

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

..... 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

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

September 2026

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, *Minister*

Kathryn Rosenbach, *Music Director*

Rev. Diego Garrido Barreto, *Ministerial Intern*

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

"Don't spoil a good story by telling the truth."

Attributed to Isabella Stewart Gardner

Welcome back from what was hopefully a good summer break. While I do not typically endorse fibbing, I could not help myself when I came across this quote.

For the first time in my lifelong residency in and around Boston, I visited the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. I thought it was impressive, particularly the gardens. And her penchant for religious art was striking – hopefully she waited until after the churches were closed to buy up all those altarpieces.

This fall, we will be revisiting a sermon series from a few years ago regarding works of art. We will work through the centuries examining the culture, philosophy, and theology that culminated in the artistic schools of the historic period. How the two-dimensional works of the Medieval period evolved into the depth and perspective of the Renaissance. How the rational social changes from the Enlightenment period shifted into the emotive sensibilities of the Romantics. And, of course, how an understanding of God, the Bible, and the church changed throughout these various periods.

We will also, hopefully, continue to have our former intern Diego in the pulpit as our new assistant minister. This question sadly turns on the intricacies of the current immigration system. But with an optimistic outlook, we will enjoy more art classes, more religious education, and perhaps even a few church field trips to area museums.

Please feel free to offer a few prayers to Saint Expeditus, a Roman centurion also known as the patron of urgent causes, procrastination, and those drowning in complex paperwork and bureaucratic delays (and yes, this is a real thing). "Expeditus" is Latin for a soldier without marching pack and may we likewise march forward quickly through it all.

God bless and welcome back,

Mark

BELOVEDNESS

This summer, two earthquakes devastated Venezuela and one Colombia. Both 7 in the scale of 10. The one in Colombia happened a hundred kilometers deep, while Venezuela had 39 seconds in between, on the surface, both catastrophic. While my country was shaken I am also being shaken by the current administration of this country.

Unfortunately I have had to slow down from my regular ministry. While I wait for my work authorization, as my marriage case moves, denial after denial. You may have noticed I am not responding as usual 9-5. And yes, our beloved Dolly Parton passed away.

To find spiritual shelter I went to King's Chapel, First Church Cambridge UU, and Plymouth Congregational Church in Belmont. I sang diverse hymns, listened to sermons, and all I could do is pray.

This waiting is not easy. While my family visited me this August, I didn't have enough to offer. No mother should feel this for any son. Immigration reduced me to a case number, a fee, a denied document. Before all our nationalities, stories or fictions told about us, migrants are seeking for stability and safety. Maybe belovedness begins there, not out of politics but a firm ground, one that sees everyone as sacred and welcome. As on earth as it is in heaven.

For now, I am reminded of the song of my ordination, the words of Julian of Norwich... *All Shall Be Well*.

September 13

Sermon: Medieval/Gothic
Scriptures: Gn 50:15–21; Mt 18:21–35; Ps 103
Reader: Carol & Werner Lohe
Usher: David Cornish
Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Samuel H. Thomas. By Molly B.
Coffee Hour: Carol & Werner Lohe

September 20

Sermon: Renaissance
Scriptures: Nm 21:4b–9; Jn 3:13–17; Ps 98
Reader: Sally & Lisle Baker
Usher: Mark Chadbourne
Flowers: In loving memory of Ann Gordon Steinberg by Sally and Lisle Baker.
Coffee Hour: Sally & Lisle Baker

September 27

Sermon: Baroque
Scriptures: Jon 3:10–4:11; Mt 20:1–16; Ps 145
Reader: Deborah & David Brooks
Usher: David Brooks
Flowers: In loving memory of Ann and Tom Gannett by the Brooks family.
Coffee Hour: Deborah & David Brooks

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, October 4 – 10:30 AM
Homecoming Sunday & Picnic
First Church in Chestnut Hill

October – Date TBD

Capuchin Mobile Ministries Sandwich Making
Join us as we prepare sandwiches in support of Capuchin
Mobile Ministries and their outreach to our unhoused
neighbors in Boston and Cambridge.

FCCH in the Community

Visit the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury

This fall, we invite you to discover the work of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry, rooted in Roxbury and committed to racial, economic, and social justice across Greater Boston. Visit the historic Roxbury Meetinghouse, join an upcoming community event, and learn more about how UU congregations can be partners in this important ministry.

What's Happening at the UU Urban Ministry?

Our friends at the UU Urban Ministry invite us to join them in Roxbury this September:

Sept. 12, 1–4 PM — Makanda Project Jazz Concert

Sept. 15, 3–5 PM — Roxbury's Meetinghouse Open House

Sept. 16, 7–8 PM — Volunteer Networking Session (Zoom)

Sept. 19, 9:30–11 AM — *Roots of the 'Bury*: Public Art in Nubian Square walking tour

Sept. 26, 1–3 PM — *Sing Out Strong: Revolutionary Voices*, featuring lyrics by Indigenous poets

Come experience music, history, art, community, and the ongoing justice work of our UU neighbors in Roxbury.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Our Church Year is almost full. Our Fall 2026 - June 2027 list is ready. 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 September we will continue the Gospel of Luke. Contact Rev. Mark to be included on the Zoom list at mjtcaggiano@gmail.com. All are welcome.

BIBLE STUDY IN ESPAÑOL

Rev. Diego is inviting Spanish speakers to a bible study that brings our contexts and vulnerability first, to read each Monday at 6:30 PM the gospel in preparation for Sunday. Invite your Spanish speaking friends!

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.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY PICNIC — October 4

Come celebrate the beginning of a new church year with our Homecoming Sunday and Picnic! Join us for worship, food, friendship, and a joyful afternoon together as we reconnect after the summer and welcome new and familiar faces back into the community. Bring your appetite, your family, and your joy — there is a place for you at the table.

BOOK CLUB

***The Nutmeg's Curse* by Amitav Ghosh**

Join us this spring to wrap up our conversation on Amitav Ghosh's *The Nutmeg's Curse*, exploring colonialism, climate crisis, and the histories we inherit. All are welcome, whether you attend one session or the full series. **Send an email to 26suffolk@gmail.com (Sunday, after coffee hour in the parish lounge)**

September Music 2026

9/13/2026

Prelude	Adoro te Devote	Gregorian Chant
Anthem	Ut Queant Laxis	d'Arezzo
Hymn 1	Our God, Our Help in Ages Past	
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Cantate Domino	Gregorian Chant
Hymn 38	Morning has Broken	
Hymn 228	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	
Choral Response	Ubi Caritas	Taize Chant
Postlude	Toccata	Anonymous

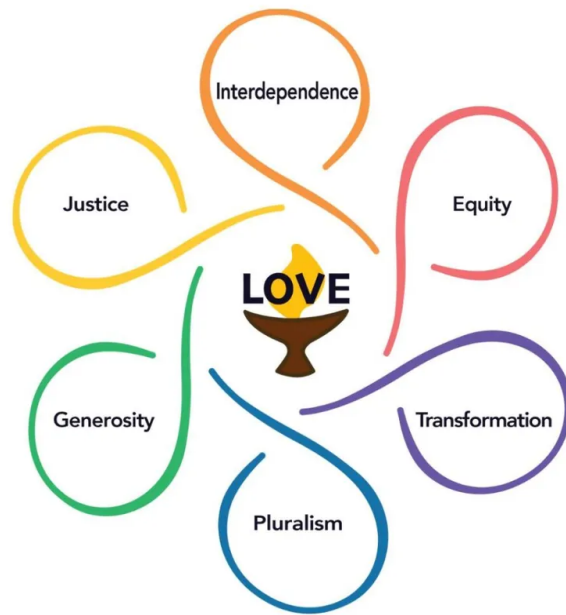
9/20/2026

Prelude	Toccata and Versets for the Kyrie	Frescobaldi
Anthem	If ye love me	Tallis
Hymn 10	Before Jehovah's Aweful Throne	
Response	All Men Living Are But Mortal	Bach
Offertory Anthem	O Domine Jesu Christe	Anonymous
Hymn 37	Still, Still With Thee	
Hymn 217	Lord of All Hopefulness	
Choral Response	Threefold Amen	Persichetti
Postlude	Prelude	Sechter

9/27/2026

Prelude	Prelude	Bach
Anthem	Surely he hath borne our griefs	Lotti
Hymn 21	We Gather Together	
Response	Awake, My Heart	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Break forth, o beauteous heav'nly light	Bach
Hymn 198	Christ Is the Word's True Light	
Hymn 8	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	
Choral Response	Sevenfold Amen	Stainer
Postlude	Fugue	Czernohorsky

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

A Liturgy for Those Struggling to Believe

When we question everything we thought we once believed,
help us, gentle Teacher, to be brave seekers of truth.
When doubts multiply in our mind,
help us not to be afraid but curious.
When questions arise about your existence, your goodness, your
salvation,
help us press in and believe that you can be found.

Teacher, we're longing for someone to tell us what to believe.
We arrogantly measure you with our own intellect,
looking for answers in books, academia, pop culture, critics.
But faith is impossible when we seek it within the realm of our
understanding.
We become fools when we claim to be wise.
So help us reach beyond what we know.
Help us step into wonder
into learning
into trusting you for flourishing.
The adventure of faith is there.

(...)

*With man, this is impossible.
With God, all things are possible.*

Help us seek truth with urgency and wonder,
with childlikeness instead of childishness,
until a foundation of faith, sturdy and timeless, is revealed.

Keep us alive in our famine of faith until we become what we
believe.
In weakness, yes, we do believe.
Help our unbelief.

Amen.