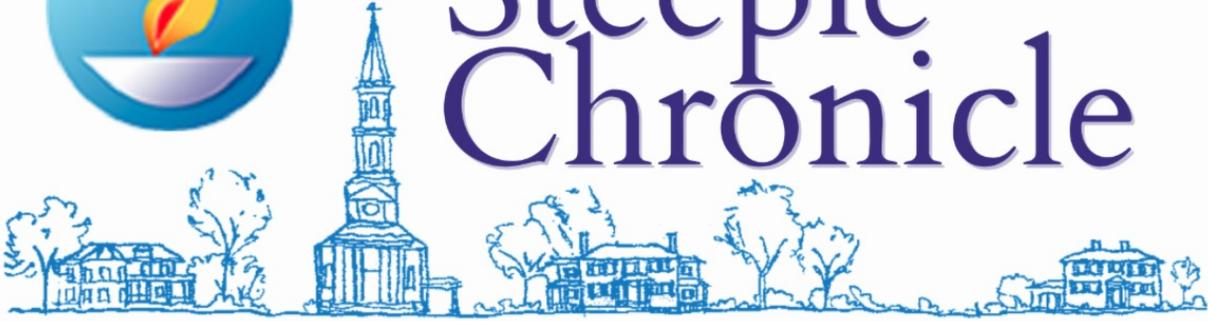




# the Steeple Chronicle



FIRST PARISH IN LEXINGTON

*Wednesday Weekly — Jan 5th 2022*

## A Note From Rev. Kathleen, Sabbatical Minister



Welcome all into this New Year! It is not what we expected to be sure! I am grateful that I was able to be present for one worship service in the sanctuary with some of you. Now, for the month of January the COVID Response Team has recommended that we return to virtual worship. Once again, we experience the adage, "Life is what happens when we are busy making other plans".

I am glad to be here. Call me if you want to make an appointment (virtual or in-person). I will be at the church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, three Sundays a month, other times by appointment and for certain meetings. Since I am part-time, we will

have to be more intentional about connecting by phone, text, or email. Feel free to use my cell phone if necessary: (732) 245-3749. Mia Roop, the Office Manager will always know my schedule as well.

Not what we hoped for. Still, let us persevere with love's resiliency.

Rev. Kathleen  
[Minister@FPLex.org](mailto:Minister@FPLex.org)

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## LIVING WITH INTENTION IN THE NEW YEAR

Rev. Kathleen Hepler

Sunday, Jan 9th 2022



First Parish in Lexington



### UPCOMING Sunday Service

What does the soul of Unitarian Universalism call us toward in 2022? What intentions do you personally have? And, what are the limits of any intention? Rev. Kathleen Hepler will preach. Worship Associate, Ben Soule, will join her in leading worship. (Rev. Hepler will be with us while Rev. Anne Mason is on sabbatical.)

In light of the highly infectious nature of Omicron, worship has moved to **ONLINE** only.

LIVE Streaming [Facebook](#) OR [YouTube](#)

**Music:** This Sunday, we welcome guest cellist Nathaniel White. He will play the cello solos and join the sanctuary choir section leaders (Jennifer Burks, Julia Jaffe, David Meharry and Jamie Willis) in presenting John Rutter's deeply mystical "Out of the Deep" (from *Requiem*) and Tom Fettke's beautiful arrangement of Giulio Caccini's passionate "Holy." For the centering music and postlude Nathaniel, with Rip Jackson on piano) will play Camille Saint-Saëns's iconic "The Swan" (from *The Carnival of the Animals*) and Rip Jackson's lyrical "Pas de Deux" (from his theatre work *The Beatitudes: A Journey of Compassion, Justice and Love Triumphant*). And for the offertory, Nathaniel will play Johann Sebastian Bach's serene "Sarabande" (from *Cello Suite No.2 in D minor, BWV 1008*).

## DISMANTLING RACISM IN OUR TOWN

Begins Jan  
7th

Please join this free 7-session conversation and reflection series



Soul Matters  
SHARING CIRCLE

JanTheme: Opening to  
Joy

*"When I dare to be powerful — to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid... I am deliberate and afraid of nothing."*

— Audre Lorde



Bedford Lyceum

Join for a talk titled "You're not Going to Believe What Happened in Turkmenistan" with speaker Rebecca Neale.

Sun, Jan 9th  
@ 3:00 - 4:00 PM  
via [ZOOM](#) Meeting ID: 997  
4216 8325 Passcode:  
656405

Rebecca will provide us with an insider's view of Turkmenistan and her experiences in this fascinating country, which borders Afghanistan.

\*\* Please note that all Bedford Lyceum presentations are free and open to the public. No pre-

starting Jan 7-Feb 18, 2022!

registration is required. \*\*

Join this Lexington community effort intended to inspire participants in an ongoing process of transformation through facilitated conversation and individual reflection. The weekly session's goals focus on becoming more personally and collectively aware of racism and its consequences and committing to undo and repair the legacies of white supremacy in ourselves and our communities. *Dismantling Racism* takes place Fridays, 10am-12pm on Zoom and is open to all for no fee. Register [here](#). For questions, please contact [LTCGoodman@gmail.com](mailto:LTCGoodman@gmail.com)



## 11th Hour Calling



Sarasa Ensemble Presents

“Music from the Heart: Mitteldeutschland”

Sat, Jan 15th @ 7:30 PM

Harvard-Epworth

United Methodist Church in Cambridge

Sun, Jan 16th @ 3:30 PM

Follen Community Church in Lexington

Highlighting the power of music to provide solace in times of crisis, through the lens of 17th-century Germany. Featuring acclaimed countertenor Reginald Mobley in works by PH Erlebach, JA Reincken, CH Abel, and JS Bach.

**Tickets:** \$25 GA; \$20 Seniors; \$10 Students. Please use code: **FIRSTPARISH** for \$5 off!

Covid-19 protocol: All attendees must provide proof of vaccination for entry. Masks required at all times. More info at our [Facebook event](#) or their [website](#).

*The Climate Action Team of First Parish is again answering the 11th Hour Calling, an interfaith movement calling for people of all faiths to call attention to the urgency of climate justice action by gathering together and ringing church bells, striking Buddhist gongs and singing bowls, reciting the 99 names of Allah, singing or reciting sacred scriptures after a prayer/meditation/poetry gathering on the 11th hour of the 11 day of the month.*

*On Tuesday January 11 at 11:00 AM, we will be gathering outside the church on the historic Lexington Green, where another revolution began in April 1775. The short talk this month will be by Marci Cemenska based on Hindu perspectives:*

Jan 16th and Jan 30th

# NEW COMER

Meet & Greet

First Parish in Lexington, Unitarian Universalist



## Invite Your Friends & Neighbours

Dear friends who know First Parish only or mostly virtually, Happy New Year!

With the gradual opening of in-person worship last fall, we were really looking forward to 2022 to be able to get to know you the old-fashioned way: through in-person newcomer events. But instead, we find that we're in 2022 with a continuation of pandemic safety through virtual events.

We are introducing a virtual **Newcomer Meet & Greet** that will take place during the Zoom Worship service "social hours". We will have a named Zoom breakout room that you can choose to join on Sunday **January 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>**. The focus of these 20-minute meetings is around you as new friends of First Parish in Lexington getting to meet each other; you will also have the opportunity to ask members in each session questions about what's happening at church.

Sign up for either or both of these January dates at [this LINK](#). Please join us.

— Dave Horton and Pete Tasker



*It's tough to stay positive as a climate activist - so many setbacks and an occasional "win". But the Bhagavad Gita, the crowning glory of the Hindus, offers us lessons on how to act against seemingly insurmountable odds. In addition, the Gita shows us how every one of us can be a leader in the fight for doing what is right.*

*We plan to continue this action of ringing our church bell each month for freedom from fossil fuel, and cordially invite everyone concerned about the Climate Emergency to participate in person on the 11th.*

### Jubilee 3 Anti-Racism Training

*"If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But if you recognize that your liberation and mine are bound up together, we can walk together." – Lila Watson*

January 14-16, 2022, online

<https://www.uua.org/node/140334>



### Anti-Racism Weekend Training

*Looking for an Intensive Anti-Racism Weekend Training Opportunity?*

*The next Jubilee Three training, Jan. 14-16, 2022, is hosted by*

Mark your calendars: Jan  
17th

Lexington's Martin Luther King Day of Service ([MLK Day of Service](#).) is scheduled for Monday, January 17th! Thanks to the work of many amazing volunteers a full slate of opportunities for learning, volunteering and engaging with our community is ready for your participation. Many of the offerings are on Zoom, including the annual **Conversation on Race from 10-12p.** This year's topic is "The Purpose of Education - Honoring Dr. King's Legacy with (Racially) Inclusive Curriculum."

New this year, look for the **sample session of Dismantling Racism in Our Town.** If you have been curious about the Lexington community series intended to inspire reflective conversation and learning, sign up for the sample session held on **Monday, 17th at 4pm**, also on Zoom. This session will lead by a few of the facilitators and will serve as an introduction to the popular workshop series.

Check out the link to learn more about how you can participate and please share this link widely with everyone you know! [MLK Day of Service](#)

the Long Island Area Council (LIAC). Registration is open to all UUs. Trainers are Paula Cole Jones, Dr Leon Spencer and Lutricia Callair.

Click [here](#) to register. Questions? Contact JoAnn Mulready-Shick, Racial Justice Team Co-Chair.



Coming Soon

*The FP Tuesday ZoomTalk sessions will begin on Jan 18th at 4:30 PM & run through Mar 15th. We have already signed up some First Parish notables for the series, including David Bovet, Kate Berg, Liz and Ewan Hartmann, Rip Jackson, and David Rose. There is still room for YOU! If you would like to share a personal story, a bit of professional or domestic expertise, or reflections on your pandemic experience, please contact [Meg Newhouse](#).*



ALL-CHURCH INVITE to the **second**  
*Widening the Circle of Concern* session

**Session Two: GOVERNANCE**

A First Parish 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Implementation Program

When? **JAN 23, 2022** right after the church service

Where? **on ZOOM** for everyone

*Journeying Together towards Spiritual Wholeness*

*Session Two:  
Governance*

All are cordially invited to join our **January 23 session** immediately after the church service on Zoom. We will address the second chapter of the *Widening the Circle of Concern* report. Please read ahead of time this short reading on [Governance](#). Feel free to also read about the report's purpose, intro, and UU trends [here](#). We look forward to us learning together about congregational polity and hearing your thoughts and ideas related to expanding inclusion, equity and diversity in our governance practices at First Parish. See you there!

**Your 8th Principle Implementation Team:**

*Larry Roop, Susanna Whitman, Elisabeth Jas, Dave Horton, JoAnn Mulready-Shick, Erik Svenson, Katie O'Hare-Gibson*

**LEX PRIDE**

Partner News

*Hi everyone,*

*I am so grateful to be part of this warm, compassionate, loving community. I wish for a safer and healthier environment (in all senses*

of the word) in 2022. In the  
meantime, please enjoy  
this edition of the [LexPride  
newsletter](#) to welcome the  
new year.

Warmly,  
**Valerie**  
she/her/hers  
*(Why is this here?)*  
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