

The Tide is Rising and So Are We – Rev. Fred Small

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 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.

Chemical Sensitivity Policy

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.

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Fred Small, Senior Minister
 Seanan Fong, Ministerial Intern
 Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director
 Emily Guthrie, Communications &
 Membership Coordinator
 Linda West, Worship Associate
 Sharon DeVos, Newcomer Liaison
 Ian Agranat, Deacon

Share the Plate

During the month of September half of the Sunday undesignated plate donations will go to the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House. MFNH occupies the historic home of Margaret Fuller, the Unitarian Transcendentalist, journalist, and feminist and serves the residents of Area IV, a very diverse low-income neighborhood near Central Square.

The mission of the Margaret Fuller House is to strengthen and empower youth, families, and community residents. They work to address the economic, social and political inequities that shape the lives and futures of Port/Area IV residents. More information is available on their website: margaretfullerhouse.org

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Welcome Families! We are excited to begin all levels of Religious Education this week! A reminder that nursery care for children under 4 is available beginning at 10:15 am.

Please join us in the Sanctuary for a goodbye Story for All Ages with Rev. Fred, then programs:

JrK-1 Spirit Play: Baldwin Room, Mezzanine

Julie Duncan and Kathryn Rosenberg

2-3, Moral Tales: Barn Room, 2nd floor
 David Case and Carol Hani

4-5, Bibleodeon: Gallery, Mezzanine
 Joanna Fink and Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

6-8, Building Bridges: Chapel, 1st Floor
 Thomas Hartl and guest visitors

This week, Youth Group joins us for Rev. Fred's reception lunch in the Barn Room at noon.

Have you always wanted to wear a dinosaur or carry a giant butterfly, while sharing about your church?

On Sunday, October 11 we will join in the HONK! Activist Band Parade with our 7 Principles Street Puppets to represent First Parish. People of all ages are welcome! To sign up to hold a giant insect or wear a unicorn or penguin, contact DRE Mandy Neff at dre@firstparishcambridge.org by October 6.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Farewell Party for Rev. Fred Small – September 27

Everyone is invited to a luncheon in Fred's honor right after the service. We will celebrate his time with us as our Senior Minister and wish him well as he begins his new journey. Plan to join us in the parlor to share good memories, good wishes and good food as we say goodbye.

Upcoming Events

Contemplative Service - September 30

Join us on Wednesday, September 30 for the next Contemplative Service as we step out of the busy and connect back to the body and the breath.

This month's readings will feature passages from Thich Nhat Hanh's *How to Sit*. We will meet from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in the Barn Room

Annual Leadership Retreat – October 3

*Connection, Collaboration, Communication:
Building Community While In Transition*

Chairs or representatives from all committees and program groups are invited to join us for our Program Council Leadership Retreat Saturday, October 3rd to catch up on plans for the new program year and how we can work more effectively together. The Standing Committee will review the updated Strategic Plan and how it will be used to guide decision-making in the coming months. We will also discuss the status of our Sustainability Action Plan and the planned outreach program. This interactive morning of information sharing and small group discussions will be followed by a training session on how to use collaborative on-line technology to work together more efficiently. Starts at 9:00 am. Coffee and snacks will be available and we will have you out by 1:00 pm for the rest of your Saturday activities!

Sacred Circle's Open Circle- October 3

Women interested in joining the First Parish Women's Sacred Circle spiritual practice group are warmly welcomed to the annual Open Circle; join us in the Nursery/Barn Room at 6:30 pm. 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 around spiritual work with animal totems. We open to accept new members *only* once a year & then meet monthly as a closed group thereafter. Circles are held on the 1st Saturdays of each month, Oct. – June. In order to foster a deep sense of trust and community, we ask that members returning in Nov. make a commitment to attend for the whole year. Please contact Holly Williams at holly.williams176@gmail.com if you are interested in attending the October circle.

GBIO Task Force Open Meeting – October 4

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Task Force invites you to an informational conversation on Sunday, October 4, from 12:30 to 2:00 PM in the Barn Room. This will be a chance to learn about GBIO membership and activities, hear from a GBIO lay leader from another congregation, and discuss your questions, concerns, and ideas. Please join us to learn more about GBIO before we vote on First Parish becoming a member later this fall. If you have any questions, please speak with one of the organizers of the Task Force (Allegra Stout, Chris McElroy, Elizabeth Kline, Marcia Hams, Rashid Shaikh and Rosalie Anders) or email us at GBIO@firstparishcambridge.org

Middle East Education Event – October 4

The Middle East Education Group will sponsor a visit to the Armenian Museum of America and the Project Save Armenian Photograph Archives in Watertown Square on Sunday October 4 beginning at 3:00 pm. Those interested can gather for supper afterward at a nearby restaurant. Send an email to MEEG@firstparishcambridge.org or sign up [online](#).

Community Auction – November 15 and 22

Have you thought about how you can support the auction? Do you want to contribute an event but not sure what to do? In addition to dinners, popular items include vacation homes and tickets to sporting events or concerts (if you have season tickets, consider donating tickets for a specific date). Professional skills such as legal advice or massage or yoga are always popular, or consider creating a themed gift basket! Be creative in coming up with items and events to donate. Whatever it is, there will be someone eager to bid.

You can donate online or pick up a form from the bulletin board in the parlor. This Sunday, September 27th, The Auction Team will continue collecting donations and accepting donation forms for the annual Silent Auction. We are glad to answer any questions or help you brainstorm an item to offer! For more information contact us at auction@firstparishcambridge.org or visit the website at <http://firstparishcambridge.org/get-connected/community-silent-auction/>.

Thanks for your support! And don't forget, all donation items are due by **October 26th!**

Announcements

All written and oral announcements should now be submitted to Emily Guthrie, our Communications and Membership Coordinator. Please e-mail requests to her at CMC@firstparishcambridge.org by Thursday morning at 8:30 am. A reminder that the word limit for written announcements is 125 words and for oral announcements is 65 words.

Flowers

A reminder that you can order a bouquet to beautify the sanctuary on any Sunday. Bouquets are \$35. To do so, please contact Carol Lewis at 617-876-7772 or office@firstparishcambridge.org, by the preceding Thursday.

Enjoy the convenience of electronic giving!

First Parish is pleased to announce that we now offer a new electronic giving program as a way to automate your pledge. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

To set up a recurring giving schedule visit us online at www.firstparishcambridge.org and locate the Donate button. Please note that **all previous users of credit card donations should go to this new system and create a new profile.** If you have questions, please contact Carol Lewis.

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)

Events this Week

Today – Sunday, September 27

Noon MEEG in the Landing Room
12:30 pm Farewell Party

Monday, September 28

8:30 am Groovy Baby Music Classes in the Chapel
5:00 pm Harvard Extension Drama Class - Barn Rm
6:30 pm Women Writing Together in the Chapel
7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous in the Parlor

Tuesday, September 29

9:30 am Yoga Class in the Barn Room
11:00 am Tuesday Meals Morning Volunteers
5:30 pm Tuesday Meals Dinner service
6:00 pm Beloved Conversations Planning - Landing
7:00 pm Liars and Believers in the Chapel
7:15 pm Young Adult Group in the Nursery

Wednesday, September 30

9:30 am Yoga Class in the Barn Room
6:00 pm Butterfly Music in the Meetinghouse
6:30 pm Beyond Borders – Sin Fronteras – Chapel
6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room
7:00 pm Contemplative Service in the Barn Room

Thursday, October 1

9:30 am Yoga Class in the Barn Room
10:00 am Playgroup in the Chapel
12:00 pm Yoga Class in the Barn Room
5:30 pm Internship Committee- LR
6:00 pm Yoga Class in the Barn Room
7:00 pm Social Justice Council in the Chapel
7:45 pm Circle Dance Meditation in the Barn Rm

Friday, October 2

6:30 pm Race Dance Project in the Parlor
8:00 pm Dance Friday in the Barn Room

Saturday, October 3

8:30 am GSA in the Baldwin Room
8:30 am Cambridge Minyan in the Parlor and CH
9:00 am Annual Leadership Retreat in the Chapel
10:00 am Yoga Class in the Barn Room
11:00 am Passim Concert in the Meeting House

Staffing Changes at First Parish

As discussed at the June semi-annual meeting, the Personnel Committee has worked with staff and committees to examine our current staffing and analyze what First Parish needs moving forward. With the Standing Committee's approval several staff changes have been authorized and implemented.

We have created a new staff position of Communications and Membership Coordinator to enhance our existing print, website and social media presence; to support community building and visitor/member engagement; and overall administrative staff services. The **Communications and Membership Coordinator position** was created through the combination of two part-time positions to allow for a full-time staff team member. We are pleased to report that we have selected **Emily Guthrie**, a recent graduate of Denison University with a degree in Religion and Communication to fill this position. Emily, a life-long Unitarian Universalist with a strong commitment to social justice issues began work on September 10.

We welcome **Colleen Vickers, Religious Education Intern**, into our community. She will be with us until the New Year and works Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

We are also pleased to report that **Roland Ellies** has accepted a new role as **Building Manager**, effective October 1, to enhance building services for our congregational needs and facilitate services for tenants.

With Roland's new responsibilities, we will also be hiring part-time custodians to focus on cleaning. Roland will supervise the custodians and also take more responsibility for security. His hours will shift to noon-8:00 pm on Tuesday-Friday and 8:00 am-4:00 pm on Sundays. His responsibilities will include staffing the office 6:30-7:30 Tuesday-Friday to make it easier for people to enter the building for meetings and events in the early evening. This shift will happen the first week of October.

Interviews are underway and we hope to announce the names of people to fill our **custodian, Homelessness Ministry Coordinator and Youth Coordinator positions by next week**. If you have questions or suggestions about any of these changes, please contact Personnel Committee chair, Eileen Sullivan at Eileensullivan5@gmail.com

First Parish Staff and Leaders

- Senior MinisterRev. Fred Small
- Ministerial InternSeanan Fong
- Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Thomas Mikelson
- Music Director Jonathan Barnhart
- Director of Religious Education Mandy Neff
- Religious Education Intern Colleen Vickers
- Nursery Care Coordinator Lace Campbell
- Nursery Care Coordinator Jeremy Schwartz
- Congregational Administrator Carol Lewis
- Communications & Membership Coordinator Emily Guthrie
- Sexton Roland Ellies
- 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

Standing Committee 2015 - 2016

- Chair: Peggy Kraft
- Vice Chair: Sylvia Wheeler
- Treasurer: Ernie Sabine
- Clerk: Linda West
- Members at Large: Julie Duncan, Brittney Gardner, Devon Kinkead, Grey Lee, Mark Pickering, Rashid Shaikh