

THE WAYLAND UNITARIAN

FEBRUARY 2024



FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

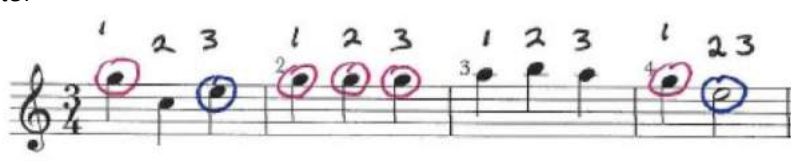
Kids Invited to Play with Adult Bell Choir

Hey kids! If you have some music-reading experience and are interested, you are invited to play with the adult Bell Choir for the service on March 17, 2024.



As part of the *Time for All Ages*, we will play an arrangement of “El Coqui,” a Puerto Rican song about the coqui, which is a tiny tree frog about one inch long that sings all night from dusk to dawn.

The music part will look like the picture below with the bell part circled for each bell ringer in the same way that we mark our adult bell choir parts.



For example, if you had the two bells “E” and G,” you would hold the “E” bell in your left hand and the “G” bell in your right hand. As shown in the picture above, the notes for the “E” bell are circled in blue and the notes for the “G” bell are circled in red, and you would ring the bells on the beats shown above the circled notes.

If you think you can do this and would like to try, we’d love to have you join us! We’ll be using the bronze-colored single ring children’s bells for this and you’ll be able to have them at home to practice. Parents are also welcome to participate – the more the merrier!



Parents and children learned bells together for a Christmas Eve service

You would need to come to some of the adult bell choir rehearsals as well as to the service on March 17:

- You would need to come to at least two of these rehearsals — Saturday, Feb. 24, March 2, and March 9, 10:00-10:30 a.m.
- You would need to be at the rehearsal on Saturday, March 16, 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Interested? To sign up, or for more information, contact Linda Murdock (murdock@bandnotes.info). Please let Linda know **no later than Feb. 15** if you would like to participate.

Stewardship Suppers (and Brunches!) Return in February

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 for so many pre-Covid years.

We are bringing back those happy gatherings in late February with small groups meeting in people’s homes for dinners and, new this year, some brunches. These leisurely meals will not involve fundraising, only time to spend chatting, connecting and deepening community.

Hosts will provide the venue and beverages; guests will bring the food. Once the sign-up process is over and each guest list is complete, hosts will contact their guests to begin coordinating who will bring what to share.

For more on Stewardship, see p. 12.

RSVP

Please **RSVP here** if you would like to attend or host. Questions?
Email stewardship@uwayland.org

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.

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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.

February 4
Meaning Matters Sunday
For All Generations
“Justice, Equity and UU”
Rev. Deborah Bennett

February 11
Women Rising:
Justice, Equity and Claiming Space
Rev. Deborah Bennett

February 18
“The Way is Long:
A Communion Service for the Activist Heart”
Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, UUUM

February 25
“The Practice of Solidarity:
An Invitation to Be Fully Human”
Claire Muller, UU Mass Action

February’s Lay Minister

February’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](#).

February Theme:

*The Gifts of
Justice and Equity*

Our Offering Gifts: UU Mass Action

On February 4 and 25, half the Sunday collection will be donated to [UU Mass Action](#), whose mission is to organize and mobilize UUs in Massachusetts to confront oppression.

UU Mass Action provides pathways toward justice and identifies opportunities in which we can live our shared values.

What If It Snows?



photo by Judy Canty

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

Stay warm and safe this winter!



Can Justice and Equity Work Warm Our World?

The passing of time is one of the most intriguing parts of life to me. As I sit to write this month's Unitarian article I gaze out my window to a world blanketed by snow and ice, the air thin and crisp with temperatures that threaten to do harm if we

linger among them too long. And yet underneath all of that is the stirring of spring. Are you noticing the longer days, too? And the way the sun lifts itself above the horizon ever more slightly each week? I love a good sunny winter day — the promise of things to come.

At times it can feel like we live in a perpetual freeze with the ongoing attacks on democracy, personal freedom, and justice.

Sometimes I think of the justice and equity work we do in our congregations as that winter sun: hopeful, purposeful, and yet not fully realized. At times it can feel like we live in a perpetual winter freeze with the ongoing attacks on democracy, personal freedom, and justice. The cold freeze of hate threatens real and permanent harm if we "linger among it for too long." I try to maintain a sense of hope and trust in the human spirit to rise above hate; some days are easier than others. Being part of a UU congregation helps. We may not be perfect but we, as a faith and as First Parish in Wayland folk, endeavor daily to put our values in action and make a difference in the world — spreading love and fighting injustice.

This month we will take a deep dive into the themes of Justice and Equity as guiding values of our faith. We will begin the month exploring the role of justice and equity in our UU values during our Meaning Matters Sunday. After service you will have the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes to Article II of the UUA by-laws, which declares the values of UUism and the purposes of the UUA.

In addition, two amazing speakers will join us this month: Mary Margaret Earl from the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry will join us on February 18 to lead us in *A Communion Service for the Activist Heart*. Then on February 25, Claire Muller who works with UU Mass Action will preach about the work of justice by UUs in Massachusetts. It will be a full month indeed. I hope you can join us often.

And I hope you are finding lots of room for fun during these cold winter days. Your FPW senior staff took a moment to bond and find "room" for fun. Tasked with the mission to find a stolen Monet at an art museum, we braved three rooms, hidden clues, secret codes, locked doors, and elephant tusks but finally we succeeded and the world was made right again!

If you are wondering what in the world I am talking about I highly recommend a trip to "The Escape Game" in Dedham or any other escape room you can find.

In Light and with Love,

Rev. Deborah



Lots of Interesting Reading

Greetings First Parish members and friends,

It has been a very full first five months of interim ministry and I want to share with you some of the work that is being done by your Transition Team, Parish Committee, and staff.

Last fall I invited these leaders to engage in an assessment process looking at the operating systems and ministries of the congregation. The intention was to explore which areas of the congregation were functioning well and which areas could benefit from more focus during the interim period.



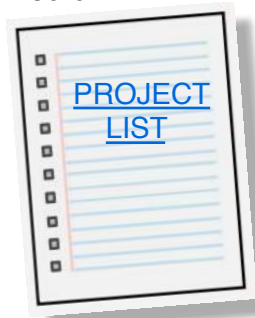
After gathering their input, reviewing it with them, and making my own observations, I created a Systems Assessment Report with a list of proposed projects. Members of the Parish Committee and Transition team have each volunteered to work on these proposed projects. Of course your input and support is always welcome as well!

Here are links to several documents:

For a quick read, check out:



If you would like to see the list of projects being worked on:



If you have a pot of coffee or tea at the ready and would like to explore the entire 25-page report:



If you have any questions, input or concerns about the interim period work, please feel free to reach out to me: dbennett@uuwayland.org

If you would like to lend your support to any of the projects, please contact one of the project team members directly.

Rev. Deborah Bennett

Planned Giving Team: Thinking About the Future

In recent months a group of your fellow parishioners has revitalized First Parish's Planned Giving Team. What is Planned Giving? In briefest terms it is the expression of intent to bequeath cash, stocks or other assets to one or more select charities. This method of giving is distinct from Annual Giving or what we commonly refer to as Stewardship. Stewardship is the all-important yearly call for each of us to support First Parish as we are able.



Estate gifts are commonly used for building of endowments, such as the East Sudbury Ministerial Fund that provides for the maintenance of our buildings; or to fund specific projects, such as the Lydia Maria Child Fund. Such sources of income are critical for a community such as ours since our Stewardship campaign does not cover building expenses or some social action work.

In the coming weeks you will receive more information about Planned Giving and encouragement to join with us to consider an estate gift to First Parish.

We are inviting your participation as we prepare to call our next Settled Minister and will be able to show the community's deep personal commitments to our beloved spiritual home.

Jan Miner
Claire Lewis
Barbara Buell

Jim Grumbach
John Thompson

Save the Date for the Auction! Saturday, March 23

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.

If you're new to our auction, there will be items offered in an online-only portion of the auction from March 1 to March 21. Online items typically include gift certificates,

dinners hosted by your fellow parishioners, a guided hike, stays at vacation homes, theater tickets, and a car detailing. The event on March 23 will feature both a silent auction, which might include gift baskets, handcrafted items, and artwork, as well as a live auction, which will include stays at vacation homes and (fingers crossed) – premium Red Sox tickets. The evening will feature a lively musical interlude as well.

We'd welcome new ideas for auction items. Do you like to cook? Perhaps you'd like to deliver homemade soup or dinner to the home of the winner. Like to bake? Perhaps you'd like to offer your amazing chocolate mousse cake to be delivered on a date mutually agreeable with the buyer. Handy with the fabric arts? Quilts, woven goods, needlepoint, and knitted items are popular. Have lovely artwork hiding in a closet? Perhaps someone else might enjoy it. Receive a holiday gift card that's not for you? We'll take it!

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.

We promise you great food, good fun, spirited music and enticing auction items! Don't miss it!

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



Breaking news for parents: Babysitting will be provided!

Let's Talk About.... The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Monday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
on Zoom

or

Thursday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.
in Person

Although it did not begin on Oct. 7, the events of that day have changed so much. This is a difficult conversation.

How do you feel about what is unfolding in Gaza and Israel? This is a time to share our thoughts and wrestle with ideas about how we could be responding locally as well as internationally. Join the conversation.



Minister's Lunch Thursday, Feb. 1, 11:30 a.m.



Gather for soup, salad, and good company and conversation in the Sunroom. RSVPs to ministerslunch@uu

wayland.org are appreciated but not required. Join us!

Assessing Church Operations and a New Approach to Stewardship

As we move into the second month of 2024, the Parish Committee continues to take up a wide range of issues, including an effort to review where we are as a church and modifying how we carry out our stewardship efforts.

Even the best-run congregation needs a tune up now and then to remain a relevant part of our lives. In addition to the ongoing Visioning program, which has completed a small number of projects with several others underway, Rev. Deborah is working on a revised draft of a “Systems Assessment,” a report to all of us that will generate intriguing new opportunities for involvement at First Parish.

Being released to the congregation this month (see page 5), her report reviews where we are as a congregation, suggests what we might do to amplify what is going well, and offers areas that could use a little work. We think you will find the report to be prescriptive and optimistic, or as Rev. Deborah says, “a guidepost for the interim period” of her residency with First Parish. Many of the projects identified in the Assessment are already underway.

[The] report reviews where we are as a congregation, suggests what we might do to amplify what is going well, and offers areas that could use a little work.

Ministerial Search Update

We hear questions from parishioners asking what steps are being taken to look for our next settled (permanent) minister, who we hope to have in place in late summer 2025 when Rev. Deborah’s interim ministry ends. Plans are being made to find people from the congregation who would like to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee, since the settled minister search is the congregation’s responsibility. This committee represents a fairly significant time commitment, but previous committee members would tell you that being on this committee is also exciting and deeply rewarding. Keep your eyes

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

open for upcoming information. Things will get going in February!

Healthy Relations and Conflict Resolution

Unitarian Universalists share a belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and in justice, equity, and compassion in human relationships. We attract strong-minded, free thinking, and passionate people, and sometimes disagreements occur. Over the past year, a team comprising Parish Committee members Nan Jahnke, Nathalie Thompson, and Jim Grumbach, along with Ellen Dussourd, met to consider how First Parish might organize itself to be truly open to individual expression, without any one person or group threatening the healthy, respectful, and compassionate attitudes we want to maintain toward each other.

In the January Parish Committee meeting, we discussed whether First Parish would benefit from establishing a more formal way to manage disagreements. Some of us can think of events in First Parish’s past – for instance the 1990’s argument over whether First Parish should make our steeple available to accommodate cell antennas – where discussions were heated and our overall urge to preserve a sense of comity was challenged.

Should we create conflict resolution mechanisms that involve training and organization, and adopt an ongoing commitment to staff volunteers dedicated to this activity? Or should we continue to address conflict – as it arises – in much the same way we have in the past?

Discussion was lively and respectful. We decided to think on it for a few months and take it up again at a later date. Your

continued on p. 12



Going with the Flow of Music and Life

Hello, All! Watching our service on Zoom this morning, I was once again impressed with the fine caliber of substitute church musicians we have in our midst. Susan Minor's stepping in last week and James Haupt's able assistance this morning are truly gifts to our Music program. Friends of our choir, these two musicians are invaluable when adversity strikes.

To handle the musical flow for a church service is quite complicated. There is quite a bit of material to be compressed into an hour-long service and the pacing must be watched closely, from the lengths of the readings, stories, anthems, sermons and incidental music that make the services meaningful and cohesive.

I have enjoyed many years of keeping my attention on the time-flow of services, but I do remember being a young organist/choir-director and wanting, really wanting, to use extended anthems and organ works during services and being encouraged and taught by various ministers that services blossom with multi-participation...word, silence and music.

I would surmise that this is why Music Sundays have come about. A music director has a fine choir, good amateur soloists and instrumentalists who should be encouraged to take part in church services. What better way than for the director of music to research smaller major works that can include their talents?

This year is flying past. Already Easter and Palm Sunday are looming on the horizon. Three years ago, just as the Covid pandemic was upon us, the choir and I had picked out a major work for Palm Sunday but it was not possible to get together to prepare it. This was the Mozart *Coronation Mass*. Because we couldn't go ahead with this splendid work three years ago, we had hoped to present it this year. But time may not be on our side. Easter is early this year, so we may be changing our musical direction and presenting a slightly smaller musical offering: The Vivaldi *Gloria* paired with *Spring* from Vivaldi's *The Seasons*.

Please watch for more on this topic in the next newsletter!

Polly Oliver, Music Director

**Fellowship Dinners:
Coming to a
Table Near You
Save The Date:
Saturday, April 27, 2024**



Hosts Needed!

We're looking for people to host a Fellowship Dinner in their home.

Please let us know if you are interested in being a host by emailing [Becky Leonard](#) or filling out [this form](#).

Meanwhile we invite everyone to save the date. Signups for guests will take place starting later in February.

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.

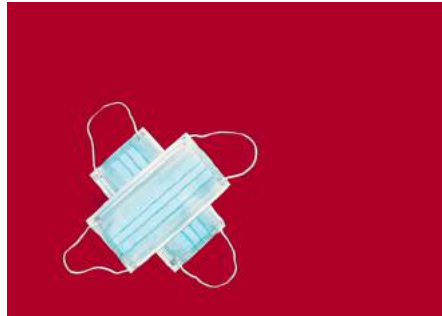


To reserve your date, [sign up online](#), email or call Suzanne Woodruff or Rita Anderson, or sign up on the paper schedule in the Vestry. Thank you!

Let's Keep Each Other Safe

The FP Health Advisory Team (HAT) met recently to review the current level of Covid risk and discuss other health-related issues. As of January 26, Middlesex County remained at the "Medium" risk level. According to the guidelines developed by the HAT and approved by the Parish Committee, this is the level at which masks are highly recommended for groups of 20 or more; and optional for groups of fewer than 20. (Up-to-date vaccinations and boosters are "expected," also according to the guidelines.)

In addition to the Covid risk, the group noted that the CDC is now tracking not only Covid, but also flu, RSV, and other respiratory illnesses. Massachusetts is now rated "High" for the incidence of these illnesses, so masking would seem to be more important and prudent than ever.



The Team discussed two other changes, with regard to Sunday mornings:

1. Opening windows slightly in the Meetinghouse not only improves airflow generally, but also takes full advantage of the structural changes and upgrades made to the ventilation system.
2. Spreading Coffee Hour into the Commons will allow for better airflow and greater spacing for those who prefer it. (We noted that First Parish was much more cautious with Coffee Hour when we were last in Medium; we're hoping not to have to return to those further limitations, but we'll be monitoring levels closely in the coming weeks.)

Please feel free to be in touch with any member of the HAT with questions or comments.

Lynne Cavanaugh, Barb Heffner, Kate Holland, and Jim Kitendaugh

Photo by [Solen Feyissa](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Men's Book Club

*Thursday, February 1,
8 p.m. on Zoom*

Join us as we review Rachel Maddow's latest accomplishment: *Prequel, An American Fight Against Fascism*. All who identify as male are welcome. Questions? Contact Keith Sims.



First Parish Book Club

*Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.
on Zoom*

Join together on Zoom to discuss *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. The story opens with the discovery of a skeleton in a well, then flashes back to explore its connection to a town's black, Jewish and immigrant history. 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.

Want to Know What's Really Going On?



I want to share with you some of the things that happen in our SEEK and OWL classes, and in our adult and multigenerational events. We don't all get to attend or help out with everything, so I will give you a peek inside what is happening around First Parish.

SEEK classes have been so much fun. We have split up into two sections—pre-k to third graders and fourth grade and up. This year we are matching our curricula to our monthly themes. We have talked about how to be generous with our love, the meaning of Yom Kippur, transformation through the eyes of science, and many more lessons about UU values. In case you think that all we do is talk...oh no, we put our generosity in action with a diaper collection, and we do fun activities to go with our themes. We have made models of space stations, we made beautiful birds with artist Janice Corkin Rudolf, played games like “how far can you walk with a balloon stuck to your hair with static electricity” (hint: it depends on the length of your hair). The OWL class has been having thoughtful discussions on puberty, sexual health, and gender orientation.

We have been learning a lot in our adult education classes, too. We had some talks about the proposed Article II changes to the principles, and thoughtful discussions on books like *Mad Honey* and *The Color Purple*. We watched the documentary *Casa Susanna* and braved having some hard conversations together.

We have also had plenty of fun together in multiage groups enjoying Bingo, spaghetti, gingerbread house-making and dancing in our dark Sanctuary with glow sticks.

If this peek into the opportunities for fun and learning has you wanting to know more, there are several ways to get involved. If you are able to be an assistant in our SEEK classrooms, you can sign up at: [SEEK class assistant sign up](#). If you love hanging out with babies and toddlers, you can sign up at: [Nursery assistant sign up](#). If you are interested in knowing about adult programs and multiage activities, keep an eye on the eblast for upcoming events.

Kate Holland
Director of Lifespan Education



Bingo Night, January 2024

Spaghetti and Game Night Friday, Feb. 2, 6:00 p.m. In the Vestry

Join [Kate Holland](#) for an evening of fun and games and a delicious spaghetti dinner. We can play some group games like charades or Pictionary, or if group games aren't your thing, bring a board game you like and find a friend to play it with you. I hope you can join us for the fun and games!



SEEK Classes This Month

February 4: Meaning Matters Sunday

We will all meet in the Vestry to talk about how we can support justice work. We will gather in the kitchen to make a meal for the Family Promise folks.

February 11

We will start our monthly theme of Equality, Equity, and Justice by looking at the meanings and differences in the ideas of Equality and Justice.

February 18

We will look at the gifts of making better relationships in our lives.

February 25

We will look at how we and others can work to make a better world with Justice and Equity for all.

Welcoming Congregation Updates

Two Thumbs Up! Casa Susanna Potluck and Movie Night with a Cause

As you can see, there was an abundance of delicious food at the January 19 potluck prior to the showing of the film *Casa Susanna*. A “give as you choose” snack bar yielded a \$216 donation for OUT MetroWest. Almost 30 people turned out on a frosty evening to share fellowship and view the film about the lives of cross-dressing men whose gender expression included dressing in women’s clothing, which was considered illegal in the 1950s and 60s. The Casa Susanna resort in the Catskills provided a safe place for cross-dressers to bring their whole selves and live into their identities without fear. There were rich discussion circles after the movie as folks shared their reactions about the ways the film and its messages touched their hearts.



Former Wayland Transvestite/Transgender Safe House

Bringing the above topic of providing safe spaces for gender expression closer to home, the town of Wayland had a safe house at the end of Alpine Road for many years. Thanks to Linda Collins who remembered the existence of this club and found links to detailed histories of its founding, activities, challenges, and eventual relocation of its offices to Waltham.



Part of the story that charmed me was that new member screening included their calling the club from the old Wayland Library parking lot phone booth. You can read the full stories (which are lengthy but full of interesting history) here: [A Brief History of Trans Community in New England](#) (scroll to January 1982 to jump to the Wayland club) and [My Hometown’s Secret Trans Safe House](#).

Let’s Talk About ... A Conversation on Gender

Rev. Deborah and Kate Holland are offering a monthly series of congregational conversations on various topics, and March’s topic will be centered on gender. Watch for details about when and where these conversations will be held.

Laurel Whitehouse for the Welcoming Congregation Committee

Groceries and Meals in February

First Parish volunteers will be providing a week’s groceries for three shelter families on Monday, February 5 and preparing dinner for them on Wednesday, February 7. These busy young families greatly appreciate the meals and the groceries that we drop off at the Nat- ick shelter.



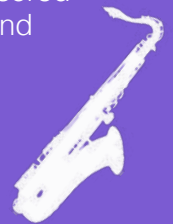
Information on volunteering with Family Promise and accessing the required online orientation can be found [here](#).

Lois Doerr

Save the Date

The next Berklee College Faculty Jazz series, under the direction of Neil Olmstead, will be on **Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 3 p.m.** More details to follow.

This event is sponsored by Arts Wayland and First Parish in Wayland.



A New Approach to Stewardship

We are experimenting with a different way of pledging this year to make the raising of necessary operating funds more transparent and meaningful. Our theme this year is **Centering Our Gifts**, which refers to the multiple ways we contribute our time, talent and treasure to First Parish – and the many gifts we receive in return for our congregational involvement.



There will be multiple opportunities to deepen our feeling of community and connection in February as we hold Stewardship Suppers/Brunches/Lunches. These events will not involve fundraising, only good food and companionship!

March 3 will officially kick off Stewardship Season with a testimonial during the worship service, followed by an information session to explain both the pledging process and the components of the annual budget. Pledge packets will be available that Sunday for those attending the information session in person, or will be mailed that week.

On March 17 we will begin by gathering and blessing our pledge forms, followed by a Celebration Brunch in honor of our ongoing commitment to sustain our congregation and preserve our campus.

Stay tuned for a season full of fellowship, community, celebration – and a few surprises! You can sign up for Stewardship Suppers/Brunches/Lunches using the link on p. 1.

Parish Committee, from p. 7

opinions on this subject are welcome.

Stewardship Season

In one sense, stewardship is what happens when people who believe in an organization come together to signal – via a monetary commitment – that First Parish is an important part of their lives. In another, stewardship is a celebration of who we are and a strong expression of our ongoing wish to maintain and sustain our congregation.

This year's stewardship chairs (and PC members), Laurel Whitehouse and Larry Green, are working to complete the pledge drive earlier this year. See their article (at left on this page) for more details. We think you will be pleasantly surprised!

*Jay Woodruff
For the Parish Committee*

Arts Wayland, in association with **FIRST PARISH**  **IN WAYLAND** *presents:*
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Music for a Sunday Afternoon

with
The Chamber Orchestra of Boston



*Sunday
February 4
3pm
First Parish
in Wayland*

Musicians from the Chamber Orchestra of Boston will warm your winter afternoon with passionate music and popular surprises!

tickets at www.artswayland.com

February News from the UU Urban Ministry

UU Urban Ministry Delegate Regional Meetings

Did you know that First Parish has two delegates to the Urban Ministry? We are Susan Crowley-Bechtel and Lea Anderson. Along with past, present, and potential volunteers, we are invited to attend a session with Rev. Mary Margaret Earl and members of the UUUM Team to discuss how we can work together in new and meaningful ways in 2024 and beyond. If you are interested in attending one of these meetings, please contact Lea or Susan.

Dates & Locations

1. Thursday, February 8 (11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) at UU Society of Wellesley Hills
2. Thursday, February 15 (5:30 -7:00 p.m.) at UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury
3. Tuesday, February 20 (11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) at First Parish in Lexington

Community Conversations: “Restorative Homeownership” with Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna and Maria Latimore
Tuesday, February 13, 6:00-7:00 p.m. [online](#).

The UU Urban Ministry presents the fourth 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.

Dr. Estrella-Luna is the principal and owner of StarLuna Consulting. She is a researcher, educator, advocate, and consultant focusing on issues related to social justice, social resilience, and democratic governance. She is a member of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee for the US Commission on Civil Rights.

Maria Latimore is an organizational development consultant. As the project director for Homes for Equity, Maria is leading a team to design and implement an innovative affordable housing initiative in Boston.

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

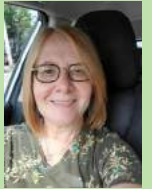
Lea Anderson and Susan Crowley-Bechtel



*Neenah Estrella-Luna (top) and
Maria Latimore*

Question of the Month from the Office How Do I Buy Something for First Parish?

Do you need to purchase something for a First Parish committee? Maybe food for a meeting? Supplies for the building? Something special for a committee sponsored event?



Karen Plaskon

There are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- You should not pay sales tax. FP has a state tax exempt number (and an official form.) Stop by the office or drop me an email for the info you need.
- If it’s a small amount and can be ordered online, I can order it from the office and put it on our credit card. Please send a link to the item, if possible. We already have a tax exempt account with Amazon, Staples and a few other places.
- If it’s a very large amount, see if they can invoice us.
- If you can/want to pay for it, please fill out a form and we’ll reimburse you. You can pick up a reimbursement form outside the office or from the member’s page on the website (www.uuwayland.org/forms-and-downloads/). Please be sure to get the correct account number from the committee authorizing the purchase.

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

Karen Plaskon

February

- 1** Minister's Lunch
Thurs., Feb. 1, 11:30 a.m., p. 6
- 1** Men's Book Group
Thurs., Feb. 1, 8:00 p.m., p. 9
- 2** Spaghetti and Bingo
Friday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m., p. 11
- 4** Uganda Project Celebration Coffee Hour
Sunday, Feb. 4, 11 a.m.
- 4** Article II Discussion
Sunday, Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m.
- 4** Classical Concert
Sunday, Feb. 4, 3 p.m., p. 12
- 12** Let's Talk About...Israel and Palestine
Monday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m., Zoom, p. 6
- 13** First Parish Book Club
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., p. 9
- 13** UUUM Community Conversation
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6:00 p.m., p. 13
- 15** Let's Talk About...Israel and Palestine
Thursday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., In Person, p. 6

Happy Valentine's Day!



Celebrate love.

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!