

First Parish in Cambridge

December 17, 2017

Holiday Pageant

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 the Service

Adam Lawrence Dyer, Lead Minister

Rev. Danielle Di Bona, Developmental Minister

Amanda Neff, Director of Religious Education

Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director

The First Parish Choir

Carol Lewis, Director of Administration

Valerie Fullum, Welcome Team Leader

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Please join us for a family-friendly worship this Sunday. It's time for a First Parish tradition, the No-Rehearsal Pageant. You can volunteer on the spot for a role, get costumed behind the scenes, and join the living Christmas tableau. All ages of volunteers welcome, and no speaking is necessary. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Reminder: RE programs resume January 7.

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.

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. Please give generously.

Today's Events

At a ceremonial event on Saturday, January 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 today, December 17 immediately following the service.

***Please note that the Nursery will be open and your children do not need to be picked up immediately following the service. For children over age 4 child care will be available in the Baldwin Room following the service.

Prayer Vigil at the Boston ICE Detention Center, 2:00-3:00 pm

The Massachusetts Communities Action Network is organizing a prayer vigil on Sunday 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. See Rebecca Balder after Sunday's service if you would like to travel to the vigil as a group.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Caroling at Tuesday Meals

There is one more chance to join us for Christmas caroling. This Tuesday, December 19, we will sing for the guests at Tuesday Meals. Meet in the meetinghouse at 6:00 pm to warm up, then sing in the parlor starting around 6:15. Done by 7:00 pm.

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.

Getting Involved

URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

With the Christmas holiday in a little over a week, there is an urgent need for volunteers to help prepare and serve a meal for **Tuesday Meals on Tuesday, December 26**. Volunteers are needed at 2:00 pm to start meal preparation, additional volunteers are needed at 5:00 pm to help serve and clean up. We need at least 3-4 volunteers from 2:00 - 5:00 and at least 10 volunteers from 5:00 - 7:30 in order to be able to adequately staff for the meal. If you can help, please email Pam Cannon, Tuesday Meals Kitchen Coordinator at wehavepride3@gmail.com or Carol Lewis at office@firstparishcambridge.org by noon on Tuesday, December 19. **Without adequate volunteer coverage we will need to cancel meal service on December 26.** Any support you can provide is deeply appreciated!

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](#), and feel free to sign up or email volunteer.y2y@gmail.com with any questions!

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!!

Circle of Care

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to long time member **Ernie Kirwan** who suffered a stroke in mid-November. Ernie is recovering at Spaulding Rehab Center here in Cambridge. Cards can be sent to him at: Spaulding Rehabilitation Center
Rm. 211
1575 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

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

Covenant Groups – Get Connected

Elders Group

The Elders group will meet next on Tuesday **January 9th** at 2:30 pm. This is a DATE CHANGE due to the holidays. We will return to the 1st Tuesday in February.

GBLTIQ-I Covenant Group

The new Covenant Group for those who identify as GBLTIQ-I will meet on **Wednesday, January 10** at 7:00 pm in the Fuller Rm. Subsequent meetings will be on the 1st Wednesday of each month beginning in February. Peggy Kraft will facilitate. If you have questions or are interested in participating, contact Rev. Danielle at 617-876-7772 or devminister@firstparishcambridge.org

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.

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.

Community Events

Cultural Survival Bazaars, 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 15 -17, 2017

Prudential Center, Boston

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:

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

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

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 17
10:30 am	Sunday Worship
12:00 pm	Child Care in the Baldwin Room
12:00 pm	Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room
2:00 pm	OWL in the Chapel
6:30 pm	Circle Dance Meditation in the Barn Room
Monday	December 18
6:30 pm	AA in the Parlor
6:30 pm	Art Class in the Chapel
6:30 pm	Women's Writing Group in the Fuller Room
7:30 pm	Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Room
Tuesday	December 19
9:00 am	Yoga in the Barn Room
5:30 pm	Tuesdays Meals in the Parlor
6:00 pm	Spanish Conversation in the Baldwin Room
7:00 pm	Governing Board in the Chapel
7:00 pm	YAG in the Nursery
Wednesday	December 20
6:30 pm	Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room
6:30 pm	Covenant Group in the Chapel
8:00 pm	AA in the Parlor
Thursday	December 21
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	Covenant Group in the Chapel
Friday	December 22
Saturday	December 23
8:30 am	GSA in the Chapel
10:00 am	Yoga in the Barn Room

**Please note that the church will be closed from
Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1 so that staff
can enjoy the holiday season.**

In case of a pastoral emergency please call 617-528-9838.