



Weekly Update Wednesday, February 20, 2019 First Parish in Lexington

Worship Service at 10:30 AM Sunday, February 24, 2019

"Just Bring the Sheet Cake"



Our theme this month is "what does it mean to be a people of Trust." Today we will explore what that might look like not only in a personal way, but as a congregation. How can live out the values we espouse? How can we help others to live their values as well? And so the question becomes: how can we become better allies?

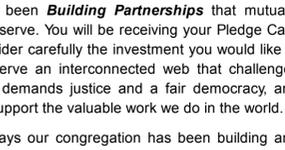
This Sunday, the sanctuary choir and guest instrumentalists will provide beautiful 18th-century chamber and vocal music and movements from John Rutter's Requiem. The sanctuary choir will sing Rutter's poignant and deeply moving "Out of the Deep" and his lyrical and comforting "The Lord is My Shepherd." They will be accompanied by Veronica Kenney (oboe), Jennifer Morsches (cello), Erik Svenson (horn) and Rip Jackson (piano). Soprano Liz Savir will sing Handel's joyful "Meine Seele hört im Sehen" (from *9 German Arias, HWV 207*) with harpsichord, oboe and cello accompaniment. Veronica Kenney will play Handel's "Oboe Sonata No. 1" and also his "Largo (from *Xerxes*) with harpsichord and cello accompaniment.

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

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

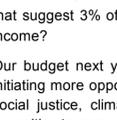
Focalpoint - Spring 2019

The Focalpoint will be published on March 1st, with a **deadline for submissions on Friday, February 22nd**. Please [email](#) information about programs and events to be held in March, April, and May. Thank you!



Pledge Drive 2019

Momentum Is Building at First Parish in Lexington



Our congregation had a watershed year! We expanded our programs and encouraged the expression of our values in the wider community.

Our annual pledge drive begins this week and focusses attention to how the congregation and staff have been **Building Partnerships** that mutually benefit the communities they serve. You will be receiving your Pledge Card in the mail soon. Please consider carefully the investment you would like to make to **continue to expand our capacity** to serve an interconnected web that challenges oppression, encourages diversity, grows empathy, demands justice and a fair democracy, and expands the foundation of love that we all need to support the valuable work we do in the world.

Visit our [Stewardship page](#) and consider all the ways our congregation has been building and supporting existing partnerships that serve to grow our congregation and that have significantly supported communities who reflect values we would like to see manifest in the world. The pledge you make not only provides the foundation of our budget (70%) but is also an act of trust in our leaders as they are working to make our values visible and active in our community.

We encourage active and committed donors to pledge at least \$3000, reflecting UUA Guidelines that suggest 3% of an adjusted income of \$100K. Is your current pledge 3% of your adjusted income?

Our budget next year will focus on expanding our opportunities for effective partnerships and initiating more opportunities for our members to engage and develop greater impact on issues of social justice, climate change, economic inequality, democracy, and deepening our individual capacities to carry out our commitments to our values.

Yours in Faith and Service,

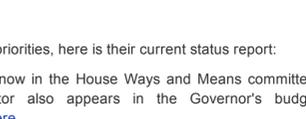
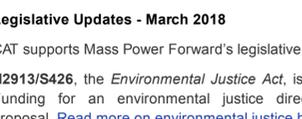
The Stewardship Team (Marsha Fox, Elisabeth Jas, Katie O'Hare Gibson, Tom Rich, Richard Jobling and Erik Svenson)

* - after subtracting large medical expenses, care for a parent, tuition, etc.

First Parish Picture Directory Project

The Members and Friends Committee will once again set up its "studio" **next Sunday, February 24th**, in the Common Room to take photos of parishioners during social hour for the **First Parish Picture Directory!** Family groupings and individual photos will be taken that day. As an option, if you have a smart phone, bring it with you and download your own photos of family groupings and yourselves. A third option is to send your favorite photos to the committee via a special email address established for this purpose: pictures@fplex.org.

Don't be left out of the directory! Contact [Dave Horton](#) with questions.



Nikki & Alex and Ann

Climate Action Team

A Planet for Our Children Initiative 2019



Sunday, February 24th at Noon. *Justice on Earth* book discussion with Rev. Anne Mason. Conversation will focus on Chapter 12, *The Journey of Partnering for Justice* by Deborah Cruz and Alex Kapitan. Whether you have read the book or not come and be inspired by the conversation.

Legislative Updates - March 2018

CAT supports Mass Power Forward's legislative priorities, here is their current status report:

H2913/S426, the *Environmental Justice Act*, is now in the House Ways and Means committee. Funding for an environmental justice director also appears in the Governor's budget proposal. [Read more on environmental justice here](#).

Omnibus energy legislation, **S2302**, *an act to promote a clean energy future* is pending in Senate Ways and Means. [Read a fact sheet on the omnibus energy bill here](#). Meanwhile, the Governor has filed an [Environmental Bond Bill](#). The bond bill is focused on climate adaptation, but includes also policy changes on a number of energy and environmental issues. Bond bills have a long legislative process, but we'll likely see a hearing scheduled soon in the Joint Committee on Environmental, Natural Resources and Agriculture soon.

Words to Move the Spirit

Beginners (excerpt), Denise Levertov

But we have only begun
to love the earth...
—we have only begun
to imagine justice and mercy,
only begun to envision
how it might be
to live as siblings with beast and flower,
not as oppressors.

Interested in Membership at First Parish?



Over three Sundays in March after church from 11:45 - 1, we will be having gatherings for people interested in membership, and we would love to have you attend and meet others over a light luncheon. Rev. Anne will be leading some of these events, with help from other staff and church leaders. Please let us know if you can attend so that we can have enough food. [RSVP to Dave Horton](#) by **Tuesday Feb. 27th**.

Here is the information:

March 3: *How do we connect?* Topics will include Covenant, Membership and Stewardship.

March 17: *Who are we?* Topics will include history of Unitarian Universalism and our own congregation's history.

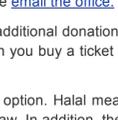
March 31: *Deeds not Creeds.* Topics will include UU Theology and Social Justice. You will also have the chance to sign the membership book if you choose to do so.

UUUM - Exploring Roxbury's History

Exploring Roxbury's History: an inside view with Rep. Byron Rushing

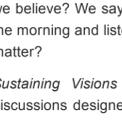
Saturday, March 2, 10:30-12:30

[Museum of African American History](#), 46 Joy St., Beacon Hill



Discover the history of the black community in Boston, from Beacon Hill to Roxbury. Meet at the Museum, 46 Joy Street. Cost \$3.50 if we get a group of 20, other wise \$10. Lunch catered by [Haley House](#) will be available after the visit at 12:30PM for \$12. Pre registration required to [Marcia Butman](#)

Installation of Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood



First Parish in Brookline joyfully announces the installation of the Reverend Lisa Perry-Wood as our 16th Senior Minister.

Sunday, March 3, 3:00 pm

All are invited to join in the celebration!

Childcare will be available. Reception following the service. No need to RSVP.

Sarasa Ensemble Concert

Uccelli Barocco ~ Baroque Birds

March 3rd, 2019 - 3:30pm

First Parish in Lexington

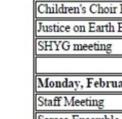


Bird song has long been mimicked in music, and was especially prevalent in 17th- and 18th-century Italian Baroque repertory. Presenting a delightful evening of various composers' takes on birdcalls, as well as an enjoyable play on the aviarium of names of several composers (merula-crow, colombo-dove, uccellini-little bird), allows a diverse cast of characters to take centre stage in this concert set. Additionally, Sarasa is greatly honored to introduce a new work on this theme of feathered friends by award-winning composer Julian Grant. His opera, *The Nefarious, Immoral but Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr Burke & Mr Hare*, staged and performed by Boston Lyric Opera in 2017, won many plaudits from audiences and critics alike. The performers are: Julian Grant, composer; Kristen Watson, soprano, Christina Day Martinson, Jesse Irons, violins; Jennifer Morsches, cello, piccolo cello; Michael Leopold, theorbo, John McKean, harpsichord. Tickets are \$25 (\$20 seniors; \$10 students). For more info, visit www.sarasamusic.org

'Hand in Hand Café'

A community dinner cooked by refugee women from Syria and Iraq

Saturday, March 9th, 5:30pm - 7:15pm



Last week we told you about Hand in Hand Café, the latest opportunity for members of the First Parish community to do what they know so well – give back and build community. In coordination with LexRAP, First Parish will be hosting a series of dinners, cooked by refugee women who are supported by LexRAP (www.lexrap.org) for more information on LexRAP). These dinners will provide an opportunity for the greater Lexington community to enjoy food from Syria and Iraq as well as tableside discussion on a variety of topics that will bring us all closer together.

The first dinner will take place on Saturday, March 9th at 5:30pm and is open exclusively for members and friends of First Parish. All members and friends should have received an invitation on Friday, February 15th from Eventbrite. If you did not, please [email the office](#).

Tickets are \$30 (plus a small service fee), and anyone wanting to make an additional donation to LexRAP to support the work they do with refugees will be able to do so when you buy a ticket for the dinner.

Each meal will be Halal, with both a meat (chicken or beef) and vegetarian option. Halal means "permissible" in Arabic. Food served will be permissible according to Islamic law. In addition, there will be no alcohol served and as you know, First Parish is nut-free.

For more information or to volunteer to help with set up, serving, or clean up please contact Mouna Anderson (lexmouna@gmail.com) or Naomi Rosenthal (naomi.rosenthal@verizon.net).

Adult Program with Stephen Shick

"Sustaining Visions of Justice"

Will it ever stop, the endless litany of public and private offenses against all we believe? We say "love is the doctrine of this church", yet we wake up in the morning and listen to the news and wonder: does what we believe really matter?



Sustaining Visions of Justice is a three-week series of small group discussions designed to create a safe and supportive environment for the honest exploration of how to spiritually survive, thrive, and help the world move toward peace and justice in times like these. On successive weeks these themes will guide our reflections and discussions: *The Inward Journey*, *Being a Force of History*, and *Being a Force of Nature*.

Facilitated by First Parishioner, Stephen Shick. **Tuesdays, March 19 & 26 and April 7, 7:00-9:00pm**

[Click here to register.](#)

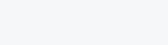
Coming This Week

Wednesday, February 20th		
Climade Collaborative	7:30 p.m.	Common Room
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Master Singers Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Thursday, February 21st		
Soul Matters Group	1:00 p.m.	Common Room
Meditation Group	4:00 p.m.	Parlor
Scrabble Club	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Friday, February 22nd		
LYFS Executive Team Meeting	1:00 p.m.	Green Room
Lex Pride teen drop-in	5:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Sunday, February 24th		
Worship Service	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Picture Directory photo ops	11:30 a.m.	Common Room
Children's Choir Rehearsal	11:45 a.m.	Yellow Room
Justice on Earth Book Discussion	11:45 a.m.	Parker Hall
SHYG meeting	7:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Monday, February 25th		
Staff Meeting	11:00 a.m.	Minister's Office
Sarasa Ensemble Rehearsal	2:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Deborah Abel Dance Class	3:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
Lexington Says #Enough	8:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Tuesday, February 26th		
Sarasa Ensemble Rehearsal	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Deborah Abel Dance Class	4:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
Empty Sky Sangha	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Wednesday, February 27th		
Sarasa Ensemble Rehearsal	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Deborah Abel Dance Class	1:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
Spanish Academy of Lexington	4:00 p.m.	Staples Hall
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.

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First Parish in Lexington
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781-862-8200/fplex.org

*Weekly Update submissions are due on Tuesdays at 9:00 am.
Please email submissions or inquiries to admin@fplex.org.*

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