

First Parish in Cambridge December 2, 2018

Finding Family - Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer

Welcome to First Parish!

First Parish in Cambridge is a multi-faith, spirit-filled congregation devoted to love and justice. We are moving joyfully into a multiracial, multicultural, justice-making future. We embrace all ages, races, classes, abilities, sexual orientations, gender presentations, and ethnic and religious backgrounds. Honoring all the faith traditions of the world, we support each person's path to wisdom and spiritual growth. Whoever you are, wherever you are on the journey of life, we welcome you into our hearts.

If you're here for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor card located in the pew and leave it in the collection plate. We'll sign you up for our weekly e-mail announcements and monthly newsletter. **All are welcome to join us in Helverson Parlor** following the service for refreshments.

For those attending with children, you are welcome to worship as a family or children ages 4 and under are welcome in our Nursery. An usher can direct you to RE staff. Registration is required.

Participating in the Service

Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer, Lead Minister
William Williamson, Ministerial Intern
Mandy Neff, Director of Religious Education
Carol Lewis, Director of Administration
Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director
The First Parish Choir
Valerie Fullum, Welcome Team Leader

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Please join us at the beginning of worship for a Time for All Ages, then RE programs. Nursery care for children under 4 opens at 9:00 am.

Spirit Play – PreK – 1 meets in the Baldwin Room
Theme Group – Grades 2-6 meets in the Barn Room
Lodestone – Grades 6-8 meets in the Fuller Room
Youth Group High School Nursery **12:30-2:30**

Shared Offering for December

This month's shared offering is chosen by our Religious Education ministry. Our recipient for December is **Thrive: the UUA Leadership Schools for Youth and Young Adults of Color**. We choose Thrive in support of our General Assembly Youth Caucus staff and their full inclusion in our faith.

As the struggle for racial justice lives on in our streets and classrooms, in courtrooms and corner stores, Thrive Leadership Schools help youth and young adults of color get connected to hope and to the skills to lead! There they form lifelong connections, carve out belonging, create practices of resilience and healing and build skills to lead.

Unitarian Universalist Youth and Young Adults of Color (People of African Descent, Caribbean, Native/American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latina/o and Hispanic, Middle Eastern/Arab, and Multiracial) meet yearly for a five-day gathering to deepen our faith, lift our spirits, and build critical skills for leadership in the face of our uncertain, broken and beautiful world. Thrive participants are guided by experienced co-facilitators as we worship, feast, play, explore our racial and ethnic identities, practice transformative leadership skills, and create authentic, supportive community.

"I am grateful for you and the UUA for giving him the space to openly discuss and gain insight with other UUs of color. I think this experience has changed his perspective on whether he fits in this faith. He is now 'one of many' instead of being 'the one.'"
—*Laura, parent of alum*

For more, please visit

<https://www.uua.org/youth/events/multicultural-leadership-school>

Clara Barton Drive to Benefit Tuesday Meals

Clara Barton was a Universalist who saw the medical needs of the Civil War and took it upon herself not only to provide nursing care, but to organize others to help her do so. She later founded the Red Cross.

We honor her memory by joining together in this drive to provide basic winter health supplies to Tuesday Meals guests. The change of the seasons can bring health challenges to all of us, but most especially those

who cannot afford to spend money on basic preventive care. **Our collection continues today and ends on Sunday, 12/9.**

Please bring requested items from this list, and leave your donations in the basket at the front of the sanctuary.

- Band-aids (large enough to cover blisters)
- EmergenC, Airborne or chewable multivitamins
- Travel size lotion * Tissues
- Lip balm/chapstick * Cough Drops
- Wet Wipes * New White Socks (**men's large**)

Children in Religious Education will be assembling the kits and asking for your blessing on the kits before distributing them at the meal on December 11. Join us then to volunteer!

Winter Warmth Drive

We're joining Cambridge mayor, Marc McGovern to organize the 5th Annual Winter Warmth Drive. We're looking to raise \$20,000 by December 14 to supply warm blankets to the homeless in our community. Click the link below to make a secure online donation!
https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps...

Today's Events

Family Feedback Luncheon – at Noon

Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer, DRE Mandy Neff and the RE Council want to hear from you about our program and worship! Parents and caregivers, please join us Dec. 2 to talk about this fall's Theme-based RE and how it has gone for your family. We will meet in the Barn Room at noon for a light lunch and discussion. Childcare is provided in the Baldwin Room until 2:00 pm.

This fall, our goals were to help children enjoy their RE experience by providing them with a weekly choice between at least two activities; to explore the spiritual theme of "Travelers" through many different media, from board games to walking labyrinths; and to provide hands-on service opportunities supporting our Tuesday Meals guests. We also worked to build more opportunities for children to sing and usher, and to add more movement possibilities, during worship.

Join us to reflect on families' experiences this fall in RE and worship, and answer some of these questions:

- How would you rate the success of the program this fall? Were there specific activities you or your children particularly liked or didn't like?
- With the emphasis on Themes and related activities, is there enough attention to reflection or faith formation for you? On content such as our UU Principles and Sources, or Bible and other religious traditions' stories?
- What factors affect your family's attendance at First Parish?
- What do you see the role of children and youth as being, in worship? What do you see your children getting from worship?
- Which do you prefer – a worship where children are presenting part of worship, or one where they are participating in the typical worship?
- Do you want more child participation as ushers or chalice lighters? Would you like to see more children's music and choir?

We look forward to seeing you there!

Middle East Education Group

Today The Middle East Education group will host the interactive exhibit "Promised Land – the Jewish Museum of the Palestinian Experience". Dr. Steven Feldman, an American Jew and curator of the museum, will be present. From their website; "The Jewish Museum of the Palestinian Experience was founded to provide a Jewish perspective on the Israel/Palestine conflict. The Jewish perspective is rooted in Jewish values, to treat our neighbor as we would want to be treated." The exhibit will be in the Parlor during social hour and will be open to the public from 1:30-4:30 PM. Refreshments will be served. Co-sponsors are the Cambridge-Bethlehem People to People Project and Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East – MA Chapter.

Peppermint Bark for Sale

This week our Youth Group will be selling Peppermint Bark (along with a few other flavors of bark!) during Coffee Hour! Bags will be sold by donation, and all donations will go towards their New York trip in the spring.

Upcoming Events

Prayer Vigil at the Boston ICE Detention Center, Sunday, December 9, 2-3 pm

Boston-area congregations are organizing regular prayer vigils at the ICE Detention Center at the South Bay House of Corrections (20 Bradston Street in Boston) in solidarity with those detained there by ICE. Join members of First Parish as we come together to make a public statement that people of faith stand up for the rights of undocumented people. If you are interested in traveling over with a group, please email Rebecca at bbsf@firstparishcambridge.org to coordinate.

The annual Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence Vigil is at First Church Boston on **Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 6:15 pm**. **GBIO is a member of the Coalition** and this annual vigil is always a powerful and moving service. Please join us at First Church on Dec. 12.

The Cookie Swap is Coming - Sunday, December 16

On Sunday, December 16, enjoy a First Parish tradition. Bring two dozen or more of your favorite cookies (home-made or store-bought) to the kitchen before the service. One dozen will be shared with all in the social hour. The others will be available for swapping with other cookie-bringers after service.

Whether you love to bake cookies or just to eat them, this will be a fun event for all. So grab your mixer and let the fun begin!

If you have any questions please contact Micah & Aedan
micah.altman@gmail.com

Christmas Caroling with the First Parish Choir December 15 and 18, 2018

Nothing spreads joy during the holiday season like singing good old-fashioned Christmas carols. Please join the First Parish choir on **Saturday afternoon, December 15** as we bring holiday musical cheer to residents of Cambridge-area **nursing homes and assisted living** facilities.

We will meet in the Parlor at 1:00 pm for a short rehearsal, where Jonathan will ensure we are sounding our best, then leave FP at 2:00 pm to carpool to various sites (*we need drivers!*) We will return to the church around 5:00 pm for a delicious *potluck* dinner in the Parlor. Plan to stay, and *bring a dish to share!*

There is a second opportunity for caroling on **Tuesday evening, December 18**, when we will sing for our guests at **Tuesday Meals**. We will gather in the Meetinghouse around 5:45 pm to warm up, then sing in the Parlor starting at 6:00 pm.

These are both fun, spirited occasions. Everyone - including families with young children - is welcome. Hope to see you there!

If you can help drive on the 15th and/or can contribute a dish to the potluck, please email Mark Pickering at emarkworld@yahoo.com.

First Parish Auction – Update!



The 2018 First Parish Auction was a great success! Thanks to everyone that donated and bid on items, **we raised over \$16,000** to support the church operating budget. Stop by the **auction table on Dec 2rd, Dec 9th, or Dec 16th** to pay your invoice; pickup your basket; reserve a spot in one of the remaining dinners and events; or reserve one of the remaining services. First come, first serve on the remaining items. Help us increase the total raised!

The Auction raises critical funds for the operating budget and furthers our mission of **creating community at First Parish** through themed dinners and flat-rate events. Thanks to everyone who donated and bid on items.

Get involved!

Accompaniment Volunteering

First Parish is a member of the CISC, a coalition of 10 Cambridge-area congregations that is currently hosting a woman and her two children in sanctuary so she can avoid deportation and separation from her family. “Accompaniment” volunteers are needed seven days a week on-site at a church in Harvard Square. Sometimes volunteer shifts are quiet, and sometimes there is a lot of interaction with the children. We can pair you with an experienced volunteer so you won’t be on your own. Volunteering helps in her long process of fighting to stay in the U.S.

Child Care Volunteering

The CISC childcare team is looking for several new volunteers who can commit to regular monthly outings to ensure that the children (ages 2 and almost 4) are able to spend time outside each day. A simple hour or two of outdoor play means so much in the life of this family we’ve committed as a coalition to support. Because coverage and consistency are ongoing concerns, we are looking for people who can commit to at least 2 weekday morning or afternoon outings a month.

Please email Rebecca Balder, First Parish’s volunteer coordinator, at BBSF@firstparishcambridge.org to learn more about either of these opportunities.

Groups

Our GBLTQ-I covenant group is open. This vibrant group meets on the first Wednesday of every month. If you are interested in this group, please contact Rev. Danielle at ddibona@firstparishcambridge.org

Our Elders Group is open and meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 2:30 pm in the Chapel. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Danielle at ddibona@firstparishcambridge.org.

Spanish Conversation Group

¿Habras español? First Parish's **Spanish Conversation Group** meets on first and third Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Baldwin Room. Come join us for informal conversation in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. All levels are welcome and no commitment is required! For more information, email spanish@firstparishcambridge.org. ¡Nos vemos pronto!

The **Young Adult Group (YAG)** is a community for people ages 18-35. YAG meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7pm upstairs in the Nursery and sometimes meets for food and social events on other occasions. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information visit our website cambridgeyag.org.

Safety Reminder

Please remember that First Parish is a public building used by many different people and groups. To ensure protection of your belongings, please don't leave belongings unattended.

Pastoral Care

Sometimes life can become stressful and hard. You may be facing a job loss, the end of a relationship, a serious illness, a family transition or a difficult conversation that you're worried about. Pastoral Care is available for you. If you would like a pastoral care phone call or visit please let us know. Our ministers are available to support you. Please contact them directly by phone at 617-528-9838 or email at pastoralcare@firstparishcambridge.org

Events This Week

Please note that Yoga, Music and Art Classes are not First Parish programs. They are run by outside instructors and a fee is associated with the classes.

Sunday December 2

- 10:30 am Sunday Worship
- 12:00 pm RE Family Feedback in the Barn Room
- 12:30 pm Youth Group in the Nursery
- 12:30 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room
- 1:30 pm MEEG in the Parlor

Monday December 3

- 5:30 pm Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Room
- 6:30 pm AA in the Parlor
- 6:30 pm Art Class in the Chapel
- 6:30 pm Women's Writing in the Fuller Room

Tuesday December 4

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 10:00 am Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel
- 2:30 pm Elders Group in the Chapel
- 5:30 pm Tuesday Meals in the Parlor
- 6:00 pm Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Room
- 6:00 pm Spanish Conversation in the Baldwin Room

Wednesday December 5

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 3:00 pm Sanctuary Worship in the Barn Room
- 4:00 pm Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel
- 6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room
- 8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

Thursday December 6

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 12:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room
- 6:00 pm BASEA in the Parlor
- 6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room
- 7:00 pm Social Justice Council in the Chapel

Friday December 7

- 7:30 pm Music of Reality Concert in the Parlor

Saturday December 8

- 8:30 am GSA in the Chapel
- 10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 5:00 pm Reception in the Parlor