



FIRST PARISH IN LEXINGTON

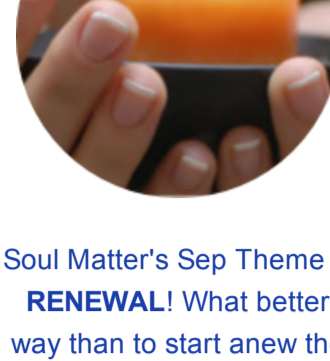
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

09|09|2020



"If there is nothing new under the sun, at least the sun itself is always new, always re-creating itself out of its own inexhaustible fire." — Michael Sims

Time for Renewal



Soul Matter's Sep Theme is **RENEWAL!** What better way than to start anew the Congregational year?

[Here are some changes:](#)

Wed Weekly Update is being shelved

Instead we will send you **TWO** updates:

Tue = Geared within FPLex
Thu = Town / Community

No more Fri reminders

Only **Sunday morning Reminder** with Worship Links

As Programing / Building usage has **shifted to Virtual** gatherings

No more Focal Point Newsletter

In faith and fellowship,
Staff at FPLex

Upcoming Worship Service

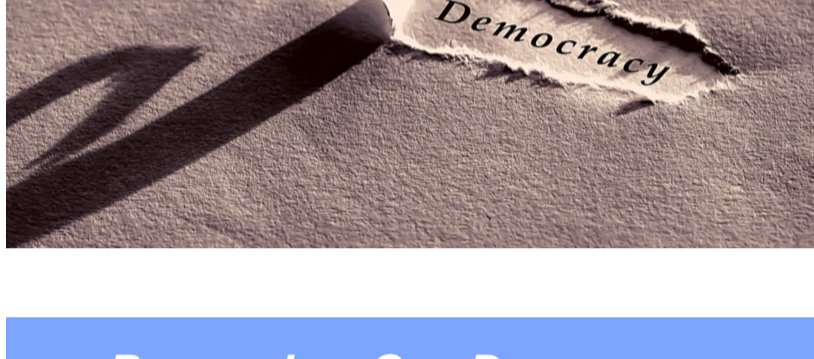
Sunday Sep 13th @ 10:30 AM — Renewal of Joy

The brightness of September calls us to return to the glowing warmth of community. With renewed joy come and join us for our InGathering. Watch your mailbox for a tangible way to participate in a newly revised Water Ceremony!

[Livestream: YouTube.com/C/FPLexington](#)

Music for Sunday

This Sunday, the **Sanctuary Choir** will sing, via virtual video, **Rip Jackson's** arrangement of the beautiful river song "Down to the River to Pray" (from **O Brother, Where Art Thou?**), with video by **Chris Hess** and soloists **Julia Jaffe**, **Nate Ramsayer** and **Elizabeth Walsh**. Julia Jaffe will sing Aaron Copland's powerful arrangement of the African American Spiritual "Shall We Gather at the River." Rip Jackson will also play a jazz arrangement of this spiritual by Greg Howlett. And for the postlude, Rip will play J. S. Bach's magnificent opening "Allegro" movement from his Concerto in F Major, BWV 978 for Organ (based on a violin concerto by Antonio Vivaldi).



Preserving Our Democracy

You're invited to a Preserving Our Democracy team meeting on **Wed, Sep 16 at 4:00 PM**. Join us in planning next steps as the election nears. Learn how you can take action—large or small. **Link: [POD Meeting](#)**

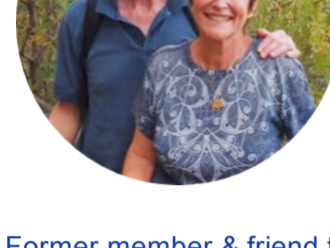
Apply now if you want to receive a mail-in ballot for November 3rd. **Link: [Ballot Application](#)**

Reclaim our Vote postcards are now on **Michelle Olson's** porch at **5 Castle Road**. The postcarding will end in early October.

Texting and phone banking will be major emphases for campaigns in October. Learn about texting and try your hand. Short training; then you're set. It's so easy and so fun. Links: [All about texting](#) and for [texting training on Thu, Sep 10](#) & [text training II on Tue, Sep 15](#). Texting is the best way to reach the most voters in the least amount of time! **Phone banking** is available almost every day. Some among us do not like phoning in this way. However, the dialer systems are very sophisticated now; calls are connected only when answered; scripts to follow are provided. You can find non-partisan (& partisan) phone banking events here: [phoning events](#) & [Reclaim Our Vote](#).

Want to do something else, a little or a lot, before the election? Check out these websites for up-to-date action initiatives, training on tactics, etc. Links: [Minuteman Indivisible](#), [Concord Indivisible](#), [Together for 2020](#), and [UU the Vote](#). Questions? Contact [Debbie Armstrong](#) or [Marty Kvaal](#). **55 days remain until Nov 3rd!!**

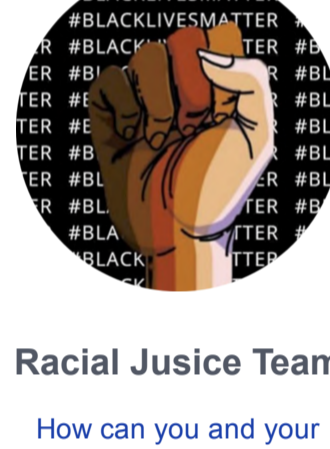
Among Our Own



Former member & friend to many at First Parish, **Ellen Brandenburg**, passed away on **Fri, Sep 4th**, surrounded by her loving family. A memorial service will be planned for a later date, but condolences can be sent in care of her daughter,
Anna Brandenburg
95 Essex St, Apt 1,
Salem MA 01970.

A faithful member of First Parish, Ellen was FP's **RE Director** before earning her MUE and working at the UUA as the **Director of Ministerial Education**. She & her husband, George, moved to Salem MA before their retirement, and continued at the First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist, where they were equally well-loved.

Upcoming Events



Racial Justice Team

How can you and your neighbors work together to build a more racially just community? Join the conversation **Thu Sep 10th @ 7:00 - 8:30 PM ZOOM**
Meeting ID: 952 3700 6379
Or dial in (646) 876-9923

Together We Rise

Action Forum



What is racial profiling?

What types do we see in Lexington?

What are the impacts?

How can we take action?

Thu, Sep 10 @ 7:00-8:00 PM

To register and/or join the email group, complete this [form](#). A Zoom link will be sent to registrants the morning of the program. At each action forum, presenters will frame the issue, offer examples, and invite participants to share concrete actions to take. Action forums are **FREE** and open to all.



Edie Ruquist

A virtual service to celebrate the life of Edie Ruquist will be **Saturday, Sep 12th at 11:00 AM**.
Join via [ZOOM](#) or by calling in (646) 876-9923
Meeting ID: 942 9426 0272.

Staff Hours



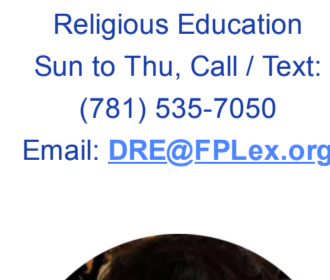
Rev. Anne Mason, Minister

Outdoor Meetings
Schedule an appointment
E-mail: Minister@FPLex.org



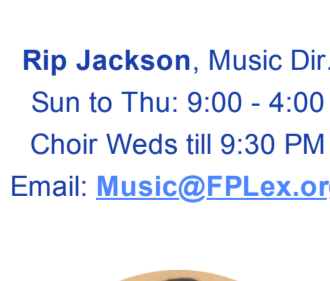
Lisa Maria Andreoli Steinberg, Director of Religious Education

Sun to Thu, Call / Text: (781) 535-7050
Email: DRE@FPLex.org



Rip Jackson, Music Dir.

Sun to Thu: 9:00 - 4:00
Chair to Music till 9:30 PM
Email: Music@FPLex.org



Pratik Mamtara, Admin

Mon to Fri: 9:00 - 4:00
Email: Admin@FPLex.org



My Radio Station: DRE FM

I am so excited for the church year to start up and to reconnect with all our wonderful families and smiling faces from your home to mine across the screens. I spoke with many of our families in August, and if we haven't connected, I'd love to hear back from you! We have a fantastic ritual planned as part of our InGathering worship this Sunday - the service is for all ages so be sure to have all the family gathered together. Look for emails in the coming days and next week with details about our Family Ministry offerings this fall. We'll be following the Soul Matters themes as we have in recent years, but also engaging deeper into justice issues across the generations. If you have questions, ideas, or concerns - please be in touch! I'm available Sundays - Thursdays by email, phone, and text.

In Faith,

Lisa Maria
Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry Learning

Hello from Our Director of Music

Hi everyone, I am so happy to be back in the office at First Parish for our fall worship and programming. I know this has been a very challenging time for us all. Now more than ever we need joy, beauty, depth, wisdom, music and love as we try to cope and evolve. First Parish is our spiritual home and I am so inspired to be connecting with you all! **Our first choir rehearsal begins on Wed, Sep 9 from 7:15 - 8:45 PM**. And I am working on setting up our children's choir rehearsals in another week or so. I look forward to seeing many of you on Sunday as we worship together for InGathering and Water Communion virtually. To join the Choir contact **Rip Jackson** at Music@FPLex.org.



Blessings,
Rip



Will First Parish Declare a Climate Emergency?

It's up to you to make it happen and give it meaning.

CAT is proposing that the congregation declare a Climate Emergency at its Annual Meeting on October 18th. With this action First Parish will join thousands of religious organizations around the world who have done as a means of hold themselves accountable to the principles of their faith. An all Congregation Meeting will be help following worship on September 20th to discuss the [Declaration](#) and explore what it might mean.

Join us for ouext **Climate Action Team Meeting Thu, Sep 16 @ 7:30 PM** via [ZOOM](#) or by calling in (646) 876-9923 Meeting ID: 919 6381 0131.

Join us to plan how we will build support for the Declaration and help usset our goals for the coming church year.

AI Talk

Science & Society Lecture Series
First Parish in Lexington and
Lexington Community Education

Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans
Melanie Mitchell, PhD.

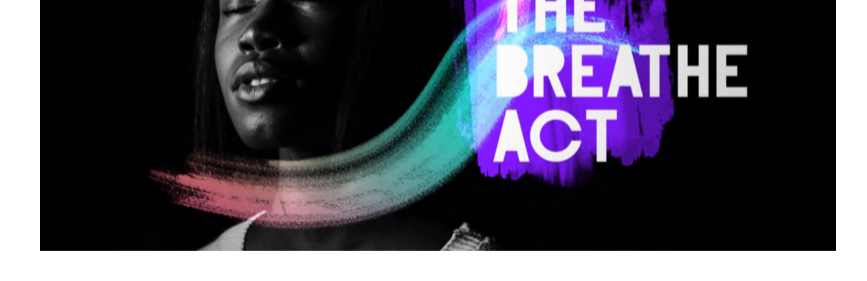
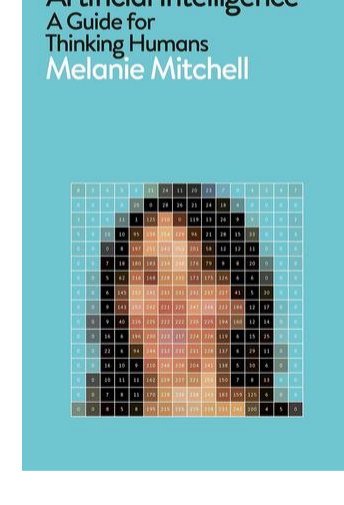
A Zoom Presentation on Thursday,
Sep 17th 2020 at 4:30 PM

FREE Event! Register on [ZOOM](#)

Registration webpage: <http://zoom.us/9190309524>

For more information see [flyer](#).

Questions? Contact Pratik Mamtara: Admin@FPLex.org



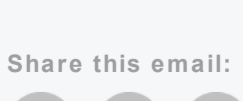
Taking a Collective Breath

A five-session series built around the elements of the BREATHE Act and created in a collaboration between Side With Love, UU the Vote, and UUSC.

Tue, Sep 22nd @ 7:00 PM

[Webinar 4](#): Environmental Justice and Public Health Allocating New Money to Build Healthy, Sustainable & Equitable Communities for All People Environmental Justice.
Register [HERE](#).

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