

Today's Events

Book Giveaway

Our Elders Group will have a book giveaway table in the Parlor during social hour. Stop by to see the great selection!

GBIO Health Care Campaign at First Parish!

- Are you or someone close to you struggling to pay for necessary medicines or other health care?
- Have you or someone close to you suffered from mental health problems and not received the help you or they need?

At 12:15 in the Barn Room, come share your stories and learn about the campaign. Last year Greater Boston Interfaith Organization held hundreds of small group discussions to help plan their agenda for change in 2019. Four issues that need action to improve health care in Massachusetts: High Cost of Prescription Drugs; High Out of Pocket Costs; Mental Health Care; Health Care for Immigrant Children. For more information about the event, contact Marcia Hams (marciahams@gmail.com) or Tod Hibbard (hibbard79@gmail.com).

Opt in to 100% Renewable Energy!

If you are a Cambridge, Somerville or Arlington resident, please stop by the Environmental Justice Task Force table after the service on Sunday to find out how you can switch to 100% renewable energy and save money! Take advantage of your community's electricity aggregation program to sign on for 100% renewable electricity, continue with Eversource as your provider, and reduce your electrical bill at the same time. (Eversource Basic Rate: 13.588 cents/kWh. Cambridge Community Electricity 100% Green Plus: 11.94 cents/kWh) It's easy! More information is available at: <http://masspowerchoice.com/cambridge> or <https://somervillece.com/>.

Shared Offering for May

Our recipient for May is the **Greater Boston Interfaith Organization**. GBIO is a 20+ year old organization that educates, advocates, and uses power to implement social justice and racial equity in our region. Its accomplishments are legion: criminal

justice legislation adopted; funds for affordable housing in Boston approved; a STEM high school in Roxbury built; and health care laws enacted.

The current priority is on additional health care reforms including dealing with mental health, cost containment and better access including to children of immigrants. Equally important, GBIO has recently voted to approve a “radical reshaping” of its organization to bring in congregations comprised primarily of people of color and immigrants.

First Parish Church became a member in October 2015 and is a very active participant.

June 2 – Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Congregational Business meeting will be held directly after the service on **Sunday, June 2**. All Members will want to attend for a conversation that will include what First Parish is doing to live into our Mission and plans for restoration of our historic Meetinghouse. Governing Board elections will be held and the 2019-2020 budget submitted for approval. More information will be available in announcements and on the website (firstparishcambridge.org) as we get closer to the event.

Cambridge Forum

May 22, 2019, Wednesday, 7:00 PM in the Meetinghouse

Cambridge Forum and Harvard Book Store welcome two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author DAVID MCCULLOUGH for a discussion of his latest book, *The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West*.

Thank you First Parish!

First Parish folks, we outdid ourselves!

We had a strong team on Sunday for the Mother's Day Walk for Peace that braved the cold and the rain to support those mourning loved ones, and those determined to end gun violence. Your gifts helped the First Parish Team raise close to \$5000 and gifts are still being added. The Peace Institute raised close to \$300,000 of its \$400,000 goal. It is an incredible local resource for healing and it

is almost totally dependent on fundraising, so thanks for your generosity.

Chris McElroy
First Parish Team Captain

UU Theology

What is Unitarian Universalist theology? Are you confused? Most of us are! Please join us **May 26** after service in the Barn Room as Mandy Neff, Danielle Di Bona, and William Williamson, have a panel discussion on our theology. Where do the seven principles fit? Do we have doctrine? And how can we worship theologically? Come find out!

First Parish Retreat – Saturday, June 8

Please [register](https://forms.gle/jNMyiSM6KFACqyPg6) (<https://forms.gle/jNMyiSM6KFACqyPg6>) to attend the First Parish Retreat at Salisbury Beach State Reservation (a state park) for fun, food and socializing! Everyone is invited! The cost for food will be \$10/adult and \$5/child age 10 or lower. (There is also a parking fee of \$14 per car with MA license.) If cost is a concern, please contact Carol Lewis at 617-876-7772 or clewis@firstparishcambridge.org.

We have the exclusive use of a large covered pavilion all day. The 16 picnic tables should provide plenty of seating. There is a small beach on the river and a much larger beach on the ocean. The Retreat Planning Team is pleased to announce that we received many responses to the survey. The largest number favored pizza and salad for lunch. However, since a significant number of respondents were interested in pot-luck, we are encouraging everyone to consider providing other salads, side dishes, snacks or desserts, as well as any non-alcoholic beverages your family prefers. We are now accepting [*reservations*](#). To tell us you are coming, please [fill out the Registration form linked here](https://forms.gle/jNMyiSM6KFACqyPg6). (<https://forms.gle/jNMyiSM6KFACqyPg6>)

Background information is available in the May issue of the [Meetinghouse News](#) available on the website or in print form on the membership tables.

Mark Your Calendars for Gospel Sunday – June 16!

This year, the date - **Sunday, June 16** - has been chosen to coincide with the week of *Juneteenth* (the commemoration on June 19th of the end of slavery on this day in 1865, when the news finally was announced in Texas - two and a half years *after* the Emancipation Proclamation). Highly acclaimed gospel choir director Linda Brown-San Martin will again lead our First Parish choir, augmented by interested members of the congregation, along with gospel music-loving friends and neighbors from the surrounding area.

Singing in a gospel choir with Linda is always a joyful and energizing experience. There will be three rehearsals on Thursday evenings: May 30, June 6 and June 13, 7:00--8:30 PM. In the gospel music tradition, music will be taught aurally. Attendance is required on two of these three dates (any two of your choosing), along with a “dress” rehearsal on Saturday, June 15, and the usual 9 AM Sunday rehearsal on June 16.

Please spread the word to anyone you know who might enjoy singing with us on June 16, and consider being part of this special music Sunday yourself! To register, please email Music Director Jonathan Barnhart at JBarnhart@firstparishcambridge.org with your contact information and voice part.

Pastoral Care

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

Safety Reminder

Please remember that the 3 Church Street door is locked beginning at 10:30 on Sunday mornings to help ensure the safety of our space. If you are entering for worship after the door is locked, please use the Mass. Avenue entrance. Accessible entrance is available at 1 Church Street. If you are entering after 10:30 for Religious Education or other programming ring the buzzer at 3 Church Street and someone will let you in.

Get involved!

Do you want to meet more people at First Parish?

A great way to meet people and get involved at First Parish is to **join The Welcome Team Ministry**. Members commit once a month to usher or greet for the hour before church and assist with the collection and other small tasks during the service. Serving on the team allows you to help create a welcoming atmosphere for newcomers. It is a wonderful way to connect with members as well as newcomers. Information is available on the bulletin board in the parlor.

Accompaniment Volunteering

First Parish is a member of the CISC, a coalition of 10 Cambridge-area congregations that is currently hosting a woman and her two children in sanctuary so she can avoid deportation and separation from her family. "Accompaniment" volunteers are needed seven days a week on-site at a church in Harvard Square. Sometimes volunteer shifts are quiet, and sometimes there is a lot of interaction with the children. We can pair you with an experienced volunteer so you won't be on your own. Volunteering helps in her long process of fighting to stay in the U.S.

Child Care Volunteering

The CISC childcare team is looking for several new volunteers who can commit to regular monthly outings to ensure that the children (ages 2 and almost 4) are able to spend time outside each day. A simple hour or two of outdoor play means so much in the life of this family we've committed as a coalition to support. Because coverage and consistency are ongoing concerns, we are looking for people who can commit to at least 2 weekday morning or afternoon outings a month.

Please email Rebecca Balder, First Parish's volunteer coordinator, at BBSF@firstparishcambridge.org to learn more about either of these opportunities.

Groups

Our Elders Group is open and meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 2:30 pm in the Chapel. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Danielle at ddibona@firstparishcambridge.org.

The **Young Adult Group (YAG)** is a community for people ages 18-35. YAG meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7pm upstairs in the Nursery and sometimes meets for food and social events on other occasions. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information visit our website cambridgeyag.org.

Spanish Conversation Group

¿Hablas español? First Parish's **Spanish Conversation** Group meets on first and third Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Baldwin Room. Come join us for informal conversation in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. All levels are welcome and no commitment is required! For more information, email spanish@firstparishcambridge.org. ¡Nos vemos pronto!

Events This Week

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

Sunday

May 19

- 9:00 am SJC Breakfast in the Parlor
- 10:30 am Sunday Worship
- 12:15 pm GBIO Meeting in the Barn Room
- 12:30 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room
- 12:30 pm Youth Group in the Nursery
- 7:00 pm Cambridge Minyan in the Chapel

Monday

May 20

- 4:00 pm Harvard Book Store in the Meetinghouse
- 6:30 pm AA in the Parlor
- 6:30 pm Art Class in the Chapel
- 6:30 pm Women Writing Together in the Baldwin Room

Tuesday

May 21

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 5:30 pm Tuesday Meals in the Parlor
- 5:30 pm Development Team in the Landing Room
- 6:00 pm Spanish Conversation in the Baldwin Room
- 7:00 pm Governing Board in the Chapel

Wednesday

May 22

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 4:00 pm Cambridge Forum/Harvard Book Store in the Meetinghouse
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Board in the Nursery
- 6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room
- 7:00 pm BBSF in the Chapel
- 7:30 pm Interplay in the Barn Room
- 8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

Thursday

May 23

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 12:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room
- 5:00 pm World Music Concert in the Meetinghouse
- 6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room

Friday

May 24

- 9:00 am Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel
- 6:00 pm Family Game Night in the Parlor

Saturday

May 25

- 8:30 am GSA in the Chapel
- 10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 5:30 pm Book Discussion and Signing in the Barn Room