Weekly Update
Wednesday, May 23, 2018
First Parish in Lexington

Worship Service at 10:30 AM
Sunday, May 27, 2018

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. "Tarry Here a Moment" with Rev. Anne Mason before the summer barbecue begins to recognize the pain that led to true greatness in our nation's history.

Guest concert pianist Yukino Sekino will provide the music for worship. She will play Domenico Scarlatti's lovely "Sonata in F minor, K. 466," Robert Schumann's lyrical "Figured Choral, Op. 68 No. 42"," Johannes Brahms's passionate "Intermezzo in B minor, Op. 119 No. 1" and W. A. Mozart's energetic "Allegro maestoso" (from *Sonata in A minor, K. 310*). A soloist noted for her performances of Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, and Scriabin, Ms. Sekino frequently collaborates in chamber music and performs some of the most challenging twentieth and twenty-first century works. She is a graduate of Harvard University and the Juilliard School, and currently teaches piano at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the New England Conservatory Prep School.

There will be no religious education. The nursery will be open but not staffed.

Rev. Anne Mason, Minister
Lisa Maria Steinberg, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Rip Jackson, Director of Music
Rev. Helen Lutton Cohen, Minister Emerita

Click here to listen to last week's sermon, "Context is Everything" by Rev. Anne Mason

Special Plate Collection

This Sunday is this month's special plate collection, which will be donated to Lexington Farmers' Market's SNAP program. The Lexington Farmers' Market was one of the first markets in the Boston Metrowest area to accept SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), a program now in its eighth year. This year, the increase in demand for SNAP has been astounding: the number of daily SNAP customers at the LFM is up 150% and SNAP matching funds are up more than 120% since last year. Please help us continue to provide nutritious local food to everyone in our community by making a donation, large or small, to the Lexington Farmers' Market's SNAP Program.

For more information about the program, click here. Thank you for being a generous and caring community.

The Focalpoint Deadline

Today is the deadline for the summer edition of The Focalpoint.

Please send in any program or event information for June, July, and August by 5pm for inclusion in the summer edition, which will be emailed by June 1st.

Day of Service Information

This year's Day of Service will take place on **Saturday, June 2nd**, which will begin with an 8:00am at the church. The following activities will begin after the breakfast:

- Ben Soule still needs volunteers to help restore the shed on First Parish grounds.
- There are still a few slots for the Interfaith Garden with group leader Cherie Noe.
- Gabriella Musculo and Lee Brami are heading up a Voter Registration which will take place in Parker Hall. (If you're already registered, come and sign up to volunteer to help other community voter registration drives and/or help to make AVR [Automatic Voter Registration Law H.4320] a reality for Massachusetts.)
- Meg Jackson will be going to Zambia again this year and needs help with various projects related to the school children. This project will also take place at First Parish, but has a later start time. Please contact Meg directly. Tentative start time for the Zambia project is 1 PM.
- As she did last year, Brenda Prusak is heading up an outing to Douglas House. As you know, Douglas House is a residential program for adults with brain trauma and is located in Lexington Center.
- Fair Foods is a non-profit food rescue organization dedicated to providing healthy produce to those in need. Trucks are unloaded and bags are assembled at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury for delivery to several Food Pantries in Boston. Elaine Hylek will be leading a car pool to the Fair Foods activity following the breakfast.
- The Lexington Food Pantry group is full.

All activities will last approximately 3-4 hours. PLEASE sign up! This is a great way to give back and get to know each other better. Please contact Elaine Hylek, if you haven't already signed up, so she can get an accurate count for breakfast.

Volunteering for Lisa Perry-Wood's Ordination

On **Sunday, June 3rd**, at 3pm our congregation is sharing the honor of ordaining Lisa Perry-Wood with the First Religious Society of Carlisle. There are few ways members of our congregation can support this important event.

First, we need some members to help set up the reception, help direct cars for parking, be an Usher, or be a friendly face for Ministers gathering for the service or the Carlisle Choir. We also need a few people willing to be a Bartender and help supervise the reception. Everyone who offers to take one of these roles will be able to be seated for the entire ceremony.

Here is the sign up: Volunteer Roles

Second, we are having a lovely catered reception and would like a few contributions of finger food to round out the offerings.

Here is the sign up for food: Finger Food for Reception

Thank you for generous support!

The Ordination Team: Elisabeth J, Tom R, Paul B.

The Green Corner: Climate Action Team

The next CAT meeting is **Sunday, June 3rd at noon** in the Parlor following worship and fellowship. We will review current legislative efforts on the Omnibus Bill, our Green Sanctuary renewal and begin planning for summer and fall actions.

Hold the date: The climate movement is gearing up for a huge day of action on September 8th. Around the world, thousands of events in neighborhoods and cities will call for commitments to a #FossilFree world and climate justice. First Parish will participate, so please save the day.

Actions: Several First Parish members met with Gov. Baker's Director of Constituent Services as part of a Minuteman Indivisible delegation. Among the Green 'asks' was that the Governor get behind the omnibus climate bill now in the state Senate Ways and Means committee, and use his regulatory power to reduce fossil fuel use.

Summer Reads: CAT is recommending two books for your summer reading (both will be available Sunday June 3rd at the CAT display during fellowship hour).

Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment is a new book edited by Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti (Minister of the UU Church in Lincoln) and Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom. Grounded in our UU faith and values, with essays by educators and activists, this book will provide a good takeoff point for future actions based on an awareness of the connection of race, class and environmental issues.

Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet. Mayor Michael Bloomberg (NYC) and former head of the Sierra Club Carl Pope offer an optimistic look at the challenge of climate change, the solutions they believe hold the greatest promise, and the practical steps that are necessary to achieve them. Writing from their own experiences, and sharing their own stories from government, business, and advocacy, Bloomberg and Pope provide a road map for tackling the most complicated challenge the world has ever faced. Along the way, they turn the usual way of thinking about climate change on its head: from top down to bottom up, from partisan to pragmatic, from costs to benefits, from tomorrow to today, and from fear to hope.

Welcome New Members!

Congratulations to our New Members who were officially welcomed into the First Parish community last Sunday. From left to right, Mary* Edelman, John* & Marilyn* Falkowski, Liz* Hartman & Richard* Jobling (w/ Ewan), Amy* & Richard Johnson, Nina* Rich, Julie* Schauman, Eve* Corning, Cindy Anderson & Ken* Kreutziger, Kristen* Stevenson & Elizabeth* Martin w/Harper, Marisa* & Mike MacClary w/Cal & Rosalie, John & Rebecca O'Brien & Victoria* Hardiman, Priscilla Ryder & Tim* Jacoby; missing Dave* Horton, Janet* Wiseman.

*Denotes new member.

Seeking Delegates for UUA General Assembly

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process.

First Parish is allowed five delegates to GA. Delegates are voting members of the congregation who will represent First Parish during the business portion of the meeting. The business agenda for this year will include multiple bylaw amendments, congregational study action issues, and changes to the process. Delegates participate in mini-assemblies and discernment and discussion on important issues.

GA takes place in Kansas City, MO from June 20 - 24. Delegates can choose to attend in-person or participate off-site through an online portal.

Please contact Katie O'Hare Gibson if you are interested.

Support Our Youth's Service Trip

There is still time to contribute to the funding of our Senior High Youth Group's trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation (population 30,000—basically the same as Lexington) of the Oglala Lakota Sioux from June 23 to 30. They will be going to the small town of Allen in South Dakota (to help with a variety of building and farming projects.

The youth group hosted a fabulous Native American dinner with eight courses on Saturday evening, May 19, at the church, as a fundraiser. The ambience included strings of white lights, simple plant centerpieces, and candles set in 4" sections of tree branches. Food, all delicious, prepared under the the leadership and guidance of Deb Weiner Soule, included cornbread and relish, black bean and yucca soup, roast turkey, wild rice and squash, grilled trout, mince pie, and upside-down serviceberry cake, accompanied by refreshing minted iced tea. The evening concluded with a video of a moving Ted Talk by a young Lakota woman about the challenges of her life and the way her family and culture inspire her to meet them.

Preparation, set-up, and serving were excellently performed by the members of the youth group with the help of their advisers and some parents. We are especially appreciative of our adult advisors Katie Camire (our Youth Coordinator), Ben Soule, Anne Khudari, and Meg Jackson for accompanying them on this border-crossing trip. We also thank our other youth advisors this year, Tom Wanderer and Meg Newhouse.

If you were unable to come to the dinner, you can still support this trip with a check made out to First Parish in Lexington with Senior High Youth Group in the memo line. Any funds not required for trip expenses will be donated for the needs of the tribe.

Soul Matters' Theme for May: Creativity

Creativity

I have no name
Until you name me.
I have no form
Until you shape me.
I don't exist
Until you make me.
I am creativity.

I am waiting deep inside you.
Touch my spark
And let me light you.
Give me life
And I'll revive you.
I am creativity.

~ © Jane

Soul Matters Groups are a small group ministry program at First Parish Lexington.

This Week at First Parish

Wednesday, May 23
Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Thursday, May 24
Meditation Group 4:00 p.m. Parlor
Scrabble Club 7:30 p.m. Parker Hall

Friday, May 25
Ferry Beach Weekend Begins!

Sunday, May 27
Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Monday, May 28
Church closed

Tuesday, May 29
Poor People's Campaign Rally 2:00 p.m. State House
Empty Sky Sangha 7:30 p.m. Parker Hall

Wednesday, May 30
Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

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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Weekly Update submissions are due on Tuesdays at 10:00 am.
Please email submissions or inquiries to ***admin@fplex.org.***

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