



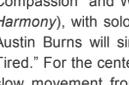
## Weekly Update Wednesday, May 15, 2019 First Parish in Lexington

### Table of Contents

- [Worship Service](#)
- [Special Plate Collection](#)
- [UU Urban Ministry Annual Meeting](#)
- [Green Action Corner](#)
- [Sarasa Ensemble Concert](#)
- [Calling All Artists](#)
- [Focalpoint Deadline](#)
- [Generate Creative Ideas Workshop](#)
- [Save the Date - Book Discussion](#)
- [First Parish Flea Market](#)
- [Soul Matters for May](#)
- [This Week at First Parish](#)

### *Worship Service at 10:30 AM* *Sunday, May 19, 2019*

#### "Persistence, Courage, and Curiosity"



Join Rev. Anne Mason in welcoming all the wonderful people who have made the courageous decision to become members of First Parish. We will explore the thoughts of Charles Magistro, who said "I'm amused by the view that it's easy to be a Unitarian Universalist. It's as easy to be a Unitarian Universalist as it is to be persistent, courageous, and curious." Preaching today is Rev. Anne Mason.

This Sunday, the sanctuary choir will sing Gwyneth Walker's deeply moving "Prayer of Compassion" and William Walker's rousing shape-note anthem "Wondrous Love" (from *Southern Harmony*), with soloists Austin Burns, Grant Hicks, Tim Jacoby and David Meharry. Tenor soloist Austin Burns will sing Jacqueline Hairston's passionate arrangement of the spiritual "No Ways Tired." For the centering music, Rip Jackson will play J. S. Bach's organ arrangement of the lyrical slow movement from a concerto by Antonio Vivaldi. And for the postlude, he will play Enya's meditative "Watermark."

There will be Sunday school classes for grades Pre-K through eight. The nursery will be open for infants and toddlers.

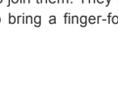
### *Special Plate Collection*

This Sunday will be the monthly special plate collection, when all non-pledge donations are given to support a local organization. This month's recipient is Lexington Youth and Family Services, Inc. (LYFS), a free accessible after-school counseling center and one of First Parish's partners. Candela De Amorrtutu, a Lexington High School senior and LYFS Board Member, will speak about her involvement in LYFS and the Sources program.

[Click here to listen to last week's sermon, "The Great Mother."](#)

### *First Parish to Visit the UU Urban Ministry*

All are welcome to join the First Parish delegates on **Thursday, May 16th** at 6:00pm to the UU Urban Ministry's annual meeting at the First Church in Roxbury.



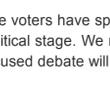
Dozens of delegates from all over the Greater Boston area will be attending, and Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, the Senior Minister of UUUM, invited us to greet them. It should be a wonderful opportunity to meet other UUs and the staff, and also to learn more about work being done at the Urban Ministry.

Our delegates, Connee Counts, Lew Counts, Elaine Hylek, and Lee Jeffers Brami, will be carpooling from First Parish at 5pm, and they invite all First Parish members to join them. They will bring small finger-food cupcakes for dessert, but anyone else who wants to bring a finger-food dessert is more than welcome. [Email Lee](#) if you would like to join them.

It promises to be a lively evening! [Click here to learn more about the UUUM.](#)

### *Green Action Corner*

#### *A Planet for the Children Initiative 2019*



This year our *Planet for the Children* initiative has brought engaging action, education, legislative program to First Parish. Climate change is not going away and neither is our resolve to put our faith into action. Please join us in the parlor on **Sunday, May 19th** at Noon to plan next year's Climate Action Initiatives.

#### [Action Request from 350.Org](#)

Climate change has emerged as one of the top issues for Democratic voters in the 2020 election. Candidates like Elizabeth Warren, Jay Inslee, Beto O'Rourke and Bernie Sanders have already released their policy plans to address the climate crisis. For others, climate is still mainly a talking point and a line for applause in stump speeches.

The voters have spoken: climate change impacts all of us, and must be addressed on the national political stage. We need to know how Presidential candidates will handle this crisis, and a climate-focused debate will let us hear the details behind the talking points.

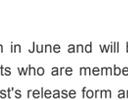
[Add your name to call for a Climate Debate focused on candidate's plans and proposals for tackling the largest crisis of our time.](#)

With just over a decade left to stop the worst of the climate crisis, voters deserve to know the explicit plans and commitments candidates are making to meet this moment.

[The DNC must put climate action front and center in this election. Add your name here to call for a climate debate now.](#)

### *Sarasa Ensemble Concert*

All are welcome to the final Sarasa Ensemble concert of the season on **Sunday, May 19th at 3:30pm** when they will present, "By special arrangement..."



Throughout the ages, composers have borrowed or rehashed old ideas from previous pieces, giving them a new lease of life for a separate occasion. An arrangement of an earlier composition was also an invaluable way in which to disseminate a popular work more readily, and in turn, helped to facilitate more performances. Performance includes two string trios by Mozart based on original subjects composed by J.S. Bach, a fitting and circular end to our 2018-19 series!

Maggie Cole, fortepiano; Susanna Ogata, violin; Jenny Stirling, viola; Timothy Merton, cello.

Tickets are \$25/general, \$20/senior, \$10/student and can be purchased by [clicking here](#) or at the door.

### *Calling All Artists*



The next art show in our Parish Hall Gallery will open in June and will be motivated by the theme of "Beauty". We invite all artists who are members or friends of First Parish (any medium) to fill out an artist's release form and information sheet which can be picked up at the church office, in an envelope on the door of the History Room, or by emailing coordinators [Lynne Yansen](#) or [Lew Counts](#).

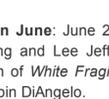
Drop off art at the church office the week of **Monday, May 20th through Thursday, May 23rd** between 9am and 4pm (or by special arrangement). The art show will run from June 2nd through September 1st, with an opening reception on Sunday, June 9th at 4pm.

### *Focalpoint Deadline*

The Summer issue of The Focalpoint will be published on June 1st. Submissions for events happening in June, July, and August should be sent to Jane Foley at [admin@fplex.org](mailto:admin@fplex.org) by **Friday, May 24th**.

### *"Generate Creative Ideas" Workshop*

All are welcome to a "**Generate Creative Ideas**" workshop, facilitated by Jim Poage, to be held on **Thursday, May 30th from 7-8:30pm** at First Parish. We will explore generating ideas for creative endeavors in whatever medium you work. It will include heightening ideas so that they excite you and your audience. There will be exercises to experiment with approaches discussed.



A variety of approaches will be covered. For example, Leo Tolstoy says art is an infection. This can be interpreted positively as: "Will a feeling get under your audience's skin to intrigue them?" Another example is from Corey Mandell who coaches Hollywood scriptwriters on techniques he calls Impossibilizer and Literalizer.

This workshop was scheduled for last November as part of a two-part series, but was cancelled due to snow. This May workshop is independent of the one held last November so attendance at the first workshop is not a prerequisite.

Jim Poage will facilitate. He wrote *Flair* with his daughter Jennifer Poage, a fashion designer. They interviewed many creatives for the book. [Email Jim](#) if you want to attend. For more information, [click here](#).

### *Save the Dates! Buy the Book!*



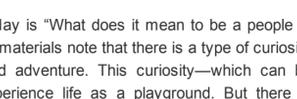
**Buy the book now** and plan to join us in **three evenings in June:** June 2nd, June 9th, and June 16th, from 9-10:15am. Debbie Armstrong and Lee Jeffers Brami will be facilitating an open-ended, interactive discussion of *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo.

It's available in paperback at [Beacon Press](#), the [UUA publishing company](#) or through Amazon. You can let either [Debbie Armstrong](#) or [Lee Jeffers Brami](#) know if you're planning to participate, or you can just come.

Even if you haven't read all of the book, or even part of the book yet, you're still welcome to come and join the conversation about this provocative topic.

### *First Parish Flea Market*

Doing spring cleaning? Just finish reading *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing* by Marie Kondo? Working your way through *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: How to Free Yourself and Your Family From a Lifetime of Clutter* by Margareta Magnusson?



Whatever process you followed, you and we all have gathered "stuff" we no longer need, that do not "spark joy" for us, or that other people won't want to deal with when we're, well, gone. First Parish has an opportunity for you!

On **Saturday, June 15, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**, we will be running a Flea Market on our very visible side lot on Harrington Road, with all proceeds going to the church. It's a way of "paying it forward" to help balance our budget and enable FP to give more generously to the wider community.

Here's the deal:

1. Sign up to reserve a First Parish table for your stuff. There's no fee to reserve, but no reservation means no table. We can't advertise the flea market until we know whether we'll have enough tables/stuff to sell to offset the cost.
2. Bring your stuff to FP and set up your table before 9:00.
3. Monitor your table and agree with buyers on prices. Direct them to pay the church's cashier.
4. When the market is over, remove your leftover stuff and take it right behind Walgreen's to the Goodwill truck or to your favorite charity. Done!

If it rains, we'll move into Parish Hall.

Both Magnusson and Kondo agree: getting rid of your stuff will not only lead to a cleaner, more organized household but also to a more [positive and happy](#) lifestyle overall. And who doesn't want that?

For questions, please contact [Toni Tasker](#) or [Ruth Rose](#).

### *Soul Matters for May*



**Soul Matters**

The Soul Matters topic for May is "What does it mean to be a people of curiosity?" The Soul Matters materials note that there is a type of curiosity that is about enjoyment and adventure. This curiosity—which can be enriching—invites us to experience life as a playground. But there is another type of curiosity that leads to consequences, and changes us.

This kind of curiosity is about more than enjoyment. It's the kind that drives us past enjoyment and comfort; it's about altering oneself. As an example, many of us have leaned into the hard work of being curious about our role in upholding institutional racism and structures of white supremacy. For Unitarian Universalists, curiosity with consequences drives us to constantly become more, for our sakes and for the sake of others.

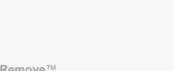
### *This Week at First Parish*

Day	Event	Time	Location	
<b>Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Creative Callings	1:30 p.m.	Parlor	
	Deborah Abel Dance Class	1:30 p.m.	Parish Hall	
	Spanish Academy	4:30 p.m.	Staples Hall & Yellow Room	
	LYFS Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Green Room	
	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	
<b>Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Meditation Group	4:00 p.m.	Parlor	
	Lexington Community Education	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	
	Ethics Course	7:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall	
	Sarabba Club	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall	
<b>Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	LYFS Executive Team Meeting	1:00 p.m.	Green Room	
	Lex Pride teen drop-in	5:00 p.m.	Green Room	
<b>Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup></b>	ABCL Teen Movie	1:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall	
	Sunrise-Green Concert	2:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	
	Munroe Saturday Night	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	
<b>Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Worship Service	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary	
	Children's Choir Rehearsal	11:45 a.m.	Yellow Room	
	Climate Action Team meeting	12:00 p.m.	Parlor	
	Choir Rehearsal for Germany	1:00 p.m.	Yellow Room	
	OWL	3:00 p.m.	Parker Hall	
	Sarasa Ensemble Concert	3:30 p.m.	Sanctuary & Parish Hall	
	SHYG	7:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall	
	<b>Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Staff Meeting	11:00 a.m.	Minister's Office
		Deborah Abel Dance Class	3:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
Chalice Circle		7:00 p.m.	Parlor	
<b>Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Eights-plus Luncheon	12:30 p.m.	Parker Hall	
	Deborah Abel Dance class	4:00 p.m.	Parish Hall	
	Lexington Ski Club	7:00 p.m.	Parker Hall	
	Empty Sky Sangha	7:30 p.m.	Common Room	
<b>Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Deborah Abel Dance Class	1:30 p.m.	Parish Hall	
	Spanish Academy	4:00 p.m.	Staples Hall & Yellow Room	
	LYFS Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Green Room	
	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	
	Master Singers Annual Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall	



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

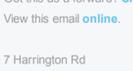
[>>> Shop at Amazon to benefit First Parish. <<<](#)



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*Weekly Update submissions are due on Tuesdays at 9:00 am.  
Please email submissions or inquiries to [admin@fplex.org](mailto:admin@fplex.org).*

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