

**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 “terra cotta” mug 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 and children 4 and older are welcome in our Religious Education Program. An usher can direct you to RE staff. Registration is required.

**Shared Offering**

The Shared Offering recipient for September is the **Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund**. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has joined with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) on a recovery and relief fund to meet the needs of those affected by this disaster on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Please give as generously as you are able. Half of all funds raised will go to at-risk populations served by UUSC partners and the other half of the funds will support Unitarian Universalist congregations and members of those congregations most affected by the storm. Those funds will be administered by a group of leaders in the UUA's Southern Region, which includes the states across the southeast from Texas to South Carolina, and from most of Virginia to Florida.

Using their eye-to-eye partnership model, UUSC will work with and support local grassroots community partners on the ground in Texas serving at-risk populations who may not be able to access relief services and who are traditionally left out of mainstream response efforts. UUSC and their partners will work to bolster locally led relief efforts that are serving immigrant families, in particular young mothers and their children. As the storm passes and recovery begins, UUSC will continue to get updates and work with partners to ensure their needs are met.

**Religious Education for Children and Youth**

Welcome to a new year of Religious Education! Registration is now open, please help us prepare by registering your child(ren) at:

<http://firstparishcambridge.org/childrenyouth/registration>

**RE Program locations**

<b>Nursery</b>	Children under 4	Nursery, 2nd Floor
<b>Spirit Play</b>	PreK-1st Grade	Baldwin Room
<b>Love Will Guide Us</b>	2-3rd Grade	Fuller Room
<b>Bibleodeon</b>	4-5th Grade	Barn Rm, 2nd Floor
<b>Building Bridges</b>	6-7th Grade	Chapel, 1st Floor, <b>meet at 10:30 am</b>
<b>OWL</b>	8-9th Grade	Chapel, 1st Floor, <b>meets from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm</b>

**Join us for Parent/Caregiver Orientations TODAY!**

<b>Spirit Play</b>	Please join your child during RE
<b>Grades 2-7</b>	12:00 pm in the Barn Room
<b>OWL</b>	*MANDATORY* Parent/Caregiver Orientation in the Barn Room 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Parenting Group - September 24**

First Parish friends and members raising children are invited to attend an open monthly discussion group led by Carrie Fisher.

This has been a summer full of troubling and at times overwhelming news. In September, we will have the first of many discussions about how these challenging times we are living in should and do affect our parenting. Please come to talk, laugh, think, commiserate, celebrate, and be together in fellowship on the journey of parenting.

Logistics: Families will have lunch on their own (although I encourage you to be in touch and eat together!). Childcare will be provided in the Baldwin room once lunch is over. If you have questions, please email [carolynffisher@gmail.com](mailto:carolynffisher@gmail.com)

**Support Our Sanctuary Guest and Her Children**

As many of you know, a woman and her two young children have entered 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](mailto:BBSF@firstparishcambridge.org) to learn more.

## First Parish 101

If you're new here and want to meet a few of the leaders in our community please swing by the Chapel after the service! We will have representation from Ministry, Music, Religious Education, and the Board. All those questions you were embarrassed to ask, don't be! Snacks will be provided! (*This is not a membership class, just a chance to figure out more about our parish*).

## Exploring Membership Classes

Are you interested in becoming a member of First Parish? Are you a newcomer who's looking to learn a bit more about our faith community? Have you been attending services for a while and now want to learn more about what membership means? Join us on **Sundays October 1 and October 8th at 12:00 pm** for our Exploring Membership classes.

These 2 hour inter-active orientations offer an opportunity to learn about our community, our activities, the history and philosophy of both Unitarian Universalism in general and First Parish in particular. These classes are one of the requirements of becoming a member here at first parish. And if you can't make October's classes don't worry we will offer more classes soon! All are welcome! Please RSVP at [membership@firstparishcambridge.org](mailto:membership@firstparishcambridge.org).

## Possible New Covenant Groups

If you describe yourself as an elder and would like to gather with others "of a certain age" to discuss issues surrounding aging, as well as growth and wisdom that comes with aging, please let me know. If there is enough interest we will gather a covenant group of elders.

There is also some interest in starting an LGBTQ covenant group. Again, if there is enough interest we will start a GBLTQ covenant group.

If you are interested in either group, contact Rev. Danielle at [devminister@firstparishcambridge.org](mailto:devminister@firstparishcambridge.org) or at [617-876-7772](tel:617-876-7772).

## Retreat Registration is Open! SIGN UP TODAY!

Please join us as we host our **Annual Retreat to Ferry Beach (Maine)** from October 13 – 15. This year we aim to celebrate the gift of being human. All activities will be inspired by our First Principle: **Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all**

The retreat is a time to relax, connect with old friends and make new ones, engage in deep conversation tied to our first principle, worship under the trees, deepen our connection to First Parish, play on the beautiful beach, sing along at the campfire, laugh, and have fun.

Registration runs now through the end of September.

**Link to Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/2017FPCRetreat>

## Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, October 1

In this annual tradition, we celebrate the lives and spirits of all animals who have given us their joy and unconditional love. Please bring your animal friend to be introduced and blessed by the congregation and your Minister, Adam Lawrence Dyer and Rev. Danielle Di Bona. In this multi-generational service, we will also recognize those dear companions who are no longer living and we invite you to bring a photograph or memento in their honor and to share in the celebration.

## Film Screening and Discussion on Immigration Justice

Our Sanctuary partners at Old Cambridge Baptist Church (OCBC) are hosting a screening of "Harvest of Empire" on **today** at 7:00 pm. This 90-minute film features stories from a wide range of immigrants from Latin American countries and asks the question: If the U.S. plays a role in destabilizing a country, what responsibility do we have to help its citizens?

All are welcome. OCBC is located at 1151 Mass. Avenue. Enter through the red doors on the Mass. Ave. side of the church.

## New England Muslim Festival

The 2nd annual New England Muslim Festival will be held **today** in Malden. Everyone is welcome as New England's Muslim community invites their neighbors to join them in a fun-filled, inter-faith and family-friendly afternoon!

The Festival will feature "Deen Squad," an international sensation from Canada; a grand bazaar with international food stalls; a Kid's Zone with rides and activities; an informational booth with a signature "Try on Hijab" table; a professional henna artist; and opportunities to meet local Muslim residents of New England.

## Cambridge Forum – September 20

Cambridge Forum is pleased to present **Danielle Allen**, James Bryant Conant Professor and Director of the Edmond J Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard, to discuss her new memoir "CUZ". The book documents the events which conspired to cause the untimely death of her young cousin, Michael on the streets of Los Angeles in 2009. The book looks at how a "deadly double helix" of narcotics and street gangs ultimately entrapped her cousin, as with countless others, leading to his incarceration and death. Allen asks if the current justice system only perpetuates the injustices it is meant to address.

Join us for this free public discussion on **Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 pm in the Meetinghouse**. The event will be followed by a book signing and all are welcome.

## Social Justice Breakfast - September 24 at 9:00 am

The Social Justice Council invites you to a breakfast with the Environmental Justice, Beyond Borders - Sin Fronteras and Greater Boston Interfaith Organization Task Forces and the Middle East Group on Sunday, September 24, at 9:00 am in the Parlor. Find out what is going on and how you might plug in at this challenging time in our world.

## How Ableism Hurts Us All – September 24 at Noon

Based on the belief that disability is a defect rather than a dimension of human diversity, the term “ableism” is used to describe the discrimination against, and the exclusion of, individuals with mental health and physical disabilities from full participation in available community options, such as employment, housing, and recreation.

Whether or not we are living with a disability, ableism affects us—and not in good way.

Ableism affects those with disabilities by inhibiting their access to and power within institutional structures that fulfill needs, like health care, housing, government, education, religious communities, the media, and the legal system. It also creates environments and practices that favor one group and disadvantage another through arbitrary choices.

Join DRE, Mandy Neff for this Access and Inclusion Ministry workshop to learn tactics and strategies for reducing arbitrary barriers that limit full participation by people living with disabilities, and see how your own destiny and spiritual well-being are inextricably linked to the experience and treatment of all.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:SafeCongregation@firstparishcambridge.org) or  
[safechildren@firstparishcambridge.org](mailto:safechildren@firstparishcambridge.org)

## Events This Week

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

### Sunday

10:30 am  
12:00 pm  
12:00 pm  
12:00 pm  
12:00 pm  
2:00 pm  
2:00 pm  
6:30 pm

### Monday

5:00 pm  
6:00 pm  
6:30 pm  
6:30 pm  
6:30 pm

### Tuesday

9:00 am  
5:30 pm  
6:00 pm  
7:00 pm  
7:00 pm

### Wednesday

6:00 pm  
6:00 pm  
6:30 pm  
6:30 pm  
8:00 pm

### Thursday

8:00 am  
9:00 am  
12:00 pm  
6:00 pm  
7:00 pm

### Friday

8:00 am

### Saturday

8:30 am  
9:00 am  
9:00 am  
10:00 am

### September 17

Sunday Worship  
Child Care in the Baldwin Room  
First Parish 101 in the Chapel  
Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room  
RE Parent Orientation in the Barn Room  
OWL Parent Orientation in the Barn Room  
Youth Orientation in the Parlor  
Circle Dance Meditation in the Barn Room

### September 18

Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Rm  
Harvard Bookstore in the Meetinghouse  
AA in the Parlor  
Art Class in the Chapel  
Retreat Team in the Landing Room

### September 19

Yoga in the Chapel  
Tuesdays Meals in the Parlor  
Spanish Conversation in the Baldwin Room  
Governing Board in the Chapel  
YAG in the Nursery

### September 20

Cambridge Forum in the Meetinghouse  
GBIO in the Chapel  
Covenant Group in the Chapel  
Two Brattle in the Baldwin Rm  
AA in the Barn Room

### September 21

Cambridge Minyan in the Barn Room  
Yoga in the Chapel  
Yoga in the Chapel  
Yoga in the Barn Room  
Covenant Group in the Chapel

### September 22

Cambridge Minyan in the Barn Room

### September 23

GSA in the Chapel  
Friends of the Earth in the Parlor  
Music Committee in the Landing Room  
Yoga in the Barn Room

## First Parish Staff and Leaders

Lead Minister.....Adam Lawrence Dyer  
Developmental Minister.....Rev. Danielle Di Bona  
Minister Emeritus.....Rev. Dr. Thomas Mikelson  
Director of Administration.....Carol Lewis  
Director of Religious Education.....Mandy Neff  
Music Director.....Jonathan Barnhart  
Youth Coordinator .....Alex Gaydos  
Nursery Care Coordinator.....Lace Campbell  
Nursery Care Coordinator.....Jeremy Schwartz  
Afternoon Child Care Provider.....Dorothy Merceda  
Afternoon Child Care Provider.....Andrea Aptecker  
Alto Section Leader.....Brianna Meese  
Bass Section Leader.....John Bitsas  
Soprano Section Leader.....Renée Saindon  
Tenor Section Leader.....Matt Corcoran  
Office Assistant.....Laura Smith  
Financial Administrative Assistant...Mary Anne Carlson  
Building Manager.....Roland Ellies  
Evening Sexton.....Kayar Lowe  
Weekend Sexton.....Ramon Gomez  
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.....Mary Stack