

First Parish in Cambridge – May 26, 2019

Where Have All the Flowers Gone

Rev. Danielle Di Bona

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.

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

Participating in the Service

Rev. Danielle Di Bona, Developmental Minister

Will Williamson, Ministerial Intern

Mandy Neff, Director of Religious Education

Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director

The First Parish Choir

Peter Lowber, Welcome Team Leader

Grace Hall, Newcomer Liaison

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Please join us for a Story for All Ages, then our closing celebration!

Children will enjoy watermelon and fun activities in the Barn Room or the nearby Sunken Garden if weather is good, create some appreciation gifts for their volunteer teachers, and let us know what they thought of the year!

Today's Events

What is Unitarian Universalist theology? Are you confused? Most of us are! Please join us in the Barn Room after service 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!

Prayer Vigil at the Boston ICE Detention Center, 2-3 pm

Boston-area congregations are organizing regular prayer vigils at the ICE Detention Center at the South Bay House of Corrections (20 Bradston Street in Boston) in solidarity with those detained there by ICE. Join members of First Parish as we come together to make a public statement that people of faith stand up for the rights of undocumented people. If you are interested in traveling over with a group, please email Peter at plowber@hotmail.com to coordinate.

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. Links to important information for the meeting including candidate profiles of Governing Board candidates, information from our social justice task forces and a copy of the 2019-2020 budget can all be found on our [website](http://www.firstparishcambridge.org/2019-congregational-business-meeting-june-2-2019/) at <http://www.firstparishcambridge.org/2019-congregational-business-meeting-june-2-2019/>. Limited copies will be available at the meeting.

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 a pizza and salad lunch is \$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. We are encouraging everyone to consider providing other salads, side dishes, snacks or desserts, as well as any non-alcoholic beverages your family prefers. Please let us you are coming, by completing the [Registration form](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.

The Cambridge Safer Homes, Safer Community Gun Buy Back

The Gun Buy Back event will be held on the morning of Saturday, June 8, 9 am to noon, at two locations: The Pentecostal Tabernacle North, 77 Columbia Street and Reservoir Church, 170 Rindge Avenue.

No questions asked. No identification required.

The Gun Buy Back is focused on getting unwanted and unsecured guns out of homes where they pose a serious risk to children, people with mental illness who may contemplate suicide and those at risk of domestic violence.

Cambridge Police and the Middlesex Sheriff's Office will be managing both sites and handling the guns turned in, and the State Police will destroy the guns. Residents turning in guns and ammunition will be given a gift card to a local grocery or restaurant.

In the past four years, Cambridge alone has collected almost 150 guns, including an assault rifle and three loaded handguns. Almost 1000 guns have been collected in 15 Middlesex County cities and towns in the past five years. Each year, more towns are joining this effort to reduce the numbers of deaths and injuries from guns.

This is an interfaith and community-led partnership by Cambridge churches, synagogues and mosques, including First Parish, and by other grassroots community organizations, including the Cambridge Peace Commission, the Cambridge Police Department, the Cambridge Public Health Department, the Middlesex County Sheriff and State Police.

Please help get the word out to friends and neighbors and beyond so that residents who have or know people who have guns in their homes will consider getting rid of them at the gun buy back.

Mark Your Calendars for Gospel Sunday – June 16!

This year's date, **Sunday, June 16**, was chosen to coincide with the week of *Juneteenth* (the commemoration of 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 be our guest director.

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.

New Modes of Communication and Getting the Word Out!

We recognize that communicating with members of the congregation and getting the word out about the many activities happening here is important to growing our ministries. Time has shown, though, that the current monthly newsletter does not seem to serve as the best vehicle for such communication. So, the June 2019 issue of *The Meetinghouse News* will be the last issue of the monthly newsletter in this format. Instead, we'll be moving to more of a quarterly "theme based" communication. We'll continue our weekly announcements and email blasts and use these as our main method of alerting people to what is happening around First Parish.

The new quarterly communication will offer opportunities for people to share more personal reflections and include information regarding worship themes and ideas for incorporating new spiritual practices into your life. Watch for more information in the June newsletter or contact Carol Lewis at clewis@firstparishcambridge.org.

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.

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

Attention Cambridge Residents

The Cambridge Health Department is conducting its second Community Health Assessment. All Cambridge residents are encouraged to take the Cambridge Health Survey (<https://sites.google.com/challiance.org/ahealthycityforall/>) The survey is anonymous and will help the Health Department understand the health needs and concerns of the city as they work to make Cambridge a "Healthy City for All". The deadline for the survey is **May 31, 2019**.

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!

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.

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

- 10:30 am Sunday Worship
- 12:00 pm UU Theology Panel in the Barn Room
- 12:30 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room
- 12:30 pm Parenting Group in the Chapel

Monday

- 10:00 am Covenant Group in the Nursery
- 6:30 pm AA in the Parlor
- 6:30 pm Art Class in the Chapel

Tuesday

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 5:30 pm Tuesday Meals in the Parlor
- 7:00 pm BBSF in the Chapel
- 7:00 pm YAG in the Nursery

Wednesday

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room
- 8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

Thursday

- 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 10:00 am Harvard Extension Commencement in the Meetinghouse
- 12:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room
- 6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room
- 6:30 pm Gospel Choir Rehearsal in the Parlor

Friday

- 9:00 am Groovy Baby Music in the Chapel
- 4:00 pm Y2Y Space Use in the Barn Room
- 6:15 pm Shared Ministry Weekend Potluck & Discussion

Saturday

- 8:30 am GSA in the Chapel
- 9:00 am Shared Ministry Weekend Leaders Workshop
- 10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room
- 10:00 am Jr. Youth in the Fuller Room
- 6:00 pm Women's Circle in the Barn Room