



# Weekly Update Wednesday, January 2, 2019 First Parish in Lexington

## Worship Service at 10:30 AM

Sunday, January 6, 2019

### "The Risk to Grow"



We may be ready to say 'good-bye' to this past year – but are we ready to say 'hello' to the next? In every possibility there is the chance to open ourselves to something new – but this may require us to take some chances, to let go of old assumptions, and prepare to grow. Let us welcome, together, the opportunities which lie ahead of us. Preaching today will be Rev. Anne Mason

The sanctuary choir will sing Johannes Brahms passionate "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" (from *Ein Deutsches Requiem*) and Joseph Martin's joyful "Great, Great Morning" (a gospel mashup of "My Lord, What a Morning" and "Great Day"). Chelsea Cannon will sing Josh Groban's inspirational song "The Mystery of your Gift." For the centering music and postlude, Rip Jackson will play Mozart's lyrical "Andante" (from the *Piano Sonata in Bb Major, K. 333*) and Bach's powerful organ work "Praeludium" (from the *Praeludium et Fuga in c minor, BWV 549*).

There will be Sunday school classes for grades Pre-K through eight. The nursery will be open for infants and toddlers.

## First Sunday Food Collection

This Sunday, and every first Sunday of the month, we will hold our special food collection for the Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry. Let's continue this season of goodwill and generosity by filling the baskets on Sunday, January 6th, with nonperishable food donations (canned goods, pasta, cereal, rice, etc.). The baskets will be placed at the entrances to the sanctuary.



Thank you, as always, for your donations that help our neighbors in need.

## Sign up for Spring Potlucks



It's time to sign up for spring potlucks! The dinners are a great way for newcomers to get acquainted with others in the church. When you sign up, please indicate which evenings are possible for you and whether or not you could host a dinner. There are also options for family potluck evenings where children are included and usually have dinner together separate from the adults.

Those who sign up are assigned to one of several groups of 8-10 people who gather for a potluck dinner in a member home on a weekday or weekend evening once a month for four months. The same people remain in each group for the four months.

The small groups will be formed based on the information you put on this signup list, and the monthly potlucks will begin in March and run through May.

Sign up at the piano beginning this Sunday, or [contact Jane Foley](#) in the office.

## Climate Action Team

Stop at the CAT display during fellowship hour after worship and learn more about **A Planet for the Children Initiative**. Join us at the next CAT meeting **January 6th** after worship in the parlor.



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### Sunday January 13 – Noon Book Discussion

Please join us and Rev. Anne Mason will lead a discussion of *Justice on Earth* focused on Chapter 7, *Drawing on the Deep Waters: Contemplative Practices in Justice-making* by Kathleen McTigue and Chapter 8, *Transforming Unitarian Universalist Culture* by Pamela Sparr.

Come for an inspiring discussion whether you have read the book or not.

## First Parish Picture Directory Project

We are creating an online parish directory with family pictures: we hope that you caught at least one good picture over the holidays. Starting on **Sunday, January 13th during social hour** we will be collecting your best family picture to be included in the parish directory. Individual as well as family pictures can be on your smart phone or we can take them on the spot. There will be other opportunities on future Sundays. Please look for our table near the Welcome Kiosk after the church service. Further details will appear in the next Weekly Update.



## Adult Program Offering



"Since What We Choose" — A Course on Ethics  
Offered by Rev. Anne Mason

**Thursdays, January 17, 24, 31, and February 7**

Before we need to make a choice in the midst of crisis, wouldn't it be better to take time to explore what our ethical positions are, how we arrived at them, and what decisions we make because of them? Unitarian Universalism is grounded in the understanding that our actions speak louder than our words or beliefs. Faithful living for us includes discerning the course of action that best reflects our beliefs and values and then acting or choosing accordingly. To do this we engage in ethical reflection so that we can live in a way that truly reflects our values.

In this four-week course, Rev. Anne will offer an opportunity to examine ethical concepts, work through ethical dilemmas as presented in exercises, identify areas for further questions and exploration, and perhaps more fully embrace ethical positions we reach through careful discernment. This curriculum is taken from the ten-week UUA Tapestry of Faith program, the rest of which we could offer at another time.

The course will be given on four Thursdays, January 17–Feb 7, either in the afternoon or the evening. **Please sign up and indicate your preference at the piano during social hour, or online at [www.bit.ly/WhatWeChoose](http://www.bit.ly/WhatWeChoose).**

## Voices on the Green

**"Secrets and Lies," Friday, January 25, 2019, 7-9 p.m.**

The poet William Blake says that "joy and woe are woven fine" in human experience. The same might be said of "secrets and transparency," of "truth and lies." These weavings can be confusing, tragic, funny, mind-blowing, even sometimes constructive. Our story-tellers this evening, the second in this year's series of VOG programs, will share stories from personal, professional, and communal experiences that reveal how complicated our journeys through life can be.



Story-tellers will be Suzanne Adams, Erik Butler, Jim Shaw, Anne Mason, Susan Cohn-Child, Len Morse-Fortier, and Brian Herrick. Elizabeth Walsh will lead music exploring secrets and lies, and Marlon Carey will explore the theme in poetry. Regie O'Hare Gibson will host the evening.

Doors will open at 6:30, and the program begins at 7:00. Before the program, and during intermission, there will be refreshments and conversation. (If you can, please bring some finger food before 6:30.) The children's program, led by Marlon Carey, will run concurrently in Parker Hall downstairs. Tickets are \$20 for sponsors, \$10 for general admission, and \$5 for children, youth, and young adults.

**Tickets are available at [voicesonthegreen.brownpapertickets.com](http://voicesonthegreen.brownpapertickets.com), at the church on Sunday mornings, January 13 and 20, and from the church office.**

## Austin Burns in Concert



On **Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 3:30 PM**, First Parish's tenor soloist Austin Burns will perform a program in celebration of the New Year. This program will be a tribute to the Scottish poet Robert Burns with arrangements by Austin, Maureen McMullan, and others, including Robert Burn's "Auld Lang Syne," the ultimate New Year's Song! There will be a freewill offering to defray expenses. For more information, visit [www.fplex.org](http://www.fplex.org) or call 781-862-8200.

## Soul Matters for January - Possibility

*So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they're impossible.* ~ Norton Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*

Of all our topics this year, *possibility* is arguably most central to our faith. It has distinguished Unitarian Universalists from the start. Historically, when others saw depravity and sin at the core of human identity, we saw potential—sometimes with hardly any boundaries. This has led to us being a people of "why not?" Let us remember that "Why not?" is something we all have to say together.



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Weekly Update are due on Tuesdays at 9:00 am.  
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