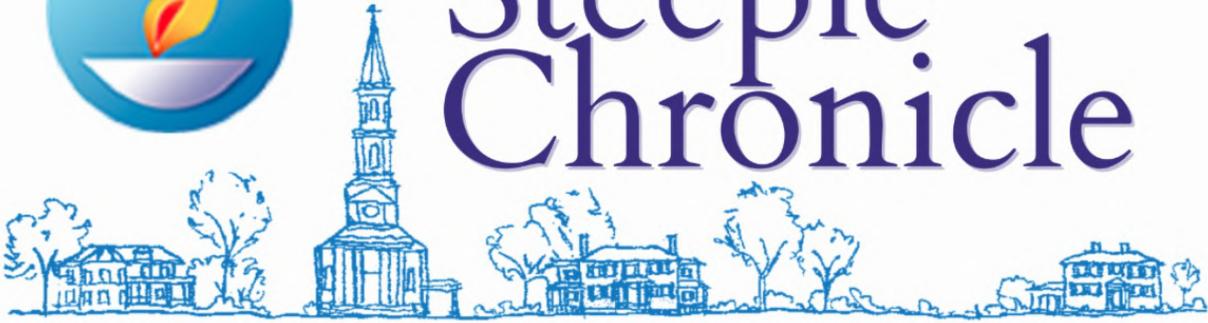




the Steeple Chronicle



FIRST PARISH IN LEXINGTON

Wednesday Weekly — Dec 15th 2021



*ELF CALL — Light it
Up!*

"There are three kinds of people: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who say, 'what happened?'" — Casey Stengel

We still need **SANTAS HELPERS** for our Christmas Eve Service!

- 2 Ushers
- 5 Cider Servers (Outdoors)
- 4 Cider Chefs (Please buy a gallon of Cider and bring your own crock pot + ladle)

PLEASE [Signup HERE](#).



UPCOMING Sunday Worship

The Winter Solstice is that magical time when we face the longest night of the year. What will we find there? Can we trust that the sun will indeed return?

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

Music: First Parish in Lexington will present a special worship service celebrating the Winter Solstice. Through beautiful music, hymns, sermon and readings, the powerful transformation from darkness to light will be uplifted. Artist and soprano sax player **Katie Runde**, bassist **Ben Green** and pianist **Rip Jackson** will play some of the music from the **Paul Winter Consort** that can be heard at St. John the Divine during the Winter Solstice Concerts there each December, including the rousing piece "Dancing Day" (with percussion) and an original Solstice composition based on J. S. Bach's "Air in D" by Rip Jackson. The sanctuary choir will present Vermont composer **Peter Amidon's** tender heart-warming "Solstice Song," with soloist **Elisabeth Jas**, and **Morten Johannes Lauridsen's** hauntingly serene "Sure on this Shining Night." And Soprano soloist **Elizabeth Walsh** will sing **Loreena McKennitt's** Celtic and deeply mystical "To Drive the Cold Winter Away."

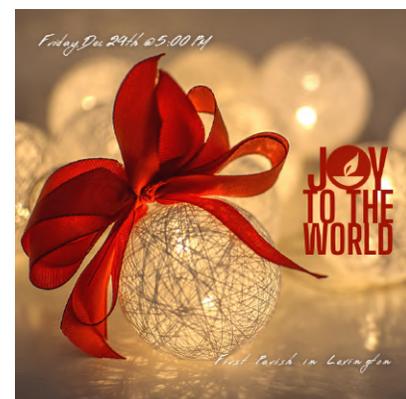


Dec Theme: Opening
to Joy



"I always just thought if you see somebody without a smile, give 'em yours!"

— Dolly Parton



Christmas Eve
RSVP

Dear Parishioners,

Please use [this LINK](#) to

Our sexton of 13 years, **Bob Coughlin**, has tendered his resignation, effective Dec. 7. He will receive his payment for the month of December as a departing gift from us all. We know that he has done work in many of your homes over the years, and we know that **he cares deeply for the whole First Parish family**. Our staff is working hard to come up with plans to keep our building safe, clean and well cared for. If we put out a call for volunteers to help out in a pinch, please seriously consider saying yes!

Tim Jacoby, Board Chair
Dave Horton, Personnel
Anne Mason, Minister

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**.

DISMANTLING RACISM IN OUR TOWN

Begins Jan 7th

Please join this free 7-session conversation and reflection series starting Jan 7-Feb 18, 2022!

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

The Wish Project



FPLex Youth Giving Back

A note from the organization:

"We were so thankful to have members of the youth group from First Parish in Lexington, Unitarian Universalist join us for an afternoon in the warehouse. This hard working group spent their time organizing Christmas gifts, assembling birthday bags, and organizing our blanket stock. Staff were all excited to have them here and appreciative of everything that accomplished. We can't wait to have them visit again soon!"

#BuildingABetterCommunity
#NeighborsHelpingNeighbors



Coming Soon

The FP Tuesday ZoomTalk



LAST CHANCE: Renewal House Gifts

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: TOMORROW Thu, Dec 16th

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.)



Building Bridges Book & Video Discussion

We will be discussing the last section of Jonathan Haidt's, *The Righteous Mind* - Part III: Morality Binds and Blinds. For those of you who may not yet have finished the book, here's is a good [summary](#).

You also might enjoy two videos:

- *Can a divided America heal? Jonathan Haidt interviewed by TED Curator Chris Anderson*
- *Religion, evolution, and the ecstasy of self-transcendence [TED Talk](#)*

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](#).



LexPride: Partner News

Hi all,

I hope you had a moment to enjoy the gorgeous day today! We have a very [newsy newsletter](#) this week, so I hope you enjoy that as well!

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



Event Success

The Climate Action Team thanks all those who attended the Dec event.

After reading and/or watching, you may want to think about the groups/tribes to which you belong and **how your moral framework binds you to others**, and blinds you to the moral frameworks of others. We'll be discussing the theory of groupishness, our own experiences, and how it may help explain seemingly inexplicable social phenomena such as what we saw on January 6th 2021.

We hope you'll join us,
Michelle, Liz, David, Dori

amazon

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](#).

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:

We hope to see you on
Jan 11th.

Your partners in caring for
our earth,
**Stephen Shick and Bob
Kvaal.**



UUSC

Join our Unitarian
Universalist Service
Committee's (UUSC) "Guest
at Your Table" program to
donate and learn what
UUSC partners are doing to
address immediate
injustices. Around the
world, Indigenous
communities are facing the
harshest and earliest
impacts of climate
change. As a result of rising

- [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 Slack? Learn to use Slack](#)
- [Combatting disinformation: Actions and resources](#) and [Swing Blue Alliance](#)

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

seas, melting permafrost, and other impacts of the climate crisis they did little to create, Indigenous communities are at risk of having to relocate from ancestral homelands. We highlight UUSC's partner the Kioa Island Community Organization (KICO). [Click on GUEST](#), to learn about Maina Talia, co-director of KICO who is mobilizing along with the community of Kioa Island in the Pacific to secure a resilient future in the face of climate change.

FPLex Building and Office Closed

Dear Parishioners,

Our staff and leadership team will be spending the December holidays with their families. During this restful and joyous times our offices and building will be closed. Please make a note of the following:

- Communications Director, **Pratik Mamtora** will be on **vacation** from **Sun, Dec 19th** through **Mon, Jan 3rd**.
- Worship Service on **Sun, Dec 26th** is **ONLINE ONLY** on Facebook and YouTube only. **NO ZOOM.**
- Worship Service on **Sun, Jan 2nd** is **ONLINE ONLY** via Zoom, Facebook and YouTube.
- Church office and building will be **CLOSED** from **Sat, Dec 25th** through **Mon, Jan 3rd**. Offices will reopen on **Tue, Jan 4th**.

First Parish Staff

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

