

THE WAYLAND UNITARIAN

JANUARY 2024



FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Save the Date for the Auction! March 23

Just a reminder that our annual auction is slated for Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Our theme, Mediterranean Magic, will celebrate the cuisine and customs of the Mediterranean region.

We'd welcome new ideas for auction items. Do you like to cook? Perhaps you'd like to host a small dinner in your home, or offer to deliver one to the home of the winner. Like to bake? Perhaps you'd like to offer your favorite item, to be delivered on a mutually agreeable date with the buyer. Handy at the sewing machine? Quilts, woven goods, needlepoint, and other handmade items are popular. Have lovely artwork hiding in a closet? Perhaps someone else might enjoy it. Receive a holiday gift card that's not your jam? We'll take it!



A native plant consultation will be just one of many exciting offerings at the First Parish Auction on March 23.

We are always looking for more volunteers. If you are short on time, perhaps you could simply help with setup on Friday, March 22, or help us on the evening of the event.

Whether you plan to bid on anything or not, please plan to join us for a lively evening!

Lynn Trimby, Deb Stubeda, Barb Heffner and Jan Miner (strategic advisor!)

Our Special Thanks Go To...

...the Russell-Skehan Family for donating the beautiful wreaths and poinsettias that decorated the Meetinghouse and Sanctuary; all those who decorated our spaces for the holidays; and someone special who brought joy and candy canes to young and old alike at the Carol Sing (you know who you are).



Stewardship Season Reimagined

Supporting the life, programs, and work of First Parish in Wayland is done in many ways by all of us, young and older. This year we are going to experiment with a different way of pledging and also try to make the raising of these funds more transparent and meaningful.

The Parish Committee and all of us want to recapture the fun of the old 'Canvass Dinners' with the opportunities for fellowship and good food they provided during so many pre-Covid years.

We plan to bring back those happy gatherings in late February with small groups meeting in people's homes for potluck dinners and also some potluck brunches. Haven't you been missing those leisurely meals with plenty of time to chat, connect, and create community?

On March 3, pledge packets will be available after the service and there will be a Coffee Hour session explaining the budget contents and the pledging process where we hope to answer all your questions.

Then on March 17 we will actually complete our pledge sheets during the worship service, which will end with a grand parade as we place our individual pledges on the altar.

We will further celebrate the many

continued on p. 5

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** Get Ready for the Auction
- 1** Reimagining Stewardship
- 1** Holiday Thanks
- 2** Our Mission
- 2** How to Connect With First Parish
- 3** A Month of Sundays
- 3** Our Offering Gift
- 3** Lay Minister of the Month
- 4** Greetings from Rev. Deborah
- 4** Kudos to Karen
- 5** Nominating Committee Chat
- 5** Minister's Lunch, Alyssa Lee News
- 6** Parish Committee Report
- 7** Article II, Political Correctness
- 7** Domestic Abuse Workshop
- 8** Fission/Fusion, Dinner & Movie
- 9** Lifespan Education and SEEK
- 10** Pop-Up Wrap-Up, Flowers
- 11** Family Promise, What is the UUA?
- 11** Book Groups and Ongoing Events
- 12** UUUM News, Question of the Month
- 13** Jazz Concert
- 14** January Calendar



How to Connect With First Parish

Attend Sunday services and other events: Come in person, or when available, attend via Zoom. 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 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.

January is the Month of Transformation. It's a new year and time to reflect on what you may want to let go of and what you may want to embrace and let into your life. Join us for these inspiring services.

January 7
Meaning Matters Sunday
For All Generations
 "Letting Go and Letting In"
 Rev. Deborah Bennett and Kate Holland

January 14
 "But I Am a Good Person"
 An MLK Jr. Weekend Reflection
 Rev. Deborah Bennett

January 21
 "Hard Conversations"
 Rev. Deborah Bennett

January 28
 "From the Inside Out"
 Rev. Deborah Bennett

January's Lay Minister

January's Lay Minister is Kathie Schmidt. Contact Kathie 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](#).

January Theme:

The Gift of Transformation

Our Offering Gifts:
Unitarian Universalist
Urban Ministry

On January 7 and 28, half the Sunday collection will be donated to the [Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry \(UUUM\)](#), a non-sectarian, non-profit social justice organization that has its offices at the historic First Church in Roxbury — a Boston landmark.

The UUUM works across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture and to advance racial, social, and economic justice.

What If It Snows?



photo by Judy Carly

If snow or icy conditions force us to cancel Sunday service or other events, find out here:

- > Our website, www.uuwayland.org
- > In a special eblast
- > In the UUSocial email group
- > In our private Facebook group



Ah, Winter. A time to go in and in and allow the beauty of transformation to begin to take hold of our souls.

When I allow myself to take my cues from nature I notice my winters seem to be much more delicious and satisfying. Nature tells us that now is the time to slow down, rest, and reflect — although I can't say for sure what the squirrels and beavers do inside their winter homes, I like to imagine them recounting stories from the year behind them and reflecting on what is ahead.

This is that time of year when I spend time paging through last year's calendar book — yes I still use a paper calendar.

I find it an incredibly informative meditation to allow the emotions of the previous year to wash over me as I consider how I spent my time, what entered my world unexpectedly and what plans were lived as hoped for. In this meditation I breathe and pull my focus inward as I notice what events continue to reverberate in my heart, what memories continue to enliven me and which emotions arise that I am tempted to resist or push away.

We live busy lives. I for one am very guilty of filling my days with things to do, places to go and people to see. But perhaps, just perhaps as we allow the year to transform into a new one, we can take nature's cue and allow ourselves to be transformed by the passage of time and, without resisting, embrace the beautiful gift that is this mysterious thing called life.

Allow me to share one of my favorite poems about transformation by one of my favorite transformational poetry poets, Dana Faulds. This one is titled, "Go In and In."

*Perhaps as we allow
the year to transform
into a new one, we
can take nature's cue
and allow ourselves
to be transformed by
the passage of time...*

January: A Month of Transformation

*Go in and in.
Be the space between two cells,
the vast, resounding
silence in which
spirit dwells.
Be sugar dissolving
on the tongue of life.
Dive in and in,
as deep as you can dive.
Be infinite, ecstatic truth.
Be love conceived and born in union.
Be exactly what you seek,
the Beloved, singing Yes,
tasting Yes, embracing Yes,
until there is only essence;
the All of Everything
expressing through you
as you. Go in and in
and turn away from
nothing that you find.*

In Light and with Love,

Rev. Deborah

Kudos to Karen!

Did you know that this church year marks Karen Plaskon's fifth anniversary as Parish Administrator here at First Parish?



So many of us rely on Karen for the successful operation of the church. Do you have a question about any administrative issue? Karen is ready with a cheerful, helpful response.

*Karen Plaskon,
Keeper of Knowledge*

Please take a minute to thank Karen for her five years with us. May there be many more!

Come Chat With the Nominating Committee

*Sunday, Jan. 7, 11:00 a.m.
Sunroom and on Zoom*

Hello and Happy New Year! Your Nominating Committee has begun its work! If you are personally interested in learning more about leadership opportunities at First Parish, or can refer us to someone you think might be a good candidate for a particular role, we invite you to be in touch with any of us. We would be very happy to have a discussion with you about such opportunities.

The Nominating Committee of First Parish is charged with identifying candidates for positions outlined in our bylaws, including:

- Members of the Parish Committee (our governing board), including the Clerk and Treasurer
- Moderator
- Trustees of our endowment, known as the East Sudbury Ministerial Fund

To provide an additional opportunity for exploration of leadership and volunteer opportunities at First Parish, the Nominating Committee will host an informal drop-in session after the service on January 7 in the Sunroom, or via Zoom. The Zoom link will be in the weekly eblast on Thursday, Jan. 4, or you may contact the office.

At First Parish, we need many people to hop in and help!

The Nominating Committee
Leah Levine (Chair), Jim Kitendaugh, Lynne Lipcon, and Kathie Schmidt

Soon to Be Rev. Alyssa Lee

The UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee met on December 1. As a result, our recent Ministerial Intern, Alyssa Lee, is now a fully approved Unitarian Universalist minister!



Alyssa and Eric Lee with their son, George

Congratulations to Alyssa, to the Intern Committee, and to all of us because we helped her develop and deepen her ministerial skills. Alyssa will be in search of a settled ministry this spring, and we wish her the best with that effort. She plans to hold her ordination ceremony at her home congregation in Oklahoma because that is where she developed her love of Unitarian Universalism. The ordination will probably occur next fall and she will share the details with us as those plans firm up.

Minister's Lunch

Thursday, Jan. 4, 11:30 a.m.

Gather for soup, salad, and good company and conversation in the Sunroom. RSVPs to ministerslunch@uuwayland.org are appreciated but not required. Join us!



Stewardship, continued from p. 1

ways we each sustain our congregation with a brunch after the service. Much more information will be coming next month, and we hope that you are as excited as we are to experiment with a more joyous Stewardship Season!

Your 2024 Stewardship Squad:
Larry Green and Laurel Whitehouse

The New Year Brings Opportunities to Consider Change

In our December meeting, the Parish Committee paused from attending to the traditional aspects of congregational affairs to consider multiple exciting areas of experimentation and opportunity.

Staff Appreciation: Our first priority before delving into these new areas was to recognize our entire staff for their extraordinary talents and the energy and attention they lavish on ensuring that the worship experience, the pursuit of spiritual deepening for all ages, the care of our young ones, the hundreds of administrative and financial details, and the spirit of community all continue to thrive here at First Parish in Wayland. Well done, staff!

The upcoming **Stewardship Season** was discussed (see article on p. 1). The Parish Committee is hoping to re-energize stewardship and make it a time that the congregation looks forward to each March. Much will change about the way we approach this fundraising effort, but remaining constant will be the ongoing outpouring of gifts and the willingness to be involved that the congregation offers throughout the year in support of the mission and goals of this community.

This is an exciting time for all of us as we navigate this interim time.

Susie Keyes from the Building Committee presented the **Five Year Plan for building maintenance** and repairs. This document represents an amazing level of institutional knowledge and deep thoughtfulness contributed by both Building Committee members and our Trustees. While the scope of the work needed is huge, the plan offers a path toward achieving astonishing results over the next few years.

A Visioning Project presentation on the progress made in scoping out the goals and needs of a **Sanctuary Assessment** effort was made by the Visioning Implementation Team of Rev. Deborah Pope-Lance, Jay Woodruff and Roger Horine. The goals of this Visioning Project include enabling greater physical accessibility and creating more space for musicians and other worship participants. The team emphasized that this effort is in a very preliminary stage of gather-

ing information to help clarify desired goals. The next steps planned by the team are to involve the entire congregation in examining the current space to understand structural and design elements that need to be preserved, while imagining modifications that would better meet worship needs and improve physical accessibility for speakers and performers.

Interim Systems Assessment is part of the process of self-discovery congregations undertake during the interim time. The Rev. Dr. Thandeka said "Pause is where transformation is possible." Rev. Deborah Bennett has developed an Interim Assessment Report based on input received from Parish Committee members, the Transitions Team, and our staff, plus her own observations. This document is a compelling distillation of our current strengths and areas for attention as we begin to gather our hopes and priorities for selecting our next settled minister.

The Parish Committee reviewed the second draft of this beautifully crafted document and the proposed projects to streamline current internal systems, clarify who we are, and improve our appeal as a congregation. This is an exciting time for all of us here at First Parish in Wayland as we navigate this interim time and work together on programming for the next two years, evolving and deepening the congregational vision of what is possible for our future together, and calling a new minister who will help us thrive into the future.

The Parish Committee wishes everyone a happy and healthy 2024!

*Laurel Whitehouse
For the Parish Committee*

2023–2024 Parish Committee: Lea Anderson (Chair), Chris Cullen (Treasurer), Larry Green, Jim Grumbach, Barbara Heffner, Nan Jahnke (Clerk), Nathalie Thompson (Vice Chair), Laurel Whitehouse, Jada Williams, Jay Woodruff

Article II Discussion Group
Wednesdays, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 17, 24, 31 and Feb. 7
On Zoom

Ready to explore the proposed changes to Article II of the UUA by-laws? Article II is the part of the by-laws that defines the purposes of the UUA as well as the inspirations and values held by Unitarian Universalists. This is a vital discussion as the changes will be voted on at the UU General Assembly in June. Your opinion will inform the votes of the delegates from First Parish in Wayland. In addition this is a wonderful way to dive deeper into UUism and to get to know your fellow congregants.



Note: Registering for Jan 17 registers you for all four sessions. Please do not register if you can not commit to attending at least 3 of the 4 sessions. The Zoom link will be sent to you prior to our first session. Register [HERE](#) for the on-line Article II Discussion Group.

Domestic Abuse/Coercive Control Workshop
Sunday, Jan. 7, 2 - 4 p.m.

Learn more about this important topic: how to identify the signs, and what steps to take to support friends, family members, and others, without further endangering them. Sponsored by Wayland's Human Rights, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

In-Person Location: In the Vestry at First Parish
 Here is the link to the Domestic Abuse Workshop event:
<https://fb.me/e/1MRLAWYim>

If possible, please RSVP through Facebook Events or email: mborkowski@wayland.ma.us Please attend even if you are unable to RSVP!

Let's Talk About....
Political Correctness
Tuesday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.
on Zoom
or
Thursday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.
in Person

Join us as we explore a variety of difficult topics in this discussion series, "Let's Talk About...". In our time together we will experiment with listening deeply to each other even as we hold potentially differing opinions.



For the first topic in this conversation series we will explore the idea of 'political correctness.' What does that term mean to you? How do you handle having conversations when you feel your

opinion may not be 'politically correct' or when you feel the person you are speaking to may react negatively to your opinion? Are there opinions that are simply 'correct' and others that are not? In today's polarized world is it possible to be in the middle? And what about humor — how has the humor you use or find funny changed over the years?

So much to explore. Register [HERE](#) for this In-Person Discussion on Thursday, Jan. 25 or [HERE](#) for the on-line discussion Tuesday January 23.

Note: *Each topic will be a stand-alone session. If you cannot attend the January topic, keep an eye out for February's topic and dates.*

Image: Krakenimages, on Unsplash

Can New Fission/Fusion Technologies Help Fight Climate Change?

Jan. 23, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Presented by MetroWest Climate Solutions

Currently, the U.S. generates about 60% of its electricity from fossil fuels, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The U.S. aims to transition away from these carbon-emitting fuels by 2035, which will require a significant increase in sources of clean energy. Currently, renewables (wind, hydropower and solar) generate about 21% of our electricity, while fission nuclear plants generate 18%.



Many experts believe that nuclear technologies could be important tools in our transition to a clean-energy future. Others are wary, expressing concerns about safety and waste disposal issues.

Our speakers will compare and contrast fusion and fission technologies, so that listeners can come to their own conclusions about the use of these technologies in addressing climate change.

David Butz is a Steering Committee member of [Eco-Nuclear Solutions](#), which advocates for ecological, safe, carbon-free energy. He is a design engineer and environmentalist who has been assessing the energy generation and pollution problem for over 50 years. He will discuss why nuclear fission is now a mature, practical, and safe means of generating clean and dependable base-load electrical power.

Aina Lagor is the development officer for [Energy for the Common Good](#), which prepares leaders in energy, environmental regulation, and policy to be ready to implement safe, non-carbon innovations as soon as they are available. She is an advocate for equitable fusion nuclear energy for generating electricity. Aina will give an overview of fusion nuclear energy, what it is, where it stands today, and when it is expected to support the grid in the future.

Moderator: **Ross Trimby** earned a Master's degree in Solid State Physics from Cornell and attended the U.S. Navy Nuclear Power School. He qualified as a Reactor Plant Operator and then served as an engineering watch officer on a nuclear sub for three years.

To register for this free event, visit metrowestclimatesolutions.org.

Dinner and a Movie for Adults: Casa Susanna Friday, Jan. 19 Vestry

Join the Welcoming Committee for a screening of the PBS American Experience documentary [Casa Susanna](#).

Arrive at 6:00 p.m. with a main or side dish to share in a potluck dinner, or arrive at 7:00 p.m. for just the film and discussion afterwards. *Casa Susanna* tells the story of a refuge in the Catskills that sheltered transgender women and cross-dressing men to live as their true selves in the 1950s and 60s.



At movie time, enjoy theater-style popcorn or a sweet treat from the "Give As You Choose" snack bar, where 100% of funds raised will be donated to [OUT Metrowest](#) in support of their work helping LGBTQIA+ youth in our communities.

With an 86% critic approval rating on *Rotten Tomatoes*, this film is not one to be missed. *The Guardian* calls it "incredibly moving," *indieWire* says watching it feels like "unearthing a precious treasure," and the *Hollywood Reporter* calls it "complex and riveting."



I love the holidays. Despite the hectic pace, there are so many small moments that make them special. I also feel like January is a big cleansing that lets us start a new fresh chapter.

To start off the new year, Rev. Deborah and I have put our heads together and come up with some great programming for both adult religious education and multigenerational events. In the coming year we will be offering:

- Another round of Article 2 discussions. If you didn't get to join the discussion last year you have another chance.
- Ginny Steel will be offering a class using the book "God is Not One, The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World -and Why Their Differences Matter" to guide discussions on the eight religions in the book.
- We will be starting a new program called "Let's Talk About...". We will gather in hopes of having some conversation on topics that can sometimes be uncomfortable. We hope that you will come with respect and curiosity for other perspectives as you share your own questions and thoughts.
- Movie nights to watch some topical movies together with a discussion afterwards.
- Spaghetti nights for all ages will continue with fun activities (Bingo, valentine-making and more) to go along with our meal together.
- Book club will continue the second Tuesday of each month.
- To explore our theme for the year "What does it mean to be UU?" we will be offering a four-week class on writing your own credo statements. Folks who want to can present their credos during a service in May, though you are not required to do this to take the class.

We will have even more offerings in the coming year so keep your eyes open for what is coming up! If you have a program you would like to see offered or if you have a program you would like to offer please reach out and let me know.

On December 17 our 5th graders continued their OWL class. They will be meeting from 8 to 9:45 a.m. throughout January and March. If there is interest in doing a 4th through 6th grade OWL next year, please let me know so we can evaluate if we have enough children to run the class.

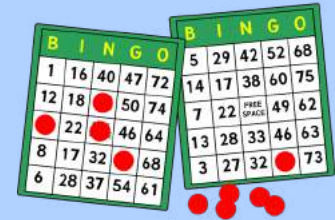
Kate Holland
Director of Lifespan Education

Embrace Some New Opportunities in the New Year

Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo

Friday, Jan. 5, 6:00 p.m.

Join [Kate Holland](#) for spaghetti and a spirited round of Bingo. Fabulous prizes for young and old. C'mon, join the fun!



SEEK Classes This Month

January 7

We will participate in Meaning Matters Sunday. We will talk about starting a new year and new things as we enter 2024.

January 14

On this MLK weekend we will explore how the civil rights movement started to transform the rights of people of color.

January 21

We will continue to explore transformation by observing things that transform through the lens of science.

January 28

We will finish up the monthly theme by talking about the transformative power of love.

January 7, 21, 28 Our Whole Lives (OWL) class will be running from 8 to 9:45 a.m. for 5th graders and up.

Holiday Pop-Up Wrap-Up

Our Holiday Pop-Up Sale on Dec. 2 and 3 proved a fun event for volunteers socializing during set-up and a productive event for the participating fair trade and nonprofit organizations. The Kids' Shop, held in the transformed, dazzling nursery space, was especially popular, with small shoppers proudly selecting gifts for loved ones. (Thank you Kate!)



The Holiday Pop-Up Sale met the needs of shoppers and sellers alike.

The following organizations sold handmade items supporting marginalized women and children, including:

Our own Uganda Project
[Project Have Hope](#) from Uganda
[Under the Same Moon](#) from Guatemala
[Rift Valley Women's Group](#) from Tanzania
[Sewing Seeds for Hope](#), for Afghan Women artisans

Our Equal Exchange project, which supports small farmers around the world, sold fair trade coffees, teas, chocolates and nuts.

Our sale of holiday décor, plants, and the Kids' Shop generated \$610 for First Parish, the Equal Exchange table raised \$500, and the other nonprofits raised more than \$5000, doubling last year's total.

The event proved a good opportunity to reach out to our local community, while improving the global community, as expressed by our sixth principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

Warm thanks to all who volunteered during the week, who staffed on the day of the sale, and who helped tidy up on Sunday.

Deb Stubeda, Suzanne Tiberii, and Barb Heffner

Sunday Flowers

Honor someone or something special with a flower donation that will grace the Sanctuary during a Sunday service; your donation will be noted in the Order of Service.

To reserve your date, [sign up online](#), email or call Suzanne Woodruff or Rita Anderson, or sign up on the paper schedule in the Vestry. Thank you!



Wishing all a Happy,
 Healthy, Fulfilling
 2024!



The Need for Help is Unprecedented

It's 2024! So out with the old...in with the new — really?

First Parish is entering its 16th year of partnership with Family Promise Metrowest (FPM), renewing our commitment as volunteers and financial supporters of FPM. Our next shelter week will be in early February.



According to FPM:

The Current Need for Homeless Services is Unprecedented

Over the last 15 years, we've served over 1,550 families and nearly 1,000 children, providing support and resources needed during challenging times. In 2008, your support allowed us to assist 2 families and 7 children. Remarkably, this year, we've already served 114 families and 174 children, a testament to the growing impact of our collective efforts in helping those families that need us most.

Thank you for recognizing First Parish's commitment by donating the collection plates from both of our Christmas Eve services to Family Promise.

Stay tuned for monthly Unitarian updates on this continually challenging topic during this new year.

Lois Doerr



What is the UUA? Sunday, Jan. 21, 11:30 a.m. With the UUA's Evin Carvill-Ziemer In the Sanctuary

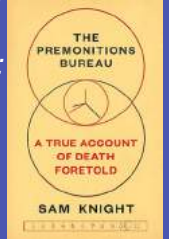
Did you know that First Parish in Wayland is part of a large association of UU congregations with an organizing body called the Unitarian Universalist Association? Have you ever wondered how the relationship between congregations and the UUA works or what it offers First Parish and how you can get involved? Do you have questions about the current direction of Unitarian Universalism?

Join our UUA regional lead, Evin Carvill-Ziemer, for this opportunity to ask questions and learn more about this vital organization and its relationship with First Parish!

Men's Book Club

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

Join us as we discuss *The Premonitions Bureau: A True Account of Death Foretold*, by Sam Knight. All who identify as male are welcome. Questions? Contact Keith Sims.



First Parish Book Club

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Join together on Zoom to discuss *Under the Whispering Door* by Tj Klune. Questions? Contact [Kate Holland](#).



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.

January News from the UU Urban Ministry

UUUM's Roxbury Artist Amplification Project

You are invited to browse through this [artist directory](#) featuring the works of 15 independent local artists of color. The new edition features selected works by the artists and links to their respective websites. Offerings include clothing and jewelry, art prints and sculpture, and books and stationery. Even though the holidays are over, this resource is a treasure trove for the entire year. Happy browsing!



David Harris

Community Conversations: "The Right to Stay" with David Harris on Tuesday, January 16, 6 - 7:00 p.m. [online](#). The UU Urban Ministry presents the third in this year's Community Conversations series on how housing has contributed to racial inequity, especially in Boston – and the rights for people to stay in their homes.

David Harris recently retired as Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice. He is a lecturer at Harvard Law School and is former President of the Board of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and longtime chair of the Medford Human Rights Commission. He currently chairs the Massachusetts Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

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

Lea Anderson



In December, artist and First Parish member Janice Corkin Rudolf (left) spent a Sunday morning in the SEEK program, along with educator Ginny Steel (right), talking with children about nature and making clay sculptures.



Question of the Month from the Office

How Do I Get a Meeting or Event Scheduled?

Happy 2024!! Our building is in high demand these days! First Parish groups, co-sponsored events and renters have been busy in the building.



Karen Plaskon

The BEST way to schedule a meeting or event is to start with our website calendar page: <https://www.uuwayland.org/first-parish-calendar/>. Take a look at the calendar for available dates, then fill out the form on that page, or contact me directly. The form has all the relevant questions (dates, times, specific room request, Zoom room request and other requirements).

Also, please remember to clean up after your meeting or event. The cleaners only come once a week, unless we make special arrangements, and others are likely to use the space after you.

Contact me (office@uuwayland.org, 508-358-6133) if you have any questions.

The Arts Wayland Jazz Series brings Berklee Faculty performances under the direction of its artistic director, Neil Olmstead, Professor, Berklee College of Music

Arts Wayland, in association with First Parish in Wayland, is thrilled to present

Mix Up Mix Up

Sunday, January 28, 2024 | 3:00 P.M.

First Parish in Wayland | 225 Boston Post Road, Wayland

\$15 | Online tickets: artswayland.com



Pianist/keyboardist, singer, composer, arranger Matt Jenson lights up the connection between roots-reggae and soul-jazz with his Mix Up Mix Up band. The group presents original compositions and creative re-workings of pop, jazz and reggae anthems by Bob Marley, Duke Ellington, Thelonius Monk, Marvin Gaye, George Gershwin, Chopin and more. The pure joy communicated between band members combined with their love of and deep experience with these styles results in a unique stylistic mash-up that immediately delights audiences of all ages.

Nathan Sabanayagam - drums, Nate Edgar - bass, Van Martin - guitar and Matt Jenson - piano/vocals.

Buy your tickets today before they sell out: www.artswayland.com.



Art Exhibits | Music | Classes | Performances | Community

Arts Wayland Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Open to all communities, visit website: www.artswayland.com

January

- 4** **Minister's Lunch**
Thurs., Jan. 4, 11:30 a.m., p. 5
- 4** **Men's Book Group**
Thurs., Jan. 4, 8:00 p.m., p. 11
- 5** **Spaghetti and Bingo**
Friday, Jan. 5, 6 p.m., p. 9
- 7** **Nominating Committee Chat**
Sunday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m., p. 5
- 7** **Domestic Abuse Workshop**
Sunday, Jan. 7, 2 p.m., p. 7
- 9** **First Parish Book Club**
Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., p. 11
- 16** **UUUM Community Conversation**
Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6:00 p.m., p. 12
- 17** **Article II Discussion**
Wednesdays, Jan. 17, 24, 31, and Feb. 7
7 p.m., p. 7
- 19** **Dinner and a Movie**
Friday, Jan. 19, 6 and 7 p.m., p. 8
- 21** **What is the UUA?**
Sunday, Jan. 21, 11:30 a.m., p. 11
- 23** **Let's Talk About Political Correctness, online**
Tuesday, Jan. 23, 7:00 p.m., p. 7
- 25** **Let's Talk About Political Correctness, in person**
Thursday, Jan. 25, 7:00 p.m., p. 7
- 28** **Jazz Concert**
Sunday, Jan. 28, 3 p.m., p. 13

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. Deborah Bennett](#), Interim Minister
The Rev. Dr. [Deborah Pope-Lance](#), Affiliate Minister

Our Staff

[Kate Holland](#), Director of Lifespan Education
[Polly Oliver](#), Music Director and Organist
[Karen Plaskon](#), Parish Administrator
[Leo Monzon](#), Bookkeeper
Deirdre Neylon, SEEK Teacher
Chris Bracken, 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!



FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST