

the first church in chestnut hill

February 2026

[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

As faith leaders in Brookline, we stand together at a moment of deep moral urgency. We stand with our immigrant neighbors, and we stand against injustice wherever it occurs. We stand together, fearful for the soul of our country, and yet we commit ourselves to act — to fight for a world where human dignity is honored, and all are safe.

Brookline Interfaith Clergy Association

This is an excerpt from a recent community letter from the clergy association in Brookline in response to widespread violence against immigrants, protesters, and bystanders in Minneapolis and around the United States. It is one among an outpouring of statements from religious organizations and mainline denominations.

The Conference of Bishops of the United Methodist Church wrote: “We your bishops call upon the people of The United Methodist Church to pray for migrants, immigrants, and refugees among us and to welcome them with the fullness of Christian love, remembering that as we welcome these, our brothers, and sisters, we welcome Jesus our Lord.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote: “Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.”

The Central Conference of American Rabbis wrote: “Many Americans are deeply disturbed as they see their neighbors targeted for detention and deportation in their homes, at work, at their schools, and at their houses of worship. They are deeply concerned about numerous

accounts of the use of intimidating and violent detention tactics, dangerous and unhealthy holding facilities, lack of appropriate warrants or due process, and wrongful apprehension of US citizens or individuals with proper visas based on appearance or language.”

I could keep quoting from the American Friends Service Committee, the AME Zion Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Church of the Brethren, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, as well as the Unitarian Universalist Association.

I mention these names to anchor this moment of challenges and to underscore that I am not alone in my outrage at the events unfolding in our country. I would guess that many of you share that sentiment. It is far beyond a “political” outlook when such a spectrum of religious leaders flatly state that something is fundamentally wrong in our nation. But here we are and here we must be prepared to “*stand together, fearful for the soul of our country, and yet we commit ourselves to act – to fight for a world where human dignity is honored, and all are safe.*”

God bless, Mark

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

THE FIRST CHURCH
IN CHESTNUT HILL
PRESENTS

**BEST OF
BROADWAY!**

Thursday

May 7

7:00 PM



**Kathryn
Rosenbach
Christina Grandy
de Oliveira
Nicole Plummer
MinSun Im
Guanghao Yu**

26 Suffolk Road Chestnut Hill
Steps from the Green Line &
Street Parking Available

BELOVEDNESS

Hola.

This month brings us snow and self care. I have come with several invitations into community life and spiritual care within our congregation. I have started a Bible study in Spanish. This will begin this Thursday, hopefully to continue weekly, as a spiritual, not as an academic space for Scripture, prayer, and conversation for the language of our *corazones*.

I wanted to let you all know that the linocut images included in this bulletin are my own work. One is a basket that is based on a mosaic found in a Christian church in Al-Tabgha, where Jesus did the miracle of the multiplication of the bread and fishes. The second one is Jesus as vine, the grapes and fruit reminds me of the gospel of St. John. The third one is a trinitarian representation of a hand that blesses, the dove that embraces that hand, and a circle, one that reminds me we are united in a cosmos of love. I am offering them as visual reflections for this bulletin.

Also, I will be preaching on February 22, and, I was invited by the Allston Abbey to preach on Feb 7, for their intentional community Oscar Romero. Caramba, feels a good spot to reclaim Bob Dylan and Joan Baez songs. You may also notice a few new plants placed around the church: small, living reminders that growth happens through small visible signs of care. And that care is possible when we stop and pay attention to what we love...

Thank you for continuing to keep this community together.

Con gusto, Diego.

FEBRUARY MUSIC

February 1, 2026

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Prelude | Arabesque | Viene |
| Anthem | Locus Iste | Bruckner |
| Hymn 1 | Our God, Our Help in Ages Past | |
| Response | Jesus, Priceless Treasure | Bach |
| Offertory Anthem | Tibi Laus | Lassus |
| Hymn 43 | Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies | |
| Hymn 352 | Lift Up Your Hearts! | |
| Choral Amen | Twofold Amen | Traditional |
| Postlude | Weimar's Volkslied | Liszt |

February 8, 2026

| | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| Prelude | Lento | Schumann |
| | The Swan | Saint-Saens |
| | Sarah Freiberg, cello | |
| Anthem | Lead Me, Lord | Wesley |
| Hymn 10 | Before Jehovah's Aweful Throne | |
| Response | Cheer Up, Faint Heart, Sing Songs, Rejoice | Bach |
| Offertory | Let My Prayer | Blow |
| Hymn 365 | Faith of Our Fathers | |
| Hymn 443 | Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory | |
| Choral Amen | Old Irish Blessing | Agay |
| Postlude | Bourrees I and II | Bach |
| | Sarah Freiberg, cello | |

February 15, 2026

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Prelude | Offertoire | Thomas |
| Anthem | All People That on Earth Do Dwell | Tallis |
| Hymn 58 | God That Madest Earth and Heaven | |
| Response | Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word | Bach |
| Offertory Anthem | O Christ, Who Art the Light and Day | Whyte |
| Hymn 128 | In the Bleak Midwinter | |
| Hymn 8 | Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee | |
| Choral Amen | Threefold Amen | Traditional |
| Postlude | Verset | Lefebure-Wely |

February 22, 2026

| | | |
|------------------|---|-------------|
| Prelude | Chaconne | Couperin |
| Anthem | O God, My King | Amner |
| Hymn 216 | Lead, Kindly Light | |
| Response | Oh, How Blest Are You Whose Toils Are Ended | Bach |
| Offertory Anthem | O Strength and Stay | Bourgeois |
| Hymn 342 | I Need Thee Every Hour | |
| Hymn (Insert) | Amazing Grace | |
| Choral Amen | Threefold Amen | Traditional |
| Postlude | Fugue | Handel |



SAVE THE DATES

February 22 – Communion Service

March 08 - 9:00 AM - Capuchin Ministries Sandwich Making

March 22 - Communion Service

April 26 - Communion Service

Thursday, May 07 - 7:00 p.m - The Best of Broadway

May 24 - Pentecost - Communion Service



February 1

Sermon: The Beatitudes
Scriptures: Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12
Scripture Reader: Joe Hicks
Usher: Joe Hicks
Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy
Belfer by her husband Myron
Belfer.
Coffee Hour: Jennifer Morss Drayton.

February 8

Sermon: Fulfillment of the Law
Scriptures: Isaiah 58:1-12, Matthew
5:13-20
Scripture Reader: David Brooks
Usher: David Brooks
Flowers: Leveret Saltonstall and Alice
Wesselhoeft by Richard Byrd
and his family.
Coffee Hour: Patricia Schneider

February 15

Sermon: Transfiguration (Diego)
Scriptures: Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 17:1-9
Scripture Reader: Lisle Baker
Usher: Lisle Baker
Flowers: In loving memory of Robert
Vanderkay, Barbara Vanderkay,
and Robert Vanderkay, Jr. by their
family.
Coffee Hour: Judith Vanderkay

February 22

Sermon: Temptation in the Wilderness
(Lent)
Scriptures: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Matthew
4:1-11
Scripture Reader: Bert Dane
Usher: Bert Dane
Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer
by her husband Myron Belfer.
Coffee Hour: Sally and Bert Dane.

AN INVITATION FROM UU URBAN MINISTRIES

Join us for a special service of words and music in tribute to

THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

a cantata by John Kramer
performed by a combined choir from several
Unitarian Universalist congregations along with other musical selections



SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026 @ 4:00pm

This cantata features texts by our Founding Fathers that establish the USA as a place of welcome for immigrants. Join us to celebrate stories of those who came here in pursuit of the promise that is America.



This event will also feature performances by young people from Sociedad Latina

DONATIONS: suggested but not necessary | TICKETS: bit.ly/immigrant-experience or scan QR code



This is a benefit for the Refugee and Immigration Assistance Center (RIAC)
and The Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN)



UU URBAN MINISTRY | 10 PUTNAM STREET | ROXBURY, MA 02119 | WWW.UUUM.ORG

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 1:00 PM on Wednesdays on Zoom. In October we are studying selections from the Book Song of Songs. Contact Rev. Mark to be included on the Zoom invitation list at mjtcaggiano@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 rewarding opportunity to be part of our Sunday services.



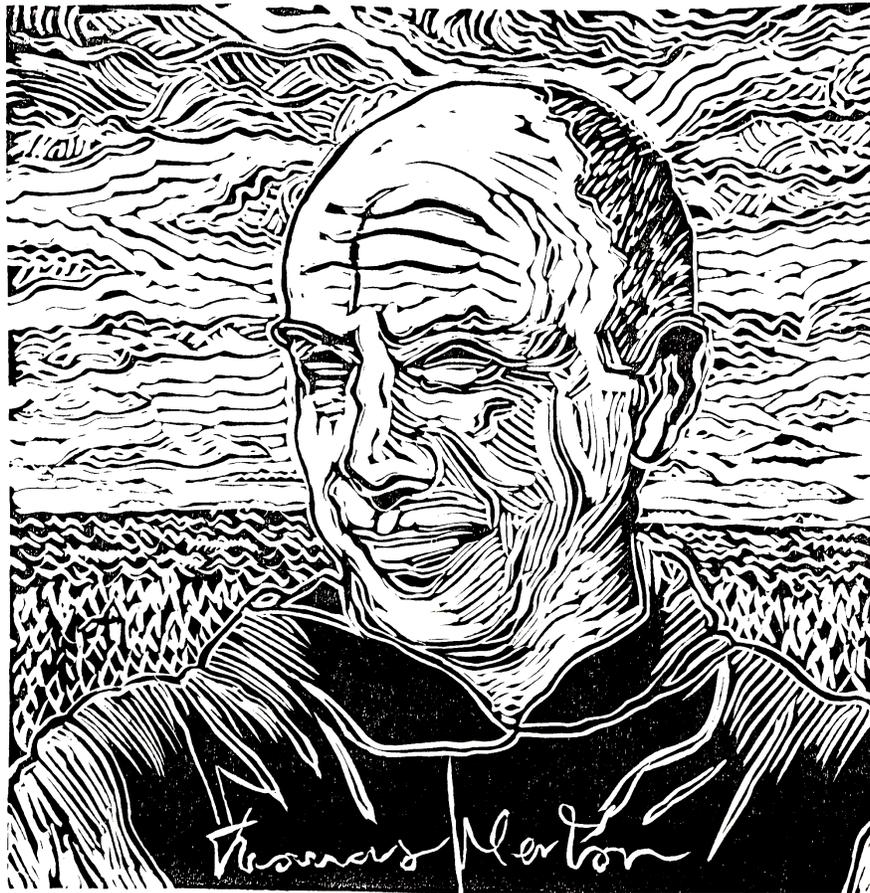
DONATIONS

If you wish, you may make your donation via Zelle or mail a check to the church. Attention: Treasurer, 26 Suffolk Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Many thanks for your generosity.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Attention flower donors: please contact Dana Flynn (617-680-0702) to coordinate the delivery of your flower donation. 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.

If you would like to donate flowers, Please contact Diego at 26suffolk@gmail.com.



“I can well understand your sense of desperation. And the “bleak mood.” ... As you say, there are no clear answers, and you can guess that I don’t have magic solutions for bleak moods: if I did I would use them on my own which are habitually pretty bleak too... And then this: do not depend on the hope of results...”

A letter by Thomas Merton to the peace activist Jim Forest, 1966.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Akili Jamal Haynes & Dayenne Walters



Culture as Resistance

Thursday, February 19th, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.*

**This event will be virtually via Zoom*

This conversation explores how culture functions as a form of resistance and survival. Through music, storytelling, movement, and visual art, Roxbury residents have preserved identity, nurtured belonging, and fueled movements for justice and liberation.



Scan the QR code or visit: uum.org/upcoming-events



UU Urban Ministry | 10 Putnam Street | Roxbury, MA 02119 | www.uuum.org

AN INVITATION FROM OUR MINISTERIAL INTERN

An Online Spiritual Journey through *the* Henri Nouwen Society Book Club: *Lifesigns*

February 9, 16, 23 at 7:00 PM

Join us this February for a new session of the Henri Nouwen Society Book Club as we explore one of Henri's most inspiring and hope-filled works: *Lifesigns*. In this beautiful book, Henri invites us to recognize the subtle signs of God's presence in our lives and to choose the path that leads us from fear into love, from isolation into authentic community, and from the illusions that burden us into the truth that sets us free.

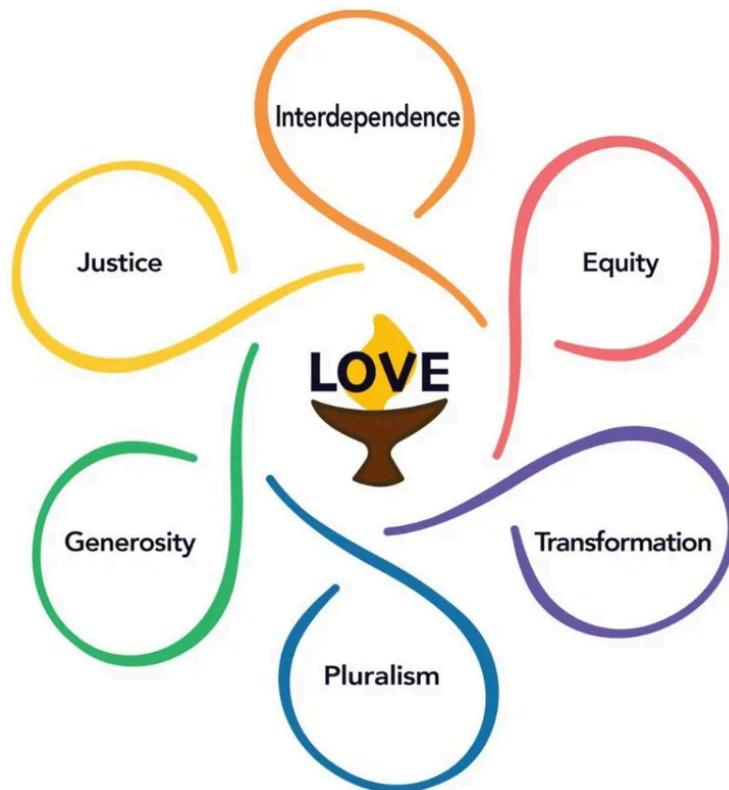
Throughout the month, we'll take time to reflect on these themes together—considering what it means to live as the Beloved in a world that often encourages self-protection, comparison, and anxiety. Each week offers an opportunity to pause, breathe, and rediscover the gentle movements of God within and around us. With guided small group discussions on Zoom, our book club provides an encouraging environment for spiritual growth and connection.

Use this QR code to access to the web page of the Henry Nouwen Society:



OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST VALUES

Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition that has changed in many ways from the original Christian roots of its Universalist and Unitarian heritages, and it continues to evolve today. Most recently, this evolution has taken the form of adopting new language to describe who we are as UUs. At General Assembly in June 2024, UUs voted to replace existing Seven Principles and Six Sources language in our bylaws with language describing Unitarian Universalism through these shared values, all centered around LOVE



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

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

SEXTON
Dana Flynn, 617-680-0702

ADMINISTRATOR
Diego Garrido Barreto
26Suffolk@gmail.com

FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS MONTH

Please contact Rev. Mark at the church or via email
(mjtcaggiano@gmail.com)



