First Parish in Lexington

Weekly Update

Missa Gaia: A Mass for the Earth

In two days, First Parish will present Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia: A Mass for the Earth*! This profound work, under the musical direction of Rip Jackson and theatrical and dance direction of Maris Wolff, will be a collaboration between the First Parish sanctuary and children's choirs, the Vermont Dance Collective, and a world music ensemble of percussionists, guitar, piano, electric keyboards, soprano sax, oboe, cello and bass. There will be an Earth Fair and reception featuring Lexington environmental organizations in Parish Hall after both performances. Tickets will be on sale through the office at First Parish and online.

The performances will take place on **Friday and Saturday, April 13-14, 2018, at 7:30pm.** If you haven't ordered your tickets, click here to be directed to the ticket website. You can also stop by the office this week from 8:30-4:00, or buy them at the door. Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 seniors, and $15 for students. Reduced ticket prices are available for those in need.

Worship Service at 10:30 AM
Sunday, April 15, 2018

Please join Rev. Helen Lutton Cohen this morning when she will preach on "Giving Up Power." Rev. Cohen writes: "The great black abolitionist Frederick Douglass said: 'Power concedes nothing without a demand; it never did and it never will.' Our own church was founded in 1692 and was the only formal religious institution in Lexington until 1833, when Follen Church and the First Baptist Church formed, and Massachusetts became the last state to establish the separation of church and state. Imagine what must it have been like for our spiritual ancestors, when our building burned down in 1846, to accept rebuilding OFF the Town Green, to lose town funding, to see more and more religious groups establish themselves here—to give up our position and power!"

There will be Sunday school for Pre-K through eighth grade. The nursery will be open for infants and toddlers.

Guest singers Mattie Sowards and Jamie Willis will sing David Foster's beautiful duet, "The Prayer." Rip Jackson will join them in singing the inspirational folk trio, "When I Reach the Place I'm Going," written by the Judds. Mattie will also sing George Weiss and Bob Thiele's sweet song "What a Wonderful World," made popular by Louis Armstrong. Jennifer Cohen will play two steel drum pieces, Ysaye Barnwell's "Woyaya" and Luiz Bonfa's "Samba de Orfeu" for the centering music and postlude.

All are welcome!

Rev. Anne Mason, Minister,
Lisa Maria Steinberg, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Rip Jackson, Music Director,
Rev. Helen Lutton Cohen, Minister Emerita

Click here to watch last Sunday's Youth Service on YouTube.

Important Office Information

Jane Foley, Parish Administrator, will be on vacation from Monday, April 16 through Friday, April 20. The church office will be closed during that time. For pastoral emergencies, please call the main phone number at 781-862-8200. Rev. Anne will be checking messages.

There will be no Weekly Update on Wednesday, April 18th. The next Weekly Update will be sent on April 25th.

Celebrate Our Joys, Build a More Joyful Community

Throughout the month of April, and beyond, we want to celebrate our "joys" -- our family and friends, a nature walk, a saying or poem, a piece of music, a flower or bird, children playing. You get the idea. The celebration is a way of reminding ourselves of the joys in our lives and how we can share these joys to build a more joyful community.

Here are three ways in which you can participate in this celebration:

Make a Joy Flag – tables will be setup at the back of the Parish Hall during coffee hour with materials for you to make a Joy Flag.

Add to our **Joy Collage** – pin a representation (photo, quote, yarn, leaf) of a recent Joy Moment you experienced to our Joy Collage also located in the Parish Hall

Attend a **Joy Writing Workshop** – led by Don Cohen this Thursday, April 12th at 4:00pm and Saturday, April 14th at 10:00am

The Project Joy Team (Don Cohen, Amy Breiting, Amy Kvaal, Lew Counts, Ben Juitt, Lisa Maria Steinberg, and Al Jacobson)

It's Ferry Beach Time!

The weather may be slowly moving toward spring, but in our hearts, we're thinking sun and warmth. It's Ferry Beach time! Come and join your friends of all ages from First Parish in Lexington and members of our sibling congregation, First Parish in Concord, for a delightful Memorial Day weekend escape at Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine! There's fun for kids and adults – from volleyball to reading on the DeWolfe and Quillen porches, to croquet matches, bird walks, sand castle building, and marshmallow roasts. You can stay in one of Ferry Beach's historic dorms, opt for slightly posh facilities at one of the neighboring cottages (fulfilled on a priority basis), or camp out in the beautiful Grove. Registration is now open online and continues through the end of the month: http://fplex.org/index.php/ferry-beach/registration-forms/ . Questions? Contact Elisabeth Jas or Deb Weiner Soule. See you at the Beach!

Patriot's Day: "What Really Happened that Day?"

All are welcome to join Dan Fenn, a longtime member of the Lexington Minute Men Company, on **Monday, April 16th** at noon when he will relate the fascinating real story of the events of April 19, 1775. FREE and open to the public. Please come and invite your friends and family. All ages encouraged to attend!

From Your Minister: Live Streaming

Did you know that our Sunday morning worship services have been live streamed on our own YouTube channel? Imagine my delight this past Sunday when I was out of town, visiting my son, and yet I could watch the Youth Service as our amazing youth were sharing their gifts of music, story, prayer and presence! Here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/user/FPLexington Many thanks to Bill Pittore who makes this happen. Many thanks to our youth and their parents for supporting them in this wonderful service, and many thanks to all the adult volunteer and staff who helped them pull everything together. We all needed to hear their message of Hope taking Root. I hope that you will take advantage of this gift of video presence when you cannot get to church. It is good to stay connected to each other! In faith, Rev. Anne

The Green Corner: Climate Action Team

We have been told that it is sink or swim week for the Mass Senate Omnibus Climate bill, S2303. It needs to be voted out of the Senate Ways and Means committee or die for this two year legislative term! Hence, I hope everyone can make a call and encourage your friends to do the same.

At a minimum, please call your state senator: Cindy Friedman for Lexington (617 722-1432), or find yours at malegislature.gov/statehouse/contact. A call to Sen. Marc Pacheco, head of the Senate Commiteee on Global Warming and Climate Change (617 722-2415) might also help. For more information on the bill, please go to masspowerforward.com/legislativeagenda-2017-2018

Last Sunday, the CAT welcomed Bob Armstrong, First Parish member and head of the MIT Energy Initiative.The Missa Gaia performances this weekend will reinforce our mission, and we have organized a climate fair for after each performance with tables provided by eight other local environmental groups. We hope to see you there!

An Invitation to Become a Member of First Parish

Are you ready to become a member of First Parish and to enter your name in the Membership Book?! From attending church services and participating in church activities, you have learned that "Love is the doctrine of this church, the quest for truth is its sacrament, and service is its prayer." You have also learned and experienced that our great covenant is "to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the divine."

If this covenant speaks to you and you are ready to become a member of this congregation that is engaged in a life-long exploration of religious truth, meaning, and experience, with an active social action ministry, Reverend Anne Mason invites you to meet with her at 11:45 a.m. following the church service on **Sunday, April 22nd**. On the other hand, if you would like to make an appointment to meet with Reverend Anne, you are invited to contact her at 781-862-8200 or via email at minister.fplex@gmail.com.

Imagination Cafe and Pledge Drive Celebration

On Friday night, **April 27th at 6:30pm** in the Parish Hall, the Board and the Stewardship Team invite all members and friends to an evening of socializing, entertainment, and imagining.

Celebrate the end of the pledge drive, with finger food, wine, beer, and other beverages! Hear from the Board on what we learned from the January and February Imagination Cafes! Participate in another round of Imagination Cafe discussions!

All ages invited!

METCO Documentary Presentation

All are invited to attend a presentation co-sponsored by First Parish and Lexington Youth and Family Services (LYFS).

METCO Documentary Film, "On the Line: Where Sacrifice Begins" on **Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 5:30 to 8:30pm** at First Parish Church, 7 Harrington Rd, on the Green in Lexington.

Created by Mike Mascoll, a Lexington METCO graduate, this film documents the birth in 1966 of METCO, which is the oldest voluntary desegregation program. It highlights the METCO program through the experience of both METCO and Lexington families and discusses why METCO is still such an important and beneficial program in Lexington today. View the movie trailer here.

Following the film, there will be a panel of METCO parents, alumni, current students and educators. Light refreshments will served.

Nametags for the Asking

Share your name along with your smile with each other. If you don't have a name tag or have misplaced yours, just sign-up for one at the Welcome Kiosk in Parish Hall. We will happily custom make one for you. Pick it up at the Welcome Kiosk, wear it to assist in a friendly hello, and return it to the area near the back entrance for use next time. You are also most welcome to talk with the greeters or the Members and Friends Committee about more ways to participate.

Soul Matters' Theme for April: Emergence

"Let mystery have its place in you; do not be always turning up your whole soil with the plowshare of self-examination, but leave a little fallow corner in your heart ready for any seed the winds may bring, and reserve a nook of shadow for the passing bird; keep a place in your heart for the unexpected guests, an altar for an unknown God."

- Henri-Frederic Amiel (19th century Swiss philosopher)

Mayfair is Coming! Mayfair is Coming!

Mayfair is coming soon on **May 12!** We invite you to come, to help, to bring your stuff and friends and children! You can sign up at the piano or sign up right now via this link to the Signup Genius.

More details to follow after Missa Gaia. See you all there!

This Week at First Parish

Wednesday, April 11		
Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Missa Gaia Choir Rehearsal	6:45 p.m.	Sanctuary
Master Singers Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Thursday, April 12		
Meditation Group	4:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Writing Workshop w/Don Cohen	4:00 p.m.	Common Room
Missa Gaia Dress Rehearsal	6:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Scrabble Club	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Friday, April 13		
Missa Gaia Performance	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Reception	9:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
Saturday, April 14		
Missa Gaia Performance	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Reception	9:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
Sunday, April 15		
Worship Service	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Missa Gaia Strike	11:45 a.m.	Sanctuary
Monday, April 16		
Dan Fenn's Patriot's Day Presentation	12:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Tuesday, April 17		
80+ Luncheon	12:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Empty Sky Sangha	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Wednesday, April 18		
Creative Callings	1:30 p.m.	Parlor
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Master Singers Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Thursday, April 19		
Meditation Group	4:00 p.m.	Parlor
Scrabble Club	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Saturday, April 21		
Munroe Saturday Night	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Sunday, April 22		
Choir Warm-Up	9:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Worship Service	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Pathway to Membership	11:30 a.m.	Minister's Office
SHYG	7:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Monday, April 23		
Staff Meeting	11:00 a.m.	Minister's Office
LYFS Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Parker Hall
Tuesday, April 24		
Empty Sky Sangha	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Wednesday, April 25		
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Master Singers Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall

First Parish is an accredited Green Sanctuary and a Welcoming Congregation.

>>> Shop at Amazon to benefit First Parish. <<<

First Parish in Lexington
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Weekly Update submissions are due on Tuesdays at 10:00 am.
*Please email submissions or inquiries to **admin@fplex.org**.*

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