

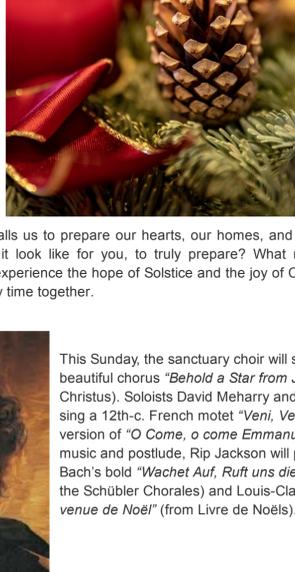
Weekly Update Wednesday, December 11, 2019 First Parish in Lexington

Table of Contents

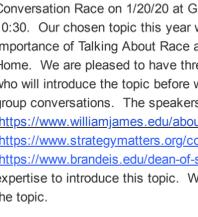
- [Worship Service](#)
- [Donation Plate](#)
- [Among Our Own](#)
- [Nursery Volunteers Needed](#)
- [Holiday Workshop](#)
- [Sacred Poetry](#)
- [Soul Matters](#)
- [Winter Solstice Experience](#)
- [Christmas Eve Candlelight Services](#)
- [Green Action Corner](#)
- [Communities Without Borders](#)
- [This Week at First Parish](#)

Worship Service at 10:30 AM Sunday, December 15th, 2019

Searching for the Peaceable Kingdom



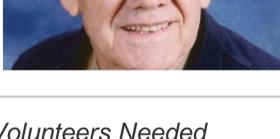
The season of Advent calls us to prepare our hearts, our homes, and our spirits for the coming celebration. What does it look like for us, to truly prepare? What room must you create in yourself, to be ready to experience the hope of Solstice and the joy of Christmas? Come join Rev. Anne as we take this holy time together.



This Sunday, the sanctuary choir will sing Felix Mendelssohn's beautiful chorus "Behold a Star from Jacob Shining" (from Christus). Soloists David Meharry and Nate Ramsayer will also sing a 12th-c. French motet "Veni, Veni Emmanuel" (the oldest version of "O Come, o come Emmanuel"). For the centering music and postlude, Rip Jackson will play on the organ J.S. Bach's bold "Wachet Auf, Ruft uns die Stimme," BWV 645 (from the Schübler Chorales) and Louis-Claude Daquin's joyful "À la venue de Noël" (from Livre de Noël's).

Donation Plate

This Sunday's plate collection will go to the Lexington Human Rights committee for the Martin Luther King Day Celebration in January.



The Town of Lexington Human Rights Committee is pleased to present the annual MLK Day Community Conversation Race on 1/20/20 at Grace Chapel from 9-10:30. Our chosen topic this year will be The Importance of Talking About Race and Racism at Home. We are pleased to have three speakers booked who will introduce the topic before we go into our small group conversations. The speakers include Dr. Elana Wolkoff (<https://www.williamjames.edu/about/profiles/faculty/elana-wolkoff.cfm>); Dr. Stefani Harvey (<https://www.strategy-matters.org/copy-of-chris-maldi-vasquez-casado>), and Jamele Adams (<https://www.brandeis.edu/dean-of-students/about/index.html>) who will bring their experiences and expertise to introduce this topic. We look forward to the engagement of the community with the event and the topic.

Among Our Own

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Parker Hirtle, who passed from this life on November 26th. Parker was a much loved member of First Parish for many, many years, and we remember his gentle presence, his expert wood carvings, and his dedication to this church. Please keep his sons John and Tim in your thoughts. Parker's memorial will be on Saturday, December 21 at noon, with a lunch to follow in Parish Hall.



Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers for the nursery in the upcoming weeks including this Sunday, December 8th, please consider signing up for a Sunday a month to help run the Sunday Religious Education programs smoothly

Sign up [here](#)

Holiday Workshop



HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

for children and families

Saturday, December 14th

9:00 am – noon

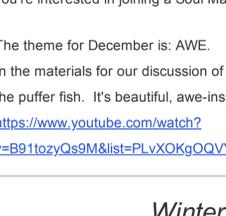
Join us for a festive morning featuring craft-making projects for small and tall, cookie baking, and holiday gifts for local service programs.

Please consider bringing a gift card for refugees in our community supported by the International Institute of New England (IINE) and LexRAP, a partner of First Parish. Suggested stores: Amazon, Kohls, Lowes, Marshalls, Stop & Shop, Market Basket

Bring your friends and grandchildren. Adults invited too!

WELCOME!

Sacred Poetry of the Muslim Tradition



Please join us on Thursday, Dec. 19 from 7:15 - 8:30 we will have another session of Sacred Islamic Poetry, featuring the poetry of Hafiz. Last month we had 30 people sharing poetry and chai, in a wonderful interfaith experience.

Soul Matters

A great way to connect with others at First Parish is through our small group ministry – Soul Matters. In groups of 10, we meet with a facilitator once a month to explore spirituality and personal growth using a monthly UU theme which Rev. Anne also speaks about in her sermons. Please contact her if you're interested in joining a Soul Matters group.



The theme for December is: AWE.

In the materials for our discussion of awe is this video of the beautiful mandala of sand made by the puffer fish. It's beautiful, awe-inspiring--and what explains it? Have a look: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B91tozyQs9M&list=PLvXOKgQOVYP7ZpFA1YKzoc1SkOZHkn7v&index=15&t=0s>

Winter Solstice Experience

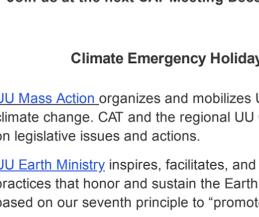
Friday, December 20, 2019

Free Will Offering

On Friday, December 20, 7:00 pm. First Parish in Lexington will present a Winter Solstice Experience. With music, ritual, candles, dancing and darkness, we will experience the quiet of the longest night, and welcome the sun as we wait for its return. Led by Rev. Anne Mason and Music Director Rip Jackson, this will be a worship service exploring earth-centered imagery, with an invitation to cherish the darkness. You are invited to set aside your frenetic everyday concerns and take this hour for your own inward journey. The Solstice is honored by indigenous religions around the world and we will have music, dance and poetry which honor many traditions. A diverse group of musicians will provide beautiful Solstice-themed music including soprano sax, vocal soloist Natalie Brierre, string bass, piano, organ, electronic synthesizer, rain stick, gong, Tibetan singing bowl and other atmospheric musical instruments. They will present music from diverse genres including music by Hildegard Von Bingen, Paul Winter, Loreena McKennitt and original music by Rip Jackson. Also participating will be Lisa Maria Steinberg, Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry, with other youth and adult volunteers. Free and open to the public. Parking is in the rear of the church. For more information call 781-862-8200 or visit www.fplex.org



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services



Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 pm, Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service come gather together with Rev. Anne to celebrate the joy of Christmas with story and song, carols and candles. Youth and children singers and instrumentalists will provide the seasonal music for worship.

At 7:00pm, Rev. Anne will share lessons and thoughts of the mystery of Christmas. The sanctuary choir, soloists, and instrumentalists will adorn the worship service with beautiful Christmas music. The congregation will sing beloved Christmas carols during the service and on the front steps afterwards.

Green Action Corner

First Parish Climate Action

Join us at the next CAT Meeting December 16th 7 p.m., First Parish



Climate Emergency Holiday Giving Suggestions

[UU Mass Action](#) organizes and mobilizes UUs in Massachusetts to confront oppression and climate change. CAT and the regional UU Climate Collaborative work closely with UU Mass Action on legislative issues and actions.

[UU Earth Ministry](#) inspires, facilitates, and support personal, congregational, and denominational practices that honor and sustain the Earth and address the climate change emergency. Its work is based on our seventh principle to "promote and protect the interdependent web of all existence".

[Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#) In addition to participating in UUSC's Guest at Your Table program, consider making a financial contribution to UUSC's faith-based climate action programs. Since 1939, when it took an historic lead in saving Jews in Nazi Germany, the UUSC has advanced human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilize to challenge oppressive policies.

To see the full document follow the [link](#)

Words to Move the Spirit

Nothing less than a great daring in the face of overwhelming odds can achieve the inner security in which fear cannot possibly survive. ~ Howard Thurman ~

Communities Without Borders



Mark your calendars!!

You are invited to the information meeting for the July, 2020 Communities Without Borders summer trip to Lusaka Zambia. The meeting will be held and the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Newton from 1-3 p.m. Sunday January 19. By then the excitement of the holiday season will be past and we can start turning our thoughts to summer!!

Please see the full document [attached](#)

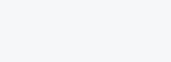
This Week at First Parish

Wednesday, December 11th		
Deborah Abel Dance Class	1:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
Spanish Academy	4:15 p.m.	Staples Hall
Master Singers Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
LYFS Executive Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Green Room
UU Climate Collaborative	7:00 p.m.	Common Room
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Thursday, December 12th		
Eighty's Plus Luncheon	12:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
Meditation Group	4:00 p.m.	Parlor
Rental	5:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
Scrabble Club	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Friday, December 13th		
Master Singers Organ Rehearsal	4:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Master Singers Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Saturday, December 14th		
Holiday Workshop	9:00 a.m.	Parish Hall
Master Singers Organ Rehearsal	1:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 15th		
Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Worship Service	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Ministry Task Force	11:30 a.m.	Green Room
Children's Choir Rehearsal	11:45 a.m.	Yellow Room
Master Singers Concert	3:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
OWL Session	4:00 p.m.	Parker & Robinson Hall
SHYG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Monday, December 16th		
Deborah Abel Dance Class	3:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
Spanish Academy	4:15 p.m.	Staples Hall
Chalice Circle	7:00 p.m.	Parlor
Climate Action Team Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Green Room
Tuesday, December 17th		
Staff Meeting	11:15 a.m.	Minister's Office
Deborah Abel Dance Class	4:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
Lexington Ski Club	5:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Empty Sky Sangha	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Wednesday, December 18th		
Deborah Abel Dance Class	1:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
Creative Callings	1:30 p.m.	Parlor
Spanish Academy	4:15 p.m.	Staples Hall
LYFS Executive Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Green Room
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall



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

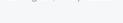
>>> Shop at Amazon to benefit First Parish. <<<



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.

Share this email:



Manage your preferences | [Sign out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

7 Harrington Rd
Lexington, MA | 02421 United States

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.