

OUR 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

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

April 2026

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



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

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

Eastertide is upon us. Easter Sunday is on April 5, and the season of Easter follows. I have made some alternate reading selections for the end of the year. Instead of the Book of Acts, we will be turning to some less frequently told stories from the Bible: the stories of women.

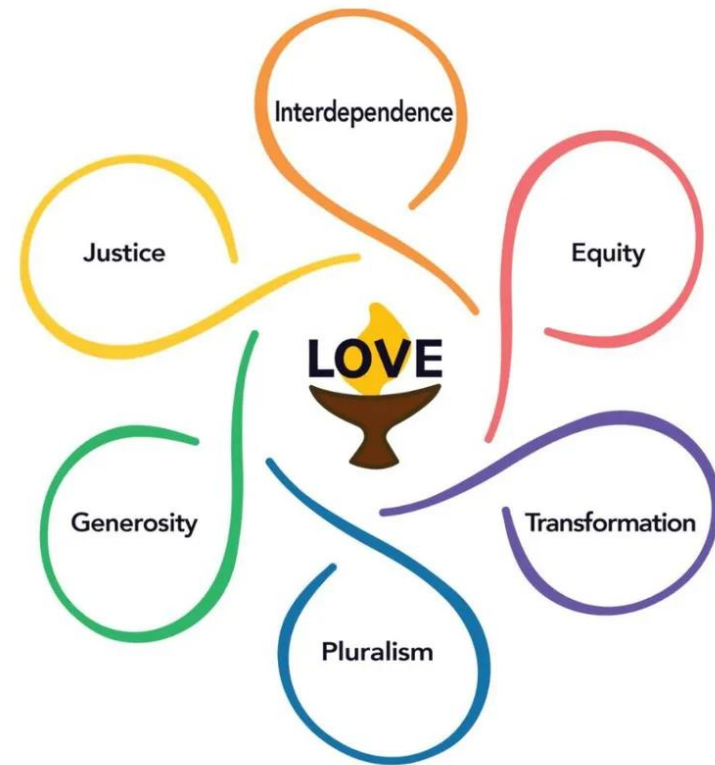
It is an understatement to say that women are underrepresented in the Bible. Sometimes they are made out to be the “bad guys” like with Eve in the Garden of Eden. Sometimes they are hapless victims, like Hagar driven into the wilderness by Sarah, the jealous wife of Abraham. And sometimes they are deemphasized even though they are important, even pivotal, figures like Mary Magdalene as the witness to the empty tomb. There were clearly disciples of Jesus who were women, like Mary, and crucial followers who made the existence of the Early Church possible in the time of Paul.

We will not be discussing another woman, who is nameless, the wife of Lot (though in some traditions she is called Ado). She is mentioned in the Bible as the family flees the destruction of the city of Sodom. They were warned not to look back on the doomed city, but she fails to follow that instruction and is turned into a pillar of salt. Some interpret this fate as a sign of being stuck in the past or longing for possessions abandoned in exchange for a new spiritual life (Luke 17).

We can assess her sad fate and the stories of the other women of the Bible in the coming weeks.

Happy Easter and God Bless, Mark

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

191st Annual Meeting – UU Urban Ministry

Thursday, May 21 – 5:30–7:00 PM (Virtual, open to the public)

You are warmly invited to attend the 191st Annual Meeting of the UU Urban Ministry. This is a meaningful opportunity to hear about the ongoing work of their programs, receive updates from the UUUM team, and stay connected to the wider movement for racial and social justice in our region.

Upcoming Opportunities

Bridges of Understanding (April 4, 12–4 PM), a *Volunteer Networking Session* (April 15, 7 PM, Zoom), and *Roxbury Patriots' Day* (April 20, 8:15–11 AM). In the summer, you are invited to explore their neighborhood tours and music offerings, including the *Roxbury Ramble* (June 13), *Historic Meetinghouse Tour* (June 25), *Makanda Project Concert* (July 11, 1–4 PM), *From Outlaws to Insiders* (July 25), and *Roots of the 'Bury* (August 8). [Learn more and view full details](#)

BELOVEDNESS

This month, I want to share a surprise. On May 17 at 4:00 PM, at First Parish in Brookline, our congregation and First Parish will be ordaining me as pastor, minister, reverend... however you call this, a moment I receive with gratitude and humility.

This ordination belongs to you and the communities that have called me forward: Sanctuary Boston, BU School of Theology, Raices Latinas, Club Cafe, East Boston, my family Casas-Solorzano, Garrido, Barreto and my beloved, Jon. I thank Capuchin Ministries, Roxbury, and First UMC in Medford. I thank *Principe de Paz* UMC in Bogota, the Seminary of the Diocese of Girardot and my group of readers of mysticism. This is yours.

During Holy Week, I spent time carving the linocuts for our orders of service. For Good Friday and Easter, I worked with Celtic knots, interwoven patterns as a theological statement. I think, sometimes, we are tempted by a simpler God. A God we can explain, or resolve. But the knots reminded me of something else. In Celtic spirituality, there is the *anam cara*, the soul friend. Someone who walks with you, not to untangle your life, but to honor its weave.

I wonder if this is also what discipleship looks like. Not having all the answers, but staying with one another. Not reducing the journey, but embracing it. As we move through Easter, I carry that image with me: that even in the knots, life is already present, already unfolding. And perhaps our call is not to escape the complexity, but to remain faithful within it.

Pray for me, as I get to this special date.

Con mucho gusto, Diego.

April 5

Sermon: Holy Easter
Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:1-6; Matthew 28:1-10
Scripture Reader: Diego Garrido
Usher: Lisle Baker
Flowers: In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs.
Edward Dane and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest
B. Dane
Coffee Hour: Sunday Breakfast

April 12

Sermon: Eve (Diego)
Scriptures: Genesis 3:1-7; John 20:19:31
Scripture Reader: David Brooks
Usher: Joe Hicks
Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer by
her husband Myron Belfer.
Coffee Hour: Meghan Baker and Federico Frigerio

April 19

Sermon: Sarah
Scriptures: Genesis 18:9-15; Luke 24:13-35
Scripture Reader: Lisle Baker
Usher: Mark Chadbourne
Flowers: In loving memory of Jane Ericson Morss
by Jennifer Morss Drayton and her family.
Coffee Hour: Jennifer Morss Drayton

April 26

Sermon: Hagar
Scriptures: Genesis 21:9-19; John 10:1-10
Scripture Reader: Anthar Nieto
Usher: Werner Lohe
Flowers: In loving memory of Mr and Mrs
Frederick C Koch and Dr and Mrs Arthur

M Cragin and John Cragin Wyman by
Judith K Wyman
Coffee Hour: Sarah and Andrew Welch

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. Our Spring Year is already full. Our Fall 2026 - June 2027 list will be ready in May.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 1:00 PM on Wednesdays on Zoom. In March we are studying selections from the Gospel of Luke. 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 feel called to give, you may do so via Zelle or by mailing a check to the church (Attention: Treasurer, 26 Suffolk Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467). Thank you for your generosity and care for this community. We are currently developing additional online giving options to better support this process.

SPRING CONCERT AT THE CHURCH

SAVE THE DATES



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.



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 Breakfast and Service

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

Sunday, May 17 – 10:30 AM
Musical Sunday (Correction)

Sunday, May 17 – 4:00 PM
Ordination of Diego Garrido Barreto
(at First Parish Brookline)

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

Sunday, **June 7** – 10:30 AM
Membership Sunday!

Sunday, June 14 - 10:30 AM
Last Regular Sunday of the year

APRIL MUSIC

April 5			April 19		
Prelude	Be Thou My Vision	<i>Traditional Irish Tune</i>	Prelude	Voluntary	<i>Greene</i>
	I Know That My Redeemer Liveth	<i>Handel</i>	Anthem	O salutaris Hostia	<i>Rossini</i>
	Panis Angelicus	<i>Franck</i>	Hymn 10	Before Jehovah's Awful Throne	
Anthem	Worthy Is the Lamb/Amen Chorus Messiah	<i>Handel</i>	Response	Draw Us to Thee	<i>Bach</i>
			Offertory Anthem	Ave Maria	<i>Stravinsky</i>
Hymn 182	Christ the Lord Is Risen Today		Hymn 272	Blest Be the Tie That Binds	
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Prince of Peace	<i>Bach</i>	Hymn 352	Lift Up Your Hearts!	
Offertory Anthem	Easter Prayer	<i>Marshall</i>	Choral Response	Threefold Amen	<i>Traditional</i>
Hymn 185	Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain		Postlude	Prelude	<i>Sechter</i>
Hymn 187	Jesus Christ Is Risen Today		<hr/>		
Choral Response	The Lord Bless You and Keep You	<i>Lutkin</i>	April 26		
Postlude	He Lives on High	<i>Liliuokalani</i>	Prelude	Communion	<i>Dubois</i>
Tony Serio, trumpet			Anthem	Gott ist mein Hirt	<i>Schubert</i>
<hr/>			Hymn 84	The Lord's My Shepherd	
April 12			Response	If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee	<i>Bach</i>
Prelude	Prelude	<i>Bach</i>	Offertory Anthem	Ach, arme Welt	<i>Brahms</i>
Anthem	O quam gloriosum	<i>de Victoria</i>	Hymn 441	Once to Every Man and Nation	
Hymn 38	Morning Has Broken		Hymn 391	Be Thou My Vision	
Response	In God, My Faithful God	<i>Bach</i>	Choral Response	Twofold Amen	<i>Persichetti</i>
Offertory Anthem	Ave Maria	<i>de Victoria</i>	Postlude	Nun lasst uns Gott dem Herren danken sagen	<i>Pachelbel</i>
Hymn 66	For the Beauty of the Earth		<hr/>		
Hymn 478	All Things Bright and Beautiful				
Choral Response	Twofold Amen	<i>Traditional</i>			
Postlude	Orgelstück	<i>Knecht</i>			