

First Parish in Cambridge - March 17, 2019

Are We Sinners? - Will Williamson

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

Will Williamson, Ministerial Intern
Mandy Neff, Director of Religious Education
Carol Lewis, Director of Administration
Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director
The First Parish Choir
Rob Moir, Welcome Team Leader

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Please join us for religious education programs. Nursery care for children under 4 opens on the second floor at 9:00 am.

The following programs begin promptly at **10:30**:

OWL	4-5th Grade	Chapel, first floor
Lodestone	6 th – 8 th Grade	Fuller Room, Mezzanine

Our other classes begin after the Story for All Ages

Spirit Play	PreK-1st Grade	Baldwin Room, Mezzanine
OWL	K-1st Grade	Barn Room, second floor
Theme Group	2 nd – 6 th Grade	Parlor, first floor

Shared Offering for March

Our recipient for **March** is the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)**. UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. Their work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity. UUSC is honored to partner with congregations to amplify social justice efforts through advocacy and engagement, long standing fundraising programs, and justice education programs and resources with the UU College of Social Justice. For more information visit uusc.org.

Fire of Commitment Listening Table

Members of the Fire of Commitment Team and the Governing Board invite you to join them in the Parlor following the service to review the ways First Parish is nourishing our community and our world. Share the fire of commitment that burns in your soul.

Your financial support is important to empowering the mission of First Parish. During March, we are seeking financial commitments from all members of First Parish. Please be sure to fill out a pledge card (found in the pews) or go online to indicate your financial commitment by March 31.

firstparishcambridge.org/connection/donate

General Assembly Delegates Needed

Each year the Unitarian Universalist Association holds its annual meeting, General Assembly. This year's GA will be held in Spokane, WA from June 19-23. First Parish can send 4 delegates.

The theme for this year's GA is *The Power of We*. In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? We will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists.

If you'd like to be a delegate, please submit a request to the Board indicating how long you've been a member of First Parish and why you'd like to attend. The Board will select delegates at their April 16 meeting. First Parish does provide funds for registration costs of delegates.

Today's Events

Healing and Accountability Circles in the Barn Room from 12:15 – 1:15 today. The recent UUWorld article by Kimberly French caused much pain to transgender, gender-non conforming and gender fluid people. It has also elicited much response from around the denomination. Today, members of the staff (Will Williamson, Mandy Neff, Carol Lewis and Mike Mennono) will be offering two healing spaces:

- A contemplative, welcoming space in the Chapel for those who identify as transgender, gender non-conforming or gender fluid to share how they are feeling in this time.
- A workshop to help the congregation understand what has happened and what steps First Parish might want to take in response. We'll share some background information about TRUUst (Transgender Religious Professional Unitarian Universalists Together), have small group discussions regarding Rev. Mykal Slack's response, and consider next steps.

Child care will be available.

Beyond Borders / Sin Fronteras will be hosting a discussion **today at 2:30 pm** in the chapel. Joe Viola, a graduate student at BU School of Theology, will share stories from a visit to the US / Mexico border, and lead reflection and discussion. What are the human stories of the border? How can communities of faith and allies show up to support and follow leadership of people directly impacted by violent immigration policies? This event will last about an hour. Refreshments will be provided.

The Middle East Education Group suggests that you might like to attend an event today at 1:15 at the Cambridge Friends Meeting House at 5 Longfellow Park, between Brattle and Mt. Auburn Streets. ***"Finding Palestine Within Israel," a talk by Linda Dittmar.*** Linda is an American-Israeli who grew up in British Palestine during WW2 and Israel's War of Independence in 1948, a year which also saw the expulsion of many Palestinians. She has been living in the United States since 1961, and taught at UMass Boston for 40 years.

Upcoming Events - Save These Dates!

Spring Equinox Ritual Event

Are you looking to celebrate the coming spring? Join us for a pagan ritual on **March 24th at 2:00 pm** in the Barn Room. The ritual will be led by Brenda Leahy and Eileen Sullivan. It will include calling the directions, chants, movement and meditation. A coloring option will be available for children and those who prefer an active meditation. This is an opportunity to let winter go and set the seed of an intention to carry into the spring. Everyone is welcome. The ritual will last about an hour followed by snacks and time to socialize.

Prayer Vigil at the Boston ICE Detention Center, Sunday, March 31, 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 Peter at plowber@hotmail.com to coordinate.

On **Saturday evening, April 6**, the Social Justice Council, Music Team and Cambridge Forum will co-host *Between War and Here*, a powerful combination of music and memoir resulting from a collaboration between the renowned musical group, Ensemble Galilei, and celebrated NPR war correspondents Neal Conan and Anne Garrels. Ensemble Galilei performs medieval Scottish and Celtic music, and for several years, some of their musicians have played for injured veterans and their families at Walter Reed Medical Center. Together with the NPR journalists, they will explore the impact of war through music, poetry and personal reflection.

If you have questions about the event, please contact: Rosalie Anders (Rosalie.h.anders@gmail.com); Irene Merwin (irrom1@gmail.com); MaraVorhees (mvorhees@msn.com); or Jane Sturtevant (sturjn@aol.com)

All are invited to attend a **pot luck lunch** after the service on **Sunday April 7th**. Newcomers are especially welcome to this event as a way to get to know you better and to meet more members of the church. Bring a dish either from home or pop around the corner and get a pizza or other food item and join us for fellowship. The lunch will start about 15-20 minutes after the service in the Parlor. The kitchen oven and fridge are available if needed. Plates, silverware, napkins, cups, serving utensils, tables and chairs will be provided.

Beyond Borders/Sin Fronteras and Environmental Justice Task Force are joining to present Tina Shull, a post-doc at Harvard University, on **Sunday, April 7**, after the pot-luck lunch. **Please note the new date.** The title of Tina's talk is "Who are Climate Refugees? Climate Change, Migration, and Borders." Tina will talk about the connections between climate change, migration, and increasing border enforcement around the world, with a focus on the US and migration from Latin America. She has studied and written extensively about this timely topic. Dessert will be provided. Please join us on the April 7.

Build Community and Support First Parish

If you are looking to support First Parish, get to know people and have a good meal sign up for an auction event. There are spots remaining at the Saturday Brunch on April 13th, served at First Parish in the parlor. Cost is \$15 per person or \$35 for a family. There are also spots remaining in the Aging Gracefully Workshop on April 3 and the Chocolate Candy Making for Kids Workshop on April 14th as well as two historical walks in the spring.

If you would like to participate or would like more information, email the auction team at Auction@Firstparishcambridge.com. Check out all the available items at:

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

Spring Potluck Suppers Open for Guests Signups!

Our fall potluck suppers at members' homes have been an easy and fun way to get acquainted with others in our community. This spring we are offering potluck suppers for interested members and newcomers on April 28th, May 5th or May 19th

Sign up here: <https://goo.gl/forms/85mQzhkGP9qeiImi2>. For each event guests will be selected at random, so everyone will have a chance to meet new people. Please sign up now so that you can participate in fabulous food, fun and making new friends!

Our theme this year is "Connection." The Potluck Team -- Valerie Fullum, Linda West and Sylvia Wheeler – hope that the opportunity to meet new people at each potluck will encourage everyone to take advantage of this enjoyable way to expand your connections and make new friends at First Parish.

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.

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

¿Hablasespañol? 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!

Pastoral Care

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

Get involved!

Join the "1-2-3 Tuesday Community Meal Challenge"!

Our Tuesday Meals Program is challenging the First Parish community to commit to our 1-2-3 Tuesday Meal Challenge.

All it takes is:

Commit to **1** Tuesday Meal

For **2** hours (5:15 pm – 7:15 pm)

Bring **3** family members, friends, colleagues or neighbors!

Simply choose a Tuesday anytime this year. You'll have plenty of great company and it's a wonderful way to experience Beloved Community in action! To register contact Mike Mennonno

at mmennonno@firstparishcambridge.org Join us!

It's as easy as 1-2-3!

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.

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

9:30 am RE New Parent Breakfast in the Parlor
10:30 am Sunday Worship
12:15 pm Congregational Conversation in the Barn Room
12:30 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room
2:30 pm Immigration Event in the Chapel
6:00 pm Cooking Class in the Kitchen
6:00 pm Sacred Circle Dance in the Barn Room

Monday

8:45 am GPI in the Chapel
6:30 pm AA in the Parlor
6:30 pm Art Class in the Chapel
7:00 pm CISC in the Barn Room

Tuesday

9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
9:00 am GPI in the Chapel
5:30 pm Tuesday Meals in the Parlor
5:30 pm Development Team in the Landing Room
5:30 pm Harvard Extension School in the Barn Room
6:00 pm Spanish Conversation in the Baldwin Room
7:00 pm Governing Board in the Chapel

Wednesday

6:00 pm Cambridge Minyan in the Barn Room and the Nursery
6:30 pm Covenant Group in the Chapel
6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room
8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

Thursday

9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
12:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room
3:30 pm Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel
6:00 pm BASEA in the Parlor
6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room
7:00 pm Covenant Group in the Chapel

Friday

9:00 am Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel

Saturday

8:30 am GSA in the Chapel
9:00 am GPI in the Parlor
10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room