**Welcome to First Parish in Cambridge – September 15, 2019**

**Hope is Movement – Carter Smith**

***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.***

 **Participating in the Service**

Carter Smith, Guest Preacher

Mandy Neff, Director of Religious Education

Carol Lewis, Director of Administration

Jennifer Fitch, Worship Team

Jonathan Barnhart, Director of Music

The First Parish Choir

Rob Moir, Welcome Team Leader

Our Guest Preacher this morning is Carter Smith, a seminarian at Harvard Divinity School, Class of 2021. In college, at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Carter was always working to combine learnings from her Religious Studies and Political Science classes with her extra-curricular work as co-director of the school’s Student Environmental Center, and as a volunteer activist for voting rights. Now, she is interested in learning about movement building and change-making in a world that needs healing, and how to bring that into her future ministry. In her free time she enjoys working with the HDS beekeeping club, exploring New England, brewing kombucha, and experiencing community life over the dining room table in the multi-generational housing cooperative she calls home.

**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 under 4 are welcome in our Nursery. An usher can direct you to RE staff.

Religious Education programs

**Please join us for the Teacher Blessing, then RE programs**
Nursery under 4 Nursery, 1st floor

Spirit Play PK-K with parents & guardians    Baldwin Room, Mezzanine

Moral Tales - 1-3 Barn Room, 2nd floor

Toolbox of Faith - 4-6 Fuller Room, Mezzanine

Parents & Guardians of 1-6th children, Barn Room 2, 2nd floor

**From 12:30-2:30pm:**

OWL - 7-9 Y2Y Shelter (adults) and Barn Room 2 (youth)

Today following the service

**People of Color Caucus – at Noon**

Our People of Color caucus will meet at noon in the Landing Room.  Anyone who identifies as a person of color is welcome.

**Young Adult Pizza Lunch**

Our Young Adult Group (YAG) for people ages 18-35 will be gathering for pizza after service. Gather as soon as the service is over in the Baldwin Room on the mezzanine level. Anyone 18-35 is welcome to attend.

Memorial Donation of Outdoor Planters

The seasonal flower planters placed at the entry steps for Welcome Sunday were donated in memory of Steven Reckhow, a friend of First Parish in Cambridge and beloved husband of Sylvia Wheeler.

Shared Offering for September

Each month, First Parish donates one half of our otherwise undesignated Sunday morning offering to local non-profit, social justice or service organizations with whom we have a partnership or with whom we seek to develop a new relationship. The Shared Offering recipient for September **is Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE).**

ACE builds the power of communities of color and low-income communities in Massachusetts to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environmental justice. Systemic change means moving beyond solving problems one-by-one to eliminating the root causes of environmental injustice. ACE is anchoring a movement of people who have been excluded from decision-making to confront power directly and demand fundamental changes in the rules of the game, so together we can achieve our right to a healthy environment. ACE is led by the constituents it serves in Roxbury and Greater Boston. Its youth empowerment program has become a model for nurturing youth leadership in the environmental justice movement. ACE’s T Riders Union organizes lower income riders and riders of color who must depend on public transit to build a unified voice for better public transportation in Greater Boston. ACE also provides legal and technical assistance to support groups working on environmental justice. This has helped neighborhood groups statewide to block ethanol trains, trash transfer stations, dirty diesel exhaust and asphalt plants. ACE is currently advocating in support of the proposed Massachusetts Environmental Justice and Toxics Reduction Act H.2913 / S.426. Please give generously.

Sunday Potlucks to Resume

Again this fall we are offering “Connection” themed potlucks for members and friends of First Parish.

Your Potluck Team, Jan Ellertsen and Maria Altamore, are currently organizing these delightful dinners at the homes of First Parish hosts who can welcome 8-10 guests. The fall dates are Sundays, October 6, October 27, and November 3. Dinners will be held from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Sign up now to be a guest -- connect with new and old friends at one of these suppers, members and especially newcomers are all welcome to join in. There will be a table in coffee hour where you can obtain more information and fill out a signup sheet. You may also sign up online using the link below. Please list your by preference of date. **Deadline for guest signups is September 18.**

[**FALL 2019 Potluck Dinner**](https://forms.gle/y5BrN6UYxEZhFJBZ9)(<https://forms.gle/y5BrN6UYxEZhFJBZ9>)

Every potluck guest will be asked to contribute a part of the menu to create a balanced meal for all. These informal evenings are a wonderful way to get better acquainted with others at First Parish, enjoy fabulous food, and make some new friends! We hope you will attend.

Please direct questions to Maria or Jan. (chaiya.mca@gmail.com) or (jellertsen297@gmail.com).

First Parish Auction – November 10 & 17

Every year First Parish holds a community silent auction to raise funds and build connections through sharing meals and events together. We need a few volunteers to assist with publicity and outreach to recruit donations from members. The most popular donations are dinners in members’ homes along with events (yoga class, tarot reading, tours, chocolate making) and services such as gardening, decluttering, legal assistance or photography. Joining the Auction Team is a short term commitment and a great way to meet more people. Most tasks are September-December; the auction will be November 10 and 17. If you would like to learn more contact Eileen Sullivan at auction@firstparishcambridge.org

Groups

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

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 in the upstairs meditation space and sometimes meets for food and social events on other occasions. Newcomers are always welcome.

**Spanish Conversation Group**
¿Hablas español?  First Parish's **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 information email spanish@firstparishcambridge.org .

Upcoming Events

**Global Climate Strike September 20** – **Updated information**

Thousands of young people and adult allies will gather in Boston on September 20 to kick off a week of **climate action**! Youth groups are passionately working together through youthclimatestrikeus.org to save our environment and are pushing for new practices and systems to lessen the impact on our climate and our planet. UUs from across the state are teaming up with UU Mass Action and UUSC to strike and show up on September 20th for the Youth’s Climate Strike call to action to fight against the climate crisis.

* 9:00-10:00 am: UU breakfast, sign making, and T-shirt decorating at UUSC in Central Square in Cambridge at 689 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139 (this is a wheelchair accessible space).
* 10:30-11:15 am: (location near City Hall Plaza tbd, this is being finalized): Meet up with all UUs in Boston for singing before the strike! (This will happen during the “Community Events” portion of the strike which is happening from 10-11:30)
* 11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Main Rally at City Hall Plaza—speakers, dances/songs/bands, slam poetry!
* 1:00-1:30 pm: March to Massachusetts Statehouse with everyone
* 1:30-2:30 pm: Action at Massachusetts Statehouse with everyone

Be sure to [RSVP at the UU Mass Action RSVP form](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__uumassaction.us4.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D5963b5be942d95ffbcabb0a95-26id-3D927efde02d-26e-3D9d84ef3f40&d=DwMFaQ&c=NpiPIT1KNSO0vXgGk6ogJQ&r=B0qFtMSAtcrNEy04sKjzEOxpxWh04cS6Nlopgwp8faE&m=i-B8ZmmrPIqruKZUDccRti7ST8RXygEgIx1xXRCpy9g&s=Tm8a37IinKgerV5dUA4LzDcsFj-AWto5EdzIJueiqrA&e=) to get the latest updates. **This is an important event. Join members of EJTF for all or some part of the day as you are able.** Wear a yellow UU t-shirt if you have one or any other UU pins, etc. Can’t find us when you get to Boston City Hall Plaza? Text Grace Hall at 215-858-5448.

**Climate Action - September 22**

Following the Global Climate Strike, there will be a week of other local climate actions. The EJTF is supporting Charlie’s Climate Catastrophe Tour, being organized by 350 Mass, on **Sunday, September 22**. Please come join us at noon in front of the State House to rally for better public transportation! We will be greeting a life-sized puppet of Governor Charlie Baker, who will get out of his “limo,” and hold a “press conference.” We will then walk with him to South Station, where Charlie will take a ride on the MBTA!

**Autumn Equinox Ritual - September 22**

Please join the Women's Sacred Circle for a celebration of Autumn Equinox in the Barn Room on Sunday, **September 22nd**. All genders and ages are invited! If you have never attended a pagan ritual or would like an overview, join us at **2:00 pm** for a short orientation. The ritual will begin at **2:15 pm** and last about 60 minutes. Autumn Equinox focuses on harvest, gratitude, abundance, balance and preparation for the dark. The ritual will include reflection, chanting, movement, pagan communion and blessings. Refreshments will be available after the ritual.

**Young Adult Potluck Dinner**

Our Young Adult Group (YAG) for people ages 18-35 is hosting a potluck dinner on the evening of Sunday September 22nd. It will be held in the parlor, starting at **6:00 pm**. Anyone 18-35 is welcome to attend.

**Understanding Islam:** *A Muslim Woman’s Perspective on the Essence of Islam, the Diversity of the Muslim World, and its Relationship to the West*

The **Middle East Education Group** invites you to consider this 4-part introductory course **Wednesdays: September 25, October 2, 16, and 30;** 7:00 pm at Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church, 1555 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge. Fee is $65 ($10 for student/low income). Instructor is Hayat Imam, an American-Muslim of Bangladeshi origin. Co-sponsored by Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church and Massachusetts Peace Action. See the Social Justice Council Bulletin Board for more information. Visit <http://masspeaceaction.org/event/understanding-islam/> for more details or to register online.

**Cambridge Forum – The End of Meat? Wednesday, September 25, 7:00 pm in the Meetinghouse**

Can Americans survive without their burgers? This question raises many issues – nutritional, moral and environmental. Join us for a discussion with Dr. Walter Willett, Harvard Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition, Nina Gheihman, sociologist at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and mushroom entrepreneurs, Truman French and Tucker Pforzheimer to learn how our eating decisions affect not just us, but the entire planet. Free and open to all. Book signing to follow.

**Active Hope – Saturday, September 28**

The **Social Justice Council** is sponsoring Active Hope, a day-long introduction to the Work That Reconnects, in the Helverson Parlor, on Saturday, September 28, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.   Based on the work of Joanna Macy, the workshop explores how we can witness the destruction of so many ecological and social systems yet remain resilient, creative, and empowered to act for the healing of our irreplaceable world.  This experiential workshop, for adults and high school age youth, is designed to turn anger, fear, and other difficult emotions into constructive action and a stronger community.  The exercises draw on deep ecology, systems theory, and engaged Buddhism. Participants should bring their own lunch; snacks and beverages will be provided.

Register at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4291165> no later than September 21 or email rosalie.h.anders@gmail.com to learn more or to register. A donation of $10 - $20 is requested.

**Social Justice Breakfast, Sunday, September 29, 9:00 am**

First Parish social justice groups invite you to join them for food, fellowship, and discussion.  We would like to hear about what issues interest you and how you think the church might become involved, and we will talk about the activities planned for the Fall and opportunities to take part.

**Women’s Sacred Circle - Saturday, October 7**

Do you identify as female? Do you currently practice, or are sincerely interested in learning more about earth and goddess-centered spirituality? If so, please consider joining the First Parish Women's Sacred Circle. We open the Circle once a year to new members. This year’s Open Circle is Saturday, October 7 in the Barn Room from 7:30 – 9:30 pm.  Starting in November we will begin meeting as a closed group on the 1st Saturday of each month through June.  In order to foster a deep sense of trust and community, we ask those returning in November to make a commitment to attend each month. Several First Parish members are also members of the Circle, including: Eileen Sullivan, Brenda Leahy, Wendy Irvine, Eileen Maher, Jennifer Griffith, and Juliette Pickering – please ask us about it! If you do plan to attend our Open Circle on October 7th, or have questions, please contact Jennifer at jennifer.audrey@rcn.com.

**Film Screening of “Dawnland” - Sunday, October 13 at First Church UCC, 11 Garden St.**

For decades, child welfare authorities have been forcibly removing Native American children from their homes to “save” them from being Indian. In Maine, the first official “truth and reconciliation commission” in the US begins an unprecedented investigation. **Dawnland** goes behind the scenes, as this historic body deals with difficult truths, questions the meaning of reconciliation, and charts a new course for state and tribal relations.

As a part of recognizing our common history and our historic place in the forming of this country, we are joining with First Church of Cambridge to screen the Emmy-nominated movie **Dawnland**, on **Sunday, October 13, at 12:30 pm, Margaret Jewett Hall, First Church Cambridge (UCC), 11 Garden Street.**

A discussion with Elizabeth Solomon, member of the Massachusett tribe, will follow on Sunday, **October 20, 12:30 pm**, Margaret Jewett Hall. Elizabeth Solomon is an enrolled member of the Massachusett Tribe at Ponkapoag. She is currently the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and Fellowship Programs at Harvard School of Public Health and is a member of a number of advisory and management boards, including boards affiliated with the Boston Harbor Islands National Park and the Digital Archive of Native American Petitions in Massachusetts.

GET INVOLVED

**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.*

**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.

**Office Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for one or more volunteers willing to give a few hours of time each week to help out in the front office. Volunteers would answer the phone, let visitors and those attending daytime events into the building, and some basic office tasks (filing, photocopying, etc.). Two shifts are available:

 Thursday 9:00 – 1:00

Friday 1:00 – 4:00

If you can help out, please contact Carol Lewis at clewis@firstparishcambridge.org.

Health Care Campaign – Action Steps to Make a Difference

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization Health Care Teach-In was held September 5 with over 250 members present, including 17 from First Parish. We gathered to build power and learn details of our campaign to lower the cost of health care for all of us.

GBIO is pushing for real reform in the 2019-2020 session of the Massachusetts Legislature by:

* [**Lowering Prescription Drug Costs**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/9817557/97673176/2040536955?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMS8xLzU2NjA5IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjUzYmMwZDA4LWVjZDMtZTkxMS1iY2QwLTI4MTg3ODRkNDM0OSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiRWxpemtsaW5lQGdtYWlsLmNvbSINCn0%3D&hmac=u1RqRbGsEKafkJIe7PCtMUYpthNlFXDKdAMg9MHpznA=&emci=8f356759-39cf-e911-bcd0-281878391efb&emdi=53bc0d08-ecd3-e911-bcd0-2818784d4349&ceid=5992962)
* [**Increasing Access to Affordable Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Care**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/9817562/97673181/-1133118653?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMS8xLzU2NjA5IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjUzYmMwZDA4LWVjZDMtZTkxMS1iY2QwLTI4MTg3ODRkNDM0OSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiRWxpemtsaW5lQGdtYWlsLmNvbSINCn0%3D&hmac=u1RqRbGsEKafkJIe7PCtMUYpthNlFXDKdAMg9MHpznA=&emci=8f356759-39cf-e911-bcd0-281878391efb&emdi=53bc0d08-ecd3-e911-bcd0-2818784d4349&ceid=5992962)
* [**Regulating Out-of-Network "Surprise" Bills**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/9817564/97673185/-33203468?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMS8xLzU2NjA5IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjUzYmMwZDA4LWVjZDMtZTkxMS1iY2QwLTI4MTg3ODRkNDM0OSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiRWxpemtsaW5lQGdtYWlsLmNvbSINCn0%3D&hmac=u1RqRbGsEKafkJIe7PCtMUYpthNlFXDKdAMg9MHpznA=&emci=8f356759-39cf-e911-bcd0-281878391efb&emdi=53bc0d08-ecd3-e911-bcd0-2818784d4349&ceid=5992962)

GBIO and coalition partners recently scored our first win in this campaign – saving $140 million in the 2020 state budget by lowering MassHealth prescription drug costs. Next steps include:

**October Action**

We have invited legislative leaders as well as Governor Baker to engage with us in a large action in late October. ***At the Teach-In, our First Parish team pledged to bring 50 members to that action!*** To help us get there, please come and bring a friend! The date and location are still in process.

**Call-In Campaign**

[Call state legislative leaders between now and September 19th](https://click.everyaction.com/k/9817565/97673186/-210234154?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMS8xLzU2NjA5IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjUzYmMwZDA4LWVjZDMtZTkxMS1iY2QwLTI4MTg3ODRkNDM0OSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiRWxpemtsaW5lQGdtYWlsLmNvbSINCn0%3D&hmac=u1RqRbGsEKafkJIe7PCtMUYpthNlFXDKdAMg9MHpznA=&emci=8f356759-39cf-e911-bcd0-281878391efb&emdi=53bc0d08-ecd3-e911-bcd0-2818784d4349&ceid=5992962) to make sure that any health care bills they finalize include the provisions listed above in order to bring us real reform. Call between 9:00 am - 4:30 pm (early is better) to:

* Speaker Robert DeLeo- 617-722-2500
* Representative Jennifer Benson-617-722-2430
* Senate President Karen Spilka-617-722-1500
* Senator Cindy Friedman- 617-722-1432

**For more information or to sign up for the October action,** contact First Parish GBIO leaders

Sharon DeVos (sharondevos@gmail.com)

Marcia Hams (marciahams@gmail.com)

Tod Hibbard (hibbard79@gmail.com)

Here is a sample script, but use you own words as you wish.

*Hello. My name is (name) I am a member of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist. I want to leave a message for (person you are calling) about health care reform. I want him/her to know that any health care bill released from the (House or Senate) must include Real Health Care Reform, which must include 3 things.*

* *Prescription drugs reform that MUST include upper payment limits for all expensive prescription drugs.*
* *Enforceable Mental Health Parity*
* *Elimination of Out of Network Surprise Billing.*

After you complete your call, go to <http://gbiohc.org/calls2>  so the GBIO team can keep track of the calls. Thanks!

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 September 15**

 10:30 am Sunday Worship

 12:00 pm YAG Pizza Lunch in Baldwin Room

 12:30 pm OWL Parent Orientation in Y2Y Space

 12:30 pm OWL Students in Meditation Space

 12:30 pm Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room

 6:00 pm Sacred Circle Dance in the Barn Room

**Monday September 16**

 5:00 pm Porter Square Books in the Meetinghouse

 6:30 pm AA in the Parlor

 6:30 pm Art Class in the Nursery

 7:00 pm CISC in the Meditation Room

 7:30 pm Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Room

**Tuesday September 17**

 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 5:30 pm Tuesday Meals in the Parlor

 5:30 pm Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Room

 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 September 18**

 9:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room

 4:00 pm Harvard Book Store in the Meetinghouse

 6:30 pm Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room

 6:30 pm Yin Yoga in the Meditation Room

 8:00 pm AA in the Parlor

**Thursday September 19**

 4:00 pm Harvard Book Store in the Meetinghouse

 6:00 pm Harvard Extension Drama in the Parlor

 6:00 pm Yoga in the Barn Room

**Friday September 20**

 6:00 pm OWL Overnight in the Y2Y space

**Saturday September 21**

 OWL Overnight in the Y2Y space continues

 8:00 am Cambridge Minyan in the Parlor and the Nursery

 8:30 am GSA in the Meditation Space

 10:00 am Yoga in the Barn Room