

# BEDFORD POLE CAPPING, 2017

INVOCATION DELIVERED BY REV. MEGAN LYNES  
FIRST PARISH, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Spirit of Wisdom, who lives and loves through each of us,

On this day of peaceful celebration, we gather as people from all walks of life, and from many religious traditions. In our town we encourage the freedom of thought and expression, even when we might disagree, because it is our right to do so. May the diversity of voices continue to enrich our civic life.

We give thanks today for the joy of being here among neighbors and friends, for the opportunity to honor the courage of our forebears, and for the reminder to serve our community as they did, on behalf of peace and justice.

Here in the town of Bedford, our history reminds us that we were the heartbeat of the American Revolution. Our forebears fought, sometimes to their death, for freedom and tolerance. We carry their spirit with us today. We must never take for granted that we are living in a land that affords its citizens the precious gift of liberty and democracy, a land where we ourselves elect our leaders, receive a free public education, and where a library card is better than gold.

These days economic, political and ecological struggles abound. We are not at all sure what tomorrow holds, but it is our duty to care. We pray for the day when our world is free from all hatred, racism and bigotry; when our forests and waters are protected, and our children study war no more. But until that day, we dedicate ourselves to one another and the Greater Good, working together in our own community to make the town of Bedford, Massachusetts a peaceful, just and welcoming place for all.

May the history we retell this morning, remind us of the importance of coming together today. Grant us the wisdom and the foresight to discern not only what is good for us, but what is for the betterment of all humankind. Broaden our shoulders and brace our backs for the carrying of our responsibilities. May we do this with humility, integrity and courage.

And may peace and goodwill abide among us this day and always.

Amen