**First Parish in Cambridge February 3, 2019**

**Imagining the Unimaginable**

**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.

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 **Participating in the Service**

Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer, Lead Minister

Mandy Neff, Director of Religious Education

William Williamson, Ministerial Intern

Carol Lewis, Director of Administration

Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director

The First Parish Choir

Noe Kamelamela, 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 9am.

**Nursery**                          Children under 4        Nursery, 2nd floor

**Spirit Play**                    PreK-1st Grade        Baldwin Rm, Mezzanine
**Theme Group**               2nd – 6th Grade          Barn Room

**Lodestone**  6th – 8th Grade Fuller Rm

**Youth Group** High School Nursery **12:30-2:30**

Shared Offering for February

Our recipient for **February** is **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Massachusetts**. Since 1982, NAMI Mass has been the pre-eminent force in Massachusetts to improve the quality of life through education, training, support, and advocacy, for the one in five people in our state with mental health conditions – and their families and caregivers.

NAMI Massachusetts seeks to extend their education, support, and advocacy programs so that they will reach out to all Massachusetts consumers and their families; improve the public’s awareness and understanding of mental illnesses; and advocate at all levels to ensure that all persons affected by mental illnesses receive, in a timely fashion, the services that they need and deserve.

NAMI Massachusetts is committed to programs that are both peer and family-driven; to the key concepts of recovery, resiliency, and support that are essential to wellness and quality of life; and to full and meaningful lives for all persons.

Today’s Events

**First Sunday Potluck**: get ready for the return of a great tradition! The Membership Team is hosting a potluck lunch on **February 3** immediately following worship services. This will enhance the traditional social hour - we request everyone to bring a dish to share and we'll sit down in the Parlor to enjoy good old-fashioned fellowship. We are especially encouraging our newcomers to attend to get to know folks who have been in the congregation longer. For more details, contact John Shaw at Js@jfds.net

**The Building Team is holding a discussion forum at 12:30**, right after we eat, so plan to stick around to engage with the planning process for work on the Mass. Avenue entrance and façade. Share your ideas and dreams of how our building can be more welcoming. If you can’t make the meeting, please email your ideas to Elizabeth Kline by 5:00 pm on February 3.

Upcoming Events

**Being Queer in Palestine – Solidarity Acros Borders**.

**Friday, February 8, 6:30-9:00 PM.**

**The Middle East Education Group** and the Cambridge Bethlehem People-to-People Project invite you to a coffeehouse presentation and discussion.

Presenter is Sa’ed Atshan with an introduction by Abe Rybeck. Sa’ed is Assistant Professor - Peace & Conflict Studies at Swarthmore College and a LGBTQ Palestinian human rights activist. Abe is a local activist and also Founder/ Artistic Director of The Theater Offensive, a grassroots movement and voice for the LGBTQ community raising awareness, and fighting bigotry and hate through the performing arts. Free and open to the public. Please RSVP, as space is limited. bethlehemcambridge@gmail.com.

**UU History 101!!!**

Our Ministerial Intern, William Williamson is offering a new adult enrichment opportunity. On **Sunday February 10th (12:30 to 2**), we’ll try to answer the question of where Unitarian Universalism came from! Content is appropriate to both people new to UU, and people who are very familiar with the basics. By the end of this class folks will know the major milestones in UU history, Unitarian history, and Universalist history. Although an RSVP is not needed, for the sake of adequate snacks please let William know if you might come at wwilliamson@firstparishcambridge.org.

**"White Supremacy Culture" – Sunday. February 24**

**12:15pm-1:45pm, in the Barn Room**

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](https://collectiveliberation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/White_Supremacy_Culture_Okun.pdf). Please read and reflect on the article in advance of the discussion. Child care will be provided.

If you plan to attend, we'd appreciate knowing ahead (for food estimation), please email Charlene Galarneau. Questions? Contact Charlene at charlene.galarneau@gmail.com.

Build Community and Support First Parish

There are spots remaining in workshops sponsored by the Auction including spaces in the Storytelling Workshop on Feb 10th, the Tarot Evening on March 8th, the Aging Gracefully Workshop on April 3 and the Chocolate Candy Making for Kids Workshop on April 14th.  There are also spots at the Pizza and Games Night on March 9th, the Italian Baked Pasta Dinner on March 16th and the Saturday Brunch on April 13th. All dinners are at First Parish in the parlor. Check out all the available items at <http://www.firstparishcambridge.org/connection/community-auction/>

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](http://cambridgeyag.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!

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.*

Our Generosity — Empowering First Parish
If you would like to participate or would like more information, email the auction team at Auction@Firstparishcambridge.com. Participating in the auction events is a great way to get to know people at First Parish while raising funds to support 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](http://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.

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 February 3**

 10:30 am Sunday Worship

 12:30 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room

 12:30 pm Building Team in the Barn Room

**Monday February 4**

 9:00 am Homeless Court in the Parlor

 5:00 pm Harvard Extension School 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 Baldwin Room

**Tuesday February 5**

 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 2:30 pm Elders Group in the Chapel

 5:30 pm Tuesday Meals in the Parlor

 5:30 pm Harvard Extension School in the Barn Room

 6:00 pm Spanish Conversation in the Baldwin Room

 6:30 pm Cambridge Forum Board in the Landing Room

**Wednesday February 6**

 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 3:00 pm Sanctuary Worship in the Barn Room

 6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room

 8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

**Thursday February 7**

 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 12:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room

 6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room

 7:00 pm Harvard Book Store in the Meetinghouse

 **Friday February 8**

 9:00 am Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel

 6:00 pm MEEG in the Parlor and the Meetinghouse

 **Saturday February 9**

 8:30 am GSA in the Chapel

 10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room