**First Parish in Cambridge December 10, 2017**

**I Like You … You’re Nice *–* 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 and children 4 and older are welcome in our Religious Education Program. An usher can direct you to RE staff. Registration is required.

**Participating in this morning’s service**

Adam Lawrence Dyer, Lead Minister

Amanda Neff, Director of Religious Education

William Williamson, Membership Coordinator

Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director

The First Parish Choir

Noe Kamelamela, Welcome Team Leader.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Please join us for a Time For All Ages and RE Programs.
**Nursery**Children under 4     Nursery, 2nd Floor
**Spirit Play**PreK-1st Grade       Baldwin Room, Mezzanine
**Love Will Guide Us**   2-3rd Grade             Barn Room, 2nd Floor
**Bibleodeon**4-5th Grade             Fuller Room, Mezzanine
**Building Bridge**6-7th Grade     Chapel, 1st Floor meets at **10:30am**
**Reminder**: Beth El Temple Center Trip

 Meet at church 6:15pm, Friday, December 15

**OWL**                            8-9th Grade            Chapel 1st Floor, **2-4pm**

Shared Offering

The Shared Offering recipient for December is **Rice Sticks and Tea**. Rice Sticks and Tea (RST) is Boston’s only food pantry program serving culturally-appropriate food to indigent Asian-American households.

Operated out of the Arlington Street Church as a program of the Asian American Civic Association, a non-profit agency, RST provides about 100 households each month with bags of nutritious food such as jasmine rice, dried and canned vegetables such as mushrooms obtained from a Chinatown supermarket, as well as food products from the Greater Boston Food Bank, of which RST is an agency member.

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Each year, RST has a holiday party for its clients at which clients and their children are each provided with a holiday gift.  Rice Sticks and Tea relies on donations from Project Bread as well as corporations and individuals.  [www.ricesticksandtea.org](http://www.ricesticksandtea.org/). Please give generously.

Today’s Events

**The Environmental Justice Task Force**

The Environmental Justice Task Force invites you to hear Senator Mike Barrett speak about his bill on carbon pricing **today at 12:15 in the Chapel.** Carbon pricing is an effective strategy to address climate change by reducing demand for fossil fuels. Your support is needed to get the bill out of committee and voted on this legislative session which ends this February. Come hear how you can help. Refreshments will be served.

Special Congregational Business Meeting – December 17

At a ceremonial event on Saturday, Jan 13 Adam Lawrence Dyer will be ordained by First Parish as a Unitarian Universalist minister and installed as our Lead Minister.

**Members will vote to authorize First Parish in Cambridge to ordain Adam at a brief business meeting on December 17.**

All members should plan to attend this meeting, to be held in the Meetinghouse directly after the service. Authorizing Adam’s ordination is the only item to be taken up, so the meeting should be brief. As this is a business meeting at which a vote will be taken, a quorum of voting members is required to be present. Please mark your calendar and attend this meeting.

Membership Anniversaries

Today we honor membership anniversaries for the following members of First Parish.   We begin honoring membership anniversaries at 5 years and continue in 5 year intervals.   We are grateful for the support and commitment of these members to this faith community.

**55 years 10 years**

Ann Daily Joel Baehr

Jean Farrington Dan Bartley

 Loring Brinckerhoff

**40 years** Alan Hamilton

Mary Wright Peggy Kraft

 Grier Merwin

**35 years** Irene Merwin

Michael Melford Mara Vorhees

Susan Nye

Martha Velie-Gass **5 years**

 Paul Anders

**25 years** Rosalie Anders

Chris McElroy Charlene Galarneau

 Valerie Fullum

**20 years** Allegra Heath-Stout

Ted BischoffLaura Heath-Stout

Margaret Drury Lois Josimovich

 Grey Lee

**15 years** David Light

Marcia Hams Leslie Light

Wendy Leiserson Jessica Roffe

Jeb Mays Tamina Stephenson

Susan Shepherd Don Tucker

The 2017 First Parish Auction was a great success!

Thanks to everyone that donated and bid on items, ***we raised over $18,500!*** Stop by the ***auction table today*** or email Auction@firstparishcambridge.org to pay your invoice; pickup 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 to $20,000!

The Auction raises critical funds for the operating budget, donates 25% of the event proceeds to the Tuesday Meals Program, and furthers our mission of ***creating community at First Parish*** through themed dinners and flat-rate events.

Christmas Eve Services

We'll be offering two services on Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24.

Please join us!

* At 10:30 am Rev. Danielle will offer a quiet service of readings, music and reflection in the Chapel
* At 5:30 pm Lead Minister, Adam Lawrence Dyer will lead our Family Candlelight Service.

Upcoming Events

**Christmas Caroling with the First Parish Choir**

Nothing spreads the joy of the holiday season like singing good old fashioned **Christmas carols**. Join the First Parish choir on **Saturday, December 16, at 1:00 pm,** as we spread some holiday cheer to elderly residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities around Cambridge.

Meet in the parlor at 1:00 pm for a short rehearsal, where Jonathan will ensure that we are sounding our best. We will leave at 2:00 pm to carpool to the various nursing homes and assisted living facilities. **WE NEED DRIVERS!** We will return to the church around 5:00 pm for a delicious **potluck dinner**. Bring a dish to share!

Community Events

# [Cultural Survival Bazaars](http://bazaar.cs.org/), December 2017

This season, find one-of-a-kind holiday gifts at Greater Boston's international Indigenous craft market. This "trip around the world's Bazaars" features winter woolens; jewelry; scarves; hand-blown glass; natural fiber baskets + textiles; vibrant paintings; pottery; sculpture; + more from over 60 Indigenous cultures. Meet the artists, exchange stories, and bring home unforgettable gifts and memories.

Contact: bazaars@cs.org.

[**December 9-10, 2017**](https://www.facebook.com/events/1535553696510727/) **December 15 -17, 2017**
Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Prudential Center, Boston

10am - 5pm both days Fri. & Sat. 10am - 10pm
Sun. 10am - 8pm

**Harvard Square Holiday Fair**

The Holiday Fair that was held in our auditorium for many years is now being held at 50 Church Street (in the former Fire & Ice space). There are also vendors outside in our courtyard. Dates for the 2017 Fair are:

 **Saturday, December 9 10:00 am – 7:00 pm**

 **Sunday, December 10 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

 **Friday, December 15 11:30 am – 7:00 pm**

 **Saturday, December 16 10:00 am – 7:00 pm**

 **Sunday, December 17 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

 **December 20 – 22 11:30 am - 7:00 pm**

 **Saturday, December 23 10:00 am - 7:00 pm**

**Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence**

On **December 14**, there will be a candlelight vigil in remembrance of the 500,000 victims of gun violence in the United States – those who have died and those who survived – since the December 2012 Sandy Hook shootings.  We hold this vigil to spotlight this tragic toll, and in determination to move forward.

This event, sponsored by the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, will be held Thursday, December 14, 2016, at 6:15 pm at the First Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough Street.

Reflections by: Bishop Alan Gates, author Greg Gibson, State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, and Rev. Stephen Kendrick.

This service will be part of a nationwide tribute in partnership with the Newtown Foundation, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, Everytown Survivors Network, and B-Peace for Jorge.

Safe Congregation

At First Parish we covenant to welcome all people to the table, to nourish and serve each other and to respect and honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person. To achieve these goals it is essential that we maintain a safe environment that protects children and adults from harm while fostering their spiritual growth. We encourage anyone who has witnessed or experienced verbal, sexual or physical abuse at First Parish to contact the appropriate team (adults and children respectively):

 SafeCongregation@ﬁrstparishcambridge.org or

 safechildren@ﬁrstparishcambridge.org

Getting Involved

**Can’t Keep From Singing?**

Perhaps you used to sing in a choral group. But now those “high” notes are harder to hit than they used to be. Nowadays, rather than soprano, you could be perfect for alto or even tenor. Or perhaps you simply need practice – which we can provide. Whatever your voice range, it’s an excellent time for finding out more about the First Parish in Cambridge choir. Choir members or director Jonathan Barnhart would be interested to answer your questions. Contact: jonathanbarnhart@comcast.net

**Support Our Sanctuary Guest and Her Two Children**

As many of you know, a woman and her two young children are in Sanctuary at University Lutheran. As a member of the Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition, First Parish is providing volunteers in support of this effort. Volunteer opportunities are available seven days/week. Volunteering is easy and rewarding and we’ll pair you with an experienced volunteer so you won’t be on your own. Please email Rebecca Balder at BBSF@firstparishcambridge.org to learn more.

**Women’s Writing Group Seeks Newcomers**
We warmly welcome you to join the Women's Writing Group. The meetings are bi-weekly on Monday nights; the next one is on **December 18** in the Margaret Fuller Room from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Please contact Heidi Meyer, facilitator, at h.meyer@comcast.net for more details; the opportunity to freely explore your writing voice in a supportive, non-critiquing environment, awaits you!!

**Volunteer this Holiday Season at Y2Y**

If you'll be in the Boston or Cambridge area during **Harvard Winter Break, December 19 thru January 23,** volunteers are needed to help out at Y2Y while their regular volunteers return home. The signup sheet is [here](https://y2yharvardsquare.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8f998d57cfa0fd12ea2627d43&id=8a9953e68a&e=6ede800884), and feel free to sign up or email volunteer.y2y@gmail.com with any questions!

Covenant Groups – Get Connected

**Join!**

Join a Covenant Group! We gather in covenant groups every month to examine a topic and discuss how it speaks to us as humans, and as spiritual beings. Groups covenant to attend each gathering and to stay the course until the group ends.

Folks who have participated in a Covenant Group have said that they have connected deeply with each other, have been transformed, and have grown spiritually.

Currently First Parish has 3 covenant groups that are open and open ended. If you would like to try one out please contact the Lead Facilitator.

 4th Monday of the month: Valerie Fullum (vfullum@msn.com)

 3rd Wednesday of the month: Marcia Yousik(myousik48@gmail.com)

 3rd Thursday of the month: Susan Shepherd ( sshep352@comcast.net)

If this schedule does not work for you, contact Developmental Minister, Danielle Di Bona, devminister@firstparishcambridge.org. New groups will be formed based on interest. All are welcome. Please come and try one out.

**GBLTQ-I Covenant Group**

A new Covenant Group for those who identify as GBLTQ-I began last Wednesday and will meet the first Wednesday of each month. Peggy Kraft will facilitate. If you have questions or are interested in participating, contact Rev. Danielle at 617-876-7772 or devminister@firstparishcambridge.org

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

**Flowers for Sunday Morning**

A reminder that fresh flower bouquets to decorate the Meetinghouse for Sunday worship may be ordered by contacting Office Assistant, Laura Smith, at 617-876-7772 or officeassist@firstparishcambridge.org. Bouquets are $50. Most upcoming Sundays are available.

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 10**

10:30 am Sunday Worship

12:00 pm Child Care in the Baldwin Room

12:00 pm EJFT Event in the Chapel

12:00 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room

12:00 pm RE Council in the Nursery

12:15 pm New Member Class in the Barn Room

12:30 pm RE Council in the Barn Room

 2:00 pm OWL in the Chapel

**Monday December 11**

 8:30 am Cambridge Homeless Court in the Parlor

 6:30 pm AA in the Parlor

 6:30 pm Art Class in the Chapel

 7:30 pm Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Room

**Tuesday December 12**

 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 5:30 pm Tuesdays Meals in the Parlor

 7:00 pm YAG in the Nursery

**Wednesday December 13**

 8:00 am Poetry Society – Entire Space

 6:00 pm Cambridge Forum in the Meetinghouse

 6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room

 7:00 pm CISC in the Gallery

 7:00 pm EJTF in the Chapel

 7:00 pm Interplay in the Barn Room

**Thursday December 14**

 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 12:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room

 6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room

 6:00 pm BASEA in the Parlor

**Friday December 15**

**Saturday December 16**

 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

 11:00 am CISC Accompaniment Training in the Chapel

 1:00 pm Caroling in the Meetinghouse and the Parlor