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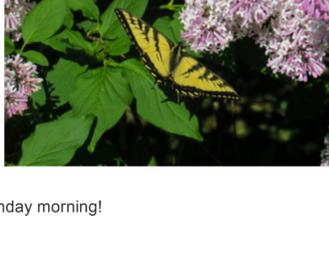
Note from Rev. Anne Mason

In these challenging times, it has been so good to be able to connect with each other in ways we had never imagined. Thank you to everyone who is overcoming your reluctance to engage with technology, who has mustered your courage to try online meetings, and who has reacted with patience and love to all the mistakes we encounter along the way.

Several of you have shared this poem, by UU poet Lynn Ungar, and I thank you for that. She speaks of hope in a way I find to be compelling and timely.

I look forward to 'seeing' your beautiful faces on Sunday morning!

Love,
Rev. Anne



Imagine

Imagine with me for a moment—
don't worry, I'm not saying it's real.
Imagine, if you can, that there has been
not a calamity, but a great awakening.
Pretend, just for a moment,
that we all so loved our threatened earth
that we stopped going on cruises,
limited international flights,
worked on cherishing the places
where we already are.

In this pretty fantasy, everyone who possibly can
stops commuting. Spends the extra time
with their kids or pets or garden.

We have the revelation that everyone
needs health care, sick leave, steady work.
It occurs to us that health care workers
are heroes. Also teachers.

Not to mention the artists of all kinds
who teach us resilience and joy.

Imagine, if you will,
that we turned to our neighbors
in mutual aid, trading eggs for milk,
checking in on those who are elderly
or alone. Imagine each of us
felt suddenly called to wonder

In this moment, what does the world
need from me? What are my gifts?
Yes, I know it's just a fantasy.
The world could never change
so radically overnight.
But imagine.

Worship Service

Sunday, March 29 at 10:30

This Sunday, Elizabeth Walsh will sing William L. Dawson's comforting arrangement of "There is a Balm in Gilead." Erik Svenson, on French horn, will play Maurice Ravel's hauntingly beautiful "Pavane pour une infante défunte" for the centering music. And for the postlude, Rip Jackson will play Franz Schubert's lyrical "Andante" (from Piano Sonata in A Major, D 664).

This service will be a zoom live service, a link and more information to connect will sent on Friday, March 27, we look forward to seeing you all.

Pledge Drive

First Parish in Lexington

Annual Pledge Drive
2020



Profound change has affected our communities, from local to global. During these last two weeks many of us are learning to adapt our day-to-day activities to new protocols. At First Parish our staff has been working non-stop to help us adapt the programs and services to the need for "social distancing".

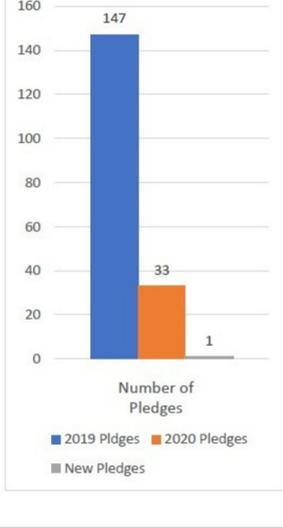
As we have met with each other over Zoom and YouTube during Sunday services or had online team meetings to continue the many church activities, we remember that our connections stay

strong even as we are physically distant. As I read the FPLexChat messages encouraging us to sew masks, write Amnesty letters, or just keep our spirits up, it illustrates how our community continues to both serve the wider community and draw on it to maintain momentum.

As many of you know, next Sunday has been identified as "Celebration Sunday," the targeted end of a pledge campaign that allows us to make plans for the next church year. In response to the rapidly changing world, we are adjusting the end of our pledge drive so that we can make plans for next year. While we will not be meeting in person, we are still hoping that we can celebrate a successful pledging period and I encourage you to [pledge online](#) this week or send in your card TODAY so that we can reflect your commitment in our new online Progress Chart [click here](#).

Even as we recognize that the unknowns in the current government and our economy encourage us to conserve and monitor before making longer term decisions, we ask you to have faith in our congregation and help us remain strong so that our congregation can continue to be part of the foundation that supports our members and the partnerships we have fostered and continue to make an impact in Lexington and far beyond. It is up to all of us to invest our financial resources to keep our momentum going.

In Faith, Elisabeth Jas (Stewardship Team)



Lexington Neighbor Brigade

Neighbor Brigade establishes community-specific networks of volunteers that can be mobilized to help residents facing sudden crisis manage day-to-day tasks such as meal preparation, rides, and basic household chores. Using web-based coordination tools, we manage recipient requests and the recruitment of volunteers to fulfill those requests sensitively, quickly and free of charge.

To volunteer or get help, go to: <http://www.neighborbrigade.org/lexingtonMA>
Email us at: lexingtonma@neighborbrigade.org
Call us at (855) 241-HELP
Website: <http://www.neighborbrigade.org/lexingtonMA>

Help around town is another great source of resources information for food delivery and more. Please visit the [website](#) for more information

UU the Vote online

Support of voting rights and voter awareness can continue now from home as our individual circumstances permit. Online information about UU the Vote and an email list are available.

If you are willing to participate, and not already on the First Parish #UUtheVote list, please contact Lee Ostrander at leostrander@gmail.com.

If you would like to receive continuing new information from the national UU the Vote program, you may sign up on the email list [here](#).



Amnesty International



Dear First Parish Community,

First of all wanted to send you my very sincere good wishes of love and strength in these challenging times. The church service on Sunday was so moving. Thank you to all of those who made it possible and thank you Anne for being such an inspiration with your unwavering leadership. I am informally concluding the Amnesty letter writing ,organized yearly by my husband Al Jacobson. **I received the notification that 130 letter were sent. Thank you all for your participation.** Its not too late to send your letters if you haven't yet.

Wanted to remind everyone that there are ongoing letter campaigns that can be found on the Amnesty web site. Thank you all for your support in this effort,

Teresa Jacobson

Green Action Corner

First Parish Climate Action Team



A Planet for the Children Initiative 2020

During our Zoom worship on Sunday we sang "We would be one. ." to the familiar Finlandia music by Jean Sibelius. The Covid-19 crisis has brought home the simple truth that we are one people and earth is our home. This

is the wisdom and truth of our 7th UU principle – we are part of the interdependent web of all existence. Those of us who are not on the frontlines fighting to defend our health and communities are called to connect and support each other in new ways. The Climate Action Team

invites you to use some of the time you may now have in isolation with family and friends to dive deeper into the continually unfolding climate change crisis. Here are two resources provided by the UU Ministry for Earth. <http://buff.ly/2lZQ9gP>

This series of Livecam videos is an ideal way to slow down and explore and deepen your connection with other creatures on the "interdependent web". Take these selected real time journeys to the Tembe Elephant Park in Mozambique or California to see the "Big Sur Condors."

The Condor & The Eagle [Watch the trailer](#): Four Indigenous environmental leaders embark on an extraordinary trans-continental adventure from the Boreal forest to deep into the heart of the Amazonian jungle to unite the peoples of North and South America and deepen the meaning of "Climate Justice". The Condor & The Eagle documentary offers a glimpse into a developing spiritual renaissance as the film's four protagonists learn from each other's long legacy of resistance to colonialism and its extractive economy. Their path through the jungle takes them on an unexpectedly challenging and liberating journey, which will forever change their attachment to the Earth and one another.

The Condor & The Eagle premiered in October 2019 at the Woodstock Film Festival, was selected by 28 world-renowned film festivals and has won 8 awards

Join the UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) & UUA Green Sanctuary Program's [Environmental Justice Practitioners Network](#) webinar, *The Condor & The Eagle*. **WHEN: Thursday, March 26th.** The film screening will begin at 12:30 PM— and the discussion with filmmaker Clement Guerra & protagonist Bryan Parras will begin at 2 PM [RSVP HERE](#)

Environmental Voter Project

Some CAT members are working on the Environmental Voter Project, seeking to motivate voters with established environmental interests to register and then vote in important races around the nation. It's very easy and can be done in those spare moments we increasingly have. To get set up, download the Hustle app from [hustle.com](https://www.hustle.com) (either your phone or computer can be used), and send a note to Bob Kvaal at bkvaal@gmail.com. We will work with you to get you 'hustling.'



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

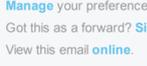
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Weekly Update submissions are due on Tuesdays at 9:00 am.
Please email submissions or inquiries to admin@fplex.org.

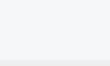
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