



Weekly Update Wednesday, January 23, 2019 First Parish in Lexington

Worship Service at 10:30 AM

Sunday, January 27, 2019

"Climate Justice and You"



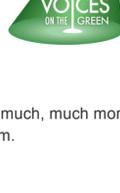
Join our Climate Action Team, Rev. Stephen Shick, and Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry Lisa Maria A. Steinberg in reflecting on our own actions in climate justice work. How do you and your family make changes in your life to care for our planet? Do you wonder what more you could do? This All Ages Worship will engage our whole community in these questions, through a homily and interaction with one another.

This Sunday, the First Parish children's choir will sing George Harrison's iconic and idealistic Beatles song "Here Comes the Sun." The sanctuary choir will sing J. Ratledge's arrangement of Jean Ritchie's poignant social justice song "Now is the Cool of the Day," with soloists Erin Lashaway, David Meharry and Toni Tasker. The choir will also sing Richard Farrant's beautiful renaissance acapella anthem "Lord, for thy Tender Mercy's Sake." Guest pianist Deborah Yardley Beers will play Béla Bartók's energetic "Vivacissimo" for the postlude. And for the centering music, she will be joined by Rip Jackson in playing Mozart's lyrical "Andante" (from Piano Sonata for Four Hands in D Major, KV 381).

This is an All Ages service. The nursery will be open for infants and toddlers

That Was a Big Fat Lie

If someone told you that Voices on the Green is only about great personal storytelling, *that was a big fat lie*. In fact, **this Friday night's program** — Secrets and Lies — features the inimitable Beth Walsh (with Rip Jackson on keyboard) singing, among other wonderful songs about secrets and lies, Sondheim's "That Was a Big Fat Lie." And Len Morse-Fortier, a forensic engineer, will reveal how he investigates the secrets that buildings hide. And Jim Shaw, publisher of the Colonial Times, will tell the history of Lexington's biggest liar of all time. And Rev. Anne Mason will reveal whether her piano teacher really killed her father.



Come join your "friends with secrets" for an evening of powerful storytelling and much, much more. Doors open at 6:30pm for refreshments and conversation. Show starts at 7:00pm.

[Click here for a video teaser about the stories.](#)

[Purchase tickets here](#) or at the church office.

Spring Potlucks



There's still time to sign up for the Spring Potlucks, which will take place from late February/early March through early June. The signup sheet is on the piano. **Please stop by during social hour.**

First Parish Picture Directory

During social hour on Sunday, January 13th, more than 40 family and individual pictures were snapped for the picture directory by the Members and Friends Committee and five more were sent to us via email.

We will be back in the Common Room during social hour this **Sunday, January 27th**, to take more pictures or to upload them from your smart phone. You do not have to wait until then! We invite and encourage you to email your photos to us at pictures@fplex.org, a special email address created for this purpose.

Family pictures: faces are important for folks to be able to recognize family members since these are the ones that will appear in the online Picture Directory, so try to avoid obstructing faces—but don't waive fun pictures on this basis!

Individual pictures: we want to capture your entire head (no scalping!) and some shoulder (no chinning) and preferably without sunglasses, sizable to 3"x 2" with about 1/3 of the picture's background on each side of the head & shoulders.

If in doubt, send us your favorite picture and we'll let you know if we can make it work.

After this Sunday, the next opportunity to have photos taken at the church will be **Sunday, February 24th**. You can send them to us [via email](mailto:via_email) at any time.



Kathy & John



The Tasker Family

Climate Action Team's Green Corner



Please join us for our next meeting on **Sunday, January 27th at 12:00pm** in the Green Room downstairs.

**Stay tuned for information on a reschedule date for a climate change forum with Prof. Gilbert Metcalf, author of *Paying for Pollution: Why a Carbon Tax is good for America*.

Sustaining the work: inspiring thoughts from our living tradition.

"In the woods is perpetual youth. Within these plantations of God, a decorum and sanctity reign, a perennial festival is dressed, and the guest sees not how he should tire of them in a thousand years. In the woods, we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life, - no disgrace, no calamity (leaving me my eyes), which nature cannot repair. Standing on the bare ground. . . I become a transparent eyeball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or parcel of God."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*

Art Exhibit Reception

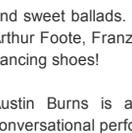
Come one and all to a reception for the newly installed art exhibit: *Possibility!*

This art exhibit features works by members and friends of First Parish. A reception will take place in Parish Hall on **Sunday, January 27 from 2 to 3:30pm**. Come and view the many ways creativity is on display and have a chance to talk with the artists.



Refreshments will be served to fortify you for Austin Burns in Concert starting at 3:30.

Austin Burns in Concert



Come celebrate the New Year with New England's premier tenor, Austin Burns and special guest Allison Flanagan on **Sunday, January 27th at 3:30pm**. Settle in for a rollicking afternoon dedicated to Scotland's beloved poet Robert Burns whose "Auld Lang Syne!" Sets will include songs about the beautiful countryside, wild men like Burns himself, some toe tappers, and sweet ballads. The arrangements featured are by Maureen McMullan (professor at Berkeley), Arthur Foote, Franz Haydn, and Austin Burns. You are welcome to wear kilts, tartan colors, and/or dancing shoes!

Austin Burns is a tenor, arranger, and composer known for his themed programs and conversational performance style. There will be a free will offering to defray expenses.

Mission Workshop

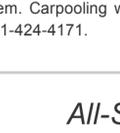
You are invited to join Rev. Anne and the board on **Sunday, February 3rd from 12:00 - 1:30** when together we will examine the results of the Imagination Cafe and distill what they reveal about who we are and how we want to show up in our wider community. We will talk about what is most important to us as members of this church, and what this church has meant over the years. We will explore together what we might dream about and what that says about who we are. And we will select some important words to express this shared vision of who we are.



Then we will send our words to a group of 'word-smiths' who will create a new mission statement for First Parish. The Board will review this statement, and we will bring it back to you all for discussion and, finally, a vote.

[Please sign up here](#) by **Monday, January 28th** for the light luncheon and to let us know if you will need childcare.

UU Urban Ministry Event

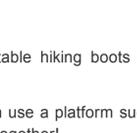


All are invited to join members of First Parish at the UU Urban Ministry's and Roxbury Cultural Network's presentation of "We Who Believe in Freedom: A Reading Series with Mimi Jones." This is a community supper and facilitated reading featuring selections from Dorothy Height's *Open Wide the Freedom Gates*, in conjunction with Dr. Carter G. Woodson's *Mis-Education of the Negro*. The event will take place on **Tuesday, February 12th at 6pm** at the First Church in Roxbury, a beautiful, historic church at 7 Eliot Square. Learn about the wonderful and important work of the UU Urban Ministry, as we build a stronger bond there. Carpooling will be available. If you'd like to come, please email [Lee Jeffers Brami](mailto:Lee.Jeffers.Brami) or call 781-424-4171.

All-Seasons Walking/Snowshoeing Group

Do you like walking outdoors ALL YEAR ROUND??

Allow nature to awe you at every season! Join other like-minded friends for a monthly walking/snowshoeing group, as weather permits. Our goal is to walk in nearby trails (never on the road), woods, etc.



Goal: 3 miles, round trip

When: **the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30am**. We will allow at least two hours for each walk. Walks will be cancelled due to rain or very cold weather.

Start date: February 13, 2019 at 9:30 in Parish Hall for a brief meeting.

What to wear: layers appropriate for the season, a good pair of comfortable hiking boots or sneakers with good tread, a small back pack/carryon for water, tissues, etc

Communication: via email for now (see below). If there is an interest we can use a platform such as SLACK which is easy to learn and much more efficient. We can all learn it together!

Contact with any questions: gabriella@gabriellamuscolo.com

Letter from Rabbi Jaffe

Rabbi Howard L. Jaffe



January 9, 2019
3 Shevat 5779

Reverend Anne Mason
First Parish
7 Harrington Road
Lexington, MA 02421

Dear Reverend Mason and all our dear friends at First Parish,

I am uncharacteristically challenged to find the words to express appreciation, of behalf our entire congregation, for the extraordinary gift to help us offset the cost of security, that have become, unfortunately, necessary for us at the present time. While the cost of having police here on such a regular basis is, of course, a burden, the awareness that it is something that we find necessary to do is far more challenging and difficult. It is for that reason that your contribution, and the beautiful note that came with it, means so very much and makes such a difference. Not only material support, but spiritual support and relationship are what allow all of us to get through difficult times, and this extraordinary gesture and meaningful expression mean more than I can express.

Since my arrival in this community, I have come to understand how special it is. Act of generosity, of treasure and of spirit, such as this, affirm that understanding so very deeply.

May we soon find ourselves in a time where we may simply appreciate and support one another through life's ongoing realities, and no longer in times of darkness as these.

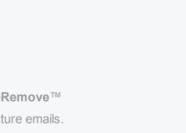
Yours most sincerely,

Rabbi Howard L. Jaffe



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

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First Parish in Lexington
7 Harrington Road, Lexington, MA 02421
781-862-8200/fplex.org
Weekly Update submissions are due on Tuesdays at 9:00 am.
Please email submissions or inquiries to admin@fplex.org.

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