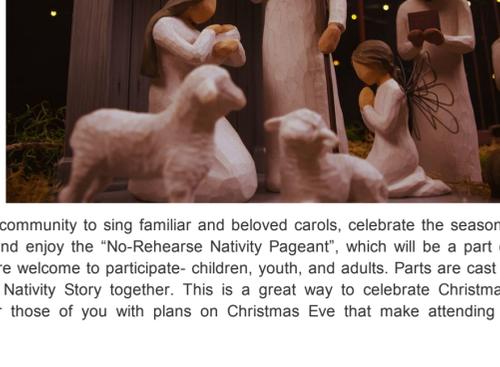


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Worship Service at 10:30 AM Sunday, December 22nd, 2019

Nativity Pageant Worship



Gather as a community to sing familiar and beloved carols, celebrate the season through word and music, and enjoy the "No-Rehearse Nativity Pageant", which will be a part of our worship service. All are welcome to participate- children, youth, and adults. Parts are cast in real time as we craft the Nativity Story together. This is a great way to celebrate Christmas as a family, especially for those of you with plans on Christmas Eve that make attending that night not possible.



On this festive Sunday worship with Christmas Pageant, the sanctuary choir will sing John Joubert's ethereal "There is no Rose" and Eric Whitacre's mystical "Glow." Liz Savir will sing J. S. Bach's sweet setting of the Lutheran carol "O Jesulein Süß." For the centering music, Katharine and Ruth Rose will play medieval and renaissance carols on bamboo pipes accompanied by Rip Jackson on harpsichord. And for the postlude Rip Jackson will play a rousing jazz arrangement of

the spiritual "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

Guest at Your Table

Reminder that this Sunday 12/22 we will collect the Guest at Your Table boxes during the worship service. Continue to put your small bills and change into the boxes, and please convert it to a check made out to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Thank you for supporting the UUSC and women in justice work around the world!



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](#)

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.

Winter Solstice Experience

Friday, December 20, 2019

Free Will Offering

On Friday, December 20, 2019 First Parish in Lexington will present a Winter Solstice Experience at 7:00 pm. With music, ritual, candles, dancing and darkness, we will experience the quiet of the longest night, and welcome the sun as we wait for her 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 soloist Natalie Brierre, soprano sax player Jeffrey Leonard, liturgical dancers, electric bass, piano, organ, electronic synthesizer, drums rain stick, gong, Tibetan singing bowl and other atmospheric musical instruments. They will present music from diverse genres including music by 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 available in the rear of the church. For more information call 781-862-8200 or visit <https://fplex.org/index.php/events/winter-solstice-experience/>

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. Teenage, college singers, instrumentalists and children choir singers 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.

First Parish Holiday Hours

First Parish Staff will off for the holidays from Wednesday, December, 25 through Wednesday, January 1st. Activities will restart on Thursday, January 2, 2020

Wishing you a lovely and safe holiday season

Non Fiction Book Group

Mark your calendars!!

"The Non Fiction Book Group at First Parish on the Green, is pleased to host Unitarian Universalist minister and author **John Buehrens**. Reverend Buehrens will be speaking in Parish Hall on **January 9, 2020, at 7 PM.**, about his latest book, *Conflagration: How Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender, and Social Justice*.

As described in Publishers Weekly, Rev. Buehrens maintains that while the 19th century transcendentalist movement is often encountered by Americans through the lens of literature, the lives of transcendentalists demonstrate that their beliefs led them to passionate activism intended to reform—even revolutionize—politics and society. Whether through projects such as the Brook Farm experiment in communal living, urban social ministries, such as a refuge for women fleeing domestic abuse, or organized resistance to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, transcendentalists labored to address the social problems of their day.

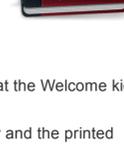
Rev. Buehrens is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Divinity School. In addition to serving as a Unitarian Universalist minister for many years, he also was president of the national Unitarian Universalist Association from 1993 to 2001. His appearance at First Parish in Lexington closes a circle as he served as a student minister here before being ordained in 1973.

This book talk is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served. Parking is available at the rear of the church."

The First Parish Photo Directory

The holidays are here and are a good time for family photos for our printed and online photo directories!

At this time we have only been able to include 130 out of the 226 families at First Parish. We would like to include a LOT MORE families. If yours is among the 96 missing families and you want to be included, please submit a picture of the family*. If you have more than one person in the picture, please identify them by name.



You can eMail your picture to us at pictures @ fplex.org or hand a print to us at the Welcome kiosk on any Sunday morning.

The online picture directory will be updated with your photograph immediately and the printed directory will be updated and available by next month.

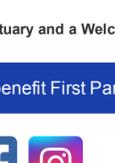
If you want access the online directories, go to the First Parish web page at fplex.org and click on "Members" at the top of the Home page. When the "Protected: Members Page" comes up, type in Green76! You can then access the April 2019 Picture Directory (Desktop Friendly Format) or the September 2019 (complete but text only) directory.

Thank you for your help in creating our directories

*If possible, please submit your picture in landscape orientation (wider than taller). It will fit better into the frame in our picture directory program, even if your picture contains only one person.

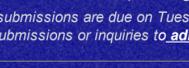
This Week at First Parish

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
Thursday, December 19th		
Soul Matters	1:00 p.m.	Common Room
Meditation Group	4:00 p.m.	Parlor
Sacred Poetry	7:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
Scrabble Club	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Friday, December 20th		
Solstice Experience	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Saturday, December 21st		
Parker Hirtle Memorial Service	12:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
LexRAP	5:00 p.m.	Parker Hall
Sunday, December 22nd		
Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Worship Service	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Children's Choir Rehearsal	11:45 a.m.	Yellow Room
SHYG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Monday, December 23rd		
Spanish Academy	4:15 p.m.	Staples Hall
Tuesday, December 24th		
Staff Meeting	11:15 a.m.	Minister's Office
Candlelight Christmas Service	5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Candlelight Christmas Service	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 25th		
Christmas Day		Office will be closed for the holidays until Jan 1, 2020.



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.*

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