

First Parish in Cambridge January 6, 2019
Making Covenant
Rev. Danielle Di Bona & Mandy Neff

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. Danielle Di Bona, Developmental Minister
Mandy Neff, Director of Religious Education
William Williamson, Ministerial Intern
Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director
The First Parish Choir
Valerie Fullum, Welcome Team Leader

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Reminder: RE programs resume January 13.

Shared Offering for January

Our recipient for January is **On The Rise**. **On The Rise** was founded on the ideal that dependable relationships catalyze healing and transformation. Our programs seek relationships with chronically homeless women that are long-term and relevant to their entire life experience, not just singular challenges. Each year, about 450 women engage with On The Rise, with more than 12,000 contacts: at the Safe Haven near Central Square, through street outreach, and in apartments and other locations in Cambridge and surrounding communities – building relationships and community, taking care of basic tangible needs in a safe, supportive environment, and engaging in advocacy and assistance that address complex, long-term issues like housing and health. Since 1995, On The Rise has helped hundreds of women move from surviving on the streets to living and thriving in their own housing. Please contact keyton.sheely@ontherise.org if you would like to explore volunteer opportunities or arrange a visit.

Today's Events

THE BOARD WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Share your judgment on how and how well First Parish is living into its mission. Join the Governing Board and fellow congregation members at a **congregational conversation, Sunday Jan 6, 12:15 to 2:00 in the Barn Room.**

A light lunch and childcare will be available.

Your experience and judgment will help the Board and senior staff as they plan for the next church year. What role do you, or the ministry team you belong to, play in ensuring that First Parish makes manifest the values and intentions expressed in our mission?

A second session, a repeat of this one, will be held on Jan 27. Participate in one or both sessions.

Please stop by the Environmental Justice Task Force table at coffee hour after worship. The first three weeks in January are when the Massachusetts House files bills for the 2019-2021 legislative session. The recent climate report from the United Nations said we have 12 years to cut our emissions in half. It's time for bold action on climate! We will have information on the bills being supported by our allies so you can call your representatives and ask them to support bold, equitable climate legislation.

Do Somethings Go To the MFA – January 6 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Every month, we get together and just do something. In January, we'll be visiting Boston's Museum of Fine Arts to check out some of their newest exhibits. Whether you want to see classic Winnie the Pooh drawings or Ansel Adams landscapes, there will be something for everyone and all ages. If you're interested in joining us please email Ian Evans (ievans272@gmail.com).

Upcoming Events

Building Ministry Team

Participate in an after-church session/workshop on **January 13** in the Barn Room. Do some creative brainstorming using multimedia art materials to spark imaginations. The workshop will be led by Kate Ryan, member of the Building Ministry Team.

"White Supremacy Culture" - Sunday, January 20, 2019

12:15pm-1:45pm, in the Chapel

Please join the Racial Equity Team for a light lunch and discussion of "White Supremacy Culture" - a short (8 page) article by Tema Okun found [here](#). Please read and reflect on the article in advance of the discussion. Questions? Contact Charlene Galarneau at charlene.galarneau@gmail.com. If you plan to attend, we'd appreciate knowing ahead (for food estimation), please email Charlene by noon, Friday, January 18. Even without advance notice, you are most welcome on the 20th.

Social Justice Breakfast

What are First Parishioners doing for social justice these days? What else might we be doing? Come to a yummy breakfast on **Sunday, January 27, at 9:00 am in the Parlor**, and be part of an informal and informed conversation about our work for community engagement, climate action, racial justice, interfaith organizing for change, education about the Middle East, and immigration advocacy. This is a chance to celebrate victories, share concerns and ideas, and talk about what to tackle in the year ahead to help make First Parish even more of a positive force to be reckoned with.

First Parish Auction – Update



There are spots remaining in workshops sponsored by the Auction including one spot in Candlelight Yoga (Friday, Jan 12th at 7pm) and one spot for a couple in the Partner Massage Workshop (Tuesday, Feb 12th at 7pm). There are also available spaces in the Storytelling Workshop on Feb 10th and the

Tarot Evening on March 8th. Check out all the available items at <http://www.firstparishcambridge.org/connection/community-auction/>

If you would like to participate or would like more information, email the auction team at Auction@Firstparishcambridge.com. Just a reminder to please pay your invoice if you haven't paid and won items in the fall. Thank you again to everyone who donated time and talent to make the auction possible and thank you to everyone who participated by bidding for items.

<http://www.firstparishcambridge.org/connection/community-auction/>) 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

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 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.

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

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.

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!

Our Generosity — Empowering First Parish

Your financial support is important to empowering the mission of First Parish. Here are ways you can give:

- Donate, one-time or recurring, in our secure system: firstparishcambridge.org/connection/donate
- Drop checks, or cash in an envelope with your name on it, in the Sunday service offering basket or mail to the office.
- Set up First Parish in your bank's online payment system.

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 January 6

- 10:30 am Sunday Worship
- 12:00 pm Congregational Conversation in the Barn
- 12:30 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room

Monday January 7

- 6:30 pm AA in the Parlor
- 6:30 pm Art Class in the Chapel
- 6:30 pm Women's Writing Together in the Baldwin Room

Tuesday January 8

- 2:30 pm Elders Group in the Chapel
- 5:30 pm Tuesday Meals in the Parlor
- 7:00 pm YAG in the Nursery

Wednesday January 9

- 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 Interplay in the Barn Room
- 8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

Thursday January 10

- 4:15 pm Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel
- 6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room
- 6:00 pm BASEA in the Parlor
- 7:00 pm Beloved Conversations in the Chapel

Friday January 11

- 10:00 am Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel
- 6:00 pm Candlelight Yoga in the Barn Room

Saturday January 12

- 8:30 am GSA in the Chapel
- 10:00 am Beloved Conversations in the Baldwin Room
- 10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room