April 25, 2021
Earth Sunday 2021

Join us for this robust and beautiful service prepared by UU Ministry for the Earth for Earth Day 2021. This virtual service can be found here.

At 11:00 am on Sunday, April 25 join members of our Environmental Justice Team for a Sunday morning chat at Zoom Meeting ID: 155 025 783

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**Listening Circles**

What keeps you awake at night? What social justice issues are you most passionate about? The GBIO Ministry Team invites you to attend a virtual Listening Circle. We want to hear your stories, experiences, and concerns about issues that impact the quality of life in Massachusetts. This could include Health Care, Criminal Justice Systems, Environmental Issues, Racial Equity, Education, Housing, etc. Please register for your preferred date HERE.

If you registered and didn't hear back, please use one of these Zoom Meeting ID's to attend:

- **Sunday, April 25**, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - **Meeting ID**: 812 9918 2872
- **Thursday, April 29**, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - **Meeting ID**: 811 9343 8776
- **Monday, May 3**, 10:00 am to 11:30 am. - **Meeting ID**: 886 6602 5442
Sharing Our Joys, Concerns and Milestones

Concerns:

**Maria Altamore** shares the following: On May 5, 2020, my mother (Rose Altamore) passed away from Covid-19. She was 91 years old. She was a beautiful, loving, warm, kind, sweet, generous, strong, independent woman. It was heartbreaking to lose her; made even harder given the circumstances of Covid. On May 5, 2021, the one-year anniversary of her passing, we are finally able to hold a funeral mass where friends and family can attend and mourn together in person. I hold her in my heart every minute of every day.  
[https://www.macdonaldfuneralhome.com/obituary/rose-altamore](https://www.macdonaldfuneralhome.com/obituary/rose-altamore)

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We've created a [form](#) for you to submit your expressions of joy, concern or life milestones to Rev. Adam and the Pastoral Care Team. You have the option to have your expressions included publicly or simply held privately by the staff. If you have questions, please contact [Carol Lewis](mailto:).  

Join Rosalie Anders on **Monday, April 26**, at **5:00 pm** for a social gathering on Zoom. Our discussion topic is “what is something you've rediscovered?”

Join Director of Administration, Carol Lewis, for a breakfast open space on **Wednesday, April 28 at 9:00 am** on Zoom ([Meeting ID 820 8690 3273](https://example.com)). This open space is an opportunity to simply chat with others, ask questions of Carol and learn more about what’s happening at First Parish. Come and join us!

**BOARD SEEKS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES**

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone can attend General Assembly but each certified congregation in the UUA may send a select number of members as voting delegates. First Parish is entitled to four (4) voting delegates for GA this year.

The Governing Board is seeking volunteers to act as delegates for GA from **June 23 - 27, 2021**. This year, General Assembly will once again be held virtually. Cost of registration is $250 which
will be covered by First Parish for all voting delegates. The Board is committed to encouraging a diverse group of delegates to represent First Parish and encourages Black, Indigenous, and People of Color to apply to be delegates.

General Assembly delegates must be voting members of the congregation. To apply, please send a letter of interest to Grace Hall, Board Clerk. The letter should include how long you have been a member of First Parish, what ways you are involved and why you want to attend GA.

**Building Team Seeks Your Input**

A reminder that the Building Ministry Team is seeking your input in a creative process to determine possible improvements to the interior of our meetinghouse. Consider the whole meetinghouse space: the floor; seating; walls; balconies; pulpit. You can submit your ideas, suggestions and other thoughts by completing this [form](#).

**April Shared Offering**

**Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**

The Shared Offering recipient for April is the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. The Institute was founded by the parents of Louis D. Brown who was caught in a fatal crossfire shootout near his home in Dorchester in December 1993. Louis was a 15-year-old honor-student sophomore who looked forward to college and planned to pursue a Ph.D. His dream was to become the first Black President of the United States.

Louis’ parents, Joseph and Clementina Chéry, co-founded the Peace Institute in 1994 to honor his legacy and continue the peacemaking work focused on gang violence that Louis had been leading. Their goals were to teach young people the value of peace, focus on the assets of community, and support survivors of homicide victims. With remarkable success, for 25 years the Peace Institute has been doing essential healing, advocacy, and peacemaking work for families and communities, especially the families of homicide victims. Today the Peace Institute serves as an integral partner to the City of Boston and other cities across the country in transforming society’s response to homicide and promoting greater sensitivity in dealing with these tragedies. A special fund-raising and awareness-raising event has been a Mother’s Day Walk for Peace, described below.

Please give as generously as you can in the Shared Offering to support the Peace Institute. You can donate using our [secure online portal](#), by text at 617-401-0686, or by mailing a check to the church.
Palestinian rights, Israeli policies, and American politics

Everyone is invited to join our Middle East Education Group for a talk and discussion, via Zoom, on Friday, April 30 at 7:00 pm with Eve Spangler. A human rights activist, Boston College sociologist, and author of Understanding Israel/Palestine: Race, Nation and Human Rights in the Conflict she will discuss the ways in which Americans understand (or misunderstand) and respond to current Israeli initiatives and the long-standing Palestinian quest for justice. Her work is based on 18 years of teaching about and bringing observers (mostly students) to see the conflict at first hand.

Please register in advance for this meeting:  Click here to register.

Ordination of Sana Saeed by the First Parish in Cambridge
Saturday, May 8th, 2021 at 4:00 pm - (Zoom meeting)

All are invited to join us for a virtual event and celebration as the First Parish in Cambridge proudly ordains Sana Saeed, our former Ministerial Intern and Membership Coordinator, into UU ministry. Please RSVP for the event here.

Whether or not you can attend the virtual event, you are invited to share in the celebration in a few special ways.
• Send in a blessing pic: Email a picture holding up a word of blessing for Sana's ministry to sanaordination@gmail.com by May 1st, 2021.

• Send Sana a Recipe: Sana has requested favorite recipes be shared as she embarks on this journey of ministry. Sana writes: *I'm reflecting on how this journey of formation has fed me, the way ministry nourishes me and as I engage curiously with what will feed me while I continue along this path, I invite you to send me recipes that nourish you. Recipes for the days that are exhausting, for the lows of ministry, for the highs of ministry, for the celebrations and for the days when comfort is needed. While we can't be together in person, this is one way I am hoping to be closer to people on my ordination day by preparing recipes that people send in. I hope to make these recipes into a personal recipe book to use as I navigate ministry in the future. Please send recipes to sanaordination@gmail.com*

How can we respond to the appalling violent deaths that keep occurring? An immediate way is to support the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute by contributing to the 25th Annual Mother’s Day Walk for Peace. We are fortunate to have this chance for a direct connection to providing desperately needed support to those whose lives are devastated by violent death. You can do it right now, at the First Parish Cambridge Team Page.

Questions? Contact Chris McElroy, Jan Ellertsen, or Cushing Giesey. Thank you so much.

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**Time Off in April**

Rev. Adam is on study leave through Friday, April 30. If you should have any pressing needs during this time, please reach out to Carol and she will be able to direct your questions and concerns.
The Spring 2021 Minns Lectures
3 Fridays: May 14, May 21 and May 28

OVERLOOKED AND DESPISED: Lectures on a Humanist Re-Thinking of Biblical Outsiders
Dr. Anthony B. Pinn, PhD, Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities, Rice University will explore various aspects concerning the rabid nationalism and marginalization of despised populations marking so much of public life in the United States.

Friday, May 14 at 6:00 pm - Job’s Wife and the Price of Integrity
Job’s wife reveals an unexpected truth, and confronts us with a hard question: What are we willing to live (and die) for?  
Respondent: Rev Kim Hampton

Friday, May 21 at 7:00 pm - Nimrod and the Unjustified "Because"
The biblical character of Nimrod shows us the value of perpetual rebellion, a necessary virtue for our times.  
Respondent: Rev. Martin Lavanhar

Friday, May 28 at 6:00 pm - Judas and Making Justice Happen
Judas is a character we love to hate. But from another angle he has a deep and contradictory commitment to political transformation.  
Respondent: Mark Hicks, PhD

Registration is free but is required. Register to attend virtually on Zoom by clicking here. Co-hosted by First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, First Church in Boston and King’s Chapel, and First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston
A reminder: submissions for Friday announcements must be received by Thursday noon. Thank you!

Calendar of Virtual Meetings*

Friday April 23
5:30 pm Soul Matters - Susan S - all participants must be registered in our RE program. Meeting information is available from the group leader.

Sunday April 25
8:00 am Weekly Meditation with Stacey - contact Stacey Jackson-Flamnia
10:00 am Parenting Support Group - Meeting ID 860 2402 898
11:00 am Sunday Morning Discussion - Meeting ID 155 025 783
12:00 pm Youth Group - all participants must be registered in our RE program. Meeting information is available from the group leader.
7:00 pm GBIOL Listening Circle - Meeting ID 812 9918 2872

Monday April 26
5:00 pm Zoom Social Gathering - Meeting ID 837 1976 8327

Wednesday April 28
9:00 am Breakfast Open Space - Meeting ID 889 7621 2621
7:00 pm Soul Matters - Lindsay - all participants must be registered in our RE program. Meeting information is available from the group leader.
7:00 pm BB-SF Monthly Meeting - Meeting ID 841 7857 3842

Thursday April 29
7:00 pm GBIOL Listening Circle - Meeting ID 811 9343 8776

Friday April 30
7:00 pm Middle East Educational Event - Meeting ID 859 5588 4553

*Information for All Virtual Meetings
We are listing Meeting ID's for all Zoom virtual meetings rather than an actual link. To log on follow these steps:

- Go to Zoom.us. This will bring you to the Zoom homepage
- Click on Join Meeting tab
- You will then be prompted to add a Meeting ID. Enter the ID and click JOIN
- In most cases you will then be in a waiting room until the host of the meeting admits you to the meeting. This is for security purposes.