

Reports to the Annual Meeting

June 12, 2026



*The First Unitarian Universalist Society
of
Middleborough*

*25 South Main Street
Middleborough, MA 02346*

Our Mission:

To create and sustain a welcoming and caring community that embodies our UU principles, inspires spiritual growth without dogma or creed, and promotes and serves racial and social justice.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Warrant	1
FY 26-27 Proposed Budget	2
Simplified Rules of Order	7
Parish Committee Report	16
Minister's Report	19
Music Report	28
Religious Exploration Report	32
Building and Grounds Report	35
Finance Committee Report	39
Pastoral Care Team Report	41
Program Planning Report	44
Social Justice Team Report	45
Worship Committee Report	49
Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting	51

WARRANT
THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF MIDDLEBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY JUNE 12, 2026

Those who are full members of The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough as of May 13, 2026 are requested to meet in the sanctuary on Friday, June 12, 2026 at 7:00 pm for the Society's Annual Meeting to transact the following business:

- Article I:** To adopt rules for the meeting proposed by the Parish Committee (see 2026 Annual Meeting booklet, "Simplified Rules of Order").
- Article II:** To accept the minutes from the 2025 Annual Meeting (see 2026 Annual Meeting booklet).
- Article III:** To receive reports of the Society for the past year (see 2026 Annual Meeting booklet).
- Article IV:** To recognize the gifts of time and talent given by members who are concluding roles in the Society.
- Article V:** To elect officers and members of the Parish Committee for the coming Church year, July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, including President, Treasurer, and two At Large positions.

The Parish Committee, acting as the Nominating Committee, presents the following nominations for 2026-2027:

- President:** Jeff Giddings (returning for second two-year term)
- Treasurer:** Open (interim Acting Treasurer: Stephen Larrett)
- At Large:** Diane Reed (returning for second two-year term)
- At Large:** Adrian Gunn (replacing Jim Bonnar, second year of two-year term)

The current Vice-President (Vi Fairweather), Assistant Treasurer (Nancy Backus), and Clerk (Mal Marvill) will continue for the second year of their two-year terms. Stephen Larrett has completed his two-year term as Treasurer and will continue in an interim position until a replacement has been found. Jim Bonnar is leaving his At Large position after 8 years of service on the Parish Committee.

- Article VI:** To adopt a budget for the coming fiscal year, July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Such a vote includes approval of the minister's salary and expenses. The proposed budget is provided as Attachment A to this Warrant.
- Article VII:** To authorize the Parish Committee or designee to withdraw from Investment funds and/or to borrow funds as needed to manage cash flow and/or cover unanticipated expenses during the fiscal year.
- Article VIII:** To address any other actions necessary for the business of the Society.

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro				
Operating Report and Proposed FY27 Budget Summary				
<i>Excluding building project and other directed donations and expenses</i>				
	24/25	25/26	25/26	26/27
	Actual	Actual 4/30/26	Budget	Proposed
Revenue:				
Pledges	\$163,038	\$138,625	\$170,000	\$170,500
Fundraising Events	\$17,720	\$11,820	\$15,000	\$15,000
UUA & Budgeted Investment Use*	\$14,331	\$9,252	\$13,458	\$14,213
Donations and Other Income **	\$7,772	\$9,801	\$6,100	\$5,550
Net Operating Income	\$202,861	\$169,498	\$204,558	\$205,263
Expenses:				
Ministry	\$88,841	\$88,200	\$98,318	\$101,458
Music	\$29,434	\$24,320	\$28,640	\$30,098
Education	\$20,637	\$17,991	\$22,490	\$21,380
Office	\$46,997	\$37,749	\$49,108	\$50,618
Bldgs & Grounds	\$14,977	\$12,954	\$14,175	\$16,880
Committees	\$3,825	\$4,290	\$6,750	\$6,250
UUA Support	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000
Net Operating Expense	\$210,711	\$185,504	\$225,481	\$232,684
Net Operating Gain/(Loss)	-\$7,850	-\$16,006	-\$20,923	-\$27,421
* UUA (includes Pratt), Budgeted Take from Investments				
** Unrestricted gifts to the church and misc income (rental, RE registration)				
<i>Income and Expenses related to 2025-26 Building Restoration Project</i>				
	24/25	25/26		
	Actual	Actual 4/30/26	Total	
Revenue: Directed Donations	\$156,904	\$3,301	\$160,205	
Expense: Building Restoration	\$80,000	\$96,342	\$176,342	
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$76,904	-\$93,041	-\$16,137	
Pledged			\$176,955	
Collected through 4/30/26			\$160,205	
Amount due			\$16,750	

**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro
FY27 Budget DRAFT**

	25/26 Actual through 4/30/26	Budget 25/26	Proposed 26/27	Notes
Revenue				
4100 Annual Pledges				
4110 Current Year Pledges	138225	170000	170500	
4120 Prior Year Pledge Payment	400	0	0	
Total 4100 Annual Pledges	138625	170000	170500	
4150 Religious Education				
4152 Rel Educ - Family Registration	30	100	150	
Total 4150 Religious Education	30	100	150	
4200 Donations				
4210 Gifts (pledge overpymts and other donations)	3800	2000	3000	
4230 Special Gift (add'l asks)	3301	0	0	
Total 4200 Donations	7101	2000	3000	
4300 Fund Income (investment used to cover specific expense)				
4240 DG Pratt Trust - Annual Allocation	3612	3700	3700	
4310 Mary Fuller Fund used	25000	0	0	to cover building repairs in FY26
4315 Avis Clay Funds used	3849	3849	4044	
4340 Unrestricted Funds Annual Allocation	5092	5092	5162	
4341 Interest from Endowment Fund	817	817	1307	
4350 Unrestricted Funds Withdrawal	31059	0	0	FY26 includes building fund
Total 4300 Fund Income (investment used to cover specific expense)	69429	13458	14213	
4400 Fundraiser Revenue	11820	15000	15000	
4600 Other Income				
4610 Rental Income	1850	4000	2400	
4625 Interest Earned	3	0	0	
Total 4600 Other Income	1853	4000	2400	
Total Revenue	228858	204558	205263	
Revenue excluding income directed to building fund	169498			

**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro
FY27 Budget DRAFT**

	25/26 Actual through 4/30/26	Budget 25/26	Proposed 26/27	Notes
Expenditures				
5100 Ministry				
5120 Minister Payroll Related Expenses				
5122 Minister - Salaries & Wages	47,760	61991	63231	
5124 Minister - Housing	22,815	20900	21318	
5126 Minister - EE Benefits	13,346	9107	9289	
5127 Minister - Professional Expense Allowance	3,770	5600	5600	
5128 Minister - Health/Dental Reimbursement	259	720	720	
Total 5120 Minister Payroll Related Expenses	87950	98318	100158	
5150 Guest Ministers	250	0	1300	previously charged to Worship Committee
Total 5100 Ministry	88200	98318	101458	
5200 Music				
5220 Music Payroll Related Expenses				
5222 Music - Salaries & Wages	15462	17417	19000	11 months in FY26, 12 months in FY27
5226 Music - EE Benefits	3087	1742	2100	incl. holiday bonus
5227 Music - Professional Expense Allowance	0	500	500	
5228 Music - Payroll Taxes	1266	1332	1453	
Total 5220 Music Payroll Related Expenses	19815	20991	23054	
5230 Music Expenses	2115	3000	3000	includes sub musicians in FY27
5240 Organ & Piano Repairs & Maintenance	1689	0	0	in 5250 in FY27
5245 Substitute & Other Musicians	700	800	0	in 5230 in FY27
5250 Avis Clay Expenditures	2663	3849	4044	includes organ/piano in FY27
Total 5200 Music	24320	28640	30098	
5300 Religious Exploration & Youth Leadership				
5322 Rel Exploration - Salaries & Wages	16,610	18105	18467	incl. RE hourly employees
5326 Rel Exploration - Benefits	0	500	500	Incl. holiday bonus

**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro
FY27 Budget DRAFT**

	25/26 Actual through 4/30/26	Budget 25/26	Proposed 26/27	Notes
5328 Rel Exploration - Payroll Taxes	1268	1385	1413	incl. RE hourly employees
5340 Child Care	0	1500	0	moved to 5322 and 5328
5350 Religious Exploration Expenses	114	1000	1000	
Total 5300 Religious Exploration & Youth Leadership	17991	22490	21380	
5400 Office/General Administrative Expenditures				
5410 Payroll Expenditures				
5422 Office & Bldg - Salaries & Wages	22826	30030	30631	
5426 Office & Bldg - EE Benefits	0	250	400	Holiday bonus
5428 Office & Bldg - Payroll Taxes	1746	2297	2343	
Total 5410 Payroll Expenditures	24573	32577	33374	
5434 Office Supplies & Software	2368	4000	4000	includes Tech software
5436 Other Business Expenses	273	630	800	
5440 Taxes & Licenses	175	641	800	
5450 Insurance	9042	10000	10000	
5460 Bank Charges & Fees	162	0	0	
5472 Accounting & Bookkeeping	1156	1260	1644	
Total 5400 Office/General Administrative Expenditures	37749	49108	50618	
5500 Building & Grounds				
5510 Major Repairs	96342	0	0	roof and shingle repairs
5520 Other Repairs & Maintenance	2490	2600	3560	
5523 Safety	850	0	650	
5525 Kitchen & Janitorial Supplies	751	500	735	
5530 Grounds	1501	2200	2340	
5531 Grounds-Memorial Garden	641	0	0	included in 5530 in FY27
5532 Furnishings	1500	0	500	
5540 Utilities				

**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro
FY27 Budget DRAFT**

	25/26 Actual through 4/30/26	Budget 25/26	Proposed 26/27	Notes
5542 Communications	2109	2400	1158	phone/internet; software in 5434 in FY27
5544 Gas & Electric	5666	3800	5500	
5546 Water & Sewer	123	875	500	
Total 5540 Utilities	7897	7075	7158	
5550 Trash Disposal	1390	1800	1937	
Total 5500 Building & Grounds	113362	14175	16880	
5600 Programs				
5610 Fundraiser Expense	0	2000	0	
5620 Committees/Teams				
5622 Parish	1250	200	500	
5624 Worship	1457	1000	200	Guest ministers now in 5150
5625 Pledge Drive	7	250	200	
5628 Social Justice	100	500	750	
5630 Hospitality	779	400	1400	Includes coffee hour stipend & food
5634 Technology	697	2100	2000	Hardware
5635 Website	0	0	700	Previously charged to 5434, 5542, 5634
5636 Public Relations	0	300	500	
Total 5620 Committees/Teams	4290	4750	6250	
Total 5600 Programs	4290	6750	6250	
5800 UUA Support	0	6000	6000	
Total Expenditures	285912	225481	232683	
Net Operating Revenue	-57054	-20923	-27420	FY26 deficit covered by funds collect
Expenditures excluding major building project	185504			
Net Operating Revenue excluding major building project	-16006			

**First Unitarian Universalist Society
of Middleborough
Simplified Rules of Order**

Proposed for adoption at the 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting
June 12, 2026

Introduction

These rules are based on a simplification of Robert's Rules of Order developed by parliamentary procedure expert Dave Rosenberg. Any issues not addressed in these rules shall be decided by reference to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. These rules are intended primarily for meetings of the Congregation. Meetings of the Parish Committee (the Board), committees, teams, and task forces may choose to proceed informally, but if there is a dispute about how a decision is made, these rules shall control.

Quorum

A quorum is the minimum number of members of the body who must be present at a meeting for business to be legally transacted. The default rule is that a quorum is a majority, or one more than half of the body. So, for example, in a nine-member body a quorum is five. The default quorum rule gives way to specific rules establishing a quorum in the church Bylaws.

Role of the Chair

While all members of the body should know and understand these rules, the Chair of the body is charged with applying these rules in the conduct of the meeting. The Chair should be well versed in these rules. The Chair makes the final ruling on the rules every time the Chair states an action. All decisions by the Chair are final unless overruled by the body itself.

Because the Chair is responsible for conducting meetings, the Chair should play a less active role in the debate and discussion than other members of the body. This does not mean that the Chair should not participate in the debate or discussion. To the contrary, the Chair as a member of the body has the full right to participate in the debate, discussion and decision-making of the body. What the Chair should do, however, is strive to be the last to speak at the discussion and debate stage, and the Chair should not make or second a

motion unless the Chair is convinced that no other member of the body will do so at that point in time.

Agenda Item Discussion

Formal meetings should have a written agenda. Informal meetings may have only an oral or understood agenda. In either case, the meeting is governed by the agenda, and the agenda constitutes the body's agreed-upon roadmap for the meeting. Each agenda item should be handled by the Chair in the following basic format:

1. The Chair should clearly announce the agenda item and clearly state what the agenda item subject is.

2. The Chair should invite the appropriate person or persons to report on the item, including any recommendation that they might have. The appropriate person or persons may be the Chair, a member of the body, a staff person, or a committee chair or member charged with providing input on the agenda item.

3. The Chair should ask members of the body if they have any technical questions of clarification. At this point, members of the body may ask clarifying questions to the person or persons who reported on the item, and that person or persons should be given time to respond.

4. If non-members of the body are present at the meeting, the Chair should invite technical questions from them. If numerous non-members present indicate a desire to speak, the Chair may limit the time devoted to their questions.

5. The Chair should invite a motion.

6. The Chair should determine if any member of the body wishes to second the motion.

7. If the motion is made and seconded, the Chair should make sure everyone understands the motion. This can be done in one of three ways: (a) The Chair can ask the maker of the motion to repeat it; (b) the Chair can repeat

the motion; or (c) the Chair can ask the secretary or the clerk of the body to repeat the motion.

8. The Chair should invite discussion of the motion by the body. If there is no desired discussion, or after the discussion has ended, the Chair should announce that the body will vote on the motion. If there has been no discussion or very brief discussion, then the vote on the motion should proceed immediately and there is no need to repeat the motion. If there has been substantial discussion, then it is normally best to make sure everyone understands the motion by repeating it.

9. The Chair takes a vote. Normally, this should be done by simply asking for the “ayes,” then “nays,” then “abstentions.” Unless otherwise provided by the church Bylaws or unless a super-majority is required as specified later in these rules, a simple majority determines whether the motion passes or is defeated.

10. The Chair should announce the result of the vote and should announce what action (if any) the body has taken.

Motions in General

Motions are the vehicles for decision-making by a body. A motion should be made before the body begins discussion. Motions are made in a simple two-step process:

1. The Chair should recognize a member of the body.
2. The member of the body makes a motion beginning with the words “I move that” followed by the substance of the motion.

The Chair usually initiates a motion by either (a) inviting the members of the body to make a motion (e.g., “A motion at this time would be in order”), (b) suggesting a motion to the members of the body (e.g., “A motion would be in order that”), or (c) making the motion. The Chair has every right as a member of the body to make a motion but normally should do so only if the Chair believes a motion is necessary and is convinced that no other member of the body is willing to make the motion.

Three Basic Motions

Three types of motion are the most common and recur often at meetings:

The main motion. The main motion is the one that puts forward a proposal for the body's decision. (Example: "I move that we create a five-member task force to plan and put on our annual fundraiser.")

The motion to amend. If a member wants to change a main motion that is before the body, the member should move to amend the motion. A motion to amend starts with the main motion which is before the body and seeks to change it in some way. (Example: "I move that we amend the motion to have a 10-member committee.") The amendment must be relevant to the main motion.

The substitute motion. If a member wants to completely do away with the main motion that is before the body and put a new motion before the body, the member should move a substitute motion. (Example: "I make a substitute motion that we cancel the annual fundraiser this year.")

Motions to amend and substitute motions are often confused, but they are quite different, and their effect is quite different. A motion to amend seeks to retain the main motion on the floor but modify it in some way. A substitute motion seeks to throw out the main motion on the floor and substitute a new and different motion for it. The decision as to whether a motion is really a "motion to amend" or a "substitute motion" is left to the Chair.

Multiple Motions Before the Body

There can be a maximum of three motions before the body at the same time. The Chair can reject a fourth motion as "out of order" until the body has dealt with the three pending motions. When there are two or three motions pending at the same time, voting should proceed first on the last motion made, as follows:

I. If there are a main motion and a motion to amend, the first vote should be on the motion to amend. If the motion to amend is passed, the second vote would be on the main motion as amended.

2. If a substitute motion is proposed, debated, and passed, it replaces the main motion and all pending amendments and is debated and voted on as usual.

Discussion and Debate

The basic rule of motions is that they are subject to discussion and debate. Accordingly, main motions, motions to amend, and substitute motions are all eligible for full discussion and debate, in the same order in which they would be voted on as specified in the previous section. Discussion and debate can continue as long as members of the body wish, subject to the decision of the Chair that it is time to take action. Exceptions to the general rule of free and open debate on motions apply when there is a desire of the body to move on. The following motions are not debatable; that is, when one of the following motions is made and seconded, the Chair must immediately call for a vote of the body without debate on the motion:

Motion to adjourn. This motion, if passed, requires the body to immediately adjourn to its next regularly scheduled meeting. It requires a simple majority vote.

Motion to recess. This motion, if passed, requires the body to immediately take a recess. Normally, the Chair determines the length of the recess, which may be a few minutes or an hour. It requires a simple majority vote.

Motion to fix the time to adjourn. This motion, if passed, requires the body to adjourn the meeting at the specific time set in the motion. For example, the motion might be: "I move we adjourn this meeting at midnight." It requires a simple majority vote.

Motion to table. This motion, if passed, requires that discussion of the agenda item be halted and the agenda item be placed on "hold." The motion can include a specific date/time when the item can come back to the body. Or the motion can contain no specific time for the return of the item, in which case a motion to take the item off the table and bring it back to the body can be made at a future meeting. A motion to table an item or to bring it back to the body requires a simple majority vote.

Motion to limit debate. The most common form of this motion is to say: “I move the previous question” or “I move the question” or “I call the question” or simply “Question.” As a practical matter, when a member calls for the “question,” the Chair can expedite procedure by simply asking the body if anyone wishes to continue discussing the issue. If no one wishes to discuss it further, the Chair can proceed to a vote on the issue without having to vote on “calling the question.” On the other hand, if even one member of the body wishes further discussion of the pending issue, then the Chair must treat the call for the “question” as a motion, ask for a second, and proceed with a vote if there is a second. A motion to limit debate requires a two-thirds vote of the body. It may include a time limit. (Example: “I move we limit debate on this agenda item to 15 minutes.”) Even in this format, the motion to limit debate requires a two-thirds vote.

Motion to object to consideration of an item. This motion is not debatable, and if seconded and passed, precludes the body from even considering an item on the agenda. It requires a two-thirds vote.

Majority and Super-Majority Votes

The default rules are:

1. A simple majority vote in favor of a motion means the motion is approved.
2. A tie vote means the motion is not approved.

While most motions require a simple majority vote for approval, there are a few exceptions in situations when the body is taking an action which effectively cuts off the ability of a minority of the body to take an action or discuss an item. The following extraordinary motions require a two-thirds majority (a super-majority) to pass:

Motion to limit debate: As stated in the previous section, a motion to “call the question” is non-debatable and requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

Motion to object to the consideration of a question: As stated in the previous section, a motion to object to the consideration of a question is non-debatable and requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

Motion to close nominations: When choosing officers of the body (like the Chair), nominations are in order either from a nominating committee or from members of the body. A “motion to close nominations” is non-debatable and requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

Motion to suspend the rules: A “motion to suspend rules” is debatable but requires a two-thirds vote to pass. Such a motion would allow the body to suspend the application of these rules for a particular purpose.

Counting Votes

If a two-thirds majority vote is needed to pass a motion, the Chair should count the “no” votes and double that count to determine how many “yes” votes are needed to pass the motion. If a majority vote is needed to pass a motion, a tie vote results in defeat of the motion. Abstentions shall not be counted as either “yes” or “no” votes.

Motion to Reconsider

A motion to reconsider is treated as a special motion because it is contrary to the principle of finality (the normal expectation that after vigorous discussion, debate and a vote, a final decision has been reached). While a motion to reconsider requires only a majority vote to pass, it is subject to two special rules:

1. A motion to reconsider must be made at the meeting at which the item was first voted upon. A motion to reconsider made at a later time is untimely. (The body, however, can vote by two-thirds majority to suspend the rules and allow a motion to reconsider to be made at a later meeting.)
2. A motion to reconsider may be made only by a member who voted in the majority on the original motion. The second may be made by any other member, regardless of how the seconding member voted on the original motion. If a member who voted in the minority seeks to make the motion to reconsider, it must be ruled out of order. (The purpose of this rule is finality.)

If a member of minority could make a motion to reconsider, then the item could be brought back to the body again and again, which would defeat the purpose of finality.)

If the motion to reconsider passes, then the original matter is back before the body, and a new original motion is in order. The matter may be discussed and debated as if it were on the floor for the first time.

Courtesy and Decorum

These rules of order are intended to create an atmosphere in which the members of the body and others present at meetings can conduct business efficiently, fairly and with full participation. At the same time, it is up to the Chair and the members of the body to maintain common courtesy and decorum. Unless the setting is very informal, it is always best for only one person at a time to have the floor, and it is always best for every speaker to be first recognized by the Chair before proceeding to speak.

The Chair should always ensure that debate and discussion of an agenda item focuses on the item and the policy in question, not the personalities of the members of the body. Debate on policy is healthy; debate on personalities is not. The Chair has the right to cut off discussion that is too personal, too loud, or too crude.

Debate and discussion should be focused, but free and open. In the interest of time, the Chair may, however, limit the time allotted to speakers, including members of the body. Members of the body may not interrupt a speaker except as follows:

Privilege. The proper interruption would be: “point of privilege.” The Chair would then ask the interrupter to “state your point.” Appropriate points of privilege relate to anything that would interfere with the normal comfort of the meeting. For example, the room may be too hot or too cold, or a blowing fan might interfere with a person’s ability to hear.

Order. The proper interruption would be: “point of order.” Again, the Chair would ask the interrupter to “state your point.” Appropriate points of order relate to anything that would not be considered appropriate conduct of the meeting. For example, if the

Chair moved on to a vote on a motion that permits debate without allowing that discussion or debate.

Appeal. If the Chair makes a ruling that a member of the body disagrees with, that member may appeal the ruling of the Chair. If the motion is seconded, and after debate, if it passes by a simple majority vote, then the ruling of the Chair is deemed reversed.

Call for returning to the agenda. If a member believes that the body has drifted from the agreed-upon agenda, the member may call for a return to the agenda. This does not require a vote, and when the Chair discovers that the agenda has not been followed, the Chair simply reminds the body to return to the agenda item properly before them. If the Chair fails to do so, the Chair's determination may be appealed.

Withdraw a motion. During debate and discussion of a motion, the maker of the motion on the floor, at any time, may interrupt a speaker to request that the motion be withdrawn from the floor. Withdrawal requires unanimous consent. If there are no objections, the motion is immediately deemed withdrawn without the necessity of the second also being withdrawn. Any other member may then make a motion the same as or similar to the withdrawn motion.

Input from Non-Members of the Body

The rules outlined above will help make meetings friendly to non-members of the body. In addition, the following three special rules apply when non-members of the body are in attendance at a meeting:

1. Announce what the body will be doing.
2. Keep the non-members informed while the body is doing it.
3. When the body has acted, tell the non-members what the body did.

Parish Committee 2026 Annual Report

The Parish Committee (PC) is UU Middleboro's governing board, responsible for the continued well-being of the Society as an institution. This includes maintaining financial and organizational stability, protecting our physical property, and ensuring the safety and security of everyone who participates in church activities. The duties of the PC are stated in the Bylaws, which are approved by the Congregation. Above all, the PC is committed to upholding the Society's mission "to create and sustain a welcoming and caring community that embodies our UU principles, inspires spiritual growth without dogma or creed, and promotes and serves social and racial justice."

This year's PC consists of Jeff Giddings (President), Vi Fairweather (Vice-President), Mal Marvill (Clerk), Stephen Larrett (Treasurer), Nancy Backus (Assistant Treasurer), Jim Bonnar (At-Large), and Diane Reed (At-Large). The PC met monthly and held an Annual Retreat in August. Most meetings were held in the Parish Hall. Some were on Zoom in the winter, and several were a hybrid of in person and on Zoom. Rev. Beau Rivers and as many as four guests attended each monthly meeting.

New Beginnings

The new church year was filled with excitement as we welcomed William Smith as our new Music Director on August 1st and Installed Rev. Beau as our settled minister on October 12th. And our lovely church building looks brand new with the completion of its new roof and siding.

Safety and Security

The PC continues our commitment to the safety and security of our congregation. This year, the PC approved the Building Security Task Group as a permanent sub-committee of Building & Grounds. They oversaw the installation of security cameras, outdoor lighting, and a Ring Doorbell at all entrances. They prepared for emergencies with the recent purchase of an Automated Emergency Defibrillator (AED) and Emergency Evacuation Chair. See the Building & Grounds Committee Annual Report for more details of their activities.

Energy and Vision

Energy and excitement abound in our congregation as we continue our outreach to the community to share our mission, values, and principles--from

this year's new members to the new faces on Sunday mornings; from the bustling coffee hours with the youth and adults gathering around new tables and chairs; the programs for spiritual enrichment, memorable musical concerts and fund raisers, successful practices for welcoming visitors, restructuring our website, and the continued warmth, kindness and support we give to one another.

Routine Administrative Business

The PC conducts routine business such as financial oversight, reviewing and revising policies, meeting UUA obligations, meeting our obligations as an employer, maintaining membership records, and responding to requests and proposals from committees. Of note this year are:

- Switched from Comcast to Verizon and saved money for improved phone and Internet service
- Used Microsoft SharePoint, a web-based collaborative platform used for document and content management, file sharing and document archiving
- Trimmed the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer
- Developed new strategies to eliminate future deficit spending
- Created a Coffee Hour Host position
- Developed staff evaluation forms and scheduled performance reviews
- Finalized our PC Covenant
- Drafted an Employee Handbook
- Drafted UU Middleboro Simplified Rules of Order to be implemented at our annual meeting

Year Highlights

Eleven new members were welcomed into our church community with six more planned to join us in the fall.

In recognition of Susan Hotchkiss's 17 years of dedication to the music program, the PC conferred on her the title of Music Director Emerita, with the accompanying privileges to continue relations with the congregation and permission to have access to our musical instruments, organ and piano.

Enthusiasm continues to build as plans come together for an Open House coinciding with the town's Sip 'n Stroll event on September 11th and our Ingathering service on September 12, 2026.

With heavy hearts, but hearts filled with gratitude for an amazing year of music, we assembled a Music Director Search Committee to seek a new Director of Music as our much-adored William Smith is moving to Tennessee this summer!

Submitted by
Mal Marvill, Clerk

Annual Minister's Report 2025-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES

Solo Services:

Sep 07 – *Ingathering*
Sep 14 – *There's No Place Like Home*
Sep 28 – *Third Space Theory*
Oct 05 – *Self-Compassion*
Oct 12 – *Installation Service*
Oct 19 – *Compassion for the Other*
Oct 26 – *Fierce Compassion*

***Nov 02 – Time change from 10:30 to 10:00 AM to allow
programming after the service**

Nov 09 – *The War Within*
Nov 16 – *Indigenous Peoples Day*
Nov 30 – *Thanksgiving Service*
Dec 07 – *Christian Nationalism*
Dec 21 – *Winter Solstice*
*Dec 24 – *Christmas Eve*
Dec 28 – *Divining the New Year*

***Joys and Concerns shared during the service rather than
after announcements**

Jan 11 – *Questions of the Heart: Reflection on Humanism*
Jan 18 – *MLK: Non-Violence, Now More Than Ever*
Jan 25 – *Snow Cancellation; Guest Speaker*
Feb 01 – *Hold On Until the Dawn: ICE Out*
Feb 08 – *Trans Athletes*
Feb 22 – *I Am Not a Robot: The Perils and Possibilities of Ai*
Mar 01 – *In Memory of Her: Re-Writing Women in History*
Mar 15 – *The Art of Paying Attention*
Mar 22 – *Water is Life, **New Member Ceremony***
Apr 05 – *Easter: We Will Rise Again*
Apr 12 – *Earth Day: Windigo Nature and Nanabozho*
Apr 26 – *Beyond Patriarchy*
May 03 – *Beltane*
May 17 – *Question Box Sermon*
May 24 – *Curiosity*
Jun 07 – *Pride*
Jun 14 – *RE Sunday, **Bridging Ceremony** (Jesse, Niko, Zach)*

Jun 21 – *Flower Communion*

***Family Friendly** – Rev. Beau & Kelly Lownds

Sep 07 – *Ingathering*

Dec 24 – *Christmas Eve*

Apr 05 – *Easter*

Jun 21 – *Flower Communion*

**We reduced the number of family friendly services this year due to the low attendance of children in the last half of 2024-25 church year.*

Collaborative Services:

Oct 12 – *Installation Service,*

Sermon, Rev. Aaron Payson (Internship Supervisor)

Charge of Earth Goddess, Natalie Johnson (CUUPS)

Charge of the Ancestors, Rev. Danielle DiBona (Mentor)

Charge of Children, Kelly Lownds (DRE)

Act of Installation, Jeff Giddings (President), Sue Curtiss
(Committee on Ministry Chair)

Charge to Minister, Rev. Danille DiBona

Charge to Congregation by Rev. Sarah Person (Minister Emerita)

Laying on of Hands, Marybeth Truran (Worship Committee
Member)

Offering, Rev. Dan Hotchkiss (Retired Minister and Author)

Reader, John Mullen (Congregant)

Presentation of Stole, Viola Fairweather

Musicians: William Smith, Music Director; Susan Hotchkiss,
Music Director Emerita; John Ray, Guest Musician

Other colleagues in attendance:

Rev. Kim Engle (UCC Middleboro & Lakeville)

Rev. Dr. Michelle Walsh (UU, Quincy)

Nov 11 – *Sustainable Middleboro*, Kimberly French, Sandra Smiley

Nov 23 – *Trans Day of Remembrance*, J.R., Maria, Alex, and Niko
Pucillo-Dunphy

Dec 21 – *Winter Solstice* (Evening Service)

Rev. Beau, Natalie Johnson, Cranberry CUUPS:

Shannon Carr, Malachy Carr, John Gramm, Frank Girard,

Sandra Smiley, Ed Priest, Kristy Hodson, Deb Idell,

Marybeth Truran, Kelly Lownds, Cindy Benard

Feb 15 – *Valentines Day*, Vi Fairweather, Bill Howe, Janet Walkden,

Deanne Bonnar, Jim Bonnar

May 03 – *Beltane* (Morning Service)

Rev. Beau, Natalie Johnson, Cranberry CUUPS:
Malachy Carr, Katy McGinty, John Gramm, Frank Girard,
Deb Idell, Shannon Sullivan

May 10 – Vi Fairweather, *Mothers Day*

May 31 – *Music Sunday*

William Smith, Chalice Choir, Dan Hotchkiss,
Sarah Person, Ed Priest, Silas Robinson, Patty Simon,
Adrienne Williams

Guest Speakers:

Sep 21 – Kevin Lubin, *Prayer in the Jewish Tradition*

Dec 07 – Susan Bumagin, Paul Korn, *Hannukah*

Jan 01 – Adrienne Williams, *Kwanzaa*

Jan 25 – William Zelanzy, *Imagination (snowed out)*

Mar 08 – Norm Grenier, *Lessons from the Tao*

Mar 29 – Kevin Lubin, *Passover*

Apr 19 – Atwater-Donnelly, *Joy*

Worship Associates:

Jeff Giddings, Valerie Fontaine, Viola Fairweather, Bill Howe,
John Mullen, Ed Priest, Mal Marvill, Sandra Smiley, Natalie Johnson,
Alex Pucillo-Dunphy, Sue Curtiss, Cindy Benard, Deanne Bonnar,
Rick Benard, Nancy Backus, Sarah Person, Malachy Carr,
Lauren Hough, David Kraemer, Dorine Levasseur, Lois Aldrich,
Linda Thompson, Sue St. Germain

Worship Tech Team

Stephen Larrett, Cate Vanzant, JR Pucillo-Dunphy, Jeff Giddings,
Alan Melchior

Greeters

Lois Aldrich, Katie Allen, Holly Begley, Rick Benard, Cindy Benard,
Deanne Bonnar, Jim Bonnar, Gil Cote, Susan Curtiss, Viola
Fairweather, Juli Gould, Annie Haines, Susan Hotchkiss, Bill Howe,
Natalie Johnson, David Kraemer, Dorine Levasseur, Cheryl
MacQueen, Marc MacQueen, Mal Marvill, Mary McRae, Alan
Melchior, Sarah Person, Sandy Smiley, Nicole Sykes & Adrian Gunn

& Family, Diane Reed, Patty Simon, Eileen Smith, Linda Thompson,
Cate Vanzant

ATTENDANCE (as of May 26, 2026)

44 Services: Online and Onsite

Highest

153 – *Christmas Eve*

86 – *Installation Service*

71 – *Ingathering*

Lowest

49 – *Hannukah; Art of Paying Attention*

48 – *Women’s History; Trans Athletes*

45 – *MLK*

38 – *New Years*

Ranges

50-59 – 10 Sundays

60-69 – 11 Sundays

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICES

09/20/24 – Rev. Patricia Tummino, Minister Emerita (1998-2010)

11/02/24 – Memorial Service Officiated by Rev. Beau Rivers, Eulogy
by Rev. Dan Hotchkiss

10/23/25 – Name added to Memorial Plaque in Narthex

10/26/25 – Dispersal of Ashes Around Church Building

07/20/25 – Susan Kosuk

Survived by wife, Christine Hoyle and Son, Jesse Hoyle,
No service at request of family

09/25/25 – Sandra Lee Holbrook

10/13/25 – Memorial Service Officiated by Rev. Sarah Person

10/21/25 – Steve Page, Sexton

Memorial Service postponed by family

11/03/25 – Rob Dragunas

11/16/25 – Memorial Service Officiated by Rev. Beau Rivers

05/03/25 – Tree Planting/Ashes at Bill’s Barn

11/13/25 – Anita Cole

11/25/25 – Memorial Service Officiated by Rev. Sarah Person

WEDDINGS

08/15/25 – John Mullen and Jayne Johnson Officiated by Rev. Sarah Person

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY – February 22, 2026

New members were welcomed during a special membership ceremony during Sunday service.

Each received special name tag, yellow rose boutonniere, Chalice lapel pin, Certificate of Membership

Jayne Johnson created the boutonnieres, and John Mullen created the name tags.

**Katy Archibald (2025)*

Helen Jones (2025)

Annie Curtiss (2025)

Mal Marvill (2025)

**Christine Dargelis (2026)*

**Mary McCrae (2026)*

Sebastian Glaspey (2026)

Katy McGinty (2026)

Deb Idell (2026)

Mary McNamee (2026)

***Niko Pucillo-Dunphy (Aug 2026)*

**New members who chose not to participate in the ceremony.*

***Congregant who chose to become a member on their 18th birthday in August.*

thday in August.

RE SLEEPOVER

Attended Sleepover and facilitated Minute-to-Win-It games and Zen Tangles with youth

PURCHASES

Aug 2025

\$245 Smaller desk for Minister's Office – Facebook Market Place
Removed old desk

Sep 2025

\$145 Armoire to store worship props in Minister's Office –
Facebook Market Place

Oct 2025

\$1500 "New" Chairs (102) and 5 Dollies for Parish Hall –

Facebook Market Place
\$15/chair; regular retail price \$100+/chair
Rev. Beau was reimbursed for the purchase and donated the
Delivery of the chairs (\$350)
Plastic chairs will be stored in garage and used for outdoor events
Old blue chairs were taken to the dump

Nov 2025

\$150 “New” Restaurant-Grade Cocktail Tables in Parish Hall –
Facebook Market Place
Rev. Beau donated purchase and delivery of 3 cocktail tables
Part of a Welcoming initiative to encourage mingling during
Coffee Hour

PROGRAMS

Spiritual Enrichment Group – Sample Sessions: *Ground of Being*
Jan 28 – Co-Led by Beau and Natalie Johnson
12 Participants
Feb 08 – Co-led by Beau and Jeff Giddings
5 Participants
Created Two Small Groups – 18 Participants
Thursday Group – Co-Leaders: Natalie and Jeff
Sunday Group – Co-Leaders: Sue Curtiss, Marybeth Truran
UU Theology Class – 6 Sessions; 12 Participants
Feb 22, Mar 15, Apr 12, Apr 26, May 03, May 17

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT

Sep 18 – Brainstorm Session
In-Person
Jeff Giddings, Rick Benard, Cindy Benard, Mal Marvill,
Susan Hotchkiss, Natalie Johnson, Sue Curtiss
On-Line
Adrian Gunn, Annie Haines, Nicola Wilbar, Sue St. Germain,
Dan Hotchkiss

Implementation of New Ideas

Nov 09 – Minister’s Study Open during Coffee Hour
Nov 30 – Navigator/ Visitor Guide Training
Visitor Guide would greet a visitor at the door; sit with them
during the service; invite them to coffee hour; introduce them to

minister, DRE, President, other lay leaders; review pathways to engagement poster in Parish Hall; invite them to church event

Dec 14 – Rev. Beau designed and purchased large Pathways to Engagement Poster

Dec 14 – Rev. Beau ordered Famous Uus Poster for Parish Hall

Dec – Experimentation with Coffee Hour table configuration

Seating at 3 rectangular tables instead of 4

Standing at 3 Cocktail Tables

Dec /Jan – Visitor Orientation Sessions

Dec 07 – UU Orientation – UU History; Principles; Values

7 Members and 3 Visitors attended

Attendees expressed interest in the following programs:

UU Women ministers and social reformers

Spiritual Enrichment Groups

Neo-Paganism

Jan 11 – UU Middleboro & U – UU Middleboro History, Polity, Organizational Chart

Jan 25 – UU Orientation – Rights and Responsibilities of Membership

STAFF

Sexton – Steve Page



Medical Leave: November 2024 – August 2025

Retired: August 2025

Deceased: October 21, 2025

Interim Sexton – Rees Page (Steve's younger son)

November 2024 – August 2025

New Sexton – Ross Page (Steve's older son)



Hired September 01, 2025

Music Director – Susan Hotchkiss



Retired: August 31, 2025; 17 years of service

Emerita Status: February 22, 2026

Search Committee – Andrea Priest, Chair; Bet Giddings, David Kraemer, Dody Adkins-Perry, Rev. Beau Rivers

New Music Director – William Smith



Hired: August 01, 2025

Moving to Tennessee: August 01, 2026

Search Committee – Bet Giddings, Dody Adkins-Perry, Sue Curtiss,
Mal Marvill

TECHNOLOGY

Implementation of Microsoft Office Suite for centralized data storage

Includes: Teams, SharePoint, Exchange, Excel, PowerPoint

Sep 28 – Board Members trained by J.R. Pucillo-Dunphy

Oct 19, Nov 16 – Social Justice Team trained by J.R.

Installation of Items Purchased in 2024-25:

Sep – Installation of Outdoor Solar Lights – J.R. Pucillo-Dunphy

Oct – Installation of Indoor Security Cameras –

J.R. Pucillo-Dunphy, Alan Melchior

Feb – Installation of New Phone System – J.R. Pucillo-Dunphy,
Alan Melchior

Feb – Purchase of Refurbished AED through Fundraiser – \$850

Mar – Purchase of Emergency Evacuation Chair – \$350

Feb – Installation of Ring Doorbells – J.R. Pucillo-Dunphy,
Alan Melchior

Donated by Sarah Person and Alan Melchior

OUTREACH

Interfaith Clergy Network – Monthly Meetings at Café Milano

Third Tuesdays – Nov 25, Jan 20, Mar 24, Apr 21, May 19

Attendees:

Rev. Kim Engle (UCC Lakeville, North Middleboro)

Rabbi Joshua Schreiber (Taunton Synagogue)

Rev. Dave Milam (Middleboro Church of Our Savior)

UU Growth Lab – Peter Bowden

Obtained online access to workshop resources

Mar – Purchased Group Subscription - \$397/year (Professional
Expense)

Apr – Video Messaging on Church Websites – Workshop

Attended by DRE, Music Director, Minister, and Webmaster
Staff will produce videos welcoming visitors to our website
Dan will reconfigure website to accommodate videos

No Kings Rally

Mar – Rev. Beau wore an inflatable Mr. Potato Head costume
Isaac Cote wore a Dinosaur Costume
Deb Idell wore a Handmaiden Costume

Other members at the rally included:

John Mullen, Jayne Johnson, Dan Hotchkiss, Susan Hotchkiss,
Mary McRae, Lily McRae, Lois Aldrich, Sandy Smiley,
Maria and J.R. Pucillo-Dunphy, Bill Howe, Kimberly French,
Michael Hall, Vi Fairweather

Sidewalk Signage

Jun – Purchase of Feather Flags – Donated by Rev. Beau
Open – For special events
White letters on rainbow-colored background
Welcome We're Glad You're Here – For Sundays
White letters on blue-green background

Preparations for Fall Open House

Aug – Postcard Invitations to New Residents
Rev. Beau created postcard invitations on Vista Print
Sep 12 – Coincide with Sip 'n Stroll on the town green
Carnival Games for the Children of All Ages
Popcorn and Lemonade
Church info table

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Beau Rivers 05/ 26/ 2026

Music Annual Report Church Year 2025 – 2026

This year in music was filled with beauty and variety which provided a rich, spiritually fulfilling environment for congregants and the wider Middleboro community. We held ten concerts/special events with each being free and open to the public, with the one exception of the Spring Gala. Furthermore, fees associated with each concert were fully funded by either the Avis Clay Fund or a Middleboro Cultural Council Grant. Our events were as follows:

- 1) September 21: Classical piano concert by William Smith, “This is Me.” This was a concert featuring all original compositions.
- 2) December 7: Vocal Workshop with Anna Jean Simmons, soprano
- 3) December 24: Christmas Eve with Shelley Otis, harp and Kevin Lubin, organ. Earlier in the month, we also held an open rehearsal and invited others to sing at the service. Twenty-three people participated in the choir, Kate Melchoir sang a solo, and the flute choir gave a musical offering. The service ended with singing Silent Night by candlelight.
- 4) February 1: Bluegrass concert by Riley Coyote (\$160 raised in donations)
- 5) February 22: Concert by Little Songbook Opera, “La Bonne Cuisine” (\$267 raised in donations)
- 6) March 8: Concert by Annie Patterson & Friends, “Rise Up Singing” (funded by a Middleboro Cultural Council Grant)
- 7) April 5: Easter Sunday with Matt Collins, Trumpet. This service also featured a new arrangement of “All Creatures of the Earth and Sky” written by William Smith specifically for UU Middleboro.
- 8) April 19: Worship service with Atwater-Donnelly, “Joy”
- 9) May 2: Spring Gala (\$2000+ raised in donations). Sixteen acts showcasing the talent of our congregation were featured. It was a true variety show: from Baroque organ to modern jazz, from pop solos to ensemble works (and even magic!).
- 10) May 31: Music Sunday. This service asked the question, “what does music express?” William Smith shared his thoughts, and we also enjoyed musical offerings from the Chalice Choir, Dan Hotchkiss, Ed Priest, Patty Simon, and Silas Robinson.

The Chalice Choir has remained an active and dedicated group of singers who meet weekly for rehearsals on Tuesdays 7 – 8:30 and sing in services on

alternate Sundays. There are currently twenty-four registered members of the choir: Dody Adkins-Perry, Katie Allen, Nancy Backus, Holly Begley, Cindy Benard, Rick Benard, Jim Bonnar, Sue Curtiss, Kimberly French, Bet Giddings, Dan Hotchkiss, Susan Hotchkiss, Dani Kelleher, Dave Kraemer, Dorine Levasseur, Marc MacQueen, Mal Marvill, Sarah Person, Andrea Priest, Ed Priest, Patty Simon, Jeff Stevens, Nicola Wilbar, and Susie Wolverton. Due to travel and health concerns, average attendance at rehearsals was sixteen members. On non-choir Sundays, we are fortunate to be able to feature other talented musicians including but not limited to the flute choir (Patty Simon, Sue Curtiss, Dani Kelleher, and Juli Gould), Adrienne Williams (percussion), Bet Giddings (piano, voice), Ed Priest (guitar), and Barry Simon (hammered dulcimer).

Central to the operation and organization of the music program is the Music Committee which meets monthly from August to June. The current members are Bet Giddings (chair), Dody Adkins-Perry, Nancy Backus, Dorine Levasseur, Patty Simon, William Smith, Nicola Wilbar, and Susie Wolverton. *The Music Committee is part of FUUSM, operating under the mission of FUUSM, focused on helping to support our church's music ministry and music director. It is our intent to help enrich the goals of the Society, including spiritual and personal growth of congregants and outreach to the community at large. We strive to help build a program of inclusivity as well as excellence. We wish to promote diversity, creativity, fun, fellowship, and community through music.* (Statement of Purpose, revised May 2023). This group remains open with room for any interested additional members.

In terms of instruments, our baby grand piano, "Baby," remains in excellent shape. This year we learned a little more about the state of the organ. The air reservoir is old and last Fall was leaking substantially. This was fixed temporarily with duct tape by technicians at Andover Organ, but this tape came loose and began to vibrate violently making a loud sound like a lawn mower. We consulted with Stefan Maier, an independent organ technician specializing in historical tracker organs, and he bought us more time using a special kind of glue instead of tape. The only true repair would involve a re-leathering of the reservoir which would be expensive. We will need to keep a close eye on the organ moving forward. We also bought a new digital piano this year, a Yamaha DGX-670, which came equipped with 630 instrument settings, easy transposition keys, and other useful features. Susan Hotchkiss's previous keyboard also remains available for the church's use.

All operations of the music ministry were successfully carried out within the church budget. Specifically, \$1684.60 remains in the general operation budget, \$316.91 in the Avis Clay fund, and \$725 in the Genie Mullen Fund. Exactly \$800 of the \$800 budget for substitute musicians was spent. Details of this year's finances are available in the spreadsheet on the following page.

Lastly, it is with a heavy heart that I, William Smith, have announced that at the end of the Summer, I will be moving to Chattanooga, Tennessee for financial reasons. Details were included in a letter to the congregation sent on Sunday, May 17th. It has truly been a joy, honor, and blessing to have been able to serve this church this past year. Churches that possess the amount of musical talent as UU Middleboro are extremely rare. Working here was extremely spiritually fulfilling for me, and I will carry you in my heart always.

Music Budget 2025-2026

						Notes
5230	Choir Support	200		0	200	
	Equipment	200		63.74	136.26	63.74 – Keyboard Stand
	Guest Musicians	500		200	300	200 – Matt Collins for Easter trumpet
	Office Supplies	200		64.86	135.14	64.86 – Bet reimbursement from Music Committee coffee hour
	Sheet music	500		115.8	384.2	80.40 – 11/18 (S'vivon) 35.40 – Susan reimbursement for Gala music
	Copyright Licenses	1000		871	129	297 – CCS/ CCLI Perform 222 – One License 352 – CCLI Streaming
	Other	400	*1359.41	0	400	
	SUMS	3000		1315.4	1684.6	
5245	Substitutue Musicians	800		800	0	200 – Susan on 11/30 200 – Bet on 12/28 200 – Erik on 3/29 200 – Bet on 6/14
5250	Avis Clay Fund	3849				
	Music programs/ events	2849	*774.25	2532.09	316.91	250 – Vocal Workshop, 600 – Christmas (350 harp, 250 accompanist), 400 – Riley Coyote, 950 – Little Songbook Opera 82.09 – Instrument maintenance (organ) 250 – Atwater Donnelley
	Instrument Maitenance	1000		1082.09	-82.09	542.74 – Organ service 10/3, 170 – October Piano Tuning, 365.35 – December organ maintenance (see *) Overdrawn amount of 82.09 applied to “Music programs/ events”
	Genie Mullen fund (Choir accompanists)		825	100	725	100 – Erik Lindgren 2/8
			*=2133.66. 810 of this used for Digital Piano, 1689 for Dec. organ repairs (Stefan Maier). Balance of -365.34 applied to Avis Clay			

Religious Exploration Report

Kelly Lownds (Director of Religious Exploration)

Christine Hoyle (stepped down as Religious Exploration Committee Chair)

Events:

- RE met in person weekly
- RE Committee met monthly for planning
- We had volunteers provide snacks, help with clean up, help with RE classes
- 3 Youth Group events – October, December, March
- RE Halloween Party, Holiday Party, Teddy Bear Sleepover at church
- Outreach: Lakeville Arts Festival, Cooler Climate Fair March 2025
- Organized Coffee Hour from January through June
- Create thank you gifts for the end of year volunteers
- Youth Service June 14, 2026

Theme: Heroes

Religious Exploration: This year we worked on the Signs of our Faith curriculum and thought about how we could connect each lesson’s sign of our faith to a hero, be it supernatural or everyday hero. Our older youth worked with the children and paired with them for three church events and two outreach events through the year.

Classes and Attendance:

This year we met each week in person at 10:15 am. Attendance shifted from 2-9 children each week. One week we had 9 children. There were three to five youth in the Youth Group.

	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021\22	2020/21
Average Attendance	4	4	4	3	9	10
Highest Attendance	9	10	11	8	12	15
Lowest Attendance	1	1	1	1	1	1

Number of Teachers	3	3	3	3	3	3
--------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

This year Kelly Lownds taught the classes every Sunday morning. We had two guest teachers, Chris Dargelis and Christine Hoyle, who covered a couple of the Sunday classes. Chris Dargelis, Christine Hoyle, Kim Correia and Katie McGintie joined regular classes. Chris Dargelis and Christine Hoyle helped with the Youth Group and holiday parties. We recruited teachers this year and have several CORI'd adults who can help. Next year I will be recruiting teachers again and will be looking for people to be with younger children and the older youth so there will be opportunities in the morning and in the evening. We are excited to be planning Coming of Age for next year, and we will be recruiting mentors for that time. We were immensely grateful for all the teachers and volunteers who helped us this year.

Worship:

RE led one service this year: The Youth Service

There will be a youth-led story, and we will be doing a Bridging Ceremony for the three youths graduating this year.

Social Action/Fundraising:

We did one community service project by helping at the Cooler Climate Fair in March 2026. We also did popcorn at the Lakeville Arts Festival in October 2025.

Youth Group:

This year Chris Dargelis, Kim Correia, and Christine Hoyle helped with the Youth Group. We joined the younger children at three parties and one event and got to know each other well. The youth also did two outreach events. We are excited to have a new group of youth who will be able to help build up our group for next year.

Child Care:

Niko Pucillo-Dunphy, Sebastian Glaspey, Zach Saunders and Jesse Hoyle were downstairs weekly available for babysitting, and they helped with the RE program at times. There were two toddlers who attended nearly weekly all year, and a new child joined around the holidays and is enjoying her time with the youth.

RE Committee:

Christine Hoyle stepped down as the RE Committee chair this year. Meetings continued with Kim Correia, Nicole Sykes and Chris Dargelis. The meetings happened regularly and moved from Wednesdays to the second Tuesday of the month. Maria Pucillo-Dunphy continued to act as our CORI liaison. We welcome new members.

Next Year:

The children are looking forward to having a themed year, so work will be completed over the summer to create a comprehensive program to excite their interests. Our current group likes to be active, and so there will be a combination of stories, guided lessons and active activities that get everyone out of their seats. We will do some crafts as well.

We will be offering Coming of Age next year and looking for mentors for each child involved in the program.

Babysitting will continue to be offered.

Youth group will also be offered, and the youth will be polled about their interests and availability.

Building and Grounds

Alan Melchior (Chair)

The major project for Building and Grounds this year was the completion of the exterior construction project for the church: replacement of much of the exterior siding and roofing for the church. In addition, a number of other, smaller maintenance and repair projects took place through the year.

Exterior Improvement Project

The exterior improvement project began over the summer of 2025 and included replacement of the cedar siding on the south (Nickerson Avenue) and eastern (S. Main Street) sides of the church, including all of the siding on the steeple; repair and refinishing the siding on the western (driveway) and northern sides (back) sides of the church; and replacement of the asphalt shingle roofing on the steeple, the front portico, and the north side of the sanctuary. The project was completed in September 2025 at a total cost of \$176,342. The project was largely financed through a separate, extraordinary fundraising campaign led by Norm Grenier and Rick Benard, which raised approximately \$170,000 in contributions for the project. With completion of the project, the exterior of the church should be in good shape for years to come.

Other Building and Grounds Projects

Other building and grounds projects/activities this year include the following:

- **Repairs to Nickerson Avenue Stairs.** Led by Tom Carter, the Nickerson Avenue stairs were largely rebuilt and stabilized. Supports for the stair treads were strengthened and the treads attached more securely. Work on the stairs will continue this summer with repairs to the supports under the landing and the boards on the landing itself.
- **Equipment Repairs/Maintenance.** Repairs were made to the Kitchen sanitizer to ensure that it continues to meet Health Department standards. The elevator was maintained to provide safe operation. Well-Done landscapes continues to provide lawn mowing services and to donate plowing of the driveway in winter.
- **Inspections.** Building and Grounds also coordinates a variety of regular building inspections during the year. In addition to the bi-annual elevator inspection, these include Board of Health kitchen inspection, fire

extinguishers, and occupancy inspection (ever 5 years). All those inspections took place this year.

Safety Committee

During the year a Safety Committee was formed, led by Diane Reed, to review safety issues for the church. Activities under the committee included:

- **Evacuation Protocol.** A protocol was developed for evacuating the building in case of a fire or other emergency. Training on the new evacuation procedures will take place in September 2026 at the opening of the new church year.
- **Greeter Roles.** A third greeter was added for the Sunday services who is responsible for greeting at the Parish Hall door, providing assistance with the elevator and maintaining security at that entrance. In addition the decision was made to lock the Nickerson Avenue and Parish Hall doors during services to limit access. The Nickerson Avenue door will be locked at 10:00 am and a portable sign for that entrance will direct latecomers to use the front door on Main Street. The Parish Hall door will be locked at 10:15, allowing any latecomers who need to use the elevator to do so.
- **Security Cameras.** The Safety Committee also developed a plan to install a new generation of security cameras and doorbells to replace the old, inoperable systems. Video doorbells have been installed allowing the office administrator and minister to see who is at the door from the main office. Wiring for new security cameras in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall has been completed and new cameras are being installed, by JR Puchillo-Dunphy and helpers.
- **Defibrillator/Evacuation Chair.** The church purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Evacuation Chair for the church. Both items were purchased with funds donated by church members/supporters. Training on the use of the AED and chair will take place in the early summer 2025.
- **Improved Signage.** Finally, arrow signs were added to highlight the location of the fire extinguishers in the church.

Garden Projects

The Gardening Team is an informal, open group of members and friends who enjoy keeping up the Church grounds, specifically the Memorial Garden, Walkway, and space between the Church and the Garage in back. They meet regularly during the warmer weather, May through October. Following the vision of Mike Schroeder, they continue to develop perennial gardens that are a delight to behold.

In addition to the ongoing care of the Memorial Garden and walk, the Gardening Team has taken the lead in clearing the property between the church and the garage in back and are currently working to develop that space for outdoor gatherings. A hedge was planted last year for privacy, and new native plantings are now being added. The garden team also took the lead in working with Malachy Carr on his Eagle Scout project, a walkway and bench leading to the area behind the church.

The Gardening Team has also met to set a vision for the outdoor spaces, including discussions of memorial plaques, Garden policy, and trends. Regular gardeners include Patty Simon (leader), Susan Hotchkiss, Bill Howe, Rick & Cindy Benard, Holly Begley, Cate Vanzant, Nancy Backus, and Rae Robinson. All are welcome, and thank you!

Green Sanctuary Committee (GS2030)

The Green Sanctuary Committee, under Sandy Smiley's leadership, worked on several projects during the year:

- **Styrofoam Collection.** The Green Sanctuary Committee organized a styrofoam collection event in collaboration with Sustainable Middleborough and Middleborough DPW on 1/10/26. It was a 4 hour event, 41 cars brought enough styrofoam to nearly fill a boxcar-sized container. 4 non-SMB church folk volunteered and many of those who donated items were from church. The collected styrofoam was delivered by MB DPW to Insulation Technologies, Inc. in Bridgewater for recycling into new commercial & industrial products. DPW has agreed to add styrofoam to the items collected at their annual Hazardous Materials event, to be held October 10th this year. So a very successful GS2030 event with ongoing community impact.
- **Plastic Film.** GS2030 has also organized collection of plastic film/bags in support of a year-long project being conducted by No. Congregational

UCC church. So far FUUSM has contributed 22 lbs of film. That's a lot since film is almost weightless! This will be an ongoing project for GS2030.

- **Window Inserts.** Church volunteers helped assembly window inserts on 2/6/2025 in support of Sustainable Middleborough's window insert/community weatherization project. The project provided window inserts (interior storm windows) for 10 low- moderate-income households in Middleborough. A number of church members were involved.

Looking Ahead

As with every older building, there is always more to be done. Areas that need attention include the Sanctuary ceiling (plaster repairs); the driveway and front walk, and church appliances and fixtures (water heater, under-sink water filtration, additional work on lighting, etc. We welcome anyone interested in helping to work on projects large and small to keep our building in good condition.

FUUSM Finance Committee

Annual Report (May 20, 2026)

The Committee has advised the PC on accounting, investments, stewardship, budgeting and planned giving while also working to coordinate the activities related to each. The group met monthly to discuss and resolve issues involved in these functions and interfaced with the Buildings and Grounds Committee. In practice, beyond the normal activity to conduct financial functions, work was done by Jeff Giddings and helped by our accountant, Liz Snay, to simplify the accounting function in order to limit the time required to fulfill that Treasurer's job. The Committee discussed the longer-term outlook for funding of church programs and offered the PC options on how to proceed over these next several years.

Through April current year expenses are running about as budgeted with income slightly behind what was expected. How the year ends will be determined by how many pledges are paid between now and June 30th. The accumulated surplus from previous years, which we invest until the money is needed, will be used to cover the anticipated deficit.

The budget process for the coming 26/27 year has produced a proposal that funds all existing programs while also modestly increasing staff compensation. The final request will be taken to the Congregation for approval at the annual June meeting to be held on 6/12th. The pledge drive for 2026/27 has been ably led by Gil Cote assisted by Marc MacQueen. It was conducted from March through April with a goal of \$170,000, which has been achieved for the first time in some years! Congratulations to Gil and Marc, as well as to all of the congregation, for achieving the goal!

While successful, this amount will unfortunately not be sufficient to fully fund church operations in 26/27. Therefore the Committee has recommended that the deficit be funded from our unrestricted investments. While we're taking steps to minimize overspending in the new year, we also have proposed that the church cut back its programs in future years beyond 26/27 or else obtain new revenue to fully cover operations. If not, if we continue to operate with annual deficits, we risk running out of our savings within a couple of years!!

Accounting for the church's money has been handled by the Treasurer Stephen Larrett assisted by Nancy Backus (Assistant Treasurer) and our accountant. Financial information is distributed each month with reports going to members of both the Finance and Parish Committees. As mentioned above, we continue to streamline and simplify the process in order to decrease the load on the Treasurer.

Investments are handled by Bill Howe and Alan Melchior. Results for fiscal year-to-date (7/1/25-4/30/26) have been positive with investments ahead by \$32,294 (+11%) while endowment is up by \$4,960 (+18%). Currently the PC takes 4% of the principal value of our unrestricted investments as well as 4% of our endowment into the budget each year to help cover operating expenses. That amount for this year is \$5,909 and will be higher for the coming 26/27 year (\$6,469). On April 30th balances of each investment account are as follows: Unrestricted \$120,454, Mary Fuller \$17,519, Scott Trust \$31,547, Memorial Garden \$1,580, Organ \$597, and Avis Clay \$111,948. The endowment balance now stands at \$51,642.

**Pastoral Care Report
2025-2026 Church Year**

The Pastoral Care Team for this year is comprised of the following:

Minister and Head of the Team	Rev. Beau Rivers
Coordinator	Sue Curtiss
Team Members	Sue St. Germain
	Sandi Smiley
	Deb Idell
Meals Coordinator	Juli Gould
Caring Choir	Susan Hotchkiss
Prayer Shawls/Baby blankets	Julie Gould

Activities of Care Team

Our main goal has been to offer temporary and at times sustained personal support to members of the Congregation who are experiencing the challenges of grieving, illness, injury, disability, isolation, the inability to attend Church or other difficult situations. We do this primarily through compassionate listening and conversations, touching base by phone and email, and doing home, hospital or nursing home visits. We also provide services such as meals, rides, and help with errands on a short-term basis during critical times.

In February, we accepted the resignation of Cate Vanzant from the team and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and especially her dedication to tracking and organizing our activities on spreadsheets.

In March, Deb Idell joined us to replace Cate and she brings much appreciated energy and enthusiasm to our team especially in the area of health advocacy

Our activities from Sept. 2025 through May 2026 are as follows in the chart below.

In person visits from team members to congregants in their homes, hospitals, nursing homes	16
Cards from team to mark significant occasions, transitions for congregants	21
Meals delivered to those in need of short-term assistance	9
Rides offered, errands performed	10
Outreach from the team – phone calls, emails, texts, to touch base and check in with congregants	45
Outreach to the team – team responses to specific requests by congregants on their own behalf or for others	15
Tracking birthdays and recognizing them by lighting a candle of joy once a month during Joys and Concerns	78
Caring Choir	1

Pastoral Care – Vision, Mission, and Covenant Statements

Another goal that we set for ourselves for this year was to create Vision, Mission, and Covenant Statements for the Care Team. It has taken us most of the year to complete this task and we are proud to announce that we have created the following statements to guide our work. These having become working documents that we read during our monthly meetings as a reminder of our purpose and priorities.

Vision Statement

Our Pastoral Care Team is the embodiment of a shared ministry that plays a vital role in serving the needs of our Church through practical, emotional, and spiritual support with respect for our differences and commitment to deepening and nurturing spiritual growth.

Mission Statement

Pastoral Care is a shared ministry of compassion and support provided by lay members under the minister's direction to help congregants through the physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges of life. Our Mission is compatible with our UU principles and consistent with the guidelines that our expressed in our charter.

Covenant Statement

In the spirit of our UU principles, affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we covenant with each other to provide dependable, compassionate, and discreet ministry of presence through deep non-judgmental listening, respecting confidentiality, and acting with integrity.

Elder Salons

Just about a year ago we decided as a team to respond to requests from Congregants to plan and host an Elder Salon. Elder Salons have been springing up as a way of providing support and information regarding the challenges that come with aging and the issues that come up for people during the aging process. During this church year, The Pastoral Care Team has sponsored four Elder Salons on topics pertinent to being an elder. Our format has been a combination of group discussion and having speakers come to talk about specific interests.

Oct. 19, 2026 **Aging vs Ageism**

A group discussion about the concept of ageism as a bias against, discrimination toward, or bullying based on age as it plays out in our culture in government institutions, the workplace, healthcare and the media.

Nov. 9, 2026 **Speaker Attorney Lauren Caisse**

Topic: legal documents that one should have in place to protect oneself and assets and guide medical decisions and end of life issues. What happens when these documents are not in place.

Feb. 15, 2026 **Joyspan**

A group discussion about the challenges of aging that reframes aging away from fear based thinking through the concept of “joyspan,” focusing on well-being, connection, communication, purpose, meaning, growth, and choice. Based on the book, Joyspan by Dr. Kerry Burnight.

Mar. 15.2026 **Death Café**

Led by experienced facilitator, Jane Ford, the Death Café is an open-ended structured conversation to help people become more comfortable with the topic of death.

Our Elder Salons have been well attended. Participation has been lively, and the feedback has been positive. We have one more topic that was requested, that is the topic of Green Burial. We were unable to get this into our spring calendar, but hope to be able to present it in the fall.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Curtiss, Coordinator, Pastoral Care Team

Program Planning

Program Planning Committee was established with a goal of coordinating the calendar to pace ourselves as we plan events, fundraisers and programs. A small group met by zoom in September to brainstorm ideas and plan dates for the upcoming year. Anyone interested in joining this team should contact Rev Beau.

Our FUNdraisers are not only a chance to raise much needed funds, they are also a way to create, build teams and have fun as we watch our ideas come to life. They also serve as excellent outreach to the greater community. All of these programs require a great deal of effort from volunteers and the support of staff. We appreciate all of the contributions.

Fundraising events through April 2026 raised \$11,820 to support church activities.

- Collections from Spring '25 Auction \$861
- Road Rally \$600 (Thank you to John Mullen for bringing us this fun day and for his attention to detail!)
- Holiday Fair \$3,020 (This beautiful event returned after many years of rest, revitalized by Dorine Levasseur as she coordinates outside vendors and our own church tables.)
- William Smith's Concert \$110
- Popcorn at Arts Festival \$167 (Thanks to RE kids and youth.)
- T-Shirt Sales \$650 (Thanks to Bet Giddings and Patty Simon for initiating this creative project.)
- Winter Auction \$4,473 (Our thanks to all who donated and those who purchased and especially to Alan Melchior who oversees the "Give Lively" program and sets it all up so beautifully.)
- January - Solstice Singers has been scheduled every other year.
- February Valentine soup sale not scheduled to provide a respite for all!
- Riley Coyote concert \$161
- Little Opera Company \$269
- Annie Patterson concert \$138
- Rise Up Concert \$171 (Our thanks to Middleboro Cultural Council for fully funding the expenses of the concert enabling us to provide a free concert to the community. Andrea Priest wrote and manages the grant.)
- Spring Gala \$1,200 (This great variety show offered great fun community and such varied talent. Our thanks to William Smith and Susan Hotchkiss for all their extra work and support and to John Mullen for the program and amazing MC work. Our Parish Hall was gorgeous for our dessert buffet thanks to Dorine and all her helpers.)
- Spring Auction in progress.

Social Justice Team Annual Report July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

This year, the Social Justice Team (SJT) of UU Middleboro has continued to focus its efforts on supporting and promoting events, activities, and organizations that support democracy and strengthen our local communities, with specific emphasis on the most vulnerable in our communities including immigrants, LGBTQ+ population (especially trans), minority groups, and the poor and disabled.

In August, 2025 SJT held its retreat and agreed to focus on the following areas in the coming year:

- **Develop a “Rapid Response” team** where SJT recruits volunteers that can be contacted to respond to critical events/issues, such as: contacting legislators to gain their support on a specific bill; writing postcards to voters; attending rallies/protests, etc.
 - SJT has so far recruited 30 volunteers to be on the rapid response email list.
- **Build alliances** and collaborate with other congregations, organizations, nonprofits, and people in positions serving our communities (police chief, veterans’ agents, community mental health coordinators, etc.).
 - This year, SJT has partnered with Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights (BCCR), Sustainable Middleboro, Walt’s Closet (25 bags of clothes donated!!), and Indivisible Middleboro.
- **Educate congregation** on ways to support and strengthen our democracy.
 - SJT has hosted two coffee hours where SJT members engaged with congregants, responded to their questions and concerns around social justice issues, and informed congregants of opportunities available to support democracy.
 - SJT regularly posts upcoming Events and Activities on the church’s website and maintains a current list of Events and Activities in the Parish Hall, where congregants can review and choose the event or activity in which they wish to participate.

SJT continued its **distribution of Red Cards** (“know your rights” cards) to local organizations such as Matthew Mission Food Pantry, who distribute the cards to immigrants.

SJT members provided funds to:

- purchase **4 Hannaford Gift Cards** to give to food pantry for those individuals impacted by cuts to the SNAP program.
- Sponsor a **cut-out Snowperson** through Blue Anchor Studio to raise funds for the Sacred Heart Food Pantry. RE assisted in decorating the Snowperson, which was posted on the Town Hall front lawn, along with many other “Snowpeople”.
- Purchase an ad in the **BCCR 2026 Juneteenth** program book.

SJT worked with members of the community to get the word out on the existence of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (**PFAS**) well contamination in Middleboro and the need for a Water Commission to better monitor PFAS levels.

SJT members continue to attend **Middleboro Town Meetings, School Committee Meetings,** and **Select Board Meetings,** where team members continue to speak in support of trans rights and freedom of speech. SJT members also contacted members of the congregation to remind them to vote in the **Middleboro Town Election** in April, 2026.

SJT members coordinated **“Love Notes to Minnesota”** where members of the congregation, including children, gathered together to write messages of concern and solidarity to our UU friends in other congregations in Minnesota and Maine who were impacted by ICE actions in their communities.

Several SJT members attended **“Be Brave Together” trainings.** The trainings, which are free of charge, were initiated by Bishop Mariann Budde and are designed to foster compassionate courage and connection to our communities. <https://www.bebravetogether.com/>

Team members have **attended rallies and protests** in support of democracy, including two No Kings rallies in Middleboro. SJT members have also volunteered at events such as BCCR Pride and Juneteenth events.

Two SJT members continue to participate in the **Building Safety group**, whose goal is to ensure a safe and secure place of worship for the Congregation.

SJT has continued its long-standing (6 years!) commitment to **Saturday morning vigils** on the Church lawn from 11:30- 12:00. All are invited to attend. This year, members of Indivisible Middleboro have joined in many of the vigils, which Indivisible has publicized on its Facebook page, resulting in increased participation in the vigils.

SJT is in the process of stepping up its **Get Out the Vote (GOTV)** activities for the November 2026 mid-term elections. Postcards have been ordered, stamps have been purchased, and we will soon be notifying the Congregation and our partners of post carding opportunities.

As of May 1, 2026, the congregation has generously donated **\$8,422.00** during FY 25-26 **Cash-In-Plate** (CIP). A list of the non-profit organizations and the amounts collected are attached.

SJT members currently include Dody Adkins-Perry, Bill Howe, Lauren Haugh, Lois Aldrich, Rev. Sarah Person, Katy Archibald, and Sandy Smiley. The team wishes to extend its appreciation to Rev. Beau Rivers, who has attended several team meetings and provides invaluable guidance on many social justice issues.

Submitted by Lois Aldrich

FUUSM Social Justice Team
Cash-in-Plate (CIP) FY 25-26 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)

Month	501(c)(3) Organization	Website	National Month	Collections received
July 2025	Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights	https://www.bccrcivilrights.org/		\$526.00
August	Sacred Heart Food Pantry	https://www.svdpmiddleboro.org/index.html		\$540.00
September	Matthew Mission	https://matthewmissionfoodpantry.org/		\$1040.00
October	Native Land Conservancy (Oct 5, 19, 26) UUA Living Tradition Fund (Oct 12)	https://www.nativelandconservancy.org/ https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/living-tradition		\$725.00 TBD
November	Sustainable Middleboro – 80% World Central Kitchen---20%	https://sustainablemiddleborough.org/ https://wck.org/		\$959.00 \$273.00
December	Minister Discretionary Fund			\$1414.00
January, 2026	Minister Discretionary Fund (snow day 1/25/26-no collection)		Martin Luther King/ Civil Rights	\$687.00
February	NAACP Brockton Chapter (Empowerment Programs)	https://www.naacp-brocktonbranch.org/	Black History Month	\$892.00
March	South Coast LGBTQ+ Network; Health Imperatives	https://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org/ https://healthimperatives.org/sexual-and-	National Women's History Month	\$683.00 \$683.00
April	GOTV Organizations (Movement Voter Project, Workers Circle, Working America)	https://movement.vote/ https://www.circle.org/ https://workingamerica.org/		TBD
May	South Shore Resource & Advocacy Center; World Central Kitchen	https://hptc.org/service-provider/ssrac/ https://wck.org/	Memorial Day; Stop the Bleed Awareness Month	TBD
June	Trevor Project	https://www.thetrevorproject.org/	PRIDE month	TBD
TOTAL thru March, 2026				\$8422.00

Annual Report Worship Committee 2025-2026

We began the year with five members: Deanne Bonnar, Viola Fairweather, Dorine Levasseur, Mary McNamee, and Marybeth Truran (who stepped down in May due to competing priorities).

Purpose: To support the Minister and Congregation with providing quality morning services throughout the year.

Covenant: We developed a meaningful covenant which we graciously read at the beginning of our meetings for a time.

The year began as we welcomed back Rev. Beau to the pulpit for her second year. She has presented over thirty services. The highlight of the year was Rev. Beau's Installation on the afternoon of October 12, 2025. It was so meaningful to hear the glowing acknowledgment of many of her colleagues. The whole service was outstanding as was the reception afterwards.

The time of the service changed to 10:00 from 10:30. It was well received by most people, and it allowed a number of activities to be scheduled right after coffee hour.

We had only one snow cancellation this winter when there was a guest in the pulpit. Despite having pneumonia, Rev. Beau did not miss a single Sunday. The Worship Committee scheduled several talented guest speakers to fill the pulpit during Rev. Beau's days off. Friends of the Bonnars, Susan Bumegin and Paul Korn, not only provided us with an engaging Hannukah service but returned their fee to the Church. In November Dody Adkins Perry led a service and the Pucillo-Dunphy Family shared about Being a Trans Family. Adrienne Williams again led us with music and words for Kwanzaa, and Vi Fairweather did a Service on the Many Facets of Love shared by Deanne and Jim Bonnar, Bill Howe and Janet Walkden. Some pictures of Chris Priest with his nephew, Athon, replaced the Children's Story. Natalie Johnson, CUUPS, and Rev. Beau shared Beltane and Winter Solstice services, and Norm Grenier preached while Rev. Beau was on retreat. Vi, with the help of many congregants, presented the Mother's Day Service. Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly examined the roles of warmheartedness, beauty and joy as

ways to combat the difficulties in our world. Many of the songs they sang came from the *Rise Up Singing* and the *Rise Again Songbooks*. Kevin Lubin asked us to look at accepting the unknown and asking the Passover questions. Music Sunday was celebrated on May 31, and it was extraordinary in every way. Every facet had its own excellence which was especially wonderful since we had just learned that William Smith was leaving. We look forward to our Bridging Ceremony and wish our graduates many blessings. We offered eleven meaningful lay-led services in the Summer of 2025. We are fortunate to have so many talented lay leaders.

We appreciate the generosity of all who served as Worship Associates this year. Feel free to volunteer. Our Office Administrator, Val Ortelt, will send you an Order of Service and words for any part of the morning you need to lead. We are so grateful to her.

William Smith and all our musicians have been such a gift to our community. The quality of our services has attracted several visitors who have since become members of the congregation.

WE ARE A VITAL COMMUNITY!

Respectfully submitted,
Viola Fairweather

**THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF MIDDLEBOROUGH**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025**

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro was held in the Church Sanctuary on Friday, June 13, 2025. Thirty voting members, one non-member, and Rev. Beau Rivers attended the meeting. In addition, three voting members who were unable to attend the meeting voted by proxy.

The Congregation was notified of the meeting through UU Updates, the Church's website, and announcements at worship services. The Warrant was posted on all Church doors, and a copy of the Warrant was included in the UU Updates and the Annual Report. The Warrant included links to the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes and the Bylaws, the proposed 2025-26 budget as Attachment A, and proposed Bylaw revisions as Attachment B.

The Congregation received notice of the Church's Annual Report for 2024-25 through UU Updates and the Church's website. The Annual Report included the documents referenced above as well as individual Committee Reports.

President Jeff Giddings called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and provided a brief introduction. The Congregation then proceeded to consider and vote on the following Articles:

ARTICLE I: To accept the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting.

Motion to approve Article I made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

ARTICLE II: To receive the Annual Report of the Society for the past year.

Motion to approve Article II made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

ARTICLE III: To elect officers and members of the Parish Committee (PC) for the coming church year, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The current President (Jeff Giddings), Treasurer (Stephen Larrett), and second At-Large member (Diane Reed) will continue for the second year of their 2-year terms. Lois Aldrich will be leaving the PC and her role as Clerk at the end of this church year.

The PC slate of nominations for 2025-2026 are as follows:

Vice-President: Vi Fairweather (returning for second term)

Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Backus (returning for second term)

Clerk: Mal Marvill

At-Large: Jim Bonnar (returning for second term)

Motion to approve the slate of nominations in Article III made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

ARTICLE IV: To call Rev. Beau Rivers as our settled minister, effective July 1, 2025. Motion to approve was made and seconded.

Note: Voting on this article occurred through secret ballot. Ballots were collected and counted by the Clerk at the end of the voting. Rev. Beau excused herself from the sanctuary during the discussion and the voting process.

Discussion: Congregation asked questions relating to differences between settled and contract minister. Jeff Giddings informed Congregation that Rev. Beau's responsibilities, salary, and benefits will remain as they would have been had she remained a contract minister for another year (except that she will now be eligible for paid sabbatical leave after five years). Rev. Beau will be on site at least 2 ½ days per week and work from home the remainder of time. Rev. Beau has been very accessible and will continue to meet with Committee members. The main difference is in the quality of her relationship with the congregation, as her commitment is now for the long term. Settled ministry has no termination date.

If members have questions as to Rev. Beau's responsibilities, Vi Fairweather encouraged the Congregation to review the Minister's Annual Report, which is available on the Church website as part of the Church's Annual Report, or to contact a member of the PC or the Committee on Ministry.

Jeff Giddings asked voting members to complete their secret ballots indicating whether or not they approve Article IV. Ballots were collected and counted by the Clerk. ***Results of the vote were 32 approved Article IV, and one did not approve. The motion to call Rev. Beau Rivers as the settled minister of the Church passed.***

ARTICLE V: To adopt a budget for the coming fiscal year, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Such a vote includes approval of the minister's salary and expenses. The proposed budget was provided as Attachment A to the Warrant.

Discussion: Jeff provided highlights of the proposed 2025-26 operating budget, which does not include figures related to the Building Renovation Project. Next year's income is projected to be less than the current year and expenses greater, resulting in a projected deficit of approximately \$19,000. Finance Committee chair Bill Howe noted that we are able to cover the deficit from the accumulated growth from our investments, but only as a short-term strategy. As with each year, the primary expense is payroll. The church continues to adjust salaries to move staff closer to the midpoint of the UUA salary ranges. This budget also includes a specific line for tech expenses.

Jeff informed the members that Bill Howe and Marc MacQueen will be introducing a Planned Giving Program to the Congregation in the near future to address the long-term financial needs of the Church.

Motion to approve Article V made, seconded, and passed, with one abstention.

ARTICLE VI: To approve proposed revisions to the Bylaws of the Society. Proposed changes to the Bylaws are detailed in Attachment B to the Warrant. Article VI includes 4 individual items, and Congregation agreed to vote on each item separately.

Item 1-- related to amending Bylaws to conform with changes in state regulations (MGL Chapter 180, Section 11A) regarding distribution of assets for non-profits upon dissolution of organization.

Discussion: Jeff Giddings and JR Pucillo-Dunphy explained that recent changes to state regulations affect Article III(3) in our Bylaws concerning distributing assets upon dissolution if the UUA is unwilling or unable to accept them. Article III(2) designating the UUA as the intended recipient is unaffected. A typographic error in Attachment B was noted (the UUA was incorrectly referred to as the Unitarian Universalist Society).

Motion to accept the proposed revision to Article III(3) with the typographical error corrected was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Item 2-- related to amending Bylaws to include duties of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer with respect to withdrawing from investment funds and/or borrowing funds in order to manage cash flow. Similar language has previously been included in the Warrant at every Annual Meeting. Including this language in the Bylaws would preclude the need to address every year at Annual Meetings.

Discussion as to whether the authority to withdraw and, especially, to borrow funds should be granted to Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer without approval from PC. The Congregation has granted this authority to the PC “or designee” each year by means of a Warrant article at the Annual Meeting. Treasurer has in past moved funds internally and informed PC after the fact, primarily to meet payroll. It was suggested that borrowing funds may be a different matter, because staff have access to debit cards which is a form of borrowing and has not required approval from PC. Clarification needed as to where the authority to withdraw and borrow funds lies.

Motion to refer proposed text in Item 2 of Article VI back to PC for further discussion and recommendation made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Item 3—related to having the PC appoint up to two delegates to the UUA General Assembly each year.

Discussion: UUA generally determines the number of delegates to the GA, not the congregation.

Motion to approve proposed text in Item 3 of Article VI with “up to two” deleted made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Item 4—proposed change to Bylaws deletes requirement for use of Robert’s Rules of Order and substitutes different language.

Discussion: Many members spoke either in favor of, or opposed to, use of Roberts Rules at meetings. Some members said they were comfortable using Robert’s Rules at meetings while others are not. Many members suggest Bylaws remain as written. Clarification and further discussion are needed.

After discussion, motion to accept proposed text in Item 4 of Article VI as written was opposed by all members, with 3 abstentions. The proposed revision was rejected and referred back to PC.

ARTICLE VII: To address any other actions necessary for the business of the Society.

Because the proposed Bylaw revision in item (2) of Article VI, conferring authority to withdraw from investments or borrow funds, was referred to the Parish Committee for further consideration, a separate decision was needed to confer that authority for the coming fiscal year. A motion was made “to authorize the Parish Committee or designee to withdraw from investment funds and/or borrow funds to manage cash flow or cover unanticipated expenses during the fiscal year.”

Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm.

Submitted by Lois Aldrich, Clerk