which will begin their year-long intensive process. The Interim Minister and Congregation go on working together, having learned from whatever has come up in that discernment process, moving forward to

strengthen and enliven our community.

Please call on your Interim Minister Search Committee with questions and comments. We are there for you,

Lea Anderson, Nathalie Thompson, Robert Baker, Clare Lewis



The Interim Minister Committee Clockwise from top left: Bob Baker, Lea Anderson, Clare Lewis, Nathalie Thompson



*And for those who are interested in a little light reading, the Interim Minister Search Committee has left two copies of *In the Interim, Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations* (Barbara Child and Keith Kron, Editors) on the round table in the Commons.*

Legal Notice

First Parish in Wayland Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 21, 2023

The regular ANNUAL MEETING of the First Parish in Wayland will be held on **Sunday, May 21, 2023** immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and online via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is to act upon the following items:

- I. The election of Officers, Trustees, and Nominating Committee members and the filling of Parish Committee vacancies. The Nominating Committee will present the following slate for approval. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

Position	Nominee(s)	Term Expires
Moderator	Elizabeth Cullen	2024
Treasurer	Christopher Cullen	2024
Clerk	Nan Jahnke	2024
Parish Committee	Jim Grumbach	2027
	Laurel Whitehouse	2027
Trustees	Charlie Anderson	2024
	Barbara Buell	2024
	Neil Gordon	2024
	Bill Jacques	2024
	Chris Nelson	2024
Nominating Committee	Leah Levine (Chair)	2024
	Jim Kitendaugh	2024
	Lynne Lipcon	2024
	Kathie Schmidt	2024

- II. Reports from the Trustees and Committees
- III. Affirmation of Affiliate Minister, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Pope-Lance
- IV. Reports from the Minister and Ministerial Intern
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. Adoption of the budget for Fiscal Year 2023–2024
- VII. Any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting

Please submit any proposed motions to the Clerk, Nan Jahnke, at least three days in advance of the Meeting.

All are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting. However, only members of First Parish in Wayland may vote. To be eligible to vote at the Meeting, one must have signed the membership book prior to the Meeting. A quorum of twenty-five members is needed to enact any business to come before the Meeting.

Nan Jahnke, Clerk, First Parish in Wayland

Visioning, continued from page 1

events beyond the traditional – like holding a seder dinner – could follow in the fall and beyond. Projects include:

- Post-pandemic intergenerational Celebration Dinner
- Intergenerational Singalong
- Uganda Project
- Picnic tables
- Program space for local organizations like Arts Wayland, Girl Scouts, Wayland Historical Society and Museum, Musicians of the Old Post Road

How can I join with others to shape the future of our community?

Many implementation teams are forming or are under way, and more are available to jump on right now. For example, we're looking for help to start up:

- Communications
- Help create a social action calendar of volunteer opportunities
- Design non-traditional worship opportunities beyond Sunday morning



There are further volunteer options in these eight categories:

- (1) Strengthening our Sense of Community
- (2) Augmenting Communications
- (3) Planning Facilities to Meet Programmatic Needs
- (4) Enhancing Our Presence in Wayland and Beyond
- (5) Advancing Social Action
- (6) Reimagining Fundraising
- (7) Building Intergenerational Relationships
- (8) Expanding the Ways in Which We Worship

Find a visioning project that's right up your alley!

Join one of the above groups or other worthwhile visioning projects as they are launched. Some implementation groups will connect over the summer via Zoom or in person.

Catch one of us at church or [email](#) us. We'll help connect you to a project that interests you!

Ted Barnes, Lynne Lipcon, Jay Woodruff



**Roxbury Tour:
Save the Date**

Sat., June 17, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Learn more about the neighborhood of the UU Urban Ministry through this Educational



Institutions tour. The tour will highlight the many educational institutions in the neighborhood and look at the importance of access to education. Hear stories of activism influencing the generations of youth learning within them. Following the 90-minute tour, we will enjoy lunch in the neighborhood and some browsing at the Frugal Bookstore or other local businesses. Carpooling will be arranged. Suggested donation of \$10-\$30 per person to the UUUM. Please contact Rev. Stephanie if interested or with any questions.



Poetry Night

Monday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.

Zoom

Join Ministerial Intern Alyssa Lee for her last Poetry Night here at First Parish! You can bring a poem you love, one you have written, or simply join the online session to talk poetry with Alyssa and others from First Parish. We hope to see you there!

Join SpringUP! Have Fun, Do Some Good

Saturday, May 6, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

SpringUP! is coming soon! Join us at First Parish on Saturday, May 6 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to donate gently used items that will be immediately useful to communities and organizations in Uganda. Consult [HERE](#) for a list of goods that are needed.

If you time your visit right, you'll be able to join FP members and local Ugandan friends for games, activities, and multi-national snacks. We look forward to seeing you at SpringUP! on May 6.

If you'd like to know more or to get involved with The Uganda Project, email UP@uuwayland.org. Volunteers are always needed, especially for this event, and everyone is welcome!

Join Robert Waswa (left) and the rest of the Uganda Project team for a fun and productive SpringUP! event on May 6. Our goods are gratefully received in Uganda (right).



Sip and Seek

Tues., May 23, 7:00 p.m.,
Outside by Sheds

Get a start on your Memorial Day weekend lounging with an evening of conversation by the fire with First Parish folks. Please bring your choice of beverage to sip and an outdoor chair (if possible). Questions or RSVP to [Rev. Stephanie](#).

Read Along With the Rev

Tuesday, May 30, 2:30 p.m.
Sunroom and online

Join Rev. Stephanie for the final edition of "Read w/ the Rev" as we explore Unitarian Universalism. In true UU fashion, this month encourages you to "choose your own adventure" among several suggested titles. Recommended options include:

- Mark Harris, *Elite: Uncovering Classism in Unitarian Universalist History* (2010);
- Mark Morrison-Reed, *The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism* (2014);
- *The Unitarian Universalism Pocket Guide, 6th edition* (2019);
- OR?

Interested in something else? Pick your own or ask Rev. Stephanie for another recommendation. Contact [Rev. Stephanie](#) to RSVP or with questions.

Nica's Dream Quartet






Nica's Dream Quartet

The Arts Wayland Jazz Series brings Berklee faculty ensembles to various venues across Metrowest for monthly performances under the direction of its Artistic Director, Neil Olmstead, Professor, Berklee College of Music.

Arts Wayland in Association with The First Parish in Wayland Is Thrilled to Present

Nica's Dream Quartet

Sunday, May 7th, 2023 | 4:00 P.M.

First Parish in Wayland | 225 Boston Post Road, Wayland
\$15 | Online tickets: artswayland.com

City & Suburbs: Addressing Climate Change and Equity Together

Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.

At First Parish in Weston, or on Zoom

Join MetroWest Climate Solutions and special guest the Rev. Mariama White-Hammond for a discussion on the intersection of climate change and questions of equity. As a lifelong resident, pastor, and activist in Boston, Rev. Mariama will explore the question of how residents of the suburbs can most effectively take action to promote greater climate equity.



Rev. Mariama White-Hammond

The session will be offered at First Parish Church in Weston, 349 Boston Post Rd, Weston. If you prefer to join us online, register at tinyurl.com/CitySuburbs.

Rev. Mariama White-Hammond was appointed as Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space in April 2021. In this role, she oversees policy and programs on energy, climate change, sustainability, historic preservation, and open space. Over the course of her time with the City, she has supported the amendment of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) to set carbon targets for existing large buildings and convened a city-led green jobs program.

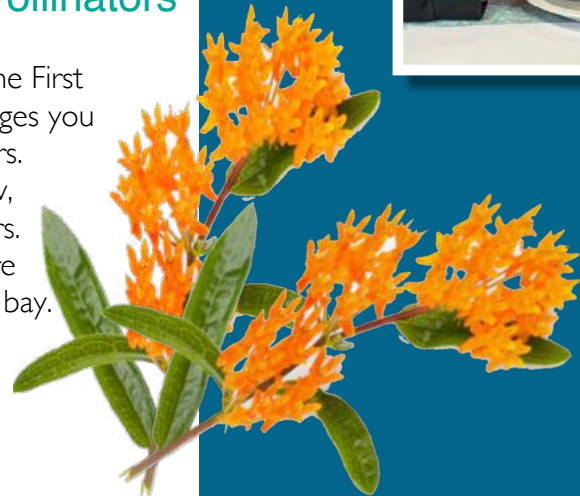
Rev. Mariama uses an intersectional lens in her ecological work, challenging folks to see the connections between immigration and climate change or the relationship between energy policy and economic justice. She has received numerous awards, including the Barr Fellowship, the Celtics Heroes Among Us, The Roxbury Founders Day Award and the Boston NAACP Image award.



Protect Native Pollinators

As you begin your spring yard work and gardening, the First Parish Bee Team reminds you to consider small changes you can make to support native bees and other pollinators. Consider observing “No Mow May” to let grass grow, creating habitat and forage for early season pollinators. Keep a pesticide- and herbicide-free yard, and explore safer, more natural ways to keep pests and weeds at bay.

The Mass Audubon Society offers some [useful information](#) on pollinators, native plants and pollinator gardens you can create. Check it out!



Random Acts of Kindness Month Really Rocked

As part of April's Random Acts of Kindness Month, after service on Sunday, April 23 parishioners were invited to paint cheery messages or images on small rocks. They could then take these rocks with them out into the world, and place them wherever they choose, for a stranger to find. What a simple but lovely way to pass along a little kindness, encouragement, or simply whimsy. Rock on, First Parish!



Come to the First Parish Yard Sale

Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The First Parish Yard Sale will be held on June 3, 9-1 p.m. The format will be much like last year's - mostly outdoors - with the exception of antiques and books, which will once again be located in the Commons. Jewelry and native plants will also return, and we're adding two departments - kitchenware and décor. We'll have an additional 10x20 tent this year, along with last year's tent, generously donated by Suzanne Reitz and family.



Molly Faulkner and John Thompson enjoy some laughs at last year's Yard Sale.

Please 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.

We don't want to compete with the Uganda Project collection (May 6, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., see page 9). The list of items they're collecting is [here](#). The only potential area of overlap is kitchen goods. Kindly give them preference, but if you have items that aren't a fit for U.P., keep the yard sale in mind. Please note that they are looking for kids' books. We'll take your books for grownups.



Jean Milburn and her native plants were a big hit at last year's Yard Sale.

If you have furniture - please write to Barb. Having sold lots of furniture online last spring to clear out the older furniture in the sheds, we now have a good sense of what sells. We also want to be mindful of our aging backs.

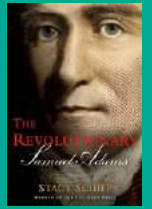
We need volunteers for set-up during the week leading up to the sale and for the day of sale. After the sale, we'll need help tearing down tables and for trips to Savers. If you'd like to volunteer, please email Suzanne Tiberii.

Thanks,
Barb Heffner and Suzanne Tiberii

Men's Book Club

Thursday, May 4, 8 p.m. on Zoom

The moral backbone of the American Revolution? Join us as we discuss *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*, by Stacy Schiff at our next meeting. All who identify as male are welcome. Questions? Contact Keith Sims.



Minister's Lunch

Wed., May 17, 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.



So Many Feelings

Ok, I'm not going to lie. It has been really difficult to write my article this month. To chat about our SEEK program would be ignoring the elephant in the room. First Parish is looking at some big changes with Rev. Stephanie leaving. I think I am like many people, and change is hard for me. It is taking a while to think it through and sort through the many emotions that have come up for me.

First, I was sad that my partner in ministry wouldn't be with me to collaborate with, to laugh with, and cry with, and hold the work of helping this congregation thrive and realize all you do to support and make this community strong. I also think that selfishly I was angry that I wouldn't have Stephanie to work with each day, but I do realize how lucky I was to work with her for nine years. I know that after Ken Sawyer's ministry, that doesn't feel very long, but in the greater UU world it is a very long time for a minister to stay with one congregation. I was also excited for Stephanie, that she will be moving to a congregation where she can help grow the ministry. In talking with Stephanie, I know that she is very excited to start this new chapter even as she is very sad to be leaving First Parish.

So despite all of those many swirling emotions, I feel like we move to a new chapter in the life of First Parish from a place of strength. The congregation has done an incredible job of moving through the pandemic. The pandemic devastated many congregations, which found that the time on Zoom for services and children and youth programming decreased the number of folks that participated in their communities, and many are not coming back. The First Parish community stayed strong and came together, working to stay connected and to support each other as we navigated an incredibly hard time. Not only are our numbers not down, we are growing in both the number of visitors we have and kids participating in our SEEK program. We also worked hard on looking at where we want to go as a community and steps we need to take to get there.

While stepping off onto a new path can be very scary, I can't think of another congregation I would want to do that with. I am excited to see what our next chapter will be.

Kate Holland

Director of Education and Engagement

Not only are our numbers not down, we are growing in both the number of visitors and kids participating in our SEEK program.

Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday, May 18, 6:00 p.m.

Join us in the Vestry for a family-friendly evening of fun and food. Who doesn't love spaghetti? And eating spaghetti with friends? Come on along and join the fun!



SEEK Classes in May

May 7: RE For All

Our UU faith encourages us to find a spiritual path that is right for us. We will explore some spiritual practices.

May 14

On this Mother's Day we will make a special surprise for a person in our lives who has given us love.

May 21

This Sunday our class will start at 10:50 a.m. We will have a light lunch and snacks and talk about how the democratic process is part of our UU faith.

May 28

This will be our final Minecraft class. We will work together to finish up any of the rooms we have made.



When Change is on the Horizon

I know firsthand the uncertainty that can be felt by a congregation when a long-settled minister is leaving. I was the Clerk for my home congregation in Oklahoma City (OKC) when our minister left, and I was grateful to be able to serve on the search committee for the Interim Minister.

I remember many of us raising several of the questions I have been hearing at First Parish. Will we be able to continue our good work with the Interim Minister and then the Settled Minister? Will the culture of this community that we know and love be the same? And, perhaps, the question that caused us the most anxiety: Will people leave?

I am happy to report we had a wonderful experience with the Interim Minister at my congregation in OKC. He certainly challenged us in many ways, but he also introduced innovative ideas around worship and helped us think through ways to engage in deeper relationships with our surrounding community.

When we called our current, settled minister to the congregation, we were ready in a way we likely would not have been if we had not had the two-year interim ministry. Perhaps a few people left, but many people stayed, and even more people joined us.

I am not at all concerned about First Parish's ability to attract a wonderful interim minister and later settled minister. This is a highly functional congregation with a clear vision about where it wants to go and energy and excitement about how to get there.

The bonds of the members of this community are deep and have outlived the changing of ministers before and will do so again. I have loved working with all of you these past two years, even in the darkness of COVID lockdown, and I am confident the Interim Minister will feel the same.

Alyssa Lee
Intern Minister

...The interim minister at my congregation in OKC certainly challenged us in many ways, but he also introduced innovative ideas...

Question of the Month from the Office How Should I Pay My Pledge?



Now that pledging season is at its end, how can you pay your pledge?

Send a check (yes, they still work!) to First Parish, PO Box 397, Wayland MA 01778.

Pay online, set up an ongoing payment, OR modify an existing ongoing payment through our website. (www.uuwayland.org/donate/)

Set up automatic payments through your bank or investment organization.

REMINDERS:

Now is a good time to log in through our online directory on the website to check to see where you stand on 2022-23 pledge payments as that fiscal year concludes at the end of June. You can also make sure your address, phone number and email are correct. Go to the Member's Page (www.uuwayland.org/members). Under the PINK directory block are instructions on how to access your personal contact and payment information.

If you have set up automatic, recurring payments through your own bank or through our online payment system (at www.uuwayland.org/Donate) remember to update your regular payments to reflect your new pledge. The previous fiscal year ends June 30; the new one starts July 1.

Karen Plaskon
Office Administrator

UU Urban Ministry May News and Events

Tour of Roxbury – Saturday, June 17

Mark your calendars for a walking tour celebrating the educational institutions that surround First Church Roxbury.

Please see page 8 for details.



UU Urban Ministry Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The UUUM is looking forward to updating us about their work during the past year and sharing their goals for the coming fiscal year. This year's Annual Meeting will be held on via Zoom. All of the event details are available on the [UUUM website](#) and the Zoom link for the meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89276183500>. Anyone interested is invited to attend the Annual Meeting.

City Life/Vida Urbana The UUUM is partnering with friends at City Live/Vida Urbana, a grassroots organization that promotes tenant rights and advocates on behalf of those facing eviction. The UUUM invites us to join in as we support City Life with an upcoming mailing to 2,000 people to make them aware of their rights and available resources, as they face losing their homes. On Saturday, May 13th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., we will be meeting at the UU Urban Ministry with folks from CLVU to assemble this mailing.

If you're interested in volunteering, [email Vinnie Myles](#) and he'll add your name to the list. Vinne says, "This is a great way to use our community's people power to help do good work."

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute 27th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace

Sunday, May 14 at 8:00 a.m.

The UU Urban Ministry is working with the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (LDBPI) to support their upcoming Mother's Day Walk for Peace. This event enables LDBPI to sustain and build their work empowering individuals and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss.

For more information about the Mother's Day Walk for Peace, please visit the Peace Institute's [website](#).

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

Lea Anderson

Family Promise Spring Updates

As part of the RE for All service on Humanism on April 2, one breakout session focused on families in pressing economic and housing need. As a religious tradition rooted in the human capacities to care for one another and this world, UUism enables reflection on how we might live life ethically and with resilient hope here and now.



We briefly reviewed the

15-year history of our congregation's relationship with Family Promise (previously the Interfaith Hospitality Network). Then Paula Brown, Volunteer Coordinator for Family Promise MetroWest, spoke about what the programs currently do and how our support helps. She showed an animated video composed by a college student whose family stayed in the FPM shelter when she was a young teenager.

[Here is a link](#) to the short video.

One of the two main annual fundraisers, the Walkathon, was held on Sunday April 30. Our congregation offered a walk

location choice: go with the official main Natick event, or on a more local walking route. Several FP people participated in the Wayland Rail Trail "mini walk."

Next on the calendar for our church year: We are scheduled to cook and host at the Natick shelter on May 19. After this, the next volunteer opportunity will be in October. For more information contact Lois Doerr.

First Parish is scheduled to cook and host at the Natick shelter on Friday, May 19. Contact Lois Doerr to help.

MAY

- 2** MetroWest Climate Event
Tues., May 2, 7:00 p.m., p. 10
- 4** Men's Book Club
Thurs., May 4, 8:00 p.m., on Zoom, p. 11
- 6** SpringUP!
Sat., May 6, 11 a.m., p. 9
- 7** Jazz Concert
Sun., May 7, 4:00 p.m., p. 9
- 15** Poetry Night
Mon., May 15, 7:00 p.m., p. 8
- 17** Minister's Lunch
Wed., May 17, 11:30 a.m., p. 11
- 18** Spaghetti Dinner
Thurs., May 18, 6:00 p.m., p. 12
- 23** Sip and Seek
Tues. May 23, 7:00 p.m., p. 9
- 25** UUUM Annual Meeting
Thurs., May 25, 6:00 p.m., p. 14
- 30** Read Along with the Rev
Tues., May 30, 2:30 p.m., p. 9

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!

