



Weekly Update Wednesday, November 14, 2018 First Parish in Lexington

Worship Service at 10:30 AM

Sunday, November 18, 2018

"Can We Ever Go Home Again?"



Starhawk says that we are all longing to go home to some place we have never been. As we prepare our hearts and our homes for Thanksgiving, let us pause in gratitude for the community that we shape together. Join Rev. Anne Mason in celebrating its gifts of love and connection.

This Sunday, the First Parish children's choir will sing the wonderful Shaker song "Simple Gifts" with pipe player Ruth Rose. The sanctuary choir will sing Stephen Paulus' beautiful anthem "The Road Home," with soloist Elizabeth Walsh. They will also sing Stephen Schwartz' uplifting song "All Good Gifts" (from *Godspell*), with Ruth Rose on pipe. For the centering music and postlude, Rip Jackson will play Bach's magnificent organ work "Preludium and Fugue in G Major, BWV 557" and Léon Boëllmann's haunting piece for organ "Prière à Notre-Dame" (from *Suite Gothique, Op. 25*).

This is an all-ages service. Grades Pre-K through eight will stay in the sanctuary. The nursery will be open for infants and toddlers.

[Click here to listen to last week's sermon, "Remembering" by Rev. Anne Mason](#)

The Great Fall Auction

The Great Fall Auction is **this Saturday, November 17th**, in the Parish Hall. We have 93 items -- small and big -- up for bid! You can peruse the catalog at charityauction.bid/fplex. Doors open for refreshments at 6 PM; silent auction goes from 6 to 7:30 PM; live auction starts at 7:30. You do not need to be present to win: [click here](#) to enter your proxy bid for one of the live auction items. Contact Lisa Maria for help with childcare.



This year's auction features some old favorites, some exciting first-time offerings, and six fixed-price (\$25-\$30) special events that will be sold -- **first come first serve** -- at the silent auction. For details see Items 100-105 in the [catalog](#). Arrive early to grab a seat at these special events!

Email FallAuction@fplex.org with any questions.

Huge thanks to everyone who has already offered via email and the sign-up sheet to bring finger foods and beverages to the auction on Saturday.

All donations can be brought to the church **no later than 5:30**. We need **savories and sweets**, things that people can pop on a small paper plate and then pop in their mouths—no utensils required. We also need **wine** and **nonalcoholic beverages**.

With your help, the evening promises to be tasty, fun, and profitable for First Parish!

[Sign up for food donations here.](#)

Final Session of Creativity Workshop



Anyone interested in creativity is welcome to attend the final session of the "How Do We Create?" workshop on **Thursday, Nov. 15** at 7:00pm in the Common Room. Even if you did not attend the first session, you are welcome this Thursday; the material is not dependent on attending the first session. This Thursday we will discuss techniques and tips to help anyone with their creative efforts. High school students and friends from outside First Parish Lexington are welcome. [Contact Jim Poage](#) with any questions. [You can view the workshop flyer here.](#)

Congregational Photo

This **Sunday, November 18th**, immediately after the service, we will gather on the front steps of First Parish for the annual congregational photo (long-range forecast predicts partly cloudy around 40 degrees). Please plan to step outside to say "cheese" before heading to Parish Hall for coffee, crackers, and cheese!



Lexington Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

All are welcome to the annual Lexington Interfaith Thanksgiving service and reception on **Tuesday, November 20th, 7:30-9:30pm**, at the Hancock Church. This year's theme is "Freedom to Pursue the Common Good: An Evening of Thanksgiving, Listening, and Hope," and is open to people of faith, no faith, and everyone in between.

Focalpoint Deadline

Submissions are now being accepted for the Winter edition of The Focalpoint. Please send along information about events and programs taking place in December, January, and February, as well as highlights from recent programs that you'd like to share.

The deadline for submission is **Friday, November 23rd at 5:00pm**. The Focalpoint will be published on December 1st.

Send info or questions to [Jane Foley, Parish Administrator](#).

Voices on the Green: "Journeys to Justice"

The next Voices on the Green will take place on **Friday, November 30th from 7 to 9 p.m.** (doors open at 6:30 for refreshment and conversation) **Tickets are available now!** You can get them by clicking [here](#), at the church office, after Sunday services on November 18th, and at the door. They are \$20 for sponsors, \$10 general admission, and \$5 for students and children. There will be one intermission.

[Read all about the performers and musicians here.](#)



This is an evening not to be missed, exploring what it means to be committed to doing what each of us can to build a world where justice prevails for all people.

Welcome to our new 3rd & 4th Grade Teacher!



Because our religious education program is growing with so many fantastic new families, I'm excited to share that I have hired John Roop as our new 3rd/4th Grade Chapel Teacher. You may have seen John last Sunday, or you may know John because he grew up here at First Parish in Lexington and is a graduate of our Our Whole Lives and Coming of Age Programs. In addition to his strong background in Unitarian Universalism, John has experience as a nanny and a Super Soccer Stars Coach. John splits his time between family in Burlington and finishing his senior year studying Psychology at Clark University in Worcester. John will return when classes resume on Sunday, December 2nd.

~Lisa Maria Steinberg, Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry

First Parish's Children Need You!

Our Religious Education Programming on Sunday Mornings is possible because of many helping hands volunteering as the second adult in the classrooms with our staff teachers. We ask everyone—parents and non-parents alike—to volunteer regularly to support this valuable and vital ministry at First Parish. Because of recent growth in the program, we've added a class and hired teacher John Roop. But this means we need more volunteers!



Volunteering in Sunday school is a fantastic opportunity to build relationships with our children and our teachers, as well as engage with our monthly theme or service topic through different approaches. Our staff teachers do all the preparation and leading of the groups. You are not expected to teach, but we do ask you to bring your open mind, loving heart, and giving hands. Many hands make light work, and to make volunteering easier for all of us, we've moved to Signup Genius, which will also give you automatic email reminders. Parents are asked to volunteer a minimum of 4 times in the church year, and non-parents are asked to give at least one Sunday a year and we welcome you to do more! All volunteers need to be adults and part of the First Parish community for six months before volunteering. Questions? Contact Lisa Maria A. Steinberg, Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry.

[link for Sign Up Genius.](#)

Holiday Decorating



Help make the sanctuary festive this holiday season! First Parish is **now accepting orders** for poinsettias from Wilson Farm. The cost is \$10.00 for a 6 1/2" pot, with proceeds going towards the purchase of greens and other items for holiday decorating of the church. Order forms and payment (cash or checks made payable to First Parish in Lexington) are **due on Friday, November 30th**. Orders will not be accepted without payment. **Poinsettias** can be brought home after the Christmas Eve service. To order, [please click here](#) or fill out an order form on the piano during social hour.

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Ethan Showalter from Lexington Boy Scout Troop 119 will be selling wreaths during social hour **most Sundays in November**. The 20-inch wreaths are \$15 each and will be available in late November/early December for your choice of pick up at the Church or home delivery. If interested in placing an order, please see Ethan at the wreath table during social hour.



## HOLIDAY WORKSHOP: An Intergenerational Activity for Children and Families



Save the date for **Saturday, December 8th from 9:00 - 12:00** and join us for a festive morning before the fire in Parker Hall featuring craft-making projects for young and old, cookie baking, holiday cards, and gifts for the local UU Urban Ministry service program, Renewal House, a domestic violence shelter in Roxbury for individuals and families fleeing violence or abuse. Come enjoy our traditional family celebration of the holidays!

## Soul Matters

Our Soul Matters theme for November is: what does it mean to be a people of memory?

Something to consider: what memory has been with you the longest? What does it want from you so badly that it has held on this long?



[If you're interested in discussing Soul Matters themes monthly in a small group, please contact Debbie Armstrong at [darmstrong@verizon.net](mailto:darmstrong@verizon.net).]



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Weekly Update submissions are due on Tuesdays at 9:00 am.  
Please email submissions or inquiries to [admin@fplex.org](mailto:admin@fplex.org).

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