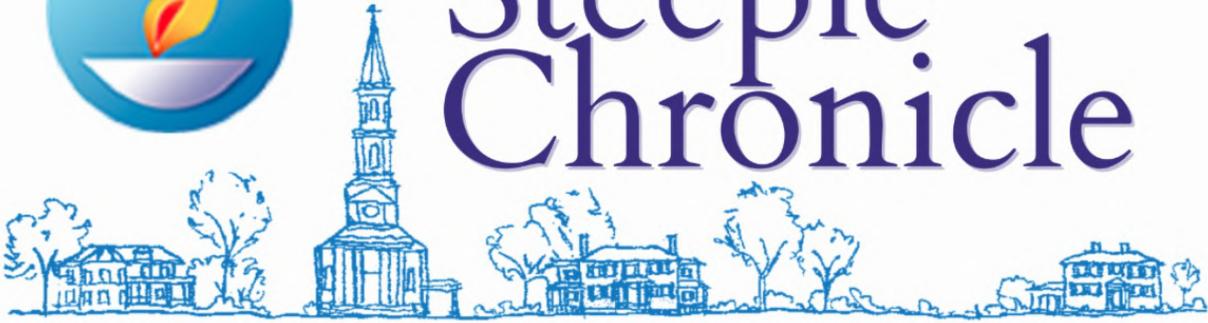




the Steeple Chronicle



FIRST PARISH IN LEXINGTON

Wednesday Weekly — Dec 8th 2021



*Santa Got Your
Letter*

Starting this week, our sanctuary will be open for worship! Upon the advice of the COVID Response Team, the Board voted on 12/02/21 to move our in person worship into the sanctuary, while still keeping our multi-platform online worship. With the high rate of vaccination in Lexington for both adults and children, the leadership feels it is safe enough to gather in the sanctuary, with all of our HealthWay air purifiers exchanging air, and everyone wearing masks (per the Town of Lexington mandate). If the numbers mandate a shift away from in person worship in the future, we will, of

course, adapt as needed. It will be very exciting to be back in our sacred space! Please be sure to [sign up online](#).



UPCOMING Sunday Worship

Famed theologian C.S. Lewis encourages us to nurture joy as a spiritual practice. As we prepare for our upcoming holidays, we will celebrate the Christian season of Advent and experience the holiness of anticipation.

In-person [Sign Up](#)
LIVE Streaming [Facebook](#) OR [YouTube](#)

Music: This Sunday, we will celebrate the theme of Advent with seasonal music celebrating the prophecy of the birth of Jesus. The sanctuary choir will sing Felix Mendelsohn's passionate "Behold a Star from Jacob Shining" (from *Christus*) and Judith Offen's joyful arrangement of the medieval carol "Nova, Nova" with soloists Julia Jaffe and Tim Levesque. Liz Hartmann, Julia Jaffe, Elisabeth Jas, Liz Savir, Toni Tasker and Elizabeth Walsh will sing two songs from Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28" – the mystical "There is No Rose" and the joyful "Wolcum Yole." David Meharry will sing George Frideric Handel's prophetic "Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth" (from *Messiah*). And for the postlude, Rip Jackson will play Louis-Claude Daquin's festive variations on the French Christmas "À la venue de Noël" (from *Livre de Noël*) on First Parish's magnificent 1898 Hutchings 32-rank tracker organ.



Climate ACTION Team

11th Hour Calling on Sat, Dec 11th

The Climate Action Team of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Lexington, MA is answering the



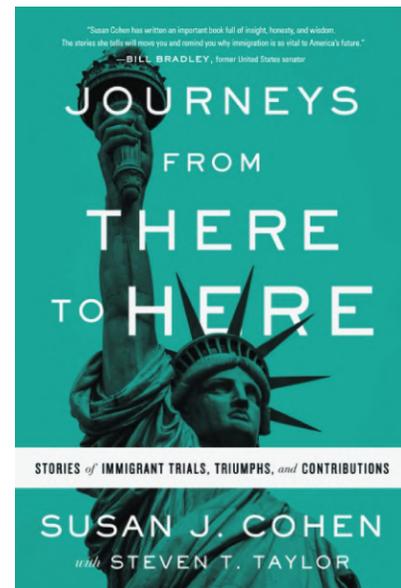
Soul Matters

SHARING CIRCLE

Dec Theme: Opening to Joy

"Twinkle lights are the perfect metaphor for joy. Joy is not a constant. It comes to us in moments – often ordinary moments. Sometimes we miss out on the bursts of joy because we're too busy chasing down extraordinary moments. Other times we're so afraid of the dark that we don't dare let ourselves enjoy the light."

— Brené Brown



Immigration attorney Susan Cohen takes readers from the conference room to the courtroom as we walk with 11 immigrants, all of whom faced heart-wrenching trials and tribulations throughout their efforts to forge a new life in the USA.

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.

We invite you to join us on **Saturday December 11th at 11:00 AM** in front of First Parish steps across from the Battle Green in Lexington. There we will again ring out an 11th hour climate emergency warning. We will continue this action of ringing our church bell for **freedom from fossil fuel** during the coming year.

Thu, Dec 9 @ 8:00 PM
Register [HERE](#)

Immigration Talk



FPLex cosponsors this talk alongside Temple Emunah - in honor of our member the Late Steven Clark.

[Journeys from There to Here: Stories of Immigrant Trials, Triumphs, and Contributions.](#)

The talk will be followed by a Q&A session.



ALL-CHURCH INVITE to the first
Widening the Circle of Concern Session

Session One: UU THEOLOGY

A First Parish 8th Principle Implementation Program

When? **DEC 12, 2021** after church

Where? In Robinson Hall OR on ZOOM

Journeying Together towards Spiritual Wholeness

First Session THIS Sunday After Service

All are cordially invited to join. We will address the first chapter of the report. Click on the short reading on [Theology](#). Feel free to also read about the report's purpose, intro, and UU trends [here](#).

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



Christmas Eve
RSVP



Movers and Rakers

Dear Parishioners,

Please use [this LINK](#) to register if you wish to attend the **Christmas Eve service**.

Our website also has the link on our [home page](#) as well as [upcoming services](#). Feel free to invite **family, friends, neighbours** to join us for the Holiday celebration.



Also, if you wish to be an *ELF* for our Christmas Eve Service, [signup HERE!](#) (There is a special surprise for Santa's Little Helpers).

The way you inspire everyone with your volunteer work proves that you are a complete natural. Thank you for the energy and passion you put into the work of FPLex. You are ALL remarkable human beings with a big heart for others.



Speakers Wanted

In January, First Parish will launch a series of brief Zoom talks on various subjects by and for members of our community. Like a blend of *The Moth* and TED talks, the sessions will feature stories of personal experience, professional and domestic expertise, and aha moments. We hope a few speakers from different generations will share "My Pandemic Experience" stories. If you have a story to tell or an insight to share that you think the rest of us would like to hear, please contact [Meg Newhouse](#).



Support FPLex While Shopping

Here are simple instructions for earning commissions for First Parish when you shop on Amazon:

1. Click the Amazon link at the bottom of our home page at www.FPLex.org.
2. Anything you buy at Amazon during that visit will generate a commission for FP Lex.
3. We do not participate in Amazon Smile; the way to benefit First Parish is to use the link on our website.

If you always use our link to go to Amazon, your Amazon purchases will always earn commissions for the church. It won't matter when you put something in your cart, or how long it's been there. If you don't want to have to visit the FP Lex homepage to get to Amazon, you can bookmark this link, which is the exact same specially-formatted URL that's linked from the bottom of our home page: <https://amzn.to/3cyL713>

If you have questions about the Amazon Associate program, please contact [Chris Hess](#).



LexPride: Partner News

Hi all,

Welcome to December! I hope you are staying safe



*Share the Plate on Dec
12th*

Our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) believes that needed transformational solutions come from communities most directly impacted by injustice. Join UUSC's "Guest at Your Table" [program](#) to learn what UUSC partners are doing to address immediate injustices – as well as what they envision for the future. Our December *Share the Plate* will directly support these community-led changes.

This week, click on [GUEST](#), to learn about Myra Dahgaypaw, a leader from one of Burma's (Myanmar's) ethnic minority communities, who shares her firsthand experience with military brutality and how she is making important connections among ethnic groups, working together for justice and accountability.

PRESERVING OUR DEMOCRACY

2022 Election Action

Greetings from your Preserving Our Democracy team. Much important **political activity is underway** in advance of the 2022 elections. We have been looking for actions you can take—from home and very easily. As you no doubt know, our democratic institutions are **under severe attack** at both the national and state levels.

Below are links to some important (and easy) actions you might take:

- **UUthe Vote:** Poor People's March and telephoning for the Voting rights Act: [UUtheVote](#)
- Massachusetts actions to strengthen democracy: [Common Cause](#) and [MassVote](#)
- Slack, the new-ish communication tool: [What is](#)

and well, and enjoying the various festivals of lights that take place this time of year.

And please enjoy [LexPride's weekly newsletter!](#)

Warmly,
Valerie Overton
she/her/hers
LexPride Co-Chair
www.LexPrideMA.org



**Hand in Hand
Returns**

Delicious fundraiser!

*Ordering has begun and continues until **December 12th!***

Orders for Middle Eastern appetizers and desserts will be available online at www.LexRap.org

For more info check [THIS flyer](#).



*100% of the profits will go to LexRAP to support our **refugee families and individuals**. In the tradition of Hand-in-Hand Café, refugee women will cook together, get paid and work side by side with community volunteers during this fundraiser.*

[Slack?](#) [Learn to use Slack](#)

- [Combatting disinformation: Actions and resources](#) and [Swing Blue Alliance](#)

More info? Contact [Debbie Armstrong](#) or [Marty Kvaal](#).



Holiday Gifts for the UUUM Renewal House

Renewal House is a **domestic violence shelter** for individuals and families who are fleeing from domestic violence. We at First Parish have supported the UUUM and Renewal House for many years. During COVID several families have been housed separately, but are now able to come back together at Renewal House.

Deadline: Thursday, December 16

You are invited to donate a gift card or shelter gift for resident families. [See entire list HERE](#). You may drop off your gift card at the office (Mon through Fri, 9 to 3) or mail it to the church office, noting "Renewal House" on the envelope. (Please indicate the amount of a gift card.)

Office: (781) 862-8200 | www.FPLex.org

