May 9, 2021

Stories of Our Mothers
Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer

The global pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on women, but specifically on mothers. These stories must be told. The link to this virtual service can be found here. The link is updated on Saturdays.

Join Rev. Adam Dyer at 11:00 am for our Sunday Morning Chat. It’s an opportunity to gather in community, share in small and larger groups and discuss the Sunday morning message. **ZOOM Meeting ID: 155 025 783**

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.
Sharing Our Joys, Concerns and Milestones

Milestone:
We celebrate with Director of Lifespan Faith Formation, Mandy Neff and her family as her daughter, Morgan graduates from college on Saturday in Ohio.

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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 Cynthia and Tod Hibbard on Monday, May 10, at 5:00 pm for a social gathering on Zoom. Our topic will be "share a story, some insight about you and your life, and the challenge is to do so briefly - in just a couple of minutes!"

Join Treasurer and Stewardship Chair Cade Murray on May 16 after the Sunday group chat for a conversation about church finances during COVID and beyond. We will also be talking about the new continuous stewardship model, and how it will strengthen our ability to follow our mission and plan for the future.

There will also be plenty of time for Q&A, so if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas around church money, be sure to come!

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.”

Last Week for Giving, and Thank You So Much!

Sunday is the last day of this year’s fund-raising drive. Join the group on Mother’s Day, May 9, at 9:00 a.m. at the virtual 25th Annual Mother’s Day Walk for Peace on www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org.

Tina and the team at the Lewis D. Brown Peace Institute send their sincere thanks for helping First Parish exceed our ambitious $4,000 fund-raising goal for this year. And they ask us to please continue increasing our support to help them assist families coping with violent death in Boston, Cambridge and beyond. Show them how thankful you are for their desperately needed work by contributing, if you haven’t already done so, at First Parish Team Page. We are most grateful for your generosity.
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*

Saturday May 8
4:00 pm  Sana Saeed Ordination

Sunday May 9
8:30 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.
4:30 pm  Beloved Conversations - Meeting ID 882 8593 7327

Monday May 10
5:00 pm  Zoom Social Gathering - Meeting ID 837 1976 8327

Tuesday May 11
3:00 pm  Finance Committee - Meeting ID 819 1393 1929

Wednesday May 12
7:00 pm  Parents & Caregivers as Sexuality Educators -  Registration is closed. 
Participants will receive zoom information from the group leader.

Thursday May 13
6:30 pm  Racial Equity Team

Saturday May 15
9:00 am  Soul Matters - Heidi B - 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. 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.