



# Billerica Banner

First Parish Church Billerica, Unitarian Universalist

7 Concord Road, on the Common

P.O. Box 96, Billerica, MA 01821

[www.uubillerica.org](http://www.uubillerica.org) 978-663-2293 [admin@uubillerica.org](mailto:admin@uubillerica.org)

## Events and Services September 2022

### Calendar of Events

#### Events

- Sept 3 Community Game Night
- Sept 10 Gordon Gibb Community Luncheon
- Sept 11 Youth Group
- Sept 13 Sew and Sews
- Sept 18 Youth Group
- Sept 17 Yankee Doodle
- Sept 24 Sunshine Gals Luncheon
- Sept 25 Youth Group
- Sept 27 Sew & Sews
- Sept 30 Yard Sale Set Up

#### Online Events

- Sept 8 Board of Trustees Mtg

#### **(Hybrid) Sunday Services at 11:00 am**

#### **Sept 11**     *“Remember the Ladies”*, Rev. Nanenne Gowdy

Abigail Adams wrote this to her husband, John, when he was in Philadelphia helping to write the U.S. Constitution. Neither John nor any of the men present remembered to include women in the Constitution. We are still paying for this neglect. In this year's sermons, I will be helping correct this oversight by remembering the ladies in our country's history.

#### **Sept 18**     *“The Gospel of Anny”*, Rev. Eugene “Woody” Widrick

“Gospel” is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "God-Spell," the good news. In the Christian Bible there are four Gospels- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - and many others not included in the Bible, such as Thomas and Mary. I add another "good news": a paragraph from my great niece Anny.

#### **Sept 25**     *“Mabon: A Time Of Balance”* Rev. Linda Goodman and Joe Pollock

The wheel of the year has turned to a point of balance at the autumnal equinox. The harvest is in, so we pause and reflect on the time of summer activity and its fruits. Looking back, what experiences have we harvested? Looking forward, what do we wish to learn and cultivate in the coming quiet of winter? The dance goes on.

#### **Hybrid Sunday Service Help/Hints**

- ❖ Click “Join Our Sunday Service” on [www.UUBillerica.org](http://www.UUBillerica.org)
- ❖ Confident with Zoom? Would you like to help connect members to the life of the church? Please let Sarah know.
- ❖ Do you have a USB computer camera you don't use? Or a tablet that's gathering dust? Sharing is caring and pickup can be arranged.

Give Sarah Mills a call (978-790-8217) if you can help or if you need assistance.

### About Our Sunday Speakers



After 23 years in active parish ministry, **Rev. Nannene Gowdy** retired. For several years after that, she preached in Billerica and Pittsfield once a month, leaving Pittsfield after she sold her house in the Berkshires. She is happy to continue in Billerica and to stay in touch with this loving congregation. The rest of her time is spent with family, especially her grandson, Griffin, who everyone knows is either Mozart or Einstein.



**Rev. Eugene "Woody" Widrick** had a Mennonite upbringing in rural NY, marked by a 9-year hospitalization for tuberculosis. He was first educated as a librarian and then as a minister. He, along with his wife Trudi and their 2 children, served in parishes in Connecticut, NH, South Africa and the Berkshires before settling in 1977 at The First Religious Society of Carlisle. He remained there until he retired in 2001 and is minister emeritus still. His book "Leaving Belfort: The Memoir of Eugene R. 'Woody' Widrick" was published in 2019.



**Rev. Linda Goodman** has served as lay worship leader or guest minister in UU churches for over 20 years. Together with her "accomplice in ministry" **Joe Pollock**, she brings a package of interspiritual music and reflections. Joe and Linda met while recording world chant albums with the On Wings of Song Chorus 25 years ago and have been making music together ever since. They currently serve as Presiding Minister and Music Minister of the Tree of Life Interfaith Temple in Milford, NH.

### October Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, Sept 18

If you have anything that you would like included in the October *Billerica Banner*, please submit it to the Church Administrator. Leave a note on the desk, in the mailbox, e-mail [admin@uubillerica.org](mailto:admin@uubillerica.org) or call 978-663-2293.

### Note from Membership Committee

First Parish opens our doors on September 11, for services in person and online . We need folks to help greet and welcome everyone, and especially to connect with each new visitor in person and online. We need folks to help by talking with each new visitor and asking them to fill out new visitor sheets for our guest book, giving them a welcome packet, answering questions, and helping them connect with other folks in our congregation. We need some folks willing to help with keeping the folks who attend the services in person connected with the folks who are attending on zoom... especially after each service when we gather for coffee hour to socialize. This could be as simple as sitting at a table in the parish hall with a laptop and inviting people to stop and say hello or chat with the folks attending by zoom. These simple steps help people build relationships, connect to the life of the church, and begin a pathway to membership. Please let Brita or Jeanne know if you are interested in helping with this.

### President's Message September 2022

We have had a busy summer! It started with the membership committee kicking off a membership drive by sending out postcards to new families in Billerica. We had a table at the Farmer's Market, and we have a new website.

As promised at our annual meeting, we have been looking for a part-time minister and a director for our RE program. Our efforts have at last paid off! Rev. Steve Wilson will be starting as our part-time, contract minister in September. You can read more about Rev. Steve on his website - <https://revstevewilson.org>, and in his personal statement (below). As a quarter-time minister, Rev. Steve will be offering us pastoral care, support for our RE program (see below), services (see the church calendar), and a welcoming presence in our church community and at our church events. I will share more details with you when we meet for a congregational meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> . Please join me in welcoming Rev. Steve Wilson!

We are in the process of hiring a new part-time DRE, with the expectation that she will start in September. I'm sure you will be delighted with the results! Lisa Jamison has agreed to stay on and teach Spirit Play for our pre-K children. Rev. Steve will run the youth group with the assistance of our volunteer leaders. The OWL program for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders starts in October. We are running this program in collaboration with the Bedford UU church. There will be an orientation for parents and youth in September. Our new DRE will manage the curriculum and teach the older children on Sunday mornings. Adult RE will start in October. Rev. Wilson has also agreed to help with this! Updates and registration forms will be on our new website.

Our new year begins September 11<sup>th</sup>. Services will hybrid – so those of you who are not able to meet in person can still join us through zoom. The COVID -19 taskforce will post updates with safety precautions on our new website.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone for Sunday services on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and at the congregational meeting following the service.

Yours with love, faith, and gratitude,

Barbara Moloney  
President, Board of Trustees

#### **A Personal Biography from Steve**



I am a single 55-year old man who has never been married, and has no children. Wow! That almost sounds lonely and depressing. It mostly doesn't feel that way. I am young in spirit, mostly happy, and mostly too busy to notice the partner and kids I don't have. I am a progressive, weak-willed vegetarian, who has an old-fashioned loyalty to a large core group of family and friends. I also happen to be a heterosexual who identifies with the traditional male pronouns, and loves football. Don't worry, I'm a white boy, but I am also an enlightened UU, who believes we live in a white supremacist culture.

I think of myself as a Bostonian, and also identify as someone from Massachusetts. I love my state and city. In fact, with the exception of roughly five years respectively in New Hampshire, Chicago, and Sydney Australia, and the last five in California I have lived in the Boston area. Boston, even more specifically Lexington, always has, and I suspect always will feel like home. I have owned a condo in my own home town of Lexington, MA for over a decade now, and yet I have spent literally just under half the nights of my life since I was 20 years old working the overnight shift at a residential group home for some challenged population of adults.

As I said, a cadre of family, long term friends, and church relationships fill my heart and life. I instinctively feel a loyalty to the people and places I cross paths with. The condo I own is in my old Junior High. A school my mother, grandfather, and my brother attended. I also love to meet new people, and to travel. To steal and adapt a cool phrase from an old RE Curricula, I got both "Roots and Wings."

I don't believe I will ever settle anywhere but in the Northeast, but I am also committed to climbing to the top of or at least standing at the base of the highest peak on every continent sans Antarctica before I turn 65.

As the old UU curricula described it, I got roots and wings, and blend the freedom of being single with a social conscience that both grounds and drives me.

I live with a mix of pride and guilt that on this finite planet of ours I have set foot in all but one of the US States; visited every major American city; and have hiked in more than half our National Parks. I have now made a personal vow, out of a concern for our planet, to fly only a couple times a year. My return to the Northeast is a part of that. This is my effort to imperfectly balance, as Dick Gilbert phrased it, the call to use our lives to both savor and save this world. I say, almost as a confession, that I do alleviate some of my carbon footprint by my own activism, my financial support of environmental organizations, and by driving a Prius. Before my hybrid, I used cars that ran on vegetable oil. I'll be electric soon.

Beyond travel, I am a habitual sports fan, and a recovering jock who was always just a bit too slow and uncompetitive for any real athletic success. I still occasionally play a broad variety of sports and remain easily distracted when there is a ball in the room. However, more often than not now in my mid-fifties, my physical activity involves hiking or getting to the gym more frequently than courts. Those activities remain essential because I reliably get to the fridge every day.

I am a writer, who listens pretty compulsively to non-fiction audiobooks on my drive to the next coffee-shop or church event. I crave, digest, and in turn also enjoy creating artfully presented educational programs and sermons. I love Saturday afternoon NPR programming and whatever project I am working on. I'm of only average intelligence, but I am pretty skilled at taking on big subjects in fun engaging ways.

I take my responsibilities to being prudent about my finances and health seriously. I love deep thoughts, but I also live with a portion of my tongue lodged deeply in my cheek. I have a playful and benign, but dark sense of humor. If the kids are around I will show my scar from having had a cancerous tumor removed, and tell them all about a shark attack that never happened. I could be the love child of Jesus and Susanne Somers. I'm also a pretty damn good Minister. If you have a few hours to kill, please ask me about the Bigfoot film I am half way through shooting.

Ok, that's enough about me, probably even too much.

Steve

#### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

Thursday, Sept 8  
7:00 p.m., Zoom

The Trustees meet once monthly to discuss a wide variety of matters concerning the running of our congregation. All members of the congregation are warmly invited to attend these monthly meetings. If you have any ideas you'd like the Trustees to consider, please let a Trustee know and we will try to place it on the next agenda for discussion. We hope to see many of you join us for our meetings.

#### **Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, September 11  
12:30p.m., Parish Hall

Let's all come together for a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, following coffee hour. The Strategic Planning Committee will be talking about our plans for promoting growth within our church community, such as holding Circle Suppers. We hope you will join us and support our efforts in continuing to grow and sustain a vibrant, welcoming church community!

## Online Gatherings with First Parish Church

Our drop-in gatherings continue to evolve as we hope to spark your interest and continue to meet with each other during this time of social distancing. Below is the calendar for drop-in gatherings. The meetings will start as noted, and the meeting invitations will all be the same. If you would like to host a Monday night, please let Sarah know.

Mondays – **FPC Monday Night Zoom Chat**, hosted by Sarah Mills, 7:00-8:00p.m.

Pop-in for a virtual visit with whomever stops by, think of this like an open house with friends. Different topics, creative projects, Zoom problem solving, recipes, something new each week. Hope you will come for a visit soon.

## Yankee Doodle Homecoming - Saturday Sept 17



First Parish will have a tent and tables at Yankee Doodle Homecoming Day and we need folks to help out and folks to march in the parade. The Theme this year is **Heroes in Literature**. Set up is from 7:20 and 9. Runs from 11-4 pm. We will plan to meet at the church at 8:30 to have everything ready. We will need to bring 2 tables from the church and chairs and set up a tent. We need folks to help set up, be at the booth to talk with folks, help with kids' activities and to take everything down. The Parade starts at 10:00. Please contact Jeanne Landers or Brita Learned if you can volunteer. Hope to see lots of folks there!

## Property Updates

Members and Friends took advantage of the weather and the summer to update our building and grounds. A huge thank you to Kenny English, Tobias and Ian English, Jerry Johnson and Lisa O'Connor

- **Memorial Garden** - Railroad Ties painted
- **Side Yard** - Cleaned and fence removed
- **Inside** - Broken furniture removed and choir loft rearranged
- **Building** - Pressure washed, rotted wood removed, painted windows

## Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed the week of August 29.

For immediate assistance, please contact Barbara or Jerry.

Fall is in the air and the church hours are changing too. This change will allow me to be more responsive to members who are unavailable in the mornings and will allow greater flexibility in my personal schedule.

Please let me know if you have concerns or questions. Beginning Sept 5 -

**Monday** 8 - 12pm

**Wednesday** 11 - 4pm

**Friday** 10 - 4pm

## Community Game Night

Do you enjoy Catan, Munchkin, or Chess?

Come join fellow gamers (tabletop and more) in Room 2, upstairs from 5 - 8pm on Saturday Sept 3.

Bring your own games or learn something new.

## WHAT BILLERICA UU CHURCH MEANT IN MY LIFE

Betsy (Krueger) Polglase

June 27, 2022

A series of stressful events occurred after husband Harold ("Hal") Krueger, our two young boys and I moved from Minnesota to Massachusetts in 1959. Hal and I decided to join a group where we could both be useful and positive participants. We joined the Billerica UU church in the early 1960's, and both of us became extremely active in the church. Both of us were on the Board. Hal was, as I recall, the financial person for some time, and I think I was once secretary.

My activities through the years included:

~~ Singing in the choir for all the time I attended the church (I had been a contralto voice major at the University of Minnesota and had been a paid vocal soloist in three churches since age 17 in St. Paul, Minnesota. My mother had been an organ music major at the U. of Minnesota. She accompanied vocalists on piano and was organist and choir director for 50 years at both Unity Unitarian church and Mt. Zion reform Jewish temple in St. Paul, Minnesota.)

~~ Being hired as choir director for this church for most of the 1960's. During my years as choir director for this church, I organized and put on concerts with our choir, accompanied and augmented by many of my professional friends (vocalists, other choir directors and instrumentalists) from around the state. Included were professionally trained instrumentalists on organ, harpsichord, violin, viola and bassoon. (We all helped each other on performances, at no charge, when the "call" went out to help each other.)

~~ I was head of the Ways and Means Committee at the church for a few years, and I fondly remember helping plan and put on spaghetti suppers, pancake breakfasts, cookie sales and a number of other fund-raising activities.

~~ Sadly, I remember standing out with Hal and the children on a freezing cold night in 1969 with tears in our eyes as the church burned and was soaked with freezing water from the fire departments' hoses. The following morning, organist friends and I managed to get into the burned building and saved the entire drenched music library. I remember spending the whole day at home ironing the music to dry it out.

~~ Hal stayed on after the church burned and was instrumental in helping the church to get funds to rebuild.

~~ At that time, I was hired as choir director at the First Baptist Church of Billerica, a position I held for about 4 years.

The following 18 years I did not attend any church. Upon deciding to return to this church, I took over as the fledgling Caring Committee head and continued to sing in the choir and sing occasional solos and duets.

Currently, I am badly crippled up and am unable to go anywhere outside of the house. I am cared for by visiting nurses and a physical therapist. A neighbor, a friend, son Scot Krueger and Barbara Moloney bring me lunches. Son Dana Krueger lives with me and has been an enormous help. Daughter Lela Krueger Smith keeps tabs on me from afar in Maine. Dog caretakers help with my 13 year old adopted Basenji dog. Buddy. I feel blessed.

Currently, I do try to join a Zoom church service on the computer occasionally to keep in touch.  
~ Betsy

Betsy Polglase BPolglase@verizon.net in Tewksbury, MA, USA. Home of a senior citizen, oldest boy, Dana Krueger, and 13-year old adopted male Basenji furkid, Buddy

## Billerica Community Farmers Market

The Farmers Market has been busy all summer at the Council on Aging lawn on Monday afternoons. The Market features more farms, more prepared foods, and more food trucks!

Each Monday from 2:30 - 7:00 (or dusk) through October 10th. For more information visit

[www.BillericaCommunityFarmersMarket.org](http://www.BillericaCommunityFarmersMarket.org)



## Community Food Pantry Information

The **Billerica Community Pantry** is now located next door to the church, at the old Talbot Lodge. They have increased their distribution dates and are now making multiple distributions during the 2nd and 4th weeks of each month. You must still pre-register for these distributions and the distributions will still be drive by and contact free.

To RSVP for each pantry distribution, visit

<https://billericacommunitypantry.com/covid-19-distribution-rsvp>

Other ways to RSVP are to call 978-663-8433 and leave a message, or email [billericapantry@gmail.com](mailto:billericapantry@gmail.com)

Also, the Community Pantry needs **VOLUNTEERS**. If you are able and willing to volunteer your time, use this link to sign up <https://billericacommunitypantry.com/home/volunteer>. Upon visiting the website, you will be asked to pick the time or times that you are able to help. Kids are welcome to help during set-up; service hour forms will be signed for the time they work. If they are under 17 years old, they need a parent to volunteer with them. Kids aged 17 and above can volunteer anytime.

Call or email Taryn Gillis 978.663.8433 with any questions

## Sew 'n Sews Sewing/Quilting Group Mondays, September 13 and 27, 7:00p.m.

Sew 'n Sews is returning every 2nd and 4th Tuesday! Join the group for sewing/quilting and conversation at the church. Bring in your sewing machine for a lesson or update on how to make it work correctly. We suggest a \$5 donation, based on your ability to pay, which will go to the general church fund.

For more information, contact Helen Gloor at 978-640-6203 or [helenrgloor@comcast.net](mailto:helenrgloor@comcast.net)

**From UU the Vote:** Let's honor Rep. John Lewis's legacy of fighting for civil rights by showing up to get into Good Trouble in 2022. This year, we are challenging our congregations to show up in 2022 to vote love and defeat hate as a UU the Vote Good Trouble Congregation!

Important dates:

**September 6** - Massachusetts State Primary | Early voting and mail in voting have begun.

**October 29** - Registration deadline to vote in November 8 Midterm Elections

**November 8** - Midterm Elections

For more information visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele>

## Go Green with the BANNER!

We're always looking for people who'd like to "Go Green" and receive the Billerica Banner on-line. The pictures are in color, the quality is much higher and you get it before anyone else! If you try it for a month and don't like it, it's no problem to put you back on our hard copy list!

**September 2022**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
				1	2	3 Community Game Night PH:5-8
4 NO SERVICE	5 <i>(Labor Day)</i>	6 Garden Club PH:6 - 9	7	8 FCCA:PH:6-845 Board Meeting Zoom 7PM	9 IPMS:PH:6 - 9	10 Tentative: Gordon Gibb Memorial Community Lunch
11 In Gathering / Water Communion Rev. Gowdy PH: Youth Group 6-8PM Congregational Meeting  <i>(Patriot Day &amp; Grandparents Day)</i>	12 Tentative RM2-GS 4:45 - 5:45 RM2-GS 6:00-7:30	13 Sew & Sews PH: 7-9	14	15	16	17 <b>Yankee Doodle Weekend</b>
18 PH: Youth Group 6-8PM	19 RM2-GS 6:00-7:30	20	21 GS,PL:PH:5-8	22	23	24 Sunshine Gals:PH:10 - 2
25 PH: Youth Group 6-8PM  <i>(Rosh Hashanah)</i>	26 Tentative RM2-GS 4:45 - 5:45 RM2-GS 6:00-7:30	27 Sew & Sews PH: 7-9	28	29	30 Tentative: Yard Sale Setup Whole Church 5-9	

First Parish Church - Billerica - Contacts

**Church Office**

Teresa English, Admin.  
978.663.2293  
[admin@uubillerica.org](mailto:admin@uubillerica.org)  
[www.UUBillerica.org](http://www.UUBillerica.org)

**Minister Emeriti**

Rev. Nannene Gowdy  
Rev. Eugene "Woody" Woodrick

Note: new hours beginning Sept 7

**Church Office Hours:**

Mon 8 - 12pm  
Wed 11 - 4pm  
Fri 10 - 4pm

**Music**

Joohwa Park, Music Director/Organist  
617.218.7555  
[joohwapark@gmail.com](mailto:joohwapark@gmail.com)

**Communications**

Contact our Church Office to be added to our email announcement distribution list.

**Board of Trustees**

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**First Parish Church**

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Please let us know if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email or no longer want to receive it at all.  
978-663-2293  
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**The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association**

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

**The Mission of the First Parish Church...**

is to open its doors to all people who seek a religious home where the Unitarian Universalist Principles are upheld. We respect our diversity of views, as we encourage full participation in all aspects of our parish life.

This Congregation affirms and promotes the full participation of persons in all our activities and endeavors, including membership, programming, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals, without regard to race, color, gender, physical or mental challenge, affectional or sexual orientation, age, class, national origin, or political affiliation. Our goal is to nurture: An intergenerational sense of community; Individual responsibility; Spiritual inquiry; Moral reflection; Sensitivity to others; Personal growth; Social outreach and public service; A just world

Thus do we honor the gathering of this Church in 1658 by those who sought to walk with God.

First Parish Church web page: [www.uubillerica.org](http://www.uubillerica.org); Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) web page: [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)