

“Show Me” – 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. 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

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

Condolences

Mark and Juliette Pickering are mourning the death of his nephew Jeremy, who died unexpectedly September 16 of natural causes. They had enjoyed hiking and visiting with him and other family members Labor Day weekend. An adult child of Mark’s sister Robin, Jeremy was visiting his mother and his sister, Jennifer, and her family in Montclair, VA., when he died. If you would like to send the family a note please contact the office.

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 to learn more.

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

Today's Events

Parenting Group - 12:30 in the Gallery

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

How Ableism Hurts Us All – Noon in the Barn Room

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.

Retreat Registration is Open! SIGN UP TODAY!

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

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**

Carol Lewis will be in the Library following the service today to help you register online!

Upcoming Events

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.

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 8 at 12:00 pm** for our Exploring Membership classes.

These 2 hour interactive 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.

First Parish Women's Sacred Circle – October 7

Women interested in joining our Women's Sacred Circle spiritual practice group are warmly welcomed to the annual Open Circle on Saturday, October 7 at 7:30 pm in the Nursery/Barn Room.

The Women's Sacred Circle provides a safe, sacred space for women to explore their connection to earth-centered and feminine spirituality and to each other. This year we are exploring a theme of pathways and tools in our spirituality. New members are accepted into the group once a year, after this open meeting we meet monthly as a closed group. Circles are held on the 1st Saturdays of each month, October through June. In order to foster a deep sense of trust and community, we ask that members returning in November make a commitment to attend for the whole year. Please contact Eileen Maher at emaher2011@gmail.com if you are interested in attending the October circle.

Getting Involved

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 or at 617-876-7772.

First Parish Auction – November 12 and 19

The 2017 First Parish Auction will be held on **November 12 and 19**. 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.

Please Consider Donating to the Auction Donations Due by October 25

Please help make the Auction a success by organizing an event with friends; donating a week in your vacation home; donating themed gift baskets or gift cards from your favorite local restaurant or store; or donating homemade crafts for the *gifts to go* table. Please visit with a member of the Auction Committee at Social Hour to learn more about donating or check out the donation form at www.firstparishcambridge.org/auction. Be creative, have some fun and meet new people!

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

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

Sunday

9:00 am
10:30 am
12:00 pm
12:00 pm
12:00 pm
12:00 pm
12:30 pm
2:00 pm

September 24

Social Justice Breakfast in the Parlor
Sunday Worship
Child Care in the Baldwin Room
BBSF – SJC in the Chapel
Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room
How Ableism Hurts Us All in the Barn Rm
Parenting Group in the Gallery
OWL in the Chapel

Monday

8:30 am
10:00 am
5:00 pm
6:00 pm
6:30 pm
6:30 pm

September 25

Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel
Covenant Group in the Nursery
Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Rm
Harvard Bookstore in the Meetinghouse
AA in the Parlor
Art Class in the Chapel

Tuesday

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

September 26

Yoga in the Barn Room
Tuesdays Meals in the Parlor
Young Adult Group in the Nursery

Wednesday

6:00 pm
6:30 pm
7:30 pm

September 27

Harvard Bookstore in the Meetinghouse
Two Brattle in the Baldwin Rm
Interplay in the Parlor

Thursday

9:00 am
12:00 pm
6:00 pm
6:30 pm

September 28

Yoga in the Barn Room
Yoga in the Barn Room
Yoga in the Barn Room
Retreat Team in the Landing Room

Friday

9:30 am

September 29

Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel

Saturday

8:00 am
8:30 am
9:00 am
10:00 am
1:00 pm
7:30 pm

September 30

Cambridge Minyan in the Parlor & Chapel
GSA in the Chapel
Board Retreat in the Auditorium
Yoga in the Barn Room
Faery Memorial Service in the Parlor & Chapel
BRAIN Arts Event 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 CoordinatorAlex 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