The Wayland Unitarian

November 2026

Many Ways to Be In Community

First Parish brings us together in lots of different ways — for worship, for fun, and to work together for a better world.

Clockwise from upper left: Rev. Lauren and parishioners marched in the Wayland Festival Parade. Creative kids made rainbow scarecrows to grace our front lawn. Parishioners stood up for democracy and bore witness at ICE facilities. Folks had fun eating spooky spaghetti together and making Halloween crafts.

FIRST PARISH IN WAYLAND
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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.

Let's Connect!

- **Join us for Sunday services** and other events in person, or when available, via Zoom. Zoom links 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 Facebook and Instagram**: Contact the office to join our private Facebook group.
- **Join our email listserv**: Looking for a plumber? Wondering where to find a great bagel? Our congregation is a friendly and useful resource for all sorts of things. Contact the office to sign up.

In This Issue

1 Being in Community
2 Our Mission, Ways to Connect
3 Sundays, Sharing Our Offering, Inclement Weather
4 Minister's Message
5 From the Parish Committee, Sunday Flowers
6 Post-Election Gatherings, Harvest Dinner
7 Jazz Concert, Mom's Night Out, Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil
8 From our Director of Religious Exploration
9 Honey Sale, Soup Sunday, Art in the Narthex
10 Regular Events: Minister's Lunch, Men's Book Club, First Parish Book Club, Meditation, Creating Connections
11 Undecorate the Tree
12 Update on Casa, Volunteer Opportunities
13 Bell and Clock Update, Solar Energy Help
14 Social Action, Music Opportunities
15 Family Promise Update
16 UUUM Update, Holiday Pop-Up
16 Office Questions, Idea Box, Retirement Giving
17 November Events

December Unitarian Deadline: November 20, 2026

Please Note that we do not list parishioners' personal email addresses in the *Unitarian*. If you need contact information, contact the office at 508-358-6133 or office@uuwayland.org to access the member directory.

Sundays and Worship

A Month of Sundays

The morning worship service begins at 10 a.m.

November 1
Rev. Lauren Smith
"They Are With Us Still"
Multigenerational Service
NO SEEK Class

November 8
Rev. Lauren Smith
"The Things They Carried"
SEEK Class

November 15
Jay Pacitti
"Don't Look Down"
SEEK Class

November 22
Rev. Lauren Smith
"Grace and Gratitude"
SEEK Class

November 29
Rev. Lauren Smith
"Stick Season"
SEEK Class

November's Lay Minister:
Julia Kenney

Lay Ministers assist the minister and support the community. Contact the Lay Minister if you need a ride, a meal, a friendly, confidential visit, or a chat. 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. Since The Unitarian is posted on our website, we don't publish parishioner contact information in it.

Sharing Our Offering

Twice each month we share half our collection plate.

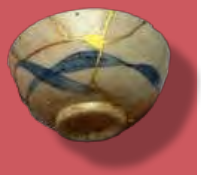
November 15
OUT MetroWest

This Framingham-based organization acts as a social hub for LGBTQ+ youth, offering programs for middle and high schoolers, elementary youth and young adults, frequent community events, and education sessions.

November 22
Somerville Homeless Coalition

SHC provides homeless indiviiduals and families with supportive services and housing solutions with a goal of obtaining and maintaining affordable housing.

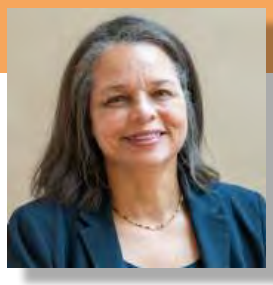
Fall Worship Theme:
Repair



Inclement Weather

To find out if Sunday service or other event plans have changed due to weather:

- Check the website (www.uuwayland.org)
- Check your email for a special e-blast
- Check your email for a Social@uuwayland.org message



Listening to Leaves

"Mom, can we turn off Pod Save America and turn on some multifoliate rustling?"

My daughter dropped that request on me when I picked her up from school a week or two ago. How could I refuse? I turned off the car stereo and rolled down the window so we could hear the sound of the wind in the trees.

The phrase "multifoliate rustling" comes from Richard Adams' classic book, *Watership Down*. I still read to my daughter at night before she goes to bed. Every once in a while a turn of phrase catches her fancy. This one probably grabbed her because she loves trees and because the words evoke the delicious sound of a breeze moving through leaves.

Like many of us, I believe this election is among the most important in my lifetime. It's an important time to lean into the political process—to learn the issues and vote if we're eligible, to knock on doors for a candidate, or contribute to an organization working to ensure free and fair elections for all. I'm so grateful to the folks who gathered in the Sunroom to write more than 1,200 postcards to potential voters in swing states, encouraging them to cast their vote. So grateful to everyone who has participated in *No Kings* events this year. There are so many ways to make a difference.

That said, it's sometimes necessary to put it all down. Action is essential, but checking the latest polls on *The New York Times* app multiple times a day doesn't do much to strengthen our democracy. It's more likely to raise your blood pressure. That's what my husband Chris tells me, and I know in my heart he's right.

When I'm tempted to check the political horse race for the umpteenth time, a little multifoliate rustling does a world of good. I lace up my running shoes, head to the woods not far from my home, and lope through the trees at a slow jog. The light, the chilly air and the occasional rain of falling leaves works wonders for my spirit.

Take care of yourselves this month, First Parish. Take time to refresh your spirits, even as you attend to the dear tasks of citizenship. Go for a walk in the woods, or sit on a sunny bench enjoying the feeling of crisp autumn air on your skin.

And remember that through it all, come what may, we have each other. Please reach out to each other if you need a ride to a polling place or want to talk through a confusing ballot question. That's what community is for!

On November 4th, the day after the election, consider stopping by church. From 8:30 to 10 a.m. Kate will host Coffee and a Chat in the Sunroom. In the evening, there will be an informal gathering from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Sunroom to celebrate and grieve after the election, to make sense of where we are and imagine what might come next. Bring a snack or a beverage to share, or just bring yourself. Most of all, it will be good to be together.

Happy fall, everyone, and see you in church!

Lauren

Supporting Every Type of Relationship with First Parish

Over the past few years, members of First Parish have done much work to understand our collective vision for its future. With the arrival of Rev. Lauren, the Parish Committee has begun thinking through the next steps of this work.

At the annual Parish Committee retreat, members talked about leaders we admire and how to bring qualities such as leaning into our values, deep listening, and celebration to bear as we take these next steps together. The energy in the room was electric as we talked about the future, and recalled to my mind both last year's stewardship theme "This is Our Moment!" and a quote recently used by Rev. Lauren during the benediction: "The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12)

The energy in the room was electric as we talked about the future.

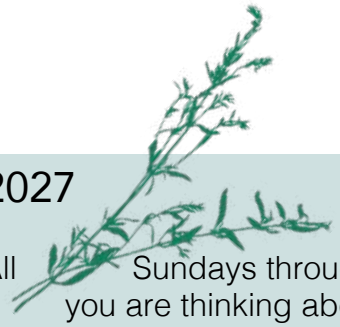
One of the Parish Committee's major pieces of business this year is hiring a staff person to facilitate engagement with both visitors and members. A small subgroup is working now on refining the job description, which should be available to share at the November Parish Committee meeting.

Related to this role and our approach to engagement, the Parish Committee has been discussing the phases of relationship people have with religious community. We have visitors entering the building for the first time, perhaps on Sunday or perhaps for an event like the Sarah McQuaid concert; we have people who may attend regularly but be unsure how to engage more deeply in the community and are searching for their personal ministry; and we have people who are deeply engaged but are moving through phases of their lives that may impact their availability. Developing the strategy for how we support and include people at all these points in relationship will empower staff and visitors/friends/members/leaders to experience the benefits that First Parish has to offer.

Where are you on your journey of relationship, and how can we help?

Cynthia Barber, for the Parish Committee

Please Consider Donating Sunday Flowers in 2027



Thank you to those who have signed up to bring or fund Sunday flowers. All Sundays through November are filled. During December we will have holiday flowers. So, if you are thinking about placing flowers in memorium or to honor a special event, think about 2027, when most dates are available.

You can bring flowers yourself, or ask the Flower Committee for help. Arrangements or plants — whether from your yard or another source — can be small, large, or in between. To sign up, find the sign-up sheet on the table in the Vestry or sign up online. If you have questions, just ask Suzanne Woodruff.

2026–2027 Parish Committee: Cynthia Barber, Laurie Bent (Clerk), Molly Faulkner, Phil Giudice, Jim Grumbach, Susie Keyes (Chair), Leah Levine, Clare Lewis (Treasurer), Jan Miner (Vice Chair), and Laurel Whitehouse

Post-Election Gatherings
Wednesday, Nov. 4

Coffee and a Chat: Election Edition

Wednesday, November 4
8:30 to 10 a.m. in the Sunroom

Usually on Fridays, this monthly gathering moves this month to Wednesday, Nov. 4 for those who might want to discuss election results (or anything else). Join Kate Holland in the Sunroom for coffee, tea, or a beverage of your choice along with something sweet. We will have a lively conversation in community.

Post-Election Gathering

Wednesday, November 4
5 to 7 p.m. in the Sunroom

Join together with Rev. Lauren for some post-election conversation on the evening after the mid-term elections. Together we can celebrate, grieve as needed, make sense of where we are, and imagine what might come next.

Bring a snack or beverage to share, or just bring yourself.

Harvest Supper: An Evening of Good Food and Fellowship

Friday, November 13, 6 p.m.

Join us for a cozy, community-filled evening at our second annual Harvest Supper!

The focus will be on fellowship as we begin the night with a potluck meal. Contributions of main dishes, sides, fruits and breads will be welcome. For dessert there will be a make-your-own brownie Sundae bar. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided, and you're welcome to BYOB.

After dinner we'll sing campfire songs together as the brownie Sundaes are constructed and consumed. We have a good lineup of song leaders already, and we'll also have an open mic for everyone of every age to belt out their best-loved childhood songs of summer.

It's a fun way to share good food and fun times while building connections. Bring your appetite, your favorite dish to share, and your voice for singing along to those old campfire songs!

Laurel Whitehouse

Arts Wayland Berklee Faculty Jazz Series

Chris Nifong Project Ensemble
Sunday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m., $20

This six-piece jazz-fusion group plays original compositions by its leader and selectively curated jazz, rock, and blues tunes. Inspired by personal experiences like a trip to Cadillac Mountain in Maine, or the end of a beautiful Vermont summer day, Chris's pieces reflect the solace of nature in combination with the intensity and fire of contemporary improvised music. The group includes bass, guitar, saxophone, drums, and First Parish's own Neil Olmstead on piano. Tickets available at artswayland.org.

Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil
Friday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

Mom's Night Out Friendsgiving Potluck
Saturday, Nov. 21, 5 p.m.

What Lessons Are We Teaching Outside the Classroom?

This is a condensed version of the sermon I gave on Sunday, October 25.

Last summer, I attended a week of workshops for religious education professionals at Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine. Part of our focus was on curriculum. I was surprised when the facilitators started by defining "the church" as the curriculum.

This idea shifted the way that I look at my work and how I viewed lessons that I learned from being a part of a church community. I went to Catholic school and church until I entered high school. The thing I remember most vividly from my very early years in church services was the "cry room" at the back of the church. It had a window to the sanctuary and the service was piped in, but kept the noise of crying babies or rambunctious children "acting up" out of the service. I spent a lot of time in the cry room as a kid. I learned some hard lessons from that experience: that church was a serious place where there was no room for noisy children of any age.

When I asked my family what they had learned while they were part of a UU church -- but not from a class or sermon -- my daughter Ashley said she learned acceptance when she came out as trans to the kids she had grown up with in her the classes on Sunday mornings. My husband said he learned skills he didn't know he had like teaching kids in a class and how to manage a committee. My son Jack said he learned that "if you ever need help you just have to ask and someone will be there to help."

Each of us learns not just from books or classrooms all the time. The world around us is always teaching us things. When people come to church, my hope is that they find friendships while they are here with both their peers and across all age groups. I hope they know that there are people that think they are important. I hope that they learn this is a place where they can laugh hard, cry hard, and think about hard questions when they need to. And, that there are people here that will share that with them.

What lessons are we teaching and learning outside the classrooms at First Parish?

Kate Holland, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

Spiritual and Ethical Exploration for Kids (SEEK) in November

November 1
Multigenerational service. Nursery only.

November 8
K - 4th grade: What is covenant? We will talk about what it is, and why it is important

5th grade and up: We will plant garlic at the Pantry Garden (weather permitting)

November 15
K - 4th grade: How do we live into a covenant?

5th grade and up: We will discuss homelessness.

November 22
K - 4th grade: What does it mean to be a covenantal faith?

5th grade and up: We will plan a winter clothing drive to benefit a homeless shelter.

November 29
All Ages Together: We will prepare soup to share with the congregation at Coffee Hour, and take up the annual challenge of how long we can make our paper chain.

The Honey Sale is Coming!

Sunday, November 22

Nan Jahnke and David Bechtel extracting honey with our new electric honey spinner.

The Bee Team's annual honey sale will be held this year on Sunday, November 22 in the Vestry after the service — just in time to stock your winter pantry and check off some holiday gifts. We will have both 8-oz. and 16-oz. jars available for sale, at $10 and $20, respectively. We'll have lip balm and maybe another surprise product. We accept cash, checks, and Venmo.

Fifteen percent of the sale proceeds go to charity; the rest goes right back into our operation, funding equipment, training, educational supplies, and the purchase of new bees when we need them.

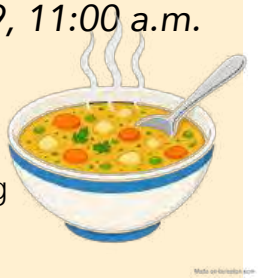
The Bee Team is proud to be a fully self-supporting environmental stewardship project at First Parish. We couldn't have done it, however, without the support of the Lydia Maria Child Fund, which kindly helped us out through the first five years of our beekeeping adventure. Now starting our ninth year of operation, the Bee Team thanks all of you, our customers, for our continued success.

Interested in joining the Bee Team? Talk to one of us at the sale, or any time! You can also read our latest Annual Report here.

The First Parish Bee Team: David Bechtel, Amanda Ciaccio, Ann Gordon, Jill Grenon, Nan Jahnke, and Clare Lewis, with the support and encouragement of Nick and Cole Sambuco.

Soup Sunday

Sunday, November 29, 11:00 a.m.



The children in our SEEK program will make and serve hot soup during Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 29.

Here is an opportunity for all adults to be teachers — helping our young people learn the joy of serving others. Bring your appetite and show your appreciation!

Art in the Narthex

Emily Mlcak's artwork will be on exhibit in our Narthex, the "front foyer" of our Meetinghouse, in November.

A long-time member of First Parish, Emily has been a regular soloist in the choir. Now, she shares another talent. On display will be hand-pulled prints, in which a printing surface is inked or painted, paper pressed onto it, and "pulled" to produce an original work of art.

In addition to singing and painting, Emily is also in seminary pursuing a new career as a UU minister.

Regular Events

Minister's Lunch

Thursday, November 12, 11:30 a.m.

Join us for the Minister's Lunch, held on the second Thursday of each month. Gather in the Vestry for soup, salad, good company, and lively conversation. We appreciate RSVPs so we can plan, but they are not required. Please come! Email us: MinistersLunch@uuwayland.org.

The next Minister's Lunch will be on **Thursday, Dec. 10** at 11:30 a.m. We hope to see you there!

NOTE: Please park by the sheds so the preschool can use the back parking lot.

Creating Connections:

Sharing Stories

Sunday, Nov. 1

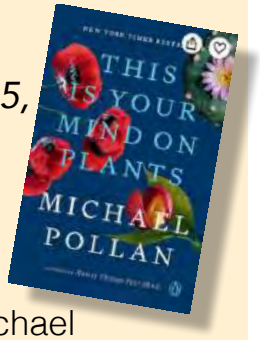
11 to 11:30 a.m., Sunroom

This new program, on the first Sunday of every month, aims to help parishioners build more connections with each other.

This month, we will create a story together and share some of our favorite holiday memories.

Men's Book Club

Thursday, November 5, 8 p.m. on Zoom



Join us at our next meeting for a discussion of ***This is Your Mind on Plants***, by Michael Pollan. All who identify as male are welcome.

Questions? Contact Keith Sims.

First Parish Book Club

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.

On Zoom

This is How it Always Is by Laurie Frankel is a poignant exploration of identity, acceptance, and the complexities of family life.

Questions? Contact Kate Holland.

Monday Meditation

Mondays, 5 p.m. on Zoom

Join together on Zoom for an hour to gather in community to meditate. All are welcome! Watch the eblast and social network for details.

Undecorate the Tree:
An Opportunity to Support the Survivors of Domestic Violence

Undecorate the Tree is an opportunity for our First Parish community to support mothers and children who have survived domestic violence and who continue to face enormous challenges. For more than twenty years First Parish has participated in this holiday gift program.

On November 1, our holiday tree will be in the Vestry decorated with red and green paper candy canes. Each green candy cane is a gift wish of a mother; each red cane is a wish of a child. Because the moms love shopping for their kids, gift cards to Target, Walmart, or Amazon are really appreciated. Moms are also requesting paper goods, cleaning supplies, toiletry items, hats, gloves, and scarves. Kids need basics like socks, underwear, pajamas, coats, hats, and gloves. And, of course, kids love games, puzzles, and toys.

Please consider signing out a candy cane or two. The sign-up sheets are on the tables closest to the tree. Gifts can be returned anytime but at the latest by Sunday, November 29. They can be left on the benches in the Vestry or on the bench outside the office.

We know it's early to be talking about holiday trees and candy canes, but this extra time gives REACH, the agency we partner with, time to organize the gifts so the staff can also enjoy the holidays.

You can also participate by sending a check made out to the Alliance of First Parish in Wayland and we'll purchase a Target gift card for you. Checks should be mailed to Pat Sims, 47 Rice Spring Lane, Wayland, MA 01778 to be received no later than November 27.

A third way to participate is to purchase a Target, Walmart, or Amazon gift card and drop it off in the collection box by the back parking lot to First Parish. Checks can be dropped off there as well.

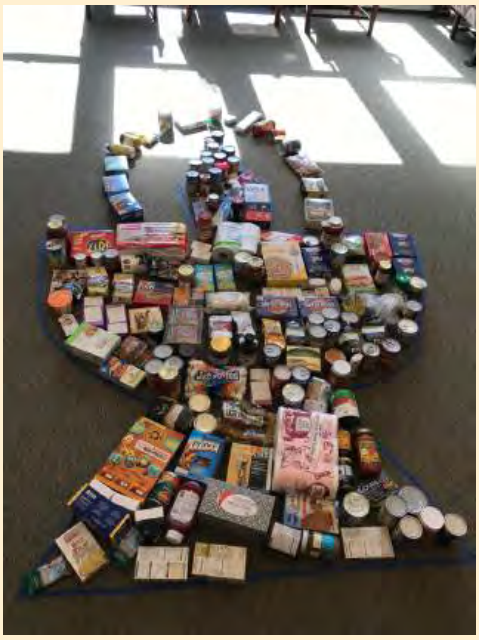
To learn more about REACH, go to www.reachma.org. It is an agency in Waltham dedicated to the safety, healing and empowerment of survivors of domestic violence.

There are many ways we can express our commitment to social justice. Once again, we hope you'll consider providing financial support that brings holiday cheer to the moms and their children who have survived domestic violence.

Thank you from the Alliance's Undecorate the Tree Committee

Sharing is Caring

Kids in our SEEK program ran a successful food drive for local pantries, and arranged the donations to form a chalice.



How We Support Casa / Metrowest Worker Center

It's time to provide an update on our congregation's involvement in donating time, skills, and money to support Casa / Metrowest Worker Center. Casa's work right now is focused on the needs of immigrant workers and their families. You can find more information about Casa at https://www.mwc-casa.org/.

Many members of our congregation have been involved with Casa in the following ways:

- Attending weekly standouts outside the ICE facility on Speen Street in Framingham where immigrants need to check in with ICE.
- Picking up food donations from a CSA and delivering those to one of Casa's food distribution sites on Saturdays in Framingham and Milford.
- Delivering food to people's homes when needed.
- Writing outreach articles for Casa's new blog site.
- Donating items that Casa tells us they need. Examples have included containers for food and winter coats last winter, when we also set up a "coat shop" at a food distribution site.
- Helping to provide some of the needed goods and activities for a safe outside party for our immigrant neighbors and their families. It's rare that these families can gather safely. Many of us from FP joined in the partying!
- Posting bond for detained individuals using money provided. Showing up for a virtual court appointment.
- Donating the money collected at our summer consortium services to Casa. That was $600.
- Organizing and executing fundraisers for Casa. The recent Sara McQuaid concert at FP is one example. An anonymous FP member underwrote the event so that all the funds collected at the door went to Casa. Many other FP people donated their time and money to make the evening happen. Last year *Echoes of Hope,* organized jointly with Casa Allies, raised $30,000 for Casa. Many First Parish people donated their time, talents, and money to make this event happen; First Parish donated the use of our facilities and the Lydia Maria Child Fund provided substantial funding for this event.

Casa is Seeking Volunteer Attorneys

Casa has gathered a group of attorneys willing to work pro bono on a number of areas, including enhanced accompaniment to ICE/ISAP check-ins and court, researching criminal records to help the neighbor's attorney apply for habeus after detention, helping neighbors with asylum applications, and more. Volunteers for this must have a bar card, but can be retired and no longer practicing.

If you are interested in volunteering for this work, or want more information, send an email to volunteerteam@mwc.-casa.org.

Casa fundraiser at First Parish in 2025

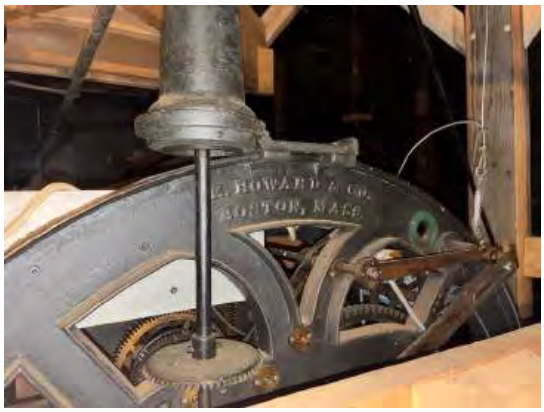
You can see what kind of help Casa needs under the Volunteer Tab at their website.

Barbara Pedulla

For Whom the Bell Tolls (Hopefully Soon)

The bell in our steeple has been silent the last few months, no longer ringing on the hour. And then, more recently, our 1910 E. Howard & Company church clock stopped working. While the bell can be rung manually, as many heard at the No Kings Rally on Oct. 17, the bell needs the clock mechanism to automatically ring the hour. Fortunately, a repair effort is being organized.

Molly Faulkner, a new member of Parish Committee, is tracking down a local specialist in tower clocks for repairs. As a former chair of the Wayland Historical Society, she is well aware of the history of the clock and the town's historical involvement. Jason LaPenta and Nick Sambucco are assisting her. If you wonder what the clock looks like from inside the steeple, here are some photos.

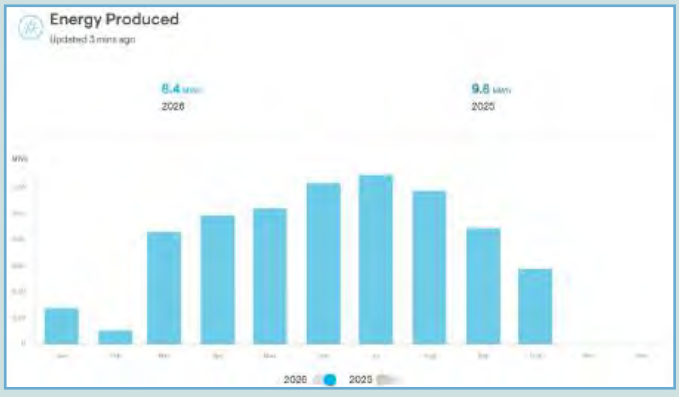


Above left: The top front of the clock. Middle: The angled rods are part of the steeple structure. The four wrapped arms connect to the four faces of the clock and are sychronized with the mechanism on top. Right: A side view of the clock. The motor that has been running the clock, in the gray metal box, has failed.

Do You Have Some Experience With Solar Energy?

The solar panels on the roof of the Parish House are monitored via an internet website that gives a report on their operating efficiency. If you are someone who could take a look at that site once a month and let our Buildings Committee know if something seems amiss, that would be great. Our current committee members could use some help interpreting the reporting.

If you can help, please let Suzanne Woodruff know, and she will give you the log-in information. Thank you!



Social Action Council: Joyfully Offering Hearts and Hands

The Social Action Council (SAC) at First Parish is a key element of how we as a congregation lean into achieving our vision, mission and covenant – lifting up our commitment to working toward a better world.

Below are the words from each statement:

Vision: "... joyfully offering our hearts and hands to foster a more just, compassionate, and sustainable world."

Mission: "… to make a better world by engaging in compassionate service and promoting social justice."

Covenant: "... to work together for a better world."

The Social Action Council at First Parish comprises a number of groups that work for social action and change. They focus on a wide range of issues and concerns and offer many possible ways to walk our shared values out into the world through taking action alongside others. Check out our bulletin board behind the puzzle table in the Vestry for more information on how to get involved and make a difference!

Laurel Whitehouse

Love to Sing? Join Our Merry Choir for Dec. 13 Music Sunday

Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten headlines First Parish's Dec. 13 Music Sunday this year. It is a beautiful piece for chorus, using medieval English, Latin, and early modern texts, and it demands a virtuoso harpist to act as the sole instrumental accompanist.

Music Director Polly Oliver has employed her extensive networking contacts to secure the services of Judith Kogan, one of the Boston classical music scene's finest harpists. **Now, we need more singers, particularly bass/baritones!**

If you have previous experience singing in a chorus, please consider coming to weekly rehearsals leading up to the performance. Or, if you know of someone outside of First Parish who you think would like to join us in song, please contact Polly through the church office. We are rehearsing *Ceremony* during the first 45 minutes of each Wednesday choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. Please join us!

Jay Woodruff

Parents and Kids: Come Sing with Polly

Kids love to sing, but sometimes they need a little encouragement and support to try it out.

Music Director Polly Oliver loves working with children to learn new songs, and she invites interested parents and kids of any age to come up into the choir loft for 20 minutes or so after the church service to learn some songs together.

Meet her downstairs in the Vestry at Coffee Hour after the Sunday service, grab a snack, and follow her up to the choir loft for 20 minutes to a half hour of enjoyable time together.

Family Promise Update

Dinners, Clothing, and Chocolate Chip Cookies

First Parish in Wayland participated in these targeted support events in October.

On Oct. 4 during Coffee Hour our SEEK participants prepared a dinner featuring pulled pork sliders, baked beans, cornbread muffins, sauerkraut, melon, and cookies. Thank you Kate Holland, SEEK, and parents and volunteers!

On Oct. 5 a First Parish member generously purchased all 24 items on the shopping list for delivery to the Family Promise Natick shelter for their week's groceries.

And while relieving the house manager for two nights, I got to see first-hand the happy responses from the four parents and their children to our meal and grocery deliveries.

The following week, we delivered all the winter clothes our members donated for the children of families cared for by Family Promise. This was a lovely collection of snowsuits, boots, hats, mittens, gloves.

Finally, freshly baked chocolate chip cookies were dropped off on request for a special Shelter/Sail parent workshop on Oct.15.

MANY THANKS to all who donated by cooking, shopping, and funding these needs.

More information and a listing of additional specific volunteer service opportunities can be found at https://www.familypromisemetrowest.org. The CERVIS Volunteer Portal link connects to time-sensitive requests and needs.

With gratitude for all your attention and help,

Lois Doerr
First Parish Coordinator for FPM

UU Urban Ministry: November News

Passport to History: Exciting Family Day at UUUM

Monthly Volunteer Networking Session – Wednesday, November 18, 7 – 8 p.m., virtual via Zoom. Congregational Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator, Robert Jones, hosts virtual volunteer networking sessions monthly. This is a chance to connect with other UUUM volunteers (and Robert) about anything on your mind in an open, supportive space.

Passport to History: A Celebration of Service and Activism – Saturday, November 14, Noon to 4 p.m., 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury, home of the UU Urban Ministry.

The UUUM invites us to Part 2 of the three-part series, ***Revolutionary Lives.*** Passport to History is an exciting family day of activities for ages 6 to adult and is centered around the theme of Service and Activism.

Spend a lively afternoon immersed in history as tour guides lead you to a series of historical exhibits and activities, bringing to life revolutionary actions from the past to the present. Upon arrival you will be issued a passport to get stamped at each exhibit. Explore history through stories, art, music, and play! Tickets are free, but reservations are suggested.

History Committee – For updates about their work, and to learn about the history of First Church in Roxbury, please visit this link.

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

Your delegates, Lea Anderson and Susan Crowley-Bechtel

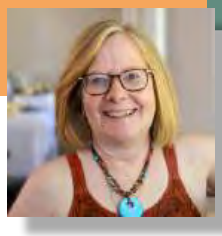
Save the Date: Our Holiday Sale Returns!

First Parish's annual Holiday Pop-Up/Social Justice Sale will be Sat., Dec. 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., with an encore sale for parishioners Sunday, Dec. 13. We'll feature Fair Trade giftable food items, unique items from nonprofits, and gently used holiday décor. We welcome your decorations and décor. (This is not a general tag sale; holiday items only, please.)

We'll organize drop-off times for the week leading up to the sale. We'll hold the sale in The Commons and the Sunroom once again, and it will be open to the public.

In past years we have hosted non-profit organizations supporting education initiatives and animal welfare groups, among others. Watch the December *Unitarian* for more details.

Your Pop-Up Sale Team: Barb Heffner, Deb Stubeda, and Suzanne Tiberii



New Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

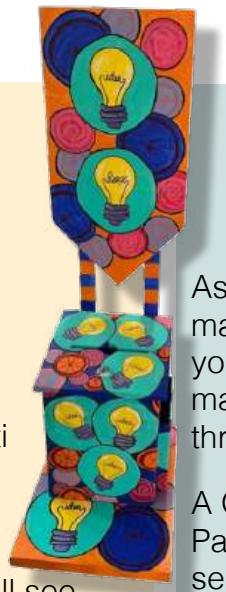
We're implementing a small change to office hours going forward: I will be available to answer the phone (or meet, on days I'm in the office) between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. every weekday. I will continue to be in the office in person on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Although I will work additional hours beyond these office hours, I will use those non-published hours to focus on work without interruption. Thank you for your support!

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

Karen Plaskon
Parish Administrator

Your Ideas Are Working: Remember the Idea Box!



Our Idea Box has been busy, and it's proving that good ideas really do come from you! That much-loved puzzle table at Coffee Hour? It started as a note in the Idea Box. So did the glow stick dance party that lit up Spooky Spaghetti Dinner in October. Who knew a little box could spark so much fun?

And there's more on the way. Soon you'll see magnetic name tag holders at Coffee Hour. No more snagged clothing, no more pricked fingers, just a tag that stays put and much happier sweaters.

Have a spark of inspiration? A little wish? A quirky thought? The Idea Box would love to hear it.

Find it in the Vestry on Sundays, catch it in the Commons during the week, or reach it any time, day or night, via QR code.

Got an idea? Put it in the Idea Box!!

Lynne Lipcon for the Visioning Team

Your Retirement Account Can Support First Parish

As we approach the end of the calendar year, you may be thinking about your charitable contributions. If you are 70 ½ or older and have a traditional IRA, you may be eligible to support First Parish Wayland through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

A QCD is a gift sent directly from your IRA to First Parish. It can fulfill your annual stewardship pledge or serve as an additional gift, without counting as taxable income. This may offer a tax-smart way to support our community and mission.

The distribution must go directly from your IRA custodian to First Parish. QCD's can count towards your annual pledge or be made as an additional gift. If you must take a required distribution (RMD) a QCD is a tax efficient way to fulfill your charitable gifts. If you wish to use a QCD to fulfill your annual pledge please let First Parish know when you arrange the gift, so we can credit it towards your pledge balance, just like other payments. If you intend the QCD as a new or additional gift beyond your pledge, please let us know that as well so it can be recorded appropriately.

Your generosity sustains our welcoming community and shared mission. Thank you for all you do!

Jan Miner

November Events

Undecorate the Tree Begins
Sunday, Nov. 1 - Friday, Nov. 27

Creating Connections
Sunday, Nov. 1, 11:00 a.m.

Coffee and a Chat: Election Edition
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 8:30 a.m.

Post-Election Gathering
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 5:00 p.m.

Men's Book Group
Thursday, Nov. 5, 8 p.m.

Minister's Lunch
Thursday, Nov, 12, 11:30 a.m.

Harvest Supper
Friday, Nov. 13, 6:00 p.m.

UUUM Passport to History
Saturday, Nov. 14, noon - 4 p.m.

Jazz Concert: Chris Nifong Project
Sunday, Nov. 15, 3:00 p.m.

First Parish Book Club
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil
Friday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

Mom's Night Out: Friendsgiving Potluck
Saturday, Nov. 21, 5:00 p.m.

Soup Sunday
Sunday, Nov. 29, 11:00 a.m.

Find a complete list of First Parish activities on our website calendar.

Contact information for First Parish community members is available in our directory, through the members section of our website. For access, contact the Parish Office.

The Wayland Unitarian is the monthly newsletter of the First Parish in Wayland, a Unitarian Universalist congregation. A full calendar of events is on our website, www.uuwayland.org.

Parish Office Hours
M - F: 10 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**

First Parish in Wayland
Unitarian Universalist

Our Ministers
Rev. Lauren Smith, Minister
Rev. Dr. Deborah Pope-Lance, Affiliate Minister

Our Staff
Kate Holland, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration
Polly Oliver, Music Director and Organist
Karen Plaskon, Parish Administrator
Leo Monzon, Bookkeeper
[open], 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