

First Parish in Cambridge December 9, 2018

Who Are Our Neighbors? - 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

Rev. Danielle Di Bona, Developmental Minister

William Williamson, Ministerial Intern

Mandy Neff, Director of Religious Education

Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director

The First Parish Choir

Peter Lowber, 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

Shared Offering for December

This month's shared offering was 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>

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

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. Today YAG is doing a **Pizza Lunch** at noon in the Chapel. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information visit our website cambridgeyag.org.

World Rhythms Drum Circle - 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm, Barn Rm

Come join the drum circle. Whether you are a shaker or a mover, come experience the power of music! Together we'll explore rhythms from around the world-Near Eastern, Afro-Cuban, Viking and more - and create our own organic beats. Bring a drum of any kind, and/or shakers, woodblocks, cowbells, or other hand percussion. Dancers welcome!

In this drum circle, drummers who are new along with experienced drummers can contribute to the drum song, the groove, the collective heartbeat of the circle. Dance and movement in and around the circle is another powerful and playful way to experience the rhythm as it pulses through us.

This drum circle is for adults and children 10 and up.

Prayer Vigil at the ICE Detention Center, 2:00 pm – 3:00 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.

Upcoming Events

The annual Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence Vigil is at First Church Boston on **Wednesday, December 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 December 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 Choir - December 15 and 18

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 at 2:00 pm to carpool to various sites (*Contact Mark Pickering at emarkworld@yahoo.com if you're available to drive!*) 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!

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 December 9th or December 16th* to pay your invoice; pick up 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.

From the Building Ministry Team

The church's Building Ministry Team is eager to hear from you as we begin to plan and design improvements to our front Mass Ave entrance (facade, doors, landscaping, window, and steeple).

Specifically, what do you mean by the following ideas that have been expressed as desirable? What ideas and feelings do you want the changes to provide?

- *Appear Welcoming;*
- *Demonstrate attractiveness;*
- *Be accessible;*
- *Provide security;*
- *Reflect sustainability;*
- *Retain historic legacy;*
- *Add value to Harvard Square; and*
- *Be creative.*

Please email your responses to Elizabeth Kline (elizkline@gmail.com), Building Ministry Team

Intern Committee

For decades, First Parish has played an important role as a teaching congregation. Our current intern, Will Williamson, is doing a full-time one year internship. While formally supervised by a minister, the congregation plays an important role in the development of an intern. Part of our responsibility is to form an internship committee that meets monthly to help develop a learning and service agreement and evaluates Will's performance. The intern committee provides feedback and serves as a support for the intern. Will's intern committee is Julia Gallogly (chair), Rebecca Balder, Rashid Shaikh and Eileen Sullivan. If you have questions or feedback, please feel free to reach out to any of the intern committee members.

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.

Volunteer at Y2Y during Winter Break

Many of the students who volunteer on a regular basis at Y2Y will be leaving the area for winter break which runs from December 20 through January 20. This offers a great opportunity for members and friends of First Parish to learn more about Y2Y and get involved by volunteering for one or more shifts during the break. Volunteers are especially needed for overnight shifts (don't worry there are options so you can get some sleep). Let's work together with our partners at Y2Y and help fill some of the open shifts. To volunteer follow the links on their website at y2yharvardsquare.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

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

¿Hablas 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!

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 9

- 10:30 am Sunday Worship
- 12:00 pm YAG Pizza Lunch in the Chapel
- 12:30 pm Drumming Circle in the Barn Room
- 12:30 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room
- 12:30 pm Eighth Principle Team in the Baldwin Room
- 6:00 pm Sacred Circle Dance in the Barn Room

Monday December 10

- 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

Tuesday December 11

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 10:00 am Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel
- 5:30 pm Tuesday Meals in the Parlor
- 6:00 pm Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Room
- 7:00 pm YAG in the Nursery

Wednesday December 12

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room
- 7:00 pm EJTF in the Nursery
- 7:00 pm Gurdjieff Society in the Chapel
- 7:00 pm Interplay in the Barn Room
- 8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

Thursday December 13

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 12:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room
- 6:00 pm BASEA Board in the Parlor
- 6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room
- 7:00 pm Beloved Conversations in the Baldwin Room

Friday December 14

Saturday December 15

- 8:00 am Cambridge Minyan in the Parlor and the Chapel
- 8:30 am GSA in the Chapel
- 10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 10:00 am Beloved Conversations in the Baldwin Room
- 2:00 pm Caroling and Potluck in the Meetinghouse and Parlor