

THE FOCALPOINT

FIRST PARISH IN LEXINGTON

SUMMER 2019

Summer Services at First Parish

This summer we will hold our weekly worship at 10:30 on Sunday mornings in Parish Hall. Come for this more intimate setting of worship led by members of First Parish, with an interactive component to help us all participate. We will share spoken joys and sorrows, engage together in a topic, and build community.

While many of you do take time to be away from First Parish over the summer, those of you who do attend over the summer have found these more intimate services to be meaningful. Please give special thanks to all the volunteers who are helping to lead worship this summer!

June 23 — Rev. Anne Mason

June 30 — Nicole Zais

July 7 — Lee Jeffers Bami &
Debbie Armstrong

July 14 — David Rose

July 21 — Rev. Anne Mason

July 28 — Brenda Prusak

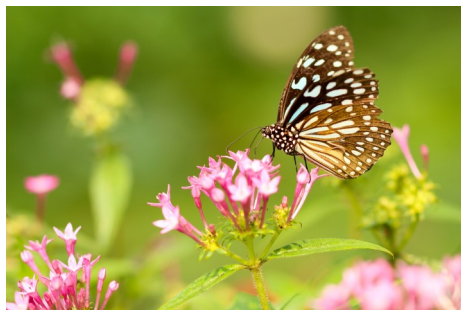
August 4 — Don Cohen

August 11 — Larry Prusak

August 18 — Bill McKenney

August 25 — Susanne Adams

September 1 — Cammy Thomas



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7 Harrington Road
Lexington, MA 02421
781-862-8200

Summer Staff Schedule

Rev. Anne Mason: As is usual for a minister, most of the summer I will be on vacation or on study leave. Summer services begin on June 23rd, when I will be preaching. I will also be preaching one Sunday in July. Pastoral care will be provided by First Parish's Pastoral Associates. A schedule and their contact information will be posted in the Weekly Update.

Rip Jackson: I will be in the office through June 18th. From June 21-30, I will be leading the choir concert tour in Germany. I will then begin my summer period where I will be away quite a bit. For some of the time, I will be offline enjoying vacation and comp time. I will be attending three continuing education workshops between late July and early September. In late July, I will attend the UU Musicians Network's Annual Music Conference in Denver, CO. And finally, I will be doing some work off-site beginning to prepare and plan for next year's music and concerts. I am available via email until June 30 and also between July 23 and August 15. I am looking forward to a wonderful year at First Parish beginning in September!

Lisa Maria Andreoli Steinberg: I will be in Spokane, WA, June 16-21 to attend board meetings of the Liberal Religious Education Association (LREDA), attend LREDA's Professional Days, and connect with religious professional colleagues from around the continent for learning, fellowship, and service. Upon my return, I will be on vacation through the end of June. I will be back in the office as needed and available by appointment the first two weeks of July. I will be on vacation from the week of July 14 through August 4. I will be back in the office on August 5.

Jane Foley: Beginning the week of June 17, the office hours will be reduced to 20 per week, Tuesday through Friday from 9am to 2pm through mid-August. I will be on vacation from July 5th through July 15th, as well as a few days in August.

Bob Coughlin: My schedule remains throughout the summer: Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. I will be on vacation the weeks of July 1-6, August 5-10, and August 26-30. I will be at church every Sunday to help with the services.

Welcome, Carrie Aitkins P/T Archivist

The Operations Team and the Personnel Committee are excited to welcome Carrie Aitkins, who will be working part-time throughout the summer as an archivist in the History Room. She will provide the professional help needed in reviewing the church's records, collections, photographs, and other historical documents with the goal of producing a detailed, written inventory of holdings and recommendations for storage, transfer, retention, and digitization of the records.

Carrie is a recent graduate of Simmons University with an MS in Library and Information Science. She has work experience in various archivist positions including at MIT and the City of Somerville.

Semi-Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 9th

WARRANT for SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 9, 2019

in the sanctuary immediately after the close of the morning service

Marty Kvaal (Parish Clerk) hereby notifies legal members* of First Parish in Lexington, Unitarian Universalist, to meet for the Semi-Annual Meeting in their sanctuary on Sunday, June 9, 2019, immediately after the service, to act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator to preside at this meeting;

ARTICLE 2: To approve the minutes from the previous parish meeting;

ARTICLE 3: To review, discuss, and vote on the FY2020 Budget;

ARTICLE 4: To elect members of the Parish to fill the following church positions:

For Parish Board member at-large: Katie O'Hare Gibson (for a three-year term)

For Parish Board member at-large: Amy Jamison (for a three-year term)

For Parish Board member at-large: Tim Jacoby (for a three-year term)

For Parish Clerk: Suzanne Morse-Fortier (for a one-year term)

For Treasurer: Tom Rich (for a one-year term)

For Auditor of the Treasurer: Elisabeth Jas (for a one-year term)

For Trustee: John Howell (for a second three-year term)

For Auditor of the Trustees: Richard Fleiss (for a fourth one-year term)

ARTICLE 5: Amendment to the By-laws

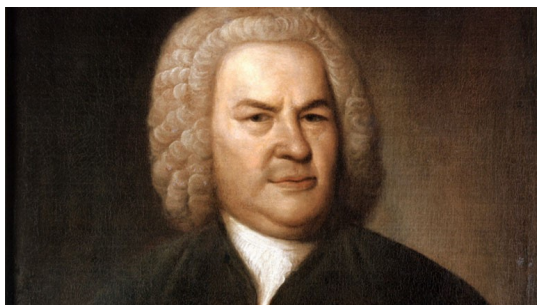
ARTICLE 6: To hear a report from our Parish Minister, Rev. Anne Mason;

ARTICLE 7: To hear any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

*Members are entitled to vote in Parish Meetings and to hold elective office after having been members for a period of at least three months in order to acquaint themselves with the Parish.

News from Rip Jackson, Director of Music

Choir Concert Tour of Germany



On Sunday, June 21, the choir and church members and friends will be embarking on a fabulous tour of Germany, including Berlin, Leipzig, Eisenach and other beautiful medieval towns. The trip will take place from June 21 through June 30. The choir will sing 3 concerts and tour on this pilgrimage following the footsteps of Bach, Mendelssohn and Handel, including a concert at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig,

where Bach was the music director for the last and most important part of his musical life. On Sunday morning, June 19, the choir will sing music from their Germany concerts in a special Music Sunday worship service. The church and congregation will offer a blessing to the group as they embark on this musical and spiritual journey!

Choir Resumes in the Fall



Music is an important part of our worship, and our Adult Choir sings at most Sunday services from September through June. Choir rehearsals at First Parish Church will start on the Wednesday after Labor Day. We rehearse from 7:30-9:30 on Wednesdays and sing on Sunday mornings at the 10:30 service. The Sanctuary Choir also takes part in the annual Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve, and plays a lead role in two exciting and creative concerts each year. If you would like to try us out, please feel free to start coming to our fun and inspiring rehearsals. We sing music from a huge variety of genres. All are welcome!

2019 Choir Start-up Dates:

Wednesday, September 4, 7:30-9:30 PM – weekly choir rehearsals resume

Saturday, September 7 — Retreat with guest artists Elise Witt (has sung with Bobby McFerrin) and guests. rehearsal 2:30-6; dinner break; then 7:30 concert

Sunday, September 8, 9:30 AM – Weekly Sunday services resume

2018-2019 Concerts at First Parish in Lexington

Natural Rhythms



With Elise Witt, Terry Garthwaite and Becky Reardon
First Parish Sanctuary Choir
Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 7:30 PM
Free Will Offering

Imagine Janis Joplin, Joan Baez, Annie Ross and Edith Piaf taking a turn from Barbara Kingsolver and Dr. Seuss and you'll have some idea of these mad and moving musical adventures! Whether it's a plaintive cry for families at the border, a polyrhythmic improvisation on the physics of sound, an anthem to the preservation of wild rivers and oceans, or a musical ride on the love train, Terry, Becky & Elise cook from the minute they hit the stage. Bringing three radically different voices to the blend, their voices find each other in that mysterious world of harmony in diversity. The trio's concerts are also famous for getting the audience singing, and even self-professed "non-singers" find themselves part of an Impromptu Glorious Chorus.

Elise Witt, who has sung with Bobby McFerrin, along with Terry Garthwaite and Becky Reardon, will also collaborate with Rip Jackson and the First Parish sanctuary choir during part of the concert. A free will offering will be taken to defray concert costs. For more information call the church at 781-862-8200 or visit www.fplex.org.

Julia Jaffe Solo Concert
Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 3:30 PM

Fall Concert - Andrew Lloyd Webber Celebration
Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 3:30 PM
First Parish Children's and Sanctuary Choirs

Spring Concert - Peace Concert
Saturday, April, 4, 2020 at 7:30 PM (UU Urban Ministry, Roxbury)
Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 3:30 PM (First Parish)
First Parish Children's and Sanctuary Choirs

Thank You, Katie Camire

Please join us on Sunday, June 9th at 6:00pm
to celebrate Katie's ministry to our youth and wish her
well in her future work as a religious educator.

First Parish Lexington Members and Friends,

My time as Youth Program Coordinator at First Parish Lexington is coming to an end, as all things must do. My tenure will officially end mid-June and, for me, the departure is bittersweet. For the past year and a half I have been serving the Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church as the Director of Religious Education in conjunction with being your Youth Program Coordinator. Increased responsibilities in my ministry at the Melrose church in the upcoming church year will make continuing in my role here infeasible. While I am thrilled at the advancement of my career, I will also deeply miss the amazing youth, staff, and other adults in this congregation that I have gotten to know over the past three years.

I am truly grateful for the experience I have had as your Youth Program Coordinator. I would like to particularly thank Lisa Maria for her support and guidance as my supervisor; I have learned and grown so much from working with her. I am also thankful for all the volunteers that I have had the pleasure to work with, you are all awesome and this ministry wouldn't be possible without you. Since starting a little over three years ago I have guided the youth here through four youth worship services, led a Coming of Age program, facilitated OWL for the first time, and chaperoned a once-in-a-lifetime service trip. These are just some highlights of the experiences I have had here that I will treasure as I move forward.

Above all else, I cherish the time I got to spend with the incredible youth here. They are thoughtful, courageous, and made my job fun. They have challenged me in the best ways and are what I will miss most about working here. I only hope that more folx will seize the opportunity to join the advising team and see what I'm talking about, because I don't think my words are doing them justice.

Thank you all again for entrusting me with this important work.

In faith,

Katie



Voices on the Green

How do YOU fit in this picture?



Voices on the Green has emerged as Lexington's premier live performance event. As Voices begins its fourth season, we imagine that you want to know how you can be involved. Here's how.

Recommend a storyteller, expert, or musician as a performer for one of the shows. It can be one of your friends, relatives, or

neighbors who has a good story to tell, or song to sing. Even better, it can be you.

Suggest a theme or concept for one of next year's shows. Don Cohen suggested "My Best Mistake" for our most recent show and we loved it. Others we have enjoyed include; Breakthrough, Modern Love, Living on the Hyphen, Secrets and Lies, The Day My Life Changed, I Protest!

Recommend a partner organization – some organization in the local area that you think lives out the values of our congregation in the real world and would benefit from having a share of the proceeds from the event (and the publicity).

Volunteer to join our steering committee, or the wonderful people who make the show actually happen: people who bring refreshments, the bartenders, the house staff (ushers, ticket takers) videography and sound, etc.

Join the all-important audience as either a general admission participant or as a donor. The next shows will be on October 18, February 7, and April 10. (Themes to be determined over the summer – make your suggestions quickly).

To participate, give advice, or volunteer, call or write David Rose (drose@cast.org or 781-863-8237)

The Voices on the Green Team

(Photo credit: Lew Counts — Don Cohen talks about Best Mistakes to over two hundred and fifty people at the May 10th performance of Voices on the Green.)

Adult Programs

The Adult Programs Committee of First Parish (Debbie Armstrong, Dave Horton, Ruth Rose) invites all members of the congregation to submit proposals for programs you would like to offer and lead at the church next year and for those you would like to see offered, but not necessarily lead.

The committee reviews and schedules programs for adults and provides logistical support to implement them. Please copy and paste the link below to fill out an Adult Program Request Form. It will also be available at the piano.

Please return the form by September 1st. For further information, feel free to contact a committee member: Debbie Armstrong (darmstrong@verizon.net or 781-799-6200;), Dave Horton (paulrevereroad@aol.com or 781-862-3293;), or Ruth Rose (ruth_rose67@hotmail.com or 781-863-8237;).

The committee looks forward to hearing from you and encourages you to bring programs for adults to First Parish!

<https://bit.ly/2KkxxUe>

Thursday Afternoon Meditation Group



Summer brings wonderfully brilliant days, new vistas, exciting adventures. A hushed counterpoint is offered by the Thursday Afternoon Meditation Group with candlelit silence, quiet conversation, and shared reflection. This is a small drop-in group with no long term commitment; just come on those days when your schedule allows and your spirit moves.

After a pause at the end of the church year on June 16th, we will resume meeting each Thursday beginning July 11th from 4:00-5:00, which includes quiet meditation for 30 minutes, a brief reading in the Buddhist tradition offered voluntarily, and time for conversation. If church doors are locked due to shortened summer hours, the Memorial Garden provides a lovely setting alone or with others.

Please join us for this time of silence and contemplation. Meditation will begin at 4:05, but if you arrive later just slip in quietly and find a place to sit. There always will be an open chair for those who wish to come.

First Parish Flea Market

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. Copy and paste the link to reserve a First Parish table for your stuff - **<https://bit.ly/2JAnyux>**. 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.

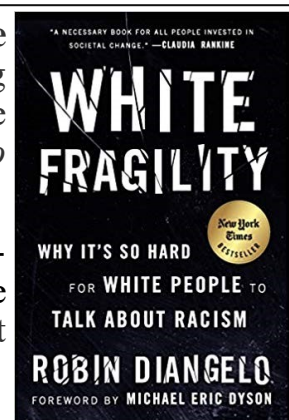
For questions, please contact Toni Tasker at tonitasker@me.com or Ruth Rose at ruth_rose67@aol.com.

Book Discussion

All are welcome for a book discussion on **three Sundays in June: June 2nd, June 9th, and June 16th, from 9-10:15am**. Debbie Armstrong and Lee Jeffers Bami 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 Bami 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.



The Blessings and Challenges of Summer: A Responsive Reading

Whether it is pleasantly warm

Or blistering hot—

Remember the Spring and give thanks.

When the roses are blooming

And the mosquitoes are buzzing—

Remember the Spring and give thanks.

If the Red Sox are winning

Or they're ruining your summer—

Remember the Spring and give thanks.

When the fish are biting

And so are the black flies—

Remember the Spring and give thanks.

May the ice cream stand always have your favorite flavor.

May you see sunsets that take your breath away.

May your lemonade be sweet and your barbeque tasty.

And may you remember the wet, cold Spring and give thanks.

