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Worship Service at 10:30 AM

Sunday, March 17, 2019

"Through the Lens of Hope"



As we traverse the challenges of life, we may find ourselves in a place of need. How can we transform despair into determination, and anger into action? Join guest preacher Jane Smith, M.Div., this Sunday as we reflect on what hope means for us today.

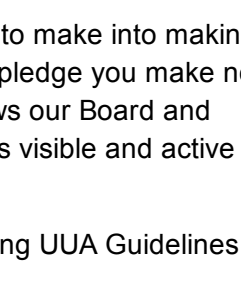
Jane Smith is a recent graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School. While in seminary, she served as a ministerial intern at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. During the fall, Jane completed a chaplaincy internship at Oregon Residential Treatment Center, where she worked with teenagers struggling with mental illness and addiction.

This Sunday, we welcome the choirs from Westlake High School from Saratoga Springs, Utah directed by Maureen Hatch. They will sing André Thomas' inspirational "The Kingdom." The sanctuary choir will join them in singing Mark A. Miller's poignant "I Believe" and Vermont composer Gwyneth Walker's lyrical "When Jesus Wept." For the centering music and postlude, Rip Jackson will play Alfred Fedak's powerful organ piece "Kingsfold Trumpet" and Beethoven's beautiful "Andante Cantabile" (from Pathétique Sonata, Op. 13).

Click here to listen to last week's sermon by Rev. Anne Mason

Pledge Drive

THANK YOU to the nearly 90 families that have sent in their pledge. Most members have raised their pledges and a few have commented specifically on the increased commitment to Climate Justice, the breadth of our youth programming including OWL, and the engaging worship services.



Those of you that have not yet mailed in, please send it in this week or use the online pledging option found on the our Stewardship page. The Stewardship team will be contacting you to ensure that the Leadership of First Parish can create a budget that reflects the investment we all would like to make into making our values visible, accessible, and active in our world beyond our walls. The pledge you make not only provides the foundation of our budget (70%) and a timely response shows our Board and Staff that we support and are enthusiastic about how we are making 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.

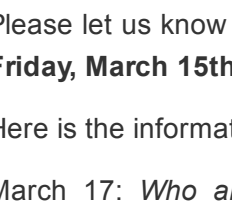
We hope you increase your current pledge 3% of your adjusted income, and we would also be immensely grateful if you SENT IN YOUR PLEDGE this week!

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.

March Donation Drive



A reminder that please bring in personal care products for the Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry, which include shampoos, lotions, dental care products, and other toiletries. Products containing alcohol or hotel sized items will not be accepted. Items can be placed in the baskets in the sanctuary during Sunday service or any weekday outside of the church office.

Membership Class, Part 2

The next Membership class will take place this Sunday, March 17th from 11:45 - 1. If you are new to First Parish or Unitarian Universalism and want to know more, we would love to have you attend and meet others over a light luncheon.

Please let us know if you can attend so that we can have enough food. RSVP to Dave Horton by Friday, March 15th

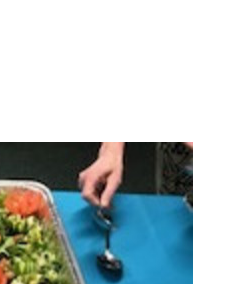
Here is the information:

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

Adult Program with Stephen Shick

"Sustaining Visions of Justice"

Final call to register for Sustaining Visions of Justice, 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.

Hand in Hand Café

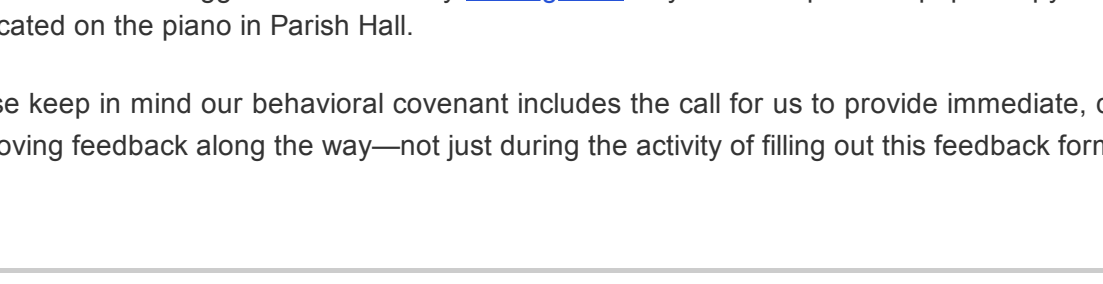
Our first Hand in Hand Cafe was an unqualified success! Thank you to all the many volunteers from First Parish who helped make this happen - from Marianne Boswell and Mouna Anderson who helped to plan it, to Sarah Mannix, Amy Breiting, and Marjha Maharry who helped in the kitchen - and all of you who purchased tickets to support this wonderful evening. Our cooks were thrilled with the event, and of course we all loved the food!

The next cafe will be on April 13 at First Parish. The public is invited to this one and tickets are limited, so please go to the Eventbrite link and purchase tickets if you would like to go.

I am so happy that our mission is being fulfilled in such a delicious and empowering way. Bringing people together across a cultural divide to enjoy good food is such a good thing. Even better is that we are empowering refugee women to support their families by building on skills they already have, and that the women are building strong friendships as they work together.

Thank you all for your wonderful support!

Rev. Anne



New Security Measures



There have been a few changes made lately to increase our building security - check out the video doorbell in the back, and watch for the rapid-release bars which will be installed on our ancient front door. These are things which will allow us to keep our building locked while we are inside, but also allow for safe entry and exit. But there is one more missing part of our new security measures - and that is a living, breathing person on Sunday mornings.

This person (we could call them a 'bouncer' but who knows!) will only need to do a few things:

- 1. show up once a month as part of a rotation of trained volunteers.
2. hold the walkie-talkie (with the cool earpiece) and respond to requests as needed. This is a rare occurrence, but it would be great to have someone ready to go should there be an issue downstairs with the children or teachers during worship.
3. be the person to use their cell phone and call 911 in the event of emergencies
4. be the Fire Marshall, and sit on a comfortable chair near the fire blanket at the rear of the sanctuary.
5. be aware of their surroundings.

If you feel that this description fits you, and you would be willing to be part of a team trained to keep our congregation more secure, please be in touch with Rev. Anne.

Staff Feedback Form

In order to help her and the staff to understand how their work is viewed by our congregation, Reverend Anne is asking all of the congregation to complete a staff feedback form. This form, prepared by the Ministerial Support Committee (MSC: Lee Brami, Dan Fenn, Pete Tasker, and Bobbie Hodson) includes questions about the work of all staff as well as our Senior Minister, and should be completed in no more than 15 minutes.

Thus far, we've heard from 17 members. LET'S HEAR FROM A MINIMUM of 100.

Please fill out the Goggle-Form online by clicking here. If you would prefer a paper copy they will be located on the piano in Parish Hall.

Please keep in mind our behavioral covenant includes the call for us to provide immediate, direct, and loving feedback along the way—not just during the activity of filling out this feedback form.

Letter Writing Campaign a Success



Thank you to all who participated in last Sunday's Amnesty International Letter Writing Campaign with Teresa Jacobson. She sends along her heartfelt thanks to all. On Monday morning, she mailed 220 urgent action letters! What a wonderful show of support and participation for this important stand for human rights and social justice.

If this March, it's spring at Lexington's Interfaith Garden. We grow organic produce for Lexington's Food Pantry while gardening alongside folks from a dozen other faith communities in town. We're off and digging for this our tenth year!!



YOU are cordially invited to join us. The Garden is conveniently located just next door to our parking lot behind the Fortmanns' house. No gardening experience is needed.

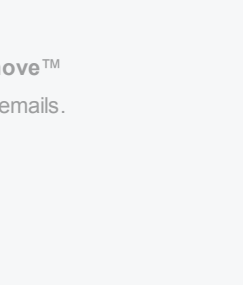
Children (accompanied by an adult) and youth (community service credits available) are welcome. Work days are late Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. You sign up to volunteer as you are willing and able.

We make new friends. We learn a lot. We have fun. For more information, pick up a brochure at the piano. If you'd like to give us a try or to get on the regular volunteer list, contact Marty Kvaal or Cherie Noe, the First Parish coordinators.

We hope to see you.

Interfaith Garden Diggings and Doings

The Great First Parish Bake Off is Coming!



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, MAY 4th, 2:00-5:00pm

BAKING CONTEST

for all ages with prizes

games, raffles, food, wine and craft beer, music, artisan and Mayfair shops

A CALL FOR MINI-MAYFAIR SHOPS

Our annual spring FUNdraiser will look different this year. The main event, The Great First Parish Bake Off, will feature delicious baked goods to taste and to buy. In addition, "shops" will be selling jewelry and electronics as we used to at Mayfair (so please consider saving your jewelry and electronics!).

A NEW addition will be a boutique featuring crafts made by our many skilled FP artisans. To all crafters: needle workers, beaders, woodworkers, collage makers, sketchers, painters, potters, etc., please consider donating a small item you have made (or can make by May 4th). Email Joanne Poage at jpoage@gmail.com for more information or to let her know what you would like to donate.

Vegan Potluck



Our Climate Action Team (CAT) will be sponsoring a vegan/vegetarian potluck right after church services on Sunday, April 14th. If you already have a great recipe, please cook it up for us. If you want recipes, please stop by the CAT table and we'll have recipes for some of FP staff and members and friends. Also, please send Bobbie Hodson copies of recipes others would enjoy and I'll make copies available for all.

Rip will talk with us at the potluck about his experience being vegan.

Support the need to address climate change while giving you an your family healthy food. See you on April 14th.



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 9:00 am. Please email submissions or inquires to admin@fplex.org.

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