Subscribe to our email list

Weekly Update
Wednesday, March 6, 2019
First Parish in Lexington

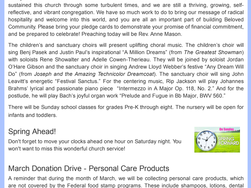
Table of Contents

- Worship Service
- Pledge Drive 2019
- Hand in Hand Cafe LexRAP Dinner
- Amnesty International Letter Writing Campaign
- Climate Action Corner
- Unity Group Luncheon
- Staff Feedback Form
- Adult Program - Sustaining Visions of Justice
- Interfaith Garden Diggings and Doings
- Soul Matters in March
- Communities Without Borders
- Coming this Week

NEW FEATURE

Worship Service at 10:30 AM
Sunday, March 10, 2019

"The Light of Change"



Today we will celebrate the commitment and dedication of First Parish members. You have sustained this church through some turbulent times, and we are still a thriving, growing, self-reflective, and vibrant congregation. We have so much work to do to bring our message of radical hospitality and welcome into this world, and you are all an important part of building Beloved Community. Please bring your pledge cards to demonstrate your promise of financial commitment, and be prepared to celebrate! Preaching today will be Rev Anne Mason.

The children's and sanctuary choirs will present uplifting choral music. The children's choir will sing Benj Parsek and Justin Paul's inspirational "A Million Dreams" (from *The Greatest Showman*) with soloists Rene Showalter and Adele Cowen-Theriaux. They will be joined by soloist Jordan O'Hare Gibson and the sanctuary choir in singing Andrew Lloyd Webber's festive "Any Dream Will Do" (from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*). The sanctuary choir will sing John Leavitt's energetic "Festival Sanctus." For the centering music, Rip Jackson will play Johannes Brahms's tender and passionate piano piece "Intermezzo in A-flatajor Op. 118, No. 2." And for the postlude, he will play Bach's joyful organ work "Prelude and Fugue in Bb Major, BWV 560."

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

Spring Ahead!

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night. You won't want to miss this wonderful church service!

March Donation Drive - Personal Care Products

A reminder that during the month of March, we will be collecting personal care products, which are not covered by the Federal food stamp programs. These 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.

March 10th Service - Bring Your Pledge Card!

We have had great success this past year by investing volunteer time and resources in our youth programs, our community events like Mosa Gala and Voices on the Green, and creating engaging worship experiences.

Let us honor our shared commitment by ensuring that we are not spending valuable volunteer time following up with families over several weeks to finalize our pledge drive. We want to 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.

If you unable to attend the service THIS SUNDAY, please mail your pledge card or use the online pledging option found on the our Stewardship page.

So far, we are encouraged by the pledges we have received. Some members who have raised their pledge have commented specifically on the increased commitment to Climate Justice, the breadth of our youth programming including OWL, and the engaging worship services.

We encourage active and committed donors to pledge at least $3000, reflecting UUA Guidelines that suggest 3% of an adults' 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 Jobing and Erik Swenson)

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

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

Our first dinner is coming up this **Saturday**. If you have purchased a ticket, please plan to arrive for dinner at 5:30. Sorry, there will be no tickets available at the door.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the culture and food of our Iraqi and Syrian cooks. But please, remember to be patient, attentive, and do not ask the cooks to tell you their 'story' about how or why they had to leave their home. We want to build new connections, not ask them to revisit traumatic events in their lives.

If you were not able to purchase tickets for this event, you may plan to come to the next two, on April 13 or June 15. Here is the Eventbrite link

I look forward to seeing you there!

Rev. Anne

Amnesty International Letter Writing Campaign

This **Sunday, March 10th**, both before the service or during social hour, please join First Parishioner Teresa Jacobson and William Harris, coordinator of the Lexington chapter of Amnesty International, in signing letters targeting leaders of countries where evidence has shown there to be human rights violations. You can view copies of the letters to become familiar with the content of the letters.

Letter #1 - Letter #2 - Letter #3 - Letter #4

Bring your own return address labels if you wish, and we ask for a donation at the time of the writing to defray the cost of stamps. Please contact Teresa Jacobson if you are able to assist with this event.

Climate Action Corner

All are welcome to join the Climate Action Team for the next Green Forum this **Sunday, March 10th at noon** in Parker Hall. Tim Hines, Executive Director of Lexington Community Farm, will join us to share his knowledge and insight into the how-to of vegetable gardening and plant selection. Make gardening part of your *A Planet for the Children* pledge!

Unity Group Luncheon

All are welcome to attend the Unity Group luncheon on **Monday, March 11th** starting at noon. This month's program features Pam Moriarty, author of *What Happened to My Mother*. Everyone please bring a lunch. If your last name begins with J, M, or P, please bring a dessert to share.

Staff Feedback Form

Reverend Anne would like to solicit congregational feedback this month to help her and the staff in understanding how their work is viewed by the congregation. The Ministerial Support Committee (MSC; Lee Brami, Dan Ferre, Bobbie Hodson, and Pete Tasker) has prepared a Staff Feedback Form with questions about the work of each staff member as well as the Senior Minister. Providing your comments should take no more than 15 minutes so we hope for feedback from as many parishioners as possible.

Please fill out the Google-Form online **by clicking here**. If you would prefer a paper form, they are 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.

Adult Program with Stephen Shick
"Sustaining Visions of Justice"

There is still time 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.

Interfaith Garden Diggings and Doings

If it's March, it's spring at Lexington's Interfaith Garden. We grow organic produce for Lexington's Food Pantry while gardening alongside folks who haven't 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.

Soul Matters in March

What Does It Mean To Be A People of Journey?

The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not. ~ Albert Schweitzer

We UUs love to tell our journey stories. And hear each other's journey stories. ... We bind ourselves to each other not by sharing the same journey but by offering each other the room to discover the unique journey that fits us. It's about making room for people to write their own stories. Or maybe it's about making room for people to re-write their stories... So we have this important awareness that spiritual journeys are not simply about finding your true self, but also about *unlanding* from your old self. We know that 'unbecoming' is not easy work. How can we UUs support each other in our spiritual journeys?

Are you considering traveling to Zambia with Communities Without Borders this summer? Perhaps you are a First Parish parent considering a service trip with your high school student, or an adult looking for a meaningful summer service adventure. The trip is scheduled for July 7 through July 17, 2019 and is open to all high school students and adults. Additionally, the Al Jacobson/Communities Without Borders Traveling Fellowship covers half the cost of two First Parish members and friends to go on this service trip. Meg Jackson, one of our First Parish Youth advisors, will be a trip leader again this year.

Please contact Marnie Gibbons or Meg Jackson if you are interested.

Communities Without Borders

Coming This Week

Wednesday, March 6th	
Deacons Advisory Class	5:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
Church Academy of Lexington	10:30 p.m.	Chapel Hall
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Grace Angels Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Thursday, March 7th	
Gardening Group	6:00 p.m.	Parker
Gardening Crew	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Friday, March 8th	
VIA Executive Team Meetings	1:00 p.m.	Green Room
Jazz Pride mass drop in	3:00 p.m.	Robinson Hall
AA Meeting Night	8:15 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Saturday, March 9th	
Hand in Hand Cafe LexRAP Dinner	5:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Chapter Leadership Night	7:15 p.m.	Sanctuary
Sunday, March 10th	
Worship Service	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Amnesty International Letter Writing Campaign	11:30 a.m.	Parish Hall
Children's Choir	11:45 a.m.	Parker Room
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	11:45 a.m.	Choir Room
Green Forum	12:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
OWL 7-8 grade class	2:00 p.m.	Parker Hall
AETO meeting	5:15 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Monday, March 11th	
Staff Meeting	11:30 a.m.	Minister's Office
Unity Group Luncheon	12:00 p.m.	Parker Hall
Deacons Alter Deacon Class	5:15 p.m.	Parish Hall
Community Activities	7:00 p.m.	Parker Hall
Tuesday, March 12th	
Parish Ministry Class	9:45 p.m.	Robinson Hall
Tuesday Morning Yoga	10:00 a.m.	Parker Hall
Stewardship Committee	6:30 p.m.	Community Room
Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Green Room
Yoga: Sit Tonight	7:30 p.m.	Parker Hall
Wednesday, March 13th	
Deacons Alter Deacon Class	5:15 p.m.	Parish Hall
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
VIA Project Meeting	8:00 p.m.	Parker Hall
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Grace Angels 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
7 Harrington Road, Lexington, MA 02421
781-862-9200/fpl-lex.org

Weekly Update submissions are due on Tuesday at 8:00 am.
Please email submissions or inquiries to **admin@fpl-lex.org**.

Share this email:

Manage your preferences | Opt out using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.
View this email online.

7 Harrington Rd
Lexington, MA | 02421 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma