May 2, 2021

Who Would You Like to Be Today?
Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer

Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer will reflect on how our spiritual journey and our story as a congregation helps us to look at the coming changes that we’re facing as a congregation. Follow this link to this recorded service.

At 11:00 am join us for a chat led by our Strategic Planning Team. The Team will offer a look into the ways we envision for engaging people of all ages and interest areas as we co-create views of the future together. This will be a rewarding and fun dive into what is possible. We are re-entering a different world with new challenges and opportunities. We hope you will help us shape the choices we can best make together. Please join us as we begin to thoughts, personal stories and hopes for what lies ahead – and what we can do as we continue to learn and grow together.

Zoom Meeting ID: 155 025 783.
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

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

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Our sympathy is extended to Helen Kobek on the death of her aunt Edna, who passed away last week at the age of 102.

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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.
Join Zoom Meeting [here](#).
Meeting ID: 879 2888 2887 Passcode: 147573

Join Helen Kobek on **Monday, May 3**, at **5:00 pm** for a social gathering on Zoom. Our discussion topic is "What skill/characteristic do you have or wish you had to help make life better for yourself and others? "
TAKE ACTION!

Our country’s legacy of racism and colonialism contributed to land theft and loss, hunger and a food system that is a key contributor to climate change. Senators Booker, Warren, Warnock, Leahy, Smith and Gillibrand have introduced the Justice for Black Farmers Act S.300. This legislation and the Climate Stewardship Act S.1072 will promote the transition to climate-friendly agriculture while redressing USDA practices resulting in land loss for black farmers.

Please take part in the UU Ministry for the Earth’s campaign to write letters supporting this legislation to Senator Warren and Senator Markey before May 10th.

Sample letters and information 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. 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.

NOTE from Grace Hall: If you have any questions about what is involved or why you might want to go, I would be delighted to speak with you. Send me a quick email and we can set up a time to talk. I hope some newer members (or almost members) will contact me to check it out.
May Shared Offering

The Shared Offering for May is the inspiring WHOLE program created by Rev. Lorraine A. Thornhill, the pastor of the Kingdom Empowerment Center in Cambridge, to address Mental Health in the Black Faith community, wecanbewhole.org. WHOLE, standing for We Heal Ourselves with Love and Empowerment, is generating widely attended events and gathering extensive resources to address trauma and build total health for the Black community in Cambridge and beyond.

Please give as generously as you can in the Shared Offering to support the WHOLE program of the Kingdom Empowerment Center. You can donate using our secure online portal, by text at 617-401-0686, or by mailing a check to the church.

Soul Matters 2021-2022

Soul Matters is deciding themes for 2021-2022. Use this form to share your preferences with Mandy Neff. She will send a combined response from the congregation to the Soul Matters organizers.

Note that they’re changing things up for 2021-22: “For a few years now, our overarching frame has been “What does it mean to be a people of ______?” This frame focused us on what kind of people and communities our faith calls us to be. Next year, as we move out of “Covid time” and continue to deal with racial injustice, climate change and political division, many of us will be asking about the work ahead and the spiritual practices needed as we try to shift back to “normal,” and hopefully a new normal. Given this focus on the work ahead and the practices needed, we are offering themes that are active phrases, not just single-word topics. Each of the phrases were based on the themes congregations suggested in our April survey.”

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.
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
Response to Violent Death

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 Annual Mothers 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. Thank you.

The Peace 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. The Institute honors his legacy and continues the peacemaking work focused on gang violence that Louis had been leading. 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. For more information, visit www.LDBpeaceinstitute.org.
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 30
7:00 pm  Middle East Educational Event - **Meeting ID 859 5588 4553**

Sunday May 2
8:30 am  Weekly Meditation with Stacey - contact [Stacey Jackson-Flammia](#)
10:00 am  Parenting Support Group - **Meeting ID 860 2402 898**
10:00 am  Youth Group - *all participants must be registered in our RE program.*
*Meeting information is available from the group leader.*
11:00 am  Sunday Morning Discussion - **Meeting ID 155 025 783**
1:00 pm  People of Color Caucus - **Meeting ID 915 3976 6562**
2:30 pm  No Tough Guys

Monday May 3
10:00 am  GBIO Listening Circle - **Meeting ID 886 6602 5442**
5:00 pm  Zoom Social Gathering - **Meeting ID 837 1976 8327**

Tuesday May 4
2:30 pm  Elders Group - **Meeting ID 862 6795 6189**

Wednesday May 5
4:00 pm  Environmental Justice Social Hour - **Meeting ID 832 2611 6704**

Thursday May 6
7:00 pm  8th Principle Information Session - **Meeting ID 853 7688 6325**

*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.