April 18, 2021

How Will Our Congregation Become Its Best Self?

With the help of an article from the BBC, we will look at the psychology of “personality maturation” and the idea that people develop more altruistic traits and become more trusting of others as they age. We’ll ask of ourselves, are we as a congregation growing in a certain direction? Are we becoming more giving and maybe more vulnerable?

Follow this link to our virtual service on YouTube

On Sunday, April 18 join us at 11:00 am for our Sunday Morning Chat. This week the Stewardship Team will be leading the chat.

Zoom Meeting ID: 155 025 783

Sharing Our Joys, Concerns and Milestones

Concerns:

We continue to hold Lisa Bailey in our thoughts and prayers. Cards and notes of support are welcome. Contact Carol Lewis for address information.

****

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.
Join Cynthia and Tod Hibbard on **Monday, April 19, at 5:00 pm** for a social gathering on Zoom. Our discussion topic, in light of the monthly theme of "Becoming" (and change), will be "What is something that has changed in your life?"

**Listening Circles**

What keeps you awake at night? What social justice issues are you most passionate about? The GBIQ 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 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This could include Health Care, Criminal Justice Systems, Environmental Issues, Racial Equity, Education, Housing, etc. We will host three Listening Circles: Sunday, April 25, from 7 to 8:30 PM; Thursday, April 29, from 7 to 8:30 PM; Monday, May 3, from 10 to 11:30 AM. Please register for your preferred date [HERE](#).

**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, by Tuesday, April 20. 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.
Our Tuesday Meals program re-opened on Tuesday, April 13 after a year long hiatus during the pandemic. Five volunteers gathered to distribute bagged meals which included a chicken and rice dinner from a local Cambridge restaurant, a bottle of water and two cookies to approximately 100 people in need.

Thanks to the City of Cambridge for their ongoing support of partnering with local restaurants to provide meals and to the shelter staff at First Church in Cambridge who have helped our volunteers ensure a safe environment to do this. Thanks to Elizabeth Kline, Martha Velie-Gass, Mary Anne Doiron, Patience Terry and Lee Varon for volunteering this week and to Building Manager, Roland Ellies for providing help with set up and building safety.
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. We want your ideas for what you want the meetinghouse improvements to look and feel like. Based on previous conversations, the Building Ministry Team has identified the following priorities:

- Connectedness
- Sense of community
- Intimacy
- Flexibility
- Attractiveness (to all, including newcomers, visitors, and renters)
- Enabling multi-faith worship
- Openness and spirituality (light from the windows)
- Universal access
- Ease of maintenance

We welcome and encourage you to add to these priorities, and to suggest specific design ideas that implement any of these categories. 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

The Middle East Education Group will present a talk and discussion via Zoom on Friday, April 30 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

Eve Spangler, a human rights activist, Boston College sociologist, and author of Understanding Israel/Palestine: Race, Nation and Human Rights in the Conflict, will be discussing 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
For the tenth year, First Parish will participate in the Annual Mother’s Day Walk for Peace to support the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. The Walk unites the community to celebrate and remember the lives of loved ones who have been murdered in the streets of Boston. Join the First Parish Team in this year’s virtual event. We have set a goal to raise $4,000. Please help by making a generous donation. Be sure to credit your gift to our account by donating at the First Parish Cambridge Team Page.

Calendar is up! You may also want to participate in the Peace Institute’s calendar of 25 Days of Walking, leading up to the Walk’s online broadcast on May 9 at 9:00 a.m. A registration fee of $20 is required for access to the calendar that includes mindfulness, creative, and physical activities. Upon registration, full activity descriptions can be found by scrolling down past the yellow calendar itself. Registration fee donations can be made at the First Parish Cambridge Team Page.

For more information about the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and this month’s events, visit https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org. Questions? Contact Chris McElroy, Jan Ellertsen, or Cushing Giesey. Thank you so much.

---

**Time Off in April**

Rev. Adam will be taking time off from April 16 through 30 returning to work on May 1. This will be both study leave and a brief vacation before the final stretch of the church year. 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.

---

A reminder: submissions for Friday announcements must be received by Thursday noon. Thank you!
Calendar of Virtual Meetings*

Saturday April 17
12:00 pm Soul Matters - Heidi B - all participants must be registered in our RE program. Meeting information is available from the group leader.

Sunday April 18
8:30 am Weekly Meditation with Stacey - contact Stacey Jackson-Flammia  
10:00 am Parenting Support Group - Meeting ID 860 2402 898  
11:00 am Sunday Morning Discussion - Meeting ID 155 025 783  
12:30 pm Soul Matters - Nat M - all participants must be registered in our RE program. Meeting information is available from the group leader.  
1:00 pm People of Color Caucus - Meeting ID 915 3976 6562  
2:30 pm No Tough Guys

Monday April 19
5:00 pm Zoom Social Gathering - Meeting ID 837 1976 8327  
7:00 pm Soul Matters - Ian E - all participants must be registered in our RE program. Meeting information is available from the group leader.

Tuesday April 20
5:00 pm Soul Matters - Kyle E - all participants must be registered in our RE program. Meeting information is available from the group leader.  
7:00 pm Governing Board

Wednesday April 21
1:00 pm Soul Matters - Carol G - all participants must be registered in our RE program. Meeting information is available from the group leader.  
5:00 pm Soul Matters - Carolyn W - all participants must be registered in our RE program. Meeting information is available from the group leader.  
7:00 pm Environmental Justice Mtg - Meeting ID 895 3644 9503

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.
*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](https://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.