**First Parish in Cambridge - March 31, 2019**

**The Power of Youth – Middle School Youth**

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.

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

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**     2nd – 6th 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.

Celebrate our Commitment and Generosity: With Ice Cream!

Members of the Fire of Commitment Team and the Governing Board invite you to join them in the Parlor after service -- this time for ice cream and all the toppings!

Together we celebrate abundance, generosity, and the fire of our commitment.

If you have not yet made a financial commitment, fill out a card found in the pews or go online to do so on our [Giving Page.](http://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. Send an email to Board@firstparishcambridge.org.

Today’s Events

Today during Social Hour the **Middle East Education Group** members will have a petition you can sign to request that legislation being prepared at the national level not interfere with free speech in the area of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions activities.

**Spring Home Potlucks Sign-up Deadline is Today!**

A spring series of home potluck suppers for interested members and newcomers is planned for Sundays: April 28, May 5, May 19 and *new date*: **Saturday, May 4**. Everyone who signs up as a guest, including those who participated in the fall, will be able to attend one home potluck supper this spring. For each event guests are selected at random. So those who participated in the fall will have a chance to meet new people in this round. Please sign up now and the Potluck Supper Team will let you know in early April the date and location for your event.  This year’s home potlucks have been popular for fabulous food, fun and making new friends!

Sign up here:[https://goo.gl/forms/85mQzhkGP9qeiImi2](https://goo.gl/forms/85mQzhkGP9qeiImi2%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).

**Prayer Vigil at the Boston ICE Detention Center,**

**Sunday, March 31, 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 St. 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.

Upcoming Events - Save These Dates!

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 at approximately Noon 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 Environnmental Justice Task Force** are joining to present a talk by 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.

**Middle East Education Group**

On Sunday, **April 7**, the group will host a meeting starting at 4 PM, followed by a pot-luck at Grace Hall’s home in Somerville. All are welcome to attend. For additional information, contact Grace at gracewhall@msn.com.

On Sunday, **April 14**, Robin Brown will present “Pilgrimage & Mystery: Mark Twain and Agatha Christie in the Middle East” at 12:15 in the Chapel. This session will introduce memoirs by several well-known literary figures who traveled in the Middle East.  Expressions of their experiences will be considered with reference to cross cultural interactions and their relevance today. All are welcome.

**Food Solutions New England Racial Equity Challenge**

Discussions on April 7, 14 and 21

Issues of racial equity and white supremacy are baked into our everyday lives, even into the systems that get food from the farm to the dinner table. For 21 days, starting on Monday, April 1, Food Solutions New England will email short, daily readings, videos or audio files that tackle this issue and challenge us to see our food in a new light. Join us for three Sundays starting April 7 after church to discuss the week's readings and how we can act to increase equity in local food systems.

To sign up for the challenge, visit [http://www.foodsolutionsne.org](http://www.foodsolutionsne.org/), and if you're interested in joining the weekly discussions, email Ian Evans: ievans272@gmail.com

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

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](http://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!

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.*

**Safety Reminder**

Please remember that the 3 Church Street door is locked beginning at 10:30 on Sunday mornings to help ensure the safety of our space. If you are entering for worship after the door is locked, please use the Mass. Avenue entrance. Accessible entrance is available at 1 Church Street. If you are entering after 10:30 for Religious Education or other programming ring the buzzer at 3 Church Street and someone will let you in.

Events This Week

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

**Sunday March 31**

 12:15 pm OWL Parent Discussion in the Y2Y space

 12:30 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room

 5:30 pm Sanctuary Boston Working Group in the Chapel

 6:00 pm Cooking Class in the Kitchen

**Monday April 1**

 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

**Tuesday April 2**

 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 2:30 pm Elders Group in the Chapel

 4:00 pm Harvard Book Store in the Meetinghouse

 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

**Wednesday April 3**

 3:00 pm Sanctuary Worship in the Barn Roon

 6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room

 7:00 pm BIJAN in the Chapel

 8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

**Thursday April 4**

 8:00 am NEIBA in the Parlor and the Barn Room

 9:00 am & Noon Yoga in the Chapel

 6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room

 7:00 pm Social Justice Council in the Chapel

 **Friday April 5**

 6:00 pm RE Middle School Family Night in the Parlor & the Kitchen

**Saturday April 6**

 8:00 am Cambridge Minyan in the Parlor & the Chapel

 8:30 am GSA in the Chapel

 10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 2:00 pm Kirwan Memorial in the MH, Parlor & Chapel

 6:00 pm Women’s Circle in the Barn Room

 7:00 pm Between War and Here in the Meetinghouse & Parlor