First Parish in Lexington

Weekly Update

Worship Service at 10:30 AM
Youth Sunday, April 8, 2018

In this engaging service, members of the Senior High Youth Group will ask us to nurture hope in uncertain times in their sermon, "Hope Taking Root." Our amazingly talented youth will offer a service filled with music and personal reflections.

The Senior High Youth Group at First Parish will provide music for our worship service. Leading the music will be Chelsea Cannon and hope "The Circle" with soloists Ella Wheaver and Jordan O'Hara Gibson. Chelsea Cannon, Jordan O'Hara Gibson, Liz and Jeremy Whitman-Kinghorn will sing Stephen Sondheim's lovely song, "No One is Alone" (from into the Woods). Chelsea Cannon will sing Benj Pasek and Justin Paul's energetic song "You will be Found" from the hit Broadway musical Dear Evan Hansen. For the prayer music, Liz Whitman-Kinghorn (on ukulele and voice) will sing "Edelweiss" (from The Sound of Music) and Chelsea Cannon will play John Barry's beautiful piano solo, "Out of Africa" (from Out of Africa). Chelsea Cannon, Jordan O'Hara Gibson, on bass clarinet, will play a moving arrangement of Justin Hurwitz' "Another Day of Sun" (from La La Land), with Aidan Fox and Jeremy Whitman-Kinghorn on percussion. And for the centering music, Chelsea Cannon will play Justin Hurwitz' lyrical "Epilogue" (also from La La Land).

Sunday school will take place for preschool through 2nd grade. Third through eighth grades will stay in the sanctuary. The nursery will be open for infants and toddlers.

All are welcome!

Rev. Anne Mason, Minister,
Lisa Maria Steinberg, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Rip Jackson, Music Director,
Katie Carrera, Youth Coordinator

Click here to listen to last week's sermon, "Cultivating Joy" by Rev. Anne Mason

Please note: Rev. Anne will be on vacation from Thursday, April 5th through Sunday, April 8th. Please email or call Jane Foley in the office if you need pastoral assistance.

Let's Build the Wall...of Joy!

What a wonderful start to Project Joy. Reverend Anne's sermon this past Sunday on what it means to "Cultivate Joy" provided the perfect segue to our month long celebration of Joy. As part of this celebration we are building a Collage ("wall") of Joy (see photo on left). This wall will be displayed in the Parish Hall during our experience. **Everyone** (all ages) is invited to add to the collage. It could be a picture, photo, flower, ribbon, poem, quotation, or whatever that represents a joyous moment to you. We especially welcome more than one joyous moment contribution. You can drop off your remembrance in our *Joy Basket* located in the Welcoming Issue in the Parish Hall or hand it off to a member of Project Joy. We will be adding to our collage throughout the month. It will be displayed in the Sanctuary and Parish hall. Materials for making your signature *Joy Flag* can be found on work tables at the back of the Parish Hall during social hour throughout the month of April.

But wait, there's more! Have you ever wondered how to write a story? Are you motivated by First Parish's celebration of joy to ponder your own story of Joy?

Come to a workshop by master writer Don Cohen, who is joyfully and generously offering to help people to write their own joy-filled stories:

Joy-Writing Workshop:
Thursday, April 12th at 4:00pm
Saturday, April 14th at 10:00am

Don will offer two sessions where you will be invited to tell your story of joy about. Don will then offer guidance and discussion on how to make the story more effective in written or spoken form. Please respond to Don at dscohen@mac.com or 781-863-1219 if you would like to participate. Some stories will be shared (with your permission, of course!) at our Joy Project wrap up worship service on April 29th.

Go Joy!

The Project Joy Team (Don Cohen, Amy Breiding, Amy Kraal, Lee Counts, Ben Juitt, Lisa Maria Steinberg, and Al Jacobson)

From Your Minister: New Initiatives at First Parish

We are working with the Lexington Youth and Family Services, which is housed at First Parish, to expand the options for teenagers in Lexington. In a time when our kids are beset with pressure, they have been welcome to come to a regular drop-in time at LYFS to be together in a safe place and have free counseling with Erin Deery, LCSW and Executive Director. If this is news to you, please feel free to visit their website at http://www.lyfsma.org

Would you like to help us expand this service to reach more students - specifically more LGBTQ+ students? If you have thoughts about this, or would like to help plan for ways to utilize our space and our resources in a way that is more welcoming to LGBTQ+ students, please contact Jeremy Kinghorn, our First Parish members are already on the Board of Directors for LYFS, and we are excited to support this worthwhile organization in providing important support for the youth of Lexington.

Also, I am also working with the Worship Associates to revisit how we do worship over the summer. If you are someone who finds these summer gatherings to be a meaningful part of your spiritual growth, or even if you didn't know that we hold services over the summer but would love to find out more, please contact Rev. Anne as well. I'm looking for a few more people to be on our summer planning team!

In the spirit of our shared ministry,

Rev. Anne

Communities Without Borders
Benefit Concert

Come support Communities Without Borders at a benefit concert on **Saturday, April 7 at 8pm** at the First Church in Cambridge or on **Sunday, April 8 at 3pm** at the First UU Society in Newton.

First Parish works with CWB each year on a trip to Zambia. Contact Margie Gibbons or Meg Jackson for more information.

The Green Corner: Climate Action Team

The next meeting of the CAT is **Sunday, April 8th at noon** in Robinson Hall Action items:

1) Participate in Mass Power Forward and Climate Xchange Legislative Call-in Day each Monday from 10am - 1pm.

From now through the end of the legislative session, we need to be escalating the pressure on our legislators in order to ensure that the bills we want will pass. That's why every Monday we are encouraging you to make three calls.

1. Your state representative
2. Your state senator
3. The Speaker of the House (617-722-2500)

For more details go to

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSzBNGnpuxQ8OvDzPFCY-28Ctnx6VYKFpvMBUXG7RAquEw/viewform

2) Join other CAT members and attend the climate-oriented UU Mass action lobby day on

When: Tue April 10, 9:30 – 4:00 PM

Where: Arlington St., Church, Boston & the State House

Learn more here - and register!

Gun Violence Prevention Forum

Gun Violence – Action, Truth, and Reconciliation: A Conversation with Attorney General Maura Healey, Chaplain Clementine Cherry, and two youth activists **Sunday, April 8, 2018, 3:00 to 4:30pm**, Temple Emunah, 5 Piper Road, Lexington. Free and open to the public.

The four panelists will be Emily Weinberg, founder of the LHS student group, now with 300 members; Attorney General Maura Healey, who will describe her initiatives to reduce gun violence; Chaplain Clementine Cherry, President of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, and a youth activist who works with the Peace Institute. Rev. Claire Fangold Thorun, minister of the Follen Church, will be the moderator. Each panelist will speak for ten minutes. A question period, primarily for students, will follow.

Co-sponsored by First Parish in Lexington, the Follen Church Gun Violence Prevention Group, and Lexington High School's #LexingtonStandUnsafe.

Parking information: please consider carpooling. There are 180 parking spaces in the main lot at the Temple (at the end of Piper Rd.). Handicapped parking is to the right of the building. Overflow parking needs to be either on Wetherell St. or Concord Road where people can walk to the back right end of April Lane (Windemere Condos) and take a short path to the Temple. There is no parking on Piper Road. There will be a traffic control officer at the beginning of Piper Rd. The doors of the Temple will open at 2:30 to allow people to drop off people who need assistance and to park cars. Please don't bring any food. Temple Emunah is a kosher facility. Questions: Contact Rene Grady at grp@follen.org

Unity Group Luncheon

All are welcome to the next Unity Group luncheon on **Monday, April 9th**. There will be socializing at 12, followed by lunch at 12:30 (please bring your own sandwich or salad - if your last name begins with A, B, or C, please bring a dessert to share), and a program at 1:30.

This month, Tom Tasker and Meg Jackson will join us to talk about their experience traveling to Zambia last summer with Communities Without Borders, a unique and thought-provoking experience.

Missa Gaia Happens in Nine Days!

First Parish's resident artists have been very busy preparing props and artwork for this extravaganza! The children's and sanctuary choirs have been rehearsing the amazing music. Soon the dancers will arrive. There's even a whale! You won't want to miss First Parish's presentation of *Paul Winter's Missa Gaia: A Mass for the Earth!*

The performances will take place on **Friday and Saturday, April 13-14, 2018, at 7:30pm**. If you haven't ordered your tickets, click here to be directed to the ticket website. You can also buy one during social hour on Sunday. Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 seniors, and $15 for students. Reduced ticket prices are available for those in need.

Patriot's Day Presentation by Dan Fenn

Patriots' Day: "What Really Happened That Day?"

All are welcome to join Dan Fenn, a longtime member of the Lexington Minute Man Company, for a talk about Patriots' Day. Dan will share with us the fascinating and funny story of the events of April 19, 1775. FREE and open to the public. Please come and invite your friends and family. All ages encouraged to attend!

Imagination Cafe and Pledge Drive Celebration

On Friday night, **April 27th at 6:30pm** in the Parish Hall, the Board and the Stewardship Team invite all members and friends to an evening of socializing, entertainment, and imagining.

Celebrate the end of the pledge drive, with finger food, wine, beer, and other beverages! Hear from the Board on what we learned from the January and February Imagination Cafes! Participate in another round of Imagination Cafe discussions!

All ages invited!

METCO Documentary Presentation

All are invited to attend a presentation co-sponsored by First Parish and Lexington Youth and Family Services (LYFS):

METCO Documentary Film, "On the Line: Where Sacrifice Begins" on **Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 5:30 to 6:30pm** at First Parish Church, 7 Harrington Rd. on the Green in Lexington.

Created by Mike Mascoli, a Lexington METCO graduate, the film documents the birth in 1966 of METCO, which is the oldest voluntary desegregation program and distinguishes the METCO program through the experiences of both METCO and Lexington families and students. Why METCO is still such an important and beneficial program in Lexington today. View the movie trailer here.

Barbara Hamilton, METCO Director at Lexington High School said, "Now more than ever our country is at risk of being divided again. This story stands as an example of how we can still come together."

Following the film, there will be a panel of METCO parents, alumni, current students and educators. Light refreshments will served.

Among Our Own

Congratulations to our First Parish members who have been in the ministerial search process. Lisa Perry Wood has been asked to be the candidate at First Parish in Brookline, and Bethany Russell Lowe has been asked to be the candidate at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, Arizona! We are very proud of our members who have been asked to be candidates for ministerial positions on offer, after which the membership will vote on calling them as their new minister. Please keep both of our beloved members in your hearts as they celebrate this next step of the ministerial process.

As you all remember, the week of candidating is an important one for both the minister and the congregations. May everyone have the patience, the energy, and the wisdom to navigate these times with love and with inner truth - ready always for the growth of new relationships and the hugs of wonderful shared ministry. And I am thrilled to welcome them both into collegial relationships of friendship and support!

In Fellowship,

Rev. Anne

Good Samaritan Fund, Round 2

The Social Action Committee of First Parish would like to announce the second wave of the Good Samaritan Fund award. Through the generosity of Bruce and Eve Gordon, long-time Lexington residents, humanitarians, and members of First Parish in Lexington, the Good Samaritan Fund was established "...to provide financial awards to needy individuals." **Application deadline is May 1**. Selected recipients will be notified by June 15. If you are aware of any needy people in Smilka who qualify based on the Gordon terms reproduced above, please encourage them to apply. Click here for more information.

Mayfair is Coming! Mayfair is Coming!

Mayfair is coming soon on **May 12!** We invite you to come, to help, to bring our stuff and friends and children!

We are looking for irresistible items in these categories:

1. **Treasures and Collectibles**: china, artworks, silver, furniture, small furniture;

2. **Jewelry**: jewelry of all kinds, handbags, scarves, and small purses;

3. **Books**: fiction, literature, current nonfiction, and children's books. PLEASE: no travel, self-help, reference books.

4. **White Elephants**: Pottery, kitchenware, linens, small furniture, knickknacks, frames, small appliances, tools, electronic goods in working order, art & craft supplies, gift items, holiday decorations;

5. **Toys, Games, and Puzzles**: clean & in good condition;

6. **Home-baked Items**: your favorite breads, muffins, cookies, brownies/bars, biscotti, cupcakes, grandma/mom/aunt fudge, etc. WITHOUT NUTS

But please, NO donations of old, torn, stained, broken items, and

No firearms
No exercise equipment
No clothing or shoes
No worn-out or outdated sporting goods
No large pieces of furniture
No mattresses
No monitors, dead-model, or old computers
No household chemicals
No televisions
No cassettes or videotapes
No magazines or textbooks

Let's join together for this fun-filled, spring tradition at First Parish. Mark your calendars!

Please sign up at the piano with Marty Kraal or Celine Nussbaum on Sundays to share your talents. Or sign up right now via this link to the Signup Genius.

Interfaith Garden Diggings and Doings

It's spring at Lexington's Interfaith Garden, located just opposite the church parking lot. Volunteers from a dozen faith communities in town work together in the Garden during the spring, summer, and fall. This month, we're off and digging—preparing the soil and maybe even planting peas, lettuce, and beets—the cool weather crops.

YOU are cordially invited to participate in this interfaith gardening effort. No experience needed! You are welcome to come occasionally or on a regular basis or to come by and just check us out. Gardening tools and gloves are provided. Transportation to Garden sites is available for high school students. Contact Cheryl Rice or Marty Kraal, the coordinators for First Parish, if you want more information or would like to be on the volunteer list. Do come!

Soul Matters' Theme for April: Emergence

"I find something exciting in the possibility of new birth, something fearful but also potentially awesome in the uncertainties that come with change, something life-giving, and hopeful in coming more and more fully into ourselves as individuals and as a community. What do we emerge from, and what do we emerge into? If you were to map the "emergence" in your life, what might they hold in common?"

~Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, First UU Church of San Jose, CA

This Week at First Parish

Wednesday, April 4		
Crew Rehearsal	10:45 a.m.	Sanctuary
Thursday, April 5		
AA Gamblers Anonymous Twelve Step Meditation Group	10:00 a.m.	Crossroads Room
Bowditch Club	7:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
Saturday, April 7		
Youth Service Rehearsal	10:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
Sunday, April 8		
Youth Service	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
A Children's Choir Rehearsal	1:00 p.m.	Follen Room & Sanctuary
Deluxe Green Chorus Rehearsal	2:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
SOTUU	7:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Monday, April 9		
Staff Meeting	11:00 a.m.	Minister's Office
Unity Group Luncheon	12:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
Tuesday, April 10		
Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Crossroads Room
Project Joy Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
Wednesday, April 11		
Crew Rehearsal	7:45 p.m.	Sanctuary
Choir Singers Rehearsal	7:45 p.m.	Parish Hall

First Parish is an accredited Green Sanctuary and a Welcoming Congregation.

>>> Shop at Amazon to benefit First Parish. <<<

First Parish in Lexington
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781-862-8205first.org

Weekly Update submissions are due on Tuesdays at 10:00 am.
Please email submissions to Heather **l.admin@fpl.org**.

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