**First Parish in Cambridge December 3, 2017**

**Holding the Child *–* Rev. Danielle Di Bona**

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**

Rev. Danielle Di Bona, Developmental Minister

Amanda Neff, Director of Religious Education

William Williamson, Membership Coordinator

Carol Lewis, Director of Administration

Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director

The First Parish Choir

Zoe Habel, Chalice Lighter

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, Mezz.
**Love Will Guide Us**   2-3rd Grade              Barn Room, 2nd Floor
**Bibleodeon**4-5th Grade              Fuller Room, 2nd Floor
**Building Bridges** 6-7th Grade Chapel, 1st Floor, meets at 10:30 **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.

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.

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 on December 3rd and December 10th*** 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.

Upcoming Events

**Potluck Gatherings to Welcome Adam – Signups Closing Dec. 8th**

All members and newcomers are invited to join in welcoming our new Lead Minister, Adam Lawrence Dyer, by signing up for a potluck supper! Sunday suppers, mostly in members homes, are scheduled December 10 to March 25, from 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Interest has been high but there are still spaces at several suppers. Everyone interested in becoming better acquainted with Adam and others in our community is welcome!  If you would like to attend a potluck, please signup on our website at <http://firstparishcambridge.org/testing/sunday-suppers-to-welcome-adam/> and follow the link to the sign up sheet. Sign ups will close on Friday, December 8th. We are working to be sure that everyone who would like to attend will have a space.

**The Environmental Justice Task Force**

The Environmental Justice Task Force is excited to present a discussion of important Carbon Pricing legislation with State Senator Mike Barrett in the Chapel on Sunday December 10. Carbon Pricing is one of the most effective ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). The carbon fee puts a price on carbon. Those who use the most carbon pay the most, those that use the least will pay less or receive a rebate. This idea has been gaining ground over the few years. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/pricing-carbon?cid=EXT_WBEmailShare_EXT>

The House and Senate bills are presently in committee. It is very important to get the bills out of committee to be considered by the legislature in the spring of 2018. If the bill is allowed to die in Committee, it will not be brought up again until 2020, two years we cannot afford to lose.

UU Mass Action along with activists from several local churches are organizing their parishioners to urge their reps and senators to sponsor this bill. The more signatories to a bill, the less likely it is to die in committee.

The Environmental Justice Task Force members invite you to join us in this effort. If you are unable to come hear Senator Barrett, please speak with one of us during coffee hour on December 3 or contact either mlynch 4@icloud.com or gingerryan11@gmail.com . We can give you letter writing or phone call guidelines.

Getting Involved

**Elders Group**
The next meeting of the First Parish Elders Group will be on Tuesday, **December 5** at 2:30 pm in the Chapel.  We will be examining many topics that affect our senior community, including medical issues, social
issues and actions and activities that elders can participate in.  All elders are invited. Please join us. Questions?  Email Rev. Danielle at
devminister@firstparishcambridge.org

**New Member Classes:**
New member classes will be offered on **December 3 and December 10 f**rom 12:30 pm until 2:00 pm in the Barn Room. If you are exploring membership at First Parish please plan to attend. We are looking forward to getting to know you and letting you know about us. Lunch and childcare will be provided. RSVP to devminister@firstparishcambridge.org.

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Danielle at 617-876-7772 x204 or by email.

**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. Upcoming bi-weekly Monday night meetings are November 20, December 4 and 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 **Winter Break,** 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 Begins December 6 at 7:30 pm**

A new Covenant Group for those who identify as GBLTQ-I will begin this Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30 pm in the Gallery. 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.

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 3**

10:30 am Sunday Worship

12:00 pm Child Care in the Baldwin Room

12:00 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room

12:15 pm New Member Class in the Barn Room

 2:00 pm OWL in the Chapel

 7:00 pm Chamber Music Concert – BRAINArts in the Chapel

**Monday December 4**

 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 5**

 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 5:30 pm Tuesdays Meals in the Parlor

 2:00 pm Elders Group in the Chapel

 6:00 pm Cambridge Forum in the Meetinghouse

 6:00 pm Spanish Conversation in the Baldwin Room

 7:00 pm YAG in the Nursery

**Wednesday December 6**

 4:00 pm Mahindra Humanities Center Lecture in the Meetinghouse

 5:00 pm Sanctuary Worship in the Barn Room

 6:30 pm Gurdjieff Society in the Chapel

 6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room

 7:30 pm LGBTQ Covenant Group in the Gallery

 8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

**Thursday December 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 Social Justice Council in the Chapel

**Friday December 8**

**Saturday December 9**

 8:30 am GSA in the Chapel

 10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 5:00 pm Music of Peace in the Barn Room