

xOUR MISSION STATEMENT

..... to
..... *grow spiritually*
..... *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

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

March 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

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

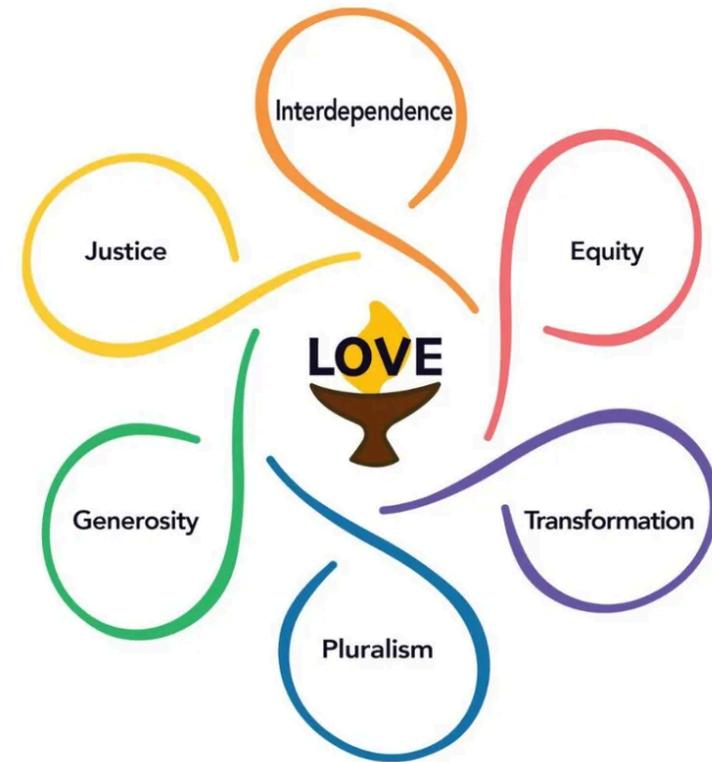
Recently, I attended an iftar service in Brookline. Iftar means “breaking the fast” and is a meal taken after daily fasting during the Muslim month of Ramadan. This event happened at Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church in Brookline. It began with the ritual eating of a date, to mark the end of the day’s fast. And it was followed by a feast organized by Brookline Muslim Friends and shared by well over a hundred people.

This year, there is a confluence of such events. Ramadan began along with Lent, a Christian time of fasting and contemplation. It is also the beginning of the Jewish month of Adar, which includes the holy day of Purim, commemorating the salvation of the Jewish people in the Persian empire depicted in the Book of Esther. Later in April, there will be the week of Passover, overlapping this year with Easter on April 5.

Some of these are somber days followed by joy, as with Lent leading up to Easter. As with Ramadan, the daily fasts breaking into family and communal meals celebrating a special time sacred to God. As with the commemoration of the Exodus story through Passover and the rescue of the people by Esther, each leading into rituals and gatherings of friends and family.

The fasting in Ramadan, the self-reflection and denial of Lent, the careful cleaning and preparation for Passover: each of these is followed by feasting and celebrating. Within a culture that more often encourages feeding our desires than refraining from temptations, it is “meet and right” to step away from such indulgences for a time, to give up something so that we might better appreciate what we have.

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

FROM UU URBAN MINISTRY

Community Conversations

Ifé Franklin, Jeff Robinson and Dzidzor: Connecting Across Generations

Date: Mar 19, 2026, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM on Zoom

This conversation explores the power of intergenerational connection — how memory, mentorship, and shared responsibility move across generations to sustain community life. Centered in Roxbury, it reflects on how elders’ lived experience and younger voices together shape a future rooted in continuity, accountability, and collective care. Through storytelling, ritual, organizing, and artistic practice, the speakers invite us to consider how history is carried forward — not as nostalgia, but as guidance for action.

Featuring interdisciplinary artist Ifé Franklin, whose work draws on African Diasporic traditions and collective memory as resistance and healing; longtime organizer and Poetry Jam founder Jeff Robinson, who has built spaces for creative and civic connection across generations; and Dzidzor, Ghanaian-American mystic folklorist and performer, who engages the body as a site of liberation and possibility — this dialogue asks what it means to build the world we want to live in, together.

In the Lenten tradition, some Christians give something up. It could be certain foods, drinking alcohol, or something else. Pope Leo suggested in his Lenten message to the Catholic Church that people might consider “fasting from words.” Fasting from language or rhetoric that is hurtful to others. Fasting from offering up opinions that are as much designed to rile others up as they are to express heartfelt belief.

Whatever one might try to refrain from, it should be a reminder that we are given one precious life. In gratitude for that gift, we should spend a little time reflecting on what it means to be a blessing to one another even as we have received blessings from God.

God bless, Mark



BELOVEDNESS

Community, hola.

I want to reflect about this Lent season. Sounds like it's easy to promote parties and not mourning. In our cultures Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, is an example of this. I come from a country where parties end at 5 A.M. and even funerals... but that is for another conversation.

In the Jewish tradition, Purim (March 2) celebrates their salvation in the ancient Persian Empire. People give food, charity and dress in silly costumes and get loose. In the Islamic tradition, in Ramadan, this period of fast and prayer is also to be generous. Muslims all around the world tithe and give part of their income to their mosques, and to those in their communities in need. It is a time to be surrounded by your families, and invite your neighbors.

I was with Rev Mark last Saturday at St Pauls Brookline, celebrating Iftar, surrounded by Muslim Families and religious leaders. We heard the recitation of their Holy Book and we shared a meal to break fast, at sundown. I wonder, in this church, learning that we don't do ashes, fast, or, that on Fridays we don't refrain eating steak, I wonder, how do you experience this period?

As Christians, followers of Jesus, or anything in between, we are not exempt from giving up, reflecting, and being generous. Let me share with you some practices for your Lent: Giving up your time watching the news, or social media, for example. I am trying, intentionally, to check in more often with my neighbors from Ecuador. I have been waking up, reminding myself of five things I am grateful for today.. What could be a practice we could do together for this season? Shoot me an email!

Gracias, Diego.

CONCERT AT UU URBAN MINISTRIES

"The Immigrant Experience"

Date: Sunday, March 22, 2026 @ 4:00 PM

Location: First Church Roxbury (UUUM); 10 Putnam St, Roxbury, MA 02119

Tickets: uum.org

(Donations are encouraged but are not necessary)

The Immigrant Experience is an afternoon of music, words, and shared reflection that honors the journeys of those who have come here in search of safety, opportunity, and belonging.

The concert will be centered around John Kramer's moving cantata featuring texts by our Founding Fathers that establish the U.S.A. as a place of welcome for immigrants. This selection will be complemented by performances from immigrant artists and youth that lift up stories of resilience, hope, and community.

This event will also feature performances by young artists from Sociedad Latina as well as a combined choir of vocalists from area UU congregations.

All proceeds from this event will benefit two local organizations:

- Refugee & Immigration Assistance Center (RIAC)
- Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN)

Join us to celebrate stories of those who came here in pursuit of the promise that is America.

SPRING CONCERT AT THE CHURCH



Join us on May 7 at 7:00 PM for an evening of Broadway classics performed by our Music Quartet and Music Director Kathryn Rosenbach. This joyful spring concert invites the whole community to gather, listen, and celebrate together.

Admission is free. All are welcome.

For more information, scan the QR code below.



SAVE THE DATES

MARCH

Sunday, March 8 – 9:00 AM
Sandwich Making (Capuchin Homeless Ministries)

Sunday, March 29 – 10:30 AM
Palm Sunday and Communion

APRIL

Thursday, April 2 – 7:00 PM
Taizé – Holy Thursday

Friday, April 3 – 5:30 PM
Good Friday Meditation

Sunday, April 5 – 9:00 AM
Easter Sunday and Breakfast

MAY

Thursday, May 7 – 7:00 PM
Spring Concert at the Church: The Best of Broadway

Sunday, May 24 – 10:30 AM
Pentecost and Communion

Sunday, May 31 – 10:30 AM
Musical Sunday

March 1

Sermon: My Help Comes from the Lord
Scriptures: Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17
Scripture Reader: Sally Baker
Usher: Lisle Baker
Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. S.H. Thomas by Molly Batchelder and their family.
Coffee Hour: Sally and Lisle Baker.

March 8

Sermon: Water from the Rock
Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42
Scripture Reader: David Cornish
Usher: David Cornish
Flowers: In loving memory of Franklin Lien Ho and Shwen Dji Yu Ho by Pauline Ho Bynum and their family.
Coffee Hour: Deborah and David Brooks

March 15

Sermon: The Lord is my Shepherd (Diego)
Scriptures: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, John 9:1-11
Scripture Reader: Carol Lohe
Usher: Werner Lohe
Flowers: In loving memory of Emily Saltonstall Byrd by Richard Byrd and her family.
Coffee Hour: Carol and Werner Lohe

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please contact our sexton Dana (617-680-0702) to coordinate the delivery of your flower donation. He can meet the florist (or you) at the church on the Saturday prior to your date or let us know if you are bringing your own flowers on Sunday. We have vases available or silk arrangements which can easily be placed on the altar.

If you would like to reserve a spot to remember your beloved ones, please contact our church administrator at 26suffolk@gmail.com.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 1:00 PM on Wednesdays on Zoom. In March we are studying selections from the Book of the Maccabees. Contact Rev. Mark to be included on the Zoom 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 caroltroyenlohe@gmail.com. This is one of many opportunities 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.

CAPUCHIN MOBILE MINISTRIES

On March 8 at 9:00 AM, we will gather to make sandwiches for those in need through Capuchin Ministries, an outreach van and ministry of presence serving across Boston and Cambridge. Each year, more than 15,000 sandwiches are distributed to individuals experiencing homelessness, poverty, and loneliness.

We will meet 90 minutes before worship to prepare and assemble the sandwiches. All are welcome to help.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...”

SUNDAY EASTER BREAKFAST

On Sunday, April 5, at 9 am, we'll celebrate Easter together with a community breakfast. We'll be sending an email out soon with an RSVP and a sign-up to bring food to share. Open your phone camera to use this QR code or wait for our email to send you the link. Please feel free to spread this event and bring your beloved ones!

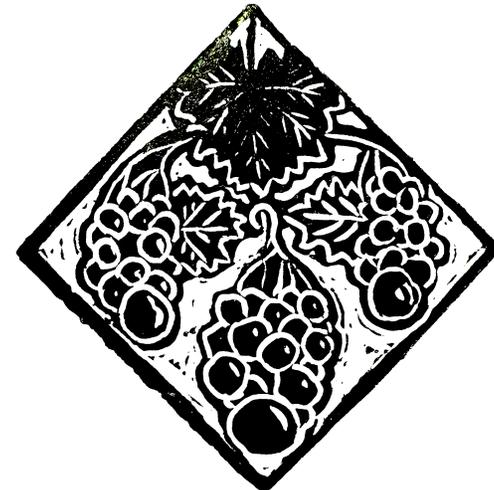


March 22

Sermon: Miracles
Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:34-44
Scripture Reader: Joe Hicks
Usher: Joe Hicks
Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer by her husband Myron Belfer.
Coffee Hour: Linda and Joe Hicks

March 29

Sermon: Palm Sunday (Communion)
Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11
Scripture Reader: Bert Dane
Usher: Bert Dane
Flowers: In loving memory of Pat Timothy by her friends at FCCH.
Coffee Hour: Pauline Ho Bynum



MARCH MUSIC

March 1, 2026

Prelude	Farewell to Music	<i>O'Carolan</i>
Anthem	Filiae Jerusalem	<i>Palestrina</i>
Hymn 85	I to the Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes	
Response	O God, Thou Faithful God	<i>Bach</i>
Offertory Anthem	God Is Our Refuge and Strength	<i>Mozart</i>
Hymn 92	I Look to Thee in Every Need	
Hymn 101	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	
Choral Response	Twofold Amen	<i>Persichetti</i>
Postlude	Sunday's Well	<i>Gabham</i>

Ellery Klein, Fiddle

March 8, 2026

Prelude	3 Miniatures	<i>Peeters</i>
Anthem	Sound the Cymbal	<i>Schubert</i>
Hymn 1 (Grey)	May Nothing Evil Cross This Door	
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide	<i>Bach</i>
Offertory Anthem	Salve Regina	<i>Poulenc</i>
Hymn 358	Rock of Ages	
Hymn 494	We Would Be Building	
Choral Response	Sevenfold Amen	<i>Stainer</i>
Postlude	Toccata	<i>Buxtehude</i>

March 15, 2026

Prelude	Toccata	<i>Frescobaldi</i>
Anthem	Brother James' Air	<i>Jacob</i>
Response	All Men Living Are but Mortal	<i>Bach</i>
Offertory Anthem	Come My Way, My Truth, My Life	<i>Hopson</i>
Hymn 80	The King of Love My Shepherd Is	
Hymn 228	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	
Choral Response	Old Irish Blessing	<i>Agay</i>
Postlude	Fugue	<i>Seeger</i>

March 22, 2026

Prelude	Chaconne	<i>Handel</i>
Anthem	De Profundis	<i>Mozart</i>
Hymn 70	Let Us With a Gladsome Mind	
Response	From Depths of Woes I Cry to Thee	<i>Bach</i>
Offertory Anthem	O Taste and See	<i>Vaughan Williams</i>
Hymn 288	Let Us Break Bread Together	
Hymn (Grey)	Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire	
Choral Response	Threefold Amen	<i>Persichetti</i>
Postlude	Gigue	<i>Handel</i>

March 29, 2026

Prelude	Da pacem Domine	<i>Sweelinck</i>
Anthem	Fanfare for Palm Sunday	<i>Davis</i>
Hymn 156	Draw Nigh to Thy Jerusalem	
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light	<i>Bach</i>
Offertory Anthem	O Glorious King, In Triumph Rise	<i>Williams</i>
Hymn 175	Ride on, Ride on in Majesty	
Hymn 155	All Glory, Laud and Honor	
Choral Response	Threefold Amen	<i>Traditional</i>
Postlude	Toccata	<i>Sweelinck</i>

MUSIC NEWS

On March 1 Ellery Klein joined our service. She is an Irish fiddler and violin teacher in the Boston area, with over 25 youth and a few adult students. She also runs a monthly Irish music learner's session for all ages at Powers Music School. She is a member of the Irish trio Fódhla, which performs around New England, and the Celtic quintet The Bow Tides, which will be performing in New England in July.