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| First Parish in Cambridge Unitarian Universalist | *May 24, 2015* |
| Video Silence – Seanan Fong, Ministerial Intern |

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. Please take a yellow cup so we can recognize and greet you.

For those attending with children, you are welcome to worship as a family or children ages 4 and under are welcome in our Nursery in the Parish House. An usher can direct you to Nursery staff. Registration is required.

Activity boxes for older children are also available from the ushers. For more information, please speak to today’s newcomer liaison.

Share the Plate

The May recipient of our Shared Offering is Action for Community and Environment (ACE). ACE builds the power of communities of color and low-income communities in Massachusetts to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environmental justice. It is a movement of people who have been excluded from decision-making that confront power directly and demand fundamental changes in the rules of the game, so together we can achieve our right to a healthy environment. It is led by the constituents it serves in Roxbury, Greater Boston and Massachusetts, and its youth empowerment program, REEP, has become a model for nurturing youth leadership in the environmental justice movement. ACE also mobilizes legal and scientific resources in support of organizing strategies. ACE has helped neighborhoods throughout the state to address problems such as trash transfer stations, vacant lots, dirty diesel exhaust and asphalt plants. It works for transit justice, including an MBTA Youth Pass and T funding that meets all our needs. ACE serves as a model for communities throughout the nation and for the broadening environmental movement. <http://www.ace-ej.org/>

Pastoral Care (Circle of Care)

The Pastoral Associates, supported by Circle of Care volunteers, help to provide care to First Parish members and friends during times of need by providing meals, rides, and other help. The Pastoral Associate in May is Patrick Sullivan. You may contact Patrick at pastoralcare@ﬁrstparishcambridge.org.

Chemical Sensitivity Policy

**Today’s Worship Participants**

Seanan Fong, Ministerial Intern

Mandy Neff, Director of Religious Education

Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director

The First Parish Choir

David Levine, Worship Associate

Jennifer Linares, Worship Associate

Chris Scheller, Worship Associate

Grace Hall, Deacon

*Flowers today are given by Barbara Ceconi in rememberance of Art and Lucille Ceconi.*

This is a fragrance-free parish. Thank you for not wearing any of the following during your visit: cologne, after shave lotion, perfume, perfumed hand lotion, fragranced hair products, and/or similar products. Our chemically-sensitive congregants appreciate this.



A looping system is available for people who are hard of hearing. Switch on the telecoil in your hearing aids.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Please join us for a Story for All Ages, then RE programs.

* Nursery care is available on the second floor
* Preschool meets in the Baldwin Room
* K-1 OWL meets in the Chapel
* 2-3 meets in the Barn Room
* 4-5 OWL meets in the Gallery
* 6th Grade meets in the Landing Library

#### Announcing Spirit Play

Help support innovation in the RE program. Beginning in Fall 2015, we’ll be trying a new curriculum K-1. Spirit Play is a “fusion” of Unitarian Universalist principles and the Montessori pedagogical method. Students will attend a brief teacher led presentation about one of the Six Sources and then have the opportunity to use a variety of materials to build their understanding of Unitarian Universalism through exploration. We’ll need a variety of new books and materials to support children’s learning. Individuals and families may participate through sponsorship of materials or through volunteering to assemble the lessons. Sponsor a book for $10, a basket of materials for $25, or a full day’s lesson for $50. Information about volunteer opportunities will be forthcoming. For further information email Corinne Foster at cmmfoster@gmail.com.

This Week’s Church Events Calendar

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| Monday, May 25  |
| **Memorial Day – office closed** |
| **Tuesday, May 26** |  |
| 11 am –7 pm | Tuesday Meals  | Helverson Parlor |
| 7:00 pm  | Buddhist Meditation | Gallery |
| 7:00 pm  | Young Adult Group | Nursery |
| Wednesday, May 27 |
| 6:30 pm  | Beyond Borders-Sin Fronteras | Chapel |
| **Thursday, May 28** |
| **Harvard University Commencement** |
| **Saturday, May 30** |
| 9:00 am | Spring Work Day | Parlor |
| 3:00 pm  | Cassara Memorial Service | Meetinghouse & Parlor |

SAVE THE DATE!

SEMI ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Our Spring semi-annual meeting will be held at Noon on Sunday, June 7 in the Meetinghouse. This is an important meeting since the budget for FY15-16 will be approved, Task Forces for the next church year will be chosen, and officers for FY15-16 will be elected.

Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting and participate in discussion. Only members in good standing can receive voting cards. In order to be in good standing, a member must have made a financial contribution of record within the past 12 months. If you are uncertain of your membership status, please contact Carol Lewis by June 4.

Next Gospel Sunday – June 21

Please do consider joining the choir for this joyful musical experience, led by renowned guest conductor, Linda Brown-San Martin. Participants should plan to attend rehearsal on either Wednesday or Thursday evening, June 17 or June 18, and the mandatory dress rehearsal on Saturday afternoon, June 20. For more information, please contact Jonathan Barnhart, FP Music Director, at jonathanbarnhart@comcast.net or Irene Merwin at irene\_merwin@hms.harvard.edu.

Annual Reports Due June 30

A reminder that Annual Reports for 2014-2015 are due to the office by close of business on Tuesday, June 30. All Committee Chairpersons, Task Force leaders and Program Group leaders are required to submit a written report. Please submit the reports in MSWord format as an attachment to office@firstparishcambridge.org. Also, please title the report with your committee or program group name rather than just “annual report”. If you have any questions, please contact Congregational Administrator, Carol Lewis, at 617-876-7772 or by email at office@firstparishcambridge.org

Pastoral Prayer

Congregants may request to have their personal
joys and sorrows named and lifted up in Sunday’s Pastoral Prayers by sending an e-mail, by noon on Friday to pastoralprayer@ﬁrstparishcambridge.org.

You may also ﬁll out a Pastoral Prayer Request Form and leave it in the Pastoral Prayer Box by 10:30 am on Sunday mornings. (Forms and the box are in the Mass. Ave. foyer.)

Upcoming Events

**Beyond Borders - Sin Fronteras** invites all organizers, supporters, and interested parties to a visioning session on **Wednesday, May 27, 6:30-8:30 pm** in the Chapel.   Come learn more about our work, our community partners, and tell us where you'd like to spend your energy.  We'll share our stories, discuss current immigration issues, and determine our focus for the coming year.  For more information contact Rebecca Balder or Karin Lin at:  bbsf@firstparishcambridge.org.

**Work Day - Saturday, May 30, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Sustainability and Building and Grounds Committees urge you sign up for **“Refresh First Parish” Spring Work Day.** Come to work outdoors on the grounds, weeding, planting, and spreading mulch, or indoors, cleaning and organizing closets and spring-cleaning the Meeting House. To ensure the good stewardship and sustainability of First Parish requires help from us all. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up today at Social Hour or online at

[**https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10lEidBY9axNPEtXaHOsehK-Zm1-aPm3BcNPv0SO719M/viewform**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10lEidBY9axNPEtXaHOsehK-Zm1-aPm3BcNPv0SO719M/viewform)

**Congregational Conversation on Religious Education and Ministry to Families – May 31**

On Sunday, May 31, after worship, join us for ***Religious Education and Ministry to Families: A Congregational Conversation*.** In our visioning process last year, so many of us were excited about how we could reach across the generations to make First Parish stronger and more vibrant.  Take the next step to help make that vision a reality! We hope to have a broad spectrum of participation from the congregation so even if you don't have children, or are not involved in RE, please join us. This is an opportunity for us to share our experiences and get to know one another better.  There are no competing events, and child care is provided, so we hope to see everyone there! Your ideas and your presence are warmly welcomed.

**Women's Book Discussion Group – June 2**

Intrigued by Fred's May 10th "A Legacy of Slavery" sermon?  Learn more by reading the final book of this year, "Black Walden:  Slavery and Its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts" by Elise Lemire and then joining us for a discussion on Tuesday June 2rd at 7:00 pm in the Chapel.  The book is eye-opening and just 176 pages.  For more information, please contact us at:  womensbookgroup@firstparishcambridge.org.

**Event on Wednesday June 3 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the Parlor.** The Middle East Education Group will host a benefit for the Palestinian House of Friendship and Smiling Faces Summer Camp in Nablus, West Bank, Palestine, which offers programs for both children and adults. Learn about life under occupation and creative responses from the Director, Mohammed Sawalha, who is also an educator, peacemaker, and organizer. Students from Berklee College of Music will perform Middle Eastern music and Middle Eastern refreshments will be available. Free and open to the public and donations will be gratefully received. Co-sponsored by the Palestine Israel Task Team at First Church in Cambridge , Congregational UCC.

**Program Council Annual Calendaring Meeting**

**June 15 at 7:00 pm**

On June 15 at 7:00 pm Program Council will meet to plan the meeting calendar for the 2015-2016 church year.  Each committee, group, and task force should send at least one representative to this important meeting so we can setup the schedule for regular meetings, special events, and workshops for next year.  If you have questions, please contact Peggy at peggykraft123@gmail.com.  See you there!

**Young Families Potluck – June 20 at 4:00 pm**

The Young Families Potluck (for children ages 0-4) meets on the third Saturday of the month in the Barn Room and Nursery.  Although an RSVP is not necessary, we try to coordinate what everyone is bringing -- contact Carrie Fisher to sign up.

**Longtimers/Seniors Breakfast – June 21 at 9:00**

Please come to our last breakfast, during this church year, for long-timers (connected to First Parish in Cambridge for 10 or more years) and for seniors. Enjoy good food and conversations. This 9:00 am -10:15 am gathering is totally relaxed, informal, and sociable....and free! . Contact Jane Sturtevant or Elizabeth Kline for more information.

**Abilities and Access Book Discussion – June 21**
Save the date! The Abilities and Access team invites you to a discussion of "Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs, and Declarations of Independence" by John Hockenbury to be held on **June 21st at 12:30 PM** in the **Chapel**.  Questions, requests for special accommodations, or requests for child care? Contact: access@firstparishcambridge.org .

Calling All Young Adults!

You're invited to First Parish's Young Adult Group (YAG)!  We're a community of folks between the ages of 18 and 35 who get together weekly to worship, share our creativity, discuss spiritual topics, and build our community.  If you identify as a young adult, you're very welcome to join us.  We meet at 7:00 pm and begin at 7:15 pm on Tuesdays in the Nursery.  After our meeting, we often go out for dinner and conversation.

We also get together for lunch after church most Sundays.  Come find us at social hour.  We'd love to meet you! If you'd like to find out more, email youngadults@firstparishcambridge.org

2015-2016 Slate of Candidates

The Nominating and Leadership Committee is proud to present our 2015-16 Slate of Candidates to run for open seats on the Standing Committee, Leadership Development Team (formerly Nominating Committee), and among the Deacons.   The names of our nominees appear below.  Candidate statements can be found on our website at this link: (http://firstparishcambridge.org/get-connected/semi-annual-meeting-materials-2/candidate-statements/) Elections will take place at the Spring Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2015.  Please come to the meeting to vote!

**STANDING COMMITTEE**

Chair (1 year term) Peggy Kraft

Vice Chair (1 year term) Sylvia Wheeler

Clerk (1 year term) Linda West

Treasurer (1 year term) Ernie Sabine

Member at Large (3 year term) Devon Kinkead

**DEACONS**

Deacon (2 year term) Ian Agranat

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM (formerly Nominating Committee)**

Member Joanna Fink

Member Shelby Meyeroff

Member Shaun Paul

Leadership Development Team members*: Gwen Cranmore, Loring Brinkerhoff, Andrew Drane, David Light, Beth Reagan, Chair.*

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:

* SafeCongregation@ﬁrstparishcambridge org
(for issues involving adults), or
* safechildren@ﬁrstparishcambridge.org
(for issues involving those under 18)

First Parish Staff and Leaders

Senior Minister Rev. Fred Small

Ministerial Intern Seanan Fong

Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Thomas Mikelson

Music Director Jonathan Barnhart

Director of Religious Education Mandy Neff

Youth Coordinator Jeremie Bateman

Nursery Care Coordinator Lace Campbell

Nursery Care Coordinator Jeremy Schwartz

Congregational Administrator Carol Lewis

Sexton Roland Ellies

Community Life Coordinator ……...Rev. Mykal Slack

Tuesday Meals Volunteer Coordinator….Seth Robinson

Tuesday Meals Kitchen Coordinator ……Pam Cannon

Tuesday Meals Assistant ………………Brian Downes

Executive Director, Paine Senior Services Liz Aguilo

Social Worker, Paine Senior Services…..Maureen Harty

Director, Cambridge Forum …………Patricia Suhrcke

Standing Committee 2014 – 2015

Chair: Susan Shepherd
Vice Chair: Peggy Kraft
Treasurer: Ernie Sabine
Clerk: Linda West
Members at Large: Julie Duncan, Brittney Gardner, Grey Lee, Nassira Nicola, Mark Pickering. Rashid Shaikh