

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

.....
to grow spiritually
..... foster community
..... serve others



MUSIC DIRECTOR - CHOIR
Kathryn Rosenbach, 617-821-0385
Christina Grandy de Oliveira,
Soprano
Nicole Plummer, Mezzo Soprano
MinSun Im, Tenor
Guanghao Yu, Baritone

ADMINISTRATOR
Diego Garrido Barreto
26Suffolk@gmail.com

SEXTON
Dana Flynn, 617-680-0702

FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS MONTH

Please contact Rev. Mark at the church or via email
(mjtcaggiano@gmail.com) Church Telephone 617-566-6237



the first church in
chestnut hill

January, 2025

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, *Minister*
Kathryn Rosenbach, *Music Director*
Diego Garrido Barreto, *Ministerial Intern*

www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

Theology: the study of religious faith, practice, and experience; especially the study of God and of God's relation to the world.

Theology is a broad term that often gets used imprecisely and, occasionally, in a conclusory way. The definition allows for some of that wide-ranging character, minus the certainty, as some of theology's component parts are themselves open to interpretation. How long could we spend considering the meaning of God? About three months apparently, or at least that is the plan.

Over the coming months, we will look at theology and its component "ologies," meaning those underlying ideas that together make up a coherent understanding of God. These include soteriology, which is the study of salvation, and epistemology, which is the study of the nature of knowledge. Not everyday words. But how might we understand these building blocks of religion and what they mean in the context of church and our lives?

You might ask, why look at any of these? I have had a number of existential conversations of the past months, with the loss of my father and the ongoing march of time among those I know and love. And so, I have been repeatedly attempting to explain these fundamental ideas that challenge our imagination and occupy our attention at life's moments of reflection. I hope that these will be useful starting points for conversation rather than declarations of certainty. I also hope to write up something more systematic from these assorted pieces and look forward to your input and questions as the topics arise over the winter and into the season of Lent.

God bless, Mark

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers, there are plenty of spaces to fill. Please contact Diego at 26suffolk@gmail.com. Then, contact Dana Flynn (617-680-0702) to coordinate the delivery. He will meet the florist (or you) at the church on the Saturday prior to your date. If you prefer, we also have silk arrangements which can easily be placed on the altar.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 1:00 PM on Wednesdays on Zoom. We will continue with the Book of Revelations. Contact Rev. Mark to be included on the Zoom invitation list at mjtccaggiano@gmail.com. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS

If you would like to join the group of volunteer scripture readers, please contact Carol Lohe at ctroyen@mfa.org. This is a great opportunity to be part of our Sunday services.

DONATIONS

If you feel moved to give, you may make a donation via Zelle, by mailing a check to the church, or through bond investments. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and for the many ways you support our shared life and ministry.

Attention: Treasurer
26 Suffolk Road
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

January 4

Sermon: In the Beginning
Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:7-14, John 1:1-18
Scripture Reader: Carol Lohe
Usher: Werner Lohe
Flowers: Given in loving memory of Philip and Alice Morss by Jennifer Morss Drayton and her family.
Coffee Hour: Carol and Werner Lohe

January 11

Sermon: Epiphany
Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12
Scripture Reader: David Brooks
Usher: David Brooks
Flowers: Given in loving memory of Jane Ewell Dane.
Coffee Hour: Deborah and David Brooks

January 18

Sermon: Lamb of God
Scriptures: Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42
Scripture Reader: Mark Chadbourne
Usher: David Cornish
Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer by her husband Myron Belfer.
Coffee Hour: Mark Chadbourne

January 25

Sermon: A Great Light
Scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23
Scripture Reader: Joe Hicks
Usher: Joe Hicks
Flowers: TBD
Coffee Hour: The Singh Family

BELOVEDNESS

Hola community, this is your favorite colombiano. Your ministerial intern and church admin, Diego Garrido. Thank you to those who came, past Thursday, to our Taize communion service. The music Nicole and Kathryn played was magnificent. Thank you for these spaces as we experience community through contemplative practices. Do you have spiritual practices of silence or meditation?

Let me share with you my monthly joy. I have found people interested in a Bible Study, only in Spanish, and I hope I can create this space to open the doors of this community (to those who seek God in their mother tongue) in our space, or at least in virtual.

I am thinking about each of you. Those who are in suffering, sickness or feeling lonely. I am mostly focused organizing spaces so that you feel more and more part of them. I want to invite you to reach out to me. Let's have a coffee, let us pray and find ways in which I can accompany through this winter.

Keep in your agendas and schedules that I am planning another sandwich making with Capuchin Mobile Ministries. So please, your presence can make the difference. What other activities could we try for those in need?

Con mucho gusto, Diego.

FCCH in the Community

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the Sixth Thanksgiving Phantom Fair raised \$15,000, surpassing all previous ones. As a result, we have donated \$7,500 each to The Brookline Food Pantry and The Centre Street Food Pantry in Newton. Both pantries appreciate our support, because food insecurity remains an immediate and pressing issue in both communities.

In addition to the fundraising, we collected 147 pounds of non-perishable items for The Brookline Food Pantry in time for distribution before the holidays.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Sixth Phantom Fair and to the food drive, enabling us to continue to support both local food pantries.



*Happy New Year
2026!*