

Welcome to First Parish in Cambridge – August 18, 2019

Participating in the Service

Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer, Lead Minister
Jennifer Fitch, Marcia Hams
Jonathan Barnhart, Director of Music
Valerie Fullum, Welcome Team Leader

This morning's hymns are:

Singing the Journey (Teal) #1010
We Give Thanks

Singing the Living Tradition (Grey) #21
For the Beauty of the Earth

Singing the Living Tradition (Grey) #323
Break Not the Circle

Our Covenant

In covenant with one another and all we hold sacred, we answer the call of love, welcoming all people into the celebration of life, searching for truth and meaning, and striving for justice and compassion, to nourish and serve each other, our community and our world.

Nuestro Convenio

En convenio mutuo y con todo lo que consideramos sagrado, respondiendo al llamado del amor, invitamos a todos a la celebración de la vida, buscamos la verdad y el sentido del ser, y nos esforzamos para alcanzar la justicia y la compasión, para apoyarnos y servirnos mutuamente, a nuestra comunidad y a nuestro mundo.

Traducido por Lilia Cuervo.

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.

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 on the 2nd Floor. An usher can direct you to RE staff. Registration is required.

Religious Education programs for children and youth resume in September.

To receive information about registration for our fall programs including OWL 7-9/homeschool equivalent, please email mneff@firstparishcambridge.org.

Shared Offering for August

The Shared Offering recipient for August is the **Worthy Now Prison Ministry Network**, a liberal religious coalition powered by the Church of the Larger Fellowship, a Unitarian Universalist congregation with no geographical boundary. Worthy Now Prison Ministry Network includes individuals, groups and communities of faith called to prison ministry/justice. Their dream is for all people who are imprisoned to know they are inherently Worthy Now of love and justice, and for them to have access to religious freedom.

The Worthy Now Network developed from two differing needs. The 3500 members of Church of the Larger Fellowship includes more than 750 people who are living in prisons across the United States. Some were already UUs but the majority learned about Unitarian Universalism's saving message by being connect to CLF by others who are incarcerated. Worthy Now helps extend CLF's reach to meet the demand for faith among this population.

They are also called to be a community resource for UUs and others in liberal faith traditions so they can extend their reach far beyond those they already serve. Worthy Now seeks to create common space for all of us to connect online, share ideas and resources and provide/receive training. This prison ministry network will help those in the free world better serve our incarcerated siblings in faith.

For more information: worthynow.org

From Rev. Adam Regarding Changes to Parish House Spaces

Over the summer, the staff has been re-evaluating how we are using space in the Parish House. Part of this is for efficiency and part of this is for safety. Carol now has her office where Rev. Danielle was located and her old office will become a resource room for RE. I've opened up the arrangement of my own office so that it can be better accessed for meetings. Carol and Mandy also got together with the Cambridge Police to do a thorough walk through of our building to get a better sense of what we need to do to keep everyone secure when they are here in our spaces. One of the most important concerns they identified was the need for our nursery to be in a much more accessible location. Looking at room utilization, we saw that the Crothers Chapel is currently used primarily for children's programming (Groovy Babies, Cambridge Minyan, etc.) and meetings (Elders, committees and Governing Board). Although it has been much loved, it is only infrequently used as a chapel space.

As a result of our observations, we are taking steps to transform the chapel into a dedicated nursery space. Initially, this will only mean moving furniture and items from the current nursery down to the chapel, but eventually, we will make some important updates to the doors and consider other ways to make this space more child friendly. In the late 1940s, the Crothers Chapel was constructed and posthumously dedicated to [Rev. Samuel McChord Crothers](#) and his wife Louise who faithfully served this congregation for 33 years (1894 – 1927). Their event filled ministry included not only the First World War but saving the current meetinghouse from demolition. We will always owe the Crothers an incredible debt of gratitude and we currently have no plans to change the name of the chapel (other than referring to it as "The Nursery"). We would like to think of this as a "re-dedication" that will continue to honor their legacy with positive and forward-thinking utilization.

Once we make the transition at the end of August, the second-floor space currently occupied by the nursery will become a new and flexible meeting and meditation space that will allow us to also use the Barn Room in more varied ways for rentals. Overall, we hope to open up new possibilities and invite new and spirit filled ideas about how we gather throughout the building while we create the safest place possible for everyone at First Parish, in particular our youngest and most vulnerable members. In the meantime, we hope that this transition is not too disruptive, and we look forward to continuing to work with you make our whole operation function for the safety and benefit of our entire community.

- Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer

Home Hospitality Needed – August 28 through September 1

We have a UU parent from the west coast who is coming to the area to help their child get settled before starting their first year at Berkeley School of Music this fall. They are looking for a local place for the two of them to stay for the last few days of August. If you might be able to accommodate them or if you know someone who can, please contact Rev. Adam as soon as possible directly by email: adyer@firstparishcambridge.org

Upcoming Events

Wellness Checks with Harvard's Family Van – This Tuesday!

Harvard's **Family Van** <http://www.familyvan.org/> is coming to First Parish **Tuesday, August 20, 4:30 – 6:30pm**. Designed in collaboration with community partners twenty-five years ago, The Family Van works to increase access to health care and improve the health of residents in Boston's most underserved communities. The Family Van's mission is to empower community members by improving health literacy and providing preventive screenings, in a welcoming and non-judgmental environment. Their diverse team is comprised of health educators, HIV counselors, registered dietitians and volunteers, as well as other health professionals and partners. They will be at the 3 Church Street entrance from 4:30 until 6:30 on the **third Tuesday** of every month. Join us for a check-up and then join us for a meal! Our dining room opens as always at 5:30 and we will be serving hot meals until 7:00.

Beloved Conversations is back!

The First Parish Cambridge Racial Equity Team first sponsored Beloved Conversations at First Parish a year ago. The response has been strongly positive and so we are bringing Beloved Conversations back to make this work available to more persons. We have a few spots open so we've extended the registration deadline to Monday, September 9.

Beloved Conversations is an experiential curriculum using a small-group ministry format that provides an intentional space to explore the role of race/ethnicity in individual and congregational lives.

- The program begins with an Opening Retreat at First Parish: Friday evening, October 18, and Saturday, October 19, 2019. Retreat participants then divide into two groups (~ten participants plus two facilitators to allow for more intimate discussion) for eight two-hour sessions at First Parish roughly twice a month, on either Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings.
- For more information and/or to register, click [here](#) or see the Beloved Conversations page on the First Parish website: <https://www.firstparishcambridge.org/>, Click on the Justice tab and then on Beloved Conversations. Also feel free to contact Karin Lin, kslnet@yahoo.com, (617) 710-9581, and Charlene Galarneau, charlene.galarneau@gmail.com, (617) 455-8905, for more information.

Accompaniment and Child Care Volunteering

First Parish is a member of the CISC, a coalition of 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. We can pair you with an experienced volunteer so you won't be on your own.

We are also looking for volunteers who can commit to regular monthly outings to ensure that the children 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. 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 BBSF@firstparishcambridge.org to learn more about either of these opportunities.

Get Involved

Hospitality Help Needed – It takes many volunteers for us to be able to provide food for social hour on Sundays after worship. It's too much to expect that a few people will do all the work on this so we're asking that everyone pitch in to make our social hours welcoming to all. We're looking for 3-4 people each week to provide food items (baked goods, fruit, cheese & crackers, hummus, etc). The church provides coffee, tea and water. A sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the Parlor for you to sign up for upcoming Sundays!

Groups

Our Elders Group is open and meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 2:30 pm in the Chapel.

The **Young Adult Group** (YAG) is a community for people ages 18-35. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 pm upstairs in the Nursery and sometimes meets for food and social events on other occasions. Newcomers are always welcome. Anyone 18-35 is welcome to attend!

Spanish Conversation Group

¿Hablas español? Our **Spanish Conversation** Group meets on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 pm 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 Classes are not First Parish programs. They are run by outside instructors and a fee is associated with them.

Sunday August 18

10:30 am Sunday Worship

Monday August 19

9:00 am GPI in the Parlor

2:00 pm GPI in the Parlor

6:30 pm AA in the Parlor

6:30 pm Art Class in the Chapel

Tuesday August 20

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 August 21

6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room

8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

Thursday August 22

9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

12:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room

6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room

Saturday August 24

8:30 am GSA in the Chapel

10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

2:00 pm GPI in the Parlor