

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

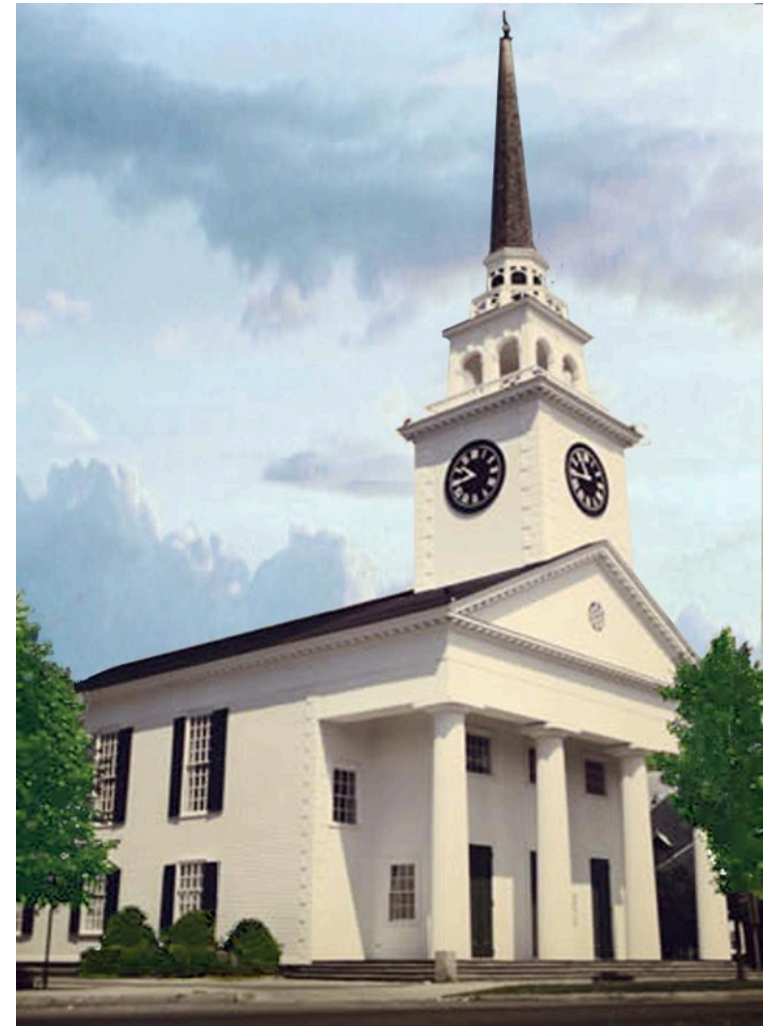
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As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love. Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love. Inseparable from one another, these shared values are: Interdependence, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity, and Justice.



August 17, 2025

Whoever Seeks the Truth Seeks God

The First Parish Church in Billerica,
Unitarian Universalist
On the Common - Billerica, Massachusetts

Worship Leaders: Rev. Eugene R.
Widrick
and Stefanie
Salguero

*Life is a gift for which we are grateful.
We gather in community to celebrate the
glories and the mysteries of this great gift.*

*Love is the doctrine of this church.
The quest of truth is its sacrament,
and service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
to seek knowledge in freedom,
to serve humanity in fellowship,
to the end that all souls shall grow
into harmony with the Divine:
thus we covenant with each other
and with God.*

SERMON: Whoever seeks the truth seeks
God whether they are conscious of it or not
- Rev. Widrick and Stefanie Salguero

*From all that dwell below the skies
Let songs of love and faith arise
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.
Amen.*

*We extinguish this flame,
but not the light of truth
the warmth of community,
or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts,
until we are together again.*

BENEDICTION



Email Newsletters: Did you know First Parish sends weekly announcements, service reminders, and a monthly newsletter to your email address? If you would like to sign up, email admin@uubillerica.org or sign up on our website www.uubillerica.org.

Coffee Hour: We all enjoy the baked goods, veggies, and fruits served each week after Sunday Services. These delicious offerings are brought in by various members of the church, and everyone is encouraged to bring something in on any Sunday not previously reserved.

FPC Garden Group

Volunteers needed! Please help us keep the grounds at First Parish looking beautiful. If you have any time to help out with gardening, please contact Barbara Bourdon bbourdon@comcast.net (978) 973-6669

ICE HQ Standouts: Weekly on Wednesdays | 11am
Join members and friends of FPC Wednesdays from 11am-1pm. Before arriving, please consider your own self-preservation (citizenship status) and self-care (sunscreen, hydration, etc.). Together, we can show love & support for immigrants, express our shame at ICE, and bear witness to the cruel and unconstitutional actions of our government. 1000 District Avenue, Burlington MA.

Virtual Lunch at FPC: Tues | Aug 12 | Noon | Zoom
Join us for a virtual and freeform lunch discussion each Tuesday. No agenda, just a weekly chance to connect with one another. To join, go to www.uubillerica.org and click on the “On-Line Services” box.

RESPONSIVE READING

#515 We Lift Up Our Hearts in Thanks

For the sun and the dawn
Which we did not create,

*For the moon and the evening
Which we did not make,*

For food which we plant
But cannot grow,

*For friends and loved ones
We have not earned and cannot buy,*

For this gathered company
Which welcomes us as we are,
from wherever we have come,

*For all our free churches
That keep us human and
encourage us in our quest for
beauty, truth, and love*

For all things which come to us
As gifts of being from sources
beyond ourselves,

*Gifts of life and love and friendship
We lift up our hearts in thanks this day.*

August 17, 2025

Announcements

Summer Church Office Hours

8am - 12pm Monday and Friday,

10am-12pm Thursday (remote)

Service Information

"Whoever Seeks the Truth Seeks God Whether They Are
Conscious Of It Or Not"

Worship Leaders - Rev. Eugene Widrick & Stefanie Salguero

BIOS: 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, as well as minister emeritus for First Parish. His book “Leaving Belfort: The Memoir of Eugene R. ‘Woody’ Widrick” was published in 2019. Rev. Widrick is Minister Emeritus of The First Religious Society in Carlisle, MA as well as Minister Emeritus of First Parish Billerica.

Stefanie Salguero is a recent graduate of Boston University's Educational Leadership and Policy Studies graduate program. She now works at Middlesex Community College as an Assistant Director of Diversity Recruitment. She is a proud cat mom, partner, sister of two, and granddaughter of Rev. Eugene Widrick, Minister Emeritus of First Parish Church,

REMINDER

NO Sunday Services

August 22nd and 29th

Virtual Lunch at FPC: Tues | Aug 12 | Noon | Zoom
Join your fellow First Parish friends for a virtual and freeform lunch discussion each Tuesday. This meeting has no agenda, just a weekly chance to connect with one another. To join, go to www.uubillerica.org and click on the “On-Line Services” box.

Sunshine Gals Lunch: Sat | August 23 | 11 - 1 | PH
The Sunshine Gals Kitchen, Inc. (a non-profit org. based in Billerica, focused on economic and social outreach for our residents) provide monthly luncheons for families living in Billerica. These luncheons are homemade and served at the First Parish Church in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome!

Save the Dates:

Sun | Sept 7 | Ingathering Sunday Service

Sat | Sept 20 | **Yankee Doodle** Celebration, Parade, Booth

Sat | Sept 30 | Lowell Soup Kitchen food prep evening.