

THE FOCALPOINT

FIRST PARISH IN LEXINGTON
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*May 2018 — What Does It Mean to be a
Community of Creativity?*

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NOTICE: Beginning in June 2018, The Focalpoint will be published quarterly. The Summer issue will be sent in June and the Fall issue at the beginning of September.

Worship Services for May
What Does it Mean to be a Community of Creativity?



May 6
Rev. Anne Mason
"At the Still Point"

First Parish joins with other congregations in Lexington this week as we lift up the issue of mental health within our churches and synagogues. Rev. Anne will be joined by members of First Parish who will share a portion of their personal journey through mental health, as we explore ways that we can support each other by lifting the veil of secrecy and learning some clear and helpful responses.

May 13
Rev. Anne Mason
"Imago Dei"



Rev. Anne will explore the theological background of *imago dei* - the view that we are created in the image of the Divine. On this Mother's Day we lift up all the people whose creativity has led to our existence while we recognize that parenting is not the only way that we nurture each other.



May 20
Rev. Anne Mason
"Context is Everything"

On this day we welcome New Members at First Parish, and we prepare for our annual meeting. What is the role of our congregation in the wider role, and how can we become the church which is so needed in this world?

Worship Services for May
What Does it Mean to be a Community of Creativity?



May 27
Rev. Anne Mason
"Tarry Here a Moment"

The first Memorial Day was organized in 1865 by newly freed slaves to express their gratitude to Union soldiers. An impassioned speech by Frederick Douglas reminds us of the high ideals of these soldiers who fought for liberty for all Americans. Let us take time today, before the summer B-B-Q begins, to recognize the pain that led to true greatness in our nation's history.

All Sunday services begin at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

Song on May Morning

John Milton (1608-1674)

Now the bright morning Star, Dayes harbinger,
Comes dancing from the East, and leads with her
The Flowry May, who from her green lap throws
The yellow Cowslip, and the pale Primrose.
Hail bounteous May that dost inspire
Mirth and youth, and warm desire,
Woods and Groves, are of thy dressing,
Hill and Dale, doth boast thy blessing,
Thus we salute thee with our early Song,
And welcom thee, and wish thee long.

First Parish Partnerships

First Parish is excited to begin a partnership with a local group called Lexington #Enough. This is a group which began in the Lexington High School after the Parkland shooting. They claim their mission as, “an inclusive and diverse group of students and allies in Lexington, Massachusetts. Through events and advocacy, our goal is to promote conversations and demand action to make our schools safer from gun-related violence. We will do this by participating in marches, debates, and other activities to raise awareness and promote positive legislation for school safety.”

In an era where 98 Americans are shot and killed every day, the issue of gun violence is something which continues to affect all of us.

Lexington #Enough will be meeting on Sunday nights at 7:00 at First Parish. We are seeking some members of our congregation who would like to become involved to provide support and be a liaison for this group. When I met with their student leader, Devesh, he told me that 60-80 people typically attend these meetings, and that they would welcome our participation. They are not a faith-based organization, but do include members of many other churches and synagogues throughout the town. They are particularly interested in creating forums where diverse opinions can be heard, and where citizens can truly listen to each other’s concerns. In this polarized society, this would be a welcome change.

We are also seeking some folks to get involved with our new LGBTQI drop-in on Friday afternoons. We are partnering with Lexington Youth and Family Services, which we continue to host in our building, to provide safe space for gay and straight kids to come together in the company of a trained professional social worker. Our Youth Space is newly decorated with comfortable furniture, and we could use some people to provide vision and hospitality for the youth of Lexington.

Please consider becoming a part of this important work in our town. As people of faith, we work to bring more love and more justice into our world. Perhaps this will be your opportunity to get involved!

In Faith,

Rev. Anne



Mayfair is Almost Here!
Saturday, May 12th

Mayfair is just 2 weeks away! This is our big spring fundraiser (and also a source for many a Mother's Day treasure!). The Fair succeeds with our talents. Sign up at the piano on Sunday or by Signup Genius site at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa4aa2ba7f58-mayfair>

NEW THIS YEAR: RAFFLE BASKETS designed for both children and adults: a basket of fine wines and delicious chocolate; a basket of gift cards for children's and families' favorite treats (like Concord Bookstore, Rancatore's, Catch a Falling Star), and a basket of books by some of our very own First Parish authors! You can buy your raffle tickets at coffee hour and during the fair.

And we invite you to:

1. **Post a yard sign in your front yard** beginning Sunday, May 6th.
2. **Donate some time!** How about:
 - choosing and buying a gift card for the children's/families basket to be raffled at the Fair. (Choices at the piano on Sunday or phone Joanne Poage at 781-861-1782.)
 - baking some delicious goodies or other comestibles?
 - making espresso at the coffee bar?
 - creating simple Mother's Day gifts with our children?
 - posting flyers around Lexington and neighboring towns?
 - selling on Saturday?
 - sorting and pricing on Friday day and evening?
 - setting up before or cleaning up after?

Mayfair is Almost Here!
Saturday, May 12th

3. Donate a much-loved but no-longer-needed treasure to sell! We eagerly await your:

- Treasures and collectibles: china, artworks, silver, small furniture;
- Books (**only** fiction, literature, current nonfiction, and children's books); and vinyl records and CDs;
- White elephants: pottery, kitchenware, linens, knickknacks, frames, small appliances, tools, electronics in working condition, craft supplies, children's toys and games, holiday decorations;
- Your plastic and paper bags for folks to carry home their purchases.

Please donate items that are appealing, in good condition, and up-to-date.

Drop-off for donations at the church will be on Thursday, May 10th, 6:30 - 9:00 pm in Parker Hall downstairs and on Friday, May 11th, 9:00 am - 5 pm. PLEASE NOTE 5 PM DEADLINE, so volunteers have enough time to sort and price your items. (For earlier drop off, please contact Bob Coyne, rgcoyne2@gmail.com, who has made available his garage.)

Let's enjoy together this fun-filled, spring tradition at First Parish. Mark your calendars! See you May 12th!



Report from the Board

David Rose & Katie O'Hare Gibson, co-chairs

The Board had our longest meeting of the year, not surprisingly because it is the time of the year when we must focus our thoughts on planning for next year – everything from programmatic priorities and goals to budgets and stewardship. An orientation toward future planning is the most important role for the Board to play, and we are trying to discipline ourselves to focus on the future of this church rather than its past or even its present (we have an excellent staff who are concentrating on our present).

Starting from the furthest ahead, we considered a report from the Mission and Impact Task Force. Tony Siesfeld began the meeting with a presentation designed to guide us in thinking about evaluation: How we can better plan our programs and services so that we will be able to know how successful they are in reaching the goals we have set out for them?

For the intermediate future, we invited Lisa Maria to join us to discuss a proposal that she and Anne prepared for the Board, a proposal that seeks to address the hopes and concerns about how to best attract and serve children, youth, and their families. That proposal recommended moving toward a “Family Ministry” approach, something the Board seemed eager to pursue after more development and participation by the congregation.

For the more immediate future, the Board engaged in a lengthy discussion of our finances and heard the first draft of a proposed budget for next year. More discussion and revision of that budget continues.

Several other important items filled out the meeting, including the approval of a proposal by John Oberteuffer for a new approach to expand our ability to host weddings and other ceremonies, an update from the Governance Task Force, reports from the minister, and so forth.

Overall, it was a long and hard meeting. But, the future looks bright. Come anytime; our next meeting is Tuesday, May 8 at 7pm.

Semi-Annual Meeting

Warrant

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 20, 2018

in the sanctuary immediately after the morning service

WARRANT

David Juitt (Parish Clerk) hereby notifies legal members* of First Parish in Lexington, Unitarian Universalist, to meet for the Semi-Annual Meeting in their sanctuary on Sunday, May 20, 2018, immediately after the service, to act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator to preside at this meeting;

ARTICLE 2: To approve the minutes from the previous parish meeting;

ARTICLE 3: To receive the Annual Reports from Board, Committees, Ministries and Officers;

ARTICLE 4: To review and discuss the FY2019 Budget;

ARTICLE 5: To elect members of the Parish to fill the following church positions:

Board Member At-Large;

Treasurer, and;

Auditor of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE 6: To hear a report from our Parish Minister, Rev. Anne Mason;

ARTICLE 7: To hear from Selected Committees;

ARTICLE 8: To hear any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

The Parish Board: Co-Chairs – David Rose and Katherine O'Hare Gibson; Members-at-Large—Debbie Armstrong, Mary Brinton, Robert Gibbons, David Juitt, Martha Kvall, David Pollack, David Rose, Elizabeth Walsh; Finance Committee Chair—Marsha Fox; Parish Clerk—David Juitt; Ex Officio—Rev. Anne Mason, Tom Rich

*Members are entitled to vote in Parish Meetings and to hold elective office only after having been members for a period of at least three months in order to acquaint themselves with the Parish.

Updates from the Social Action Committee

The **Good Samaritan Fund** committee has identified four recipients from the first wave of applications. **Deadline for the second wave is May 15.** Awardees will be notified by June 15. If you know of individuals in need, please review the description on the First Parish website, along with the application form and other requirements.

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Our annual **Day of Service** will be **Saturday, June 2**. We will have sign-ups available during social hour on Sunday, May 20. For those of you who may not be able to attend church that day, you will also be able to contact the activity leader directly. Several of the groups have limited space and will be filled on a first come basis. We will be adding several new programs this year. As in the past, the day will start with breakfast at 8 AM. Due to the wide variation in times when each program concludes, we will not reconvene for lunch. Let's have a huge showing this year!! Stay tuned for details.

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Thank you, First Parish community, for your monthly contributions of non-perishable food items to the **First Sunday Food Collection!** We have collected donations throughout the church year, with two more to go! Please bring donations to the church on **Sundays, May 6th and June 3rd**. Baskets will be located in the sanctuary, as well as outside of the church office throughout the week. Your generosity is appreciated!

~Lynne Yansen and Tom Wanderer

Updates from the Social Action Committee



The 48th annual **Pride Parade** celebrating the LGBT Community will take place on **Saturday, June 9**. This is a huge Boston event and a lot of fun!! The parade organizers require two parade marshals per registered group. For organization and safety reasons, each marshal must attend a one-hour orientation held either at the Boston Public Library or the Blackstone Community Center (BCC). Times and dates for these meetings are: **May 3, 9, or 15 from 7 PM-8PM at BCC, or May 20 from 2-3 PM Boston Public Library**. Early registration ends May 30. Please let Rip Jackson (music@fplex.org) or Elaine Hylek (ehylek@bmc.org) know if you are interested in helping to lead this effort.





For many years, First Parish member Erik Svenson's french horn ensemble, *Esprit de Cor*, performed at the Friday noon concert series. While the concert series is no longer running, *Esprit de Cor* lives on! We will be performing a concert on **Saturday, May 5th at 3:00pm at First Parish**. Below is the program:

Canzon Septimi Toni for double horn choir – Gabrielli

Selected Trios – Mozart

Allegretto for horn quartet – Schubert

Jesu Meine Freude for horn quintet – J.S. Bach

Allegro Moderato from "Water Music" for horn sextet – Handel

Rheingold Fantasie from "Das Rheingold" for horn octet – Wagner

Suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors. Hope you can make it. It will be a great program!

Sarasa Ensemble Presents

Mirrors: Chamber Music from the
18th and 19th Centuries

Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 3:30 PM First Parish in Lexington

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Sarasa is thrilled to present a broad program that peers through a rearview lens to establish connections between the French Baroque, Classical Vienna and German Romanticism. The highly influential French Baroque organist, harpsichordist and composer François Couperin inspired many composers after his death, including the great Johannes Brahms. Likewise, Josef Haydn set a clear benchmark for future composers in innovating musical forms and depicting brand new textures in chamber music and orchestral writing. Presenting Couperin, Haydn and Brahms alongside each other gives us a chance to trace musical links through the centuries and reflect on new angles in which to experience the music. The musicians are Haldan Martinson, Christina Day Martinson, violins; Jenny Stirling, Marka Gustavsson, violas; Timothy Merton, Jennifer Morsches, cellos; and Rip Jackson, harpsichord. For tickets and information, visit [www.sarasamusic.org](http://www.sarasamusic.org) or call 617-429-0332.



## You Are Invited

*Lisa Perry-Wood's*

*Ordination into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry*

*Sunday, June 3, 2018*

*3 PM*

*First Parish in Lexington*

*Child Care Available*

*Reception Immediately Following*

Witness this milestone event in the life of long time First Parish member Lisa Perry-Wood, as she becomes an Ordained Unitarian Universalist Minister.

For more information or to volunteer (usher, donate food, etc.) at the Ordination, contact Tom Rich at [tom.f.rich@gmail.com](mailto:tom.f.rich@gmail.com).

What do Dan Fenn, Brenda Prusak, Megan Ladd, Paul Brouillette, Lisa Maria Steinberg, and Don Yansen have in common? It is mind boggling to think about the possibilities: Do they all teach Yoga? Were they all in Camelot? Do they all have dangerous hobbies?

Actually, they all have two things in common. First, they are all featured speakers at the next Voices on the Green, First Parish's popular music and storytelling series for the community. Second, each of them has a great story to tell about a critical transformation in their lives, a day (or so) when the arc of their lives changed forever.

Join us on Friday, June 8th when each of them, along with other storytellers and musicians, will illuminate one theme with many different voices: "The Day My Life Changed."

Friday, June 8th. Doors Open at 6:30. Refreshments free. Tickets on sale soon.



## Memorial Garden Remembering Loved Ones



In the First Parish Memorial Garden green plants and granite bricks engraved with the names of loved ones convey the message that those who are gone from our physical presence are still with us in memory.

All are invited to sit in the Garden -- a peaceful oasis for meditation and remembrance.

New memorial bricks are installed in late summer and will be dedicated during the annual service in late September. The usual donation for a memorial brick is \$1000, which covers the cost of engraving, and permanent garden upkeep and maintenance. Financial flexibility is available for First Parishioners who wish to honor a loved one if the full donation presents a hardship.

Summer is a good time for First Parishioners to request a memorial brick to honor the life of a loved one. Please contact Sarah Matthews, Memorial Garden chair, at [samathews@aol.com](mailto:samathews@aol.com) or Nancy Earsy at [nancy@earsy.com](mailto:nancy@earsy.com) to arrange for a memorial brick.

## Interfaith Garden Diggings and Doings

If it's May, it's spring at Lexington's Interfaith Garden. New seeds are going in. Spring produce is being harvested. We're off and digging for this our 9th year. Since our beginning, more than 12,000 pounds of organic produce have gone to Lexington's Food Pantry! Amazing!!

YOU are cordially invited to join us. The Garden is conveniently located just next door to our parking lot behind the Fortmanns' house. No gardening experience is needed. Children (accompanied by an adult) and youth (community service credits available) are welcome. Work days are late Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. You sign up to volunteer as you are willing and able.

We make new friends. We learn a lot. We have fun. For more information or to get on the volunteer list, contact Marty Kvaal or Cherie Noe, the First Parish coordinators. Or see one of us at the piano at Sunday morning coffee hour.

We hope you'll give us a try.



Keeping the rabbits out at the Interfaith Garden.

**Recurring Events Calendar  
May 2018**

Choir Warm-up, Sundays, at 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service, Sundays, at 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Choir Rehearsal, Sundays, at 11:45 a.m.  
Social Action, monthly, 3rd Sunday, at 11:45 a.m.  
Sr. High Youth Group, Sundays, at 7 p.m.  
Members & Friends, monthly, 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Parish Board, monthly, 2nd Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.  
Finance Committee, monthly, 1st Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m.  
Building & Grounds, 3rd Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m.  
History Committee, 2nd Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal, Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m.  
Creative Callings, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, at 1:30 p.m.  
Thursday Meditation, Thursdays, at 4:00 p.m.



**Special Events Calendar  
May 2018**

Saturday, May 5th  
Esprit de Cor concert, 3:00pm, Sanctuary  
Sunday, May 6th  
Master Singers Concert, 4:00pm, Sanctuary  
Thursday, May 10th  
Lexington PFLAG, 7:00pm, Common Room  
Mayfair Drop-off, 6:30pm, Parker Hall  
Friday, May 11th  
Mayfair Drop-off, 9:00am, Parish Hall & Parker Hall  
Saturday, May 12th  
Mayfair, 9:00am—1:00pm  
Munroe Saturday Night, 7:00pm  
Monday, May 14th  
Unity Group Luncheon, 12:00pm, Parker Hall  
Monday, April 16th  
Dan Fenn Presentation, 12:00pm, Sanctuary  
Thursday, May 17th  
80+ Luncheon, 12:30pm, Parker Hall  
Saturday, May 19th  
Youth Group Fundraiser, 7:00pm, Parish Hall  
Sunday, May 20th  
Semi-Annual Meeting, 11:45am, Sanctuary  
Sarasa Concert, 3:30pm, Sanctuary  
Friday, May 25th through Monday, May 28th—Ferry Beach