



# CELEBRATE!

HOLIDAY AND DECEMBER EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR 2019

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD

SEE COMPLETE DETAILS OF THE HOLIDAY EVENTS THROUGHOUT FIRST PARISH WEEKLY.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP: ADVENT

*“Against the darkness winter brings, we bring our light. The candles of our hearts lit by the Advent Star. In darkened places, to guard the longest night.”* —Ernest Sommerfeld

Sunday, December 1, 10:00 a.m.: “Ordination of Hannah

Gallo,” Rev. Kim Wildszewski, The Lincoln Ringers

Sunday, December 8, 10:00 a.m.: “Awake to Miracles,”

Rev. Howard N. Dana, First Parish Choir

Sunday, December 15, 10:00 a.m.: Finzi’s “In Terra Pax,”

Beth Norton, First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra.

Sunday, December 22, 10:00 a.m.: “Solace in Solstice,”

Rev. Liz Weber, First Parish Choir.

Sunday, December 29, 10:00 a.m.: Timothy Ellis

All Ages Service, Music by The Conchords.

## WORSHIP: CHRISTMAS EVE

*(Please note change in times for services)*

4:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Christmas Eve service with music by our Children’s Choirs and Brass Ensemble.

6:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Christmas Eve service with music by the Gospel Ensemble and Contemporary Band

9:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve service with music by the First Parish Choir and organist, Eric Huenneke.

*Each evening service concludes with candle lighting and “Silent Night.”*

## REMEMBER

### The Holiday Memorial Wreath

The Holiday Memorial Wreath, located in the Sanctuary, is a way to acknowledge the memory of a loved one who has died. Tie a colored ribbon to the wreath for those you wish to remember. You are invited to tie a black ribbon on the wreath in memory of black lives lost to injustice. The wreath will remain in the Sanctuary throughout the holidays.

## WORSHIP: BLUE HOLIDAYS VESPERS

**Tuesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., in the Chapel**

Gather in community to find stillness in the midst of all that is going on in the world and in your own life. If the winter holidays feel stressful or bring reminders of grief, we especially invite you to this gentle service. Find comfort in the beauty of candles, music, and understanding. Rev. Liz Weber, Beth Norton, and the By Your Side Singers will offer a quiet space to share words of reflection and music of solace. All are welcome.

## CONNECT

### First Tuesday Group Holiday Gathering

**Tuesday, December 3, 1:30 p.m., in the Parlor**

Connect with your community around holiday warmth. Share your favorite wintertime memories and learn others’ stories as we sit by the fire together. The First Tuesday Group is by and for First Parish members and friends age 65+, though all who feel an affinity with this group are welcome.

## CELEBRATE

### Holiday Concert and Tea

**Sunday, December 8, 3:00 p.m.**

This year’s Holiday Concert and Tea, an annual gift from the Women’s Parish Association, will add a special sparkle to your holiday season! Legendary jazz band, *Sonic Explorers*, will entertain you with a variety of seasonal, popular, and world-music songs. Following the concert, enjoy a festive tea. There is no charge for this event. Attendees, please bring a plate of sweets to share, if you wish. Bring family and friends for a joyful afternoon! For planning purposes, reservations are greatly appreciated. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [pekinc@comcast.net](mailto:pekinc@comcast.net) by December 7. All men, women, youth, and children are warmly invited!

## DELIGHT

### Copley Singers Holiday Concert

**Friday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.**

Praised by The Boston Musical Intelligencer for their “nuance, sweetness, and musical conviction in a wide repertoire of Christmas works,” The Copley Singers’ December 13 performance will offer holiday classics, some contemporary pieces, in arrangements of Willcocks, Rutter, Chilcott, and others. Concertgoers are invited to join in familiar Christmas carols and hymns. This is the third year of Copley Singers Christmas Concerts at First Parish in Concord, and they have been very popular. Mark your calendars! Tickets can be purchased at <http://copleysingers.org>.

## SING

### Rise Up Caroling

**Friday, December 20, 7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

All are invited to “Rise Up Caroling,” an informal evening of carol singing on Friday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Singers of all ages: please bring voices, instruments, and cookies to share. Carol lyrics and sheet music for instrumentalists are provided.

## SHARE

### Holiday Flower Delivery

**Wednesday, December 26, 10:00 a.m.**

Would you like to brighten the day of a First Parish member? Come help deliver holiday flowers to a member who cannot get out and about this holiday season. It's a lovely way to make a new friend. If interested, contact Caitlin Selle at [selle.caitlin5@gmail.com](mailto:selle.caitlin5@gmail.com). We will try to assign you to someone who lives near to where you do. The flower pick-up will be in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. on December 26, and you may deliver it any time that is convenient for you.

## CREATE

### Children's Holiday Craft Workshop

**Saturday, December 7, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

On Saturday, December 7, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., First Parish children are invited to spend the afternoon creating beautiful handmade gifts for the holidays, with the help of an intergenerational community of adult and teen elves. An FP holiday tradition for more than 40 years! Cost: \$15 per child, max \$45 per family, no RSVP needed. To volunteer, contact [elf@firstparish.org](mailto:elf@firstparish.org) or ask one of the Head Elves: Kimberly Brainerd, Kristin Moore, and Jeanne Williams.

## SPREAD CHEER

### Christmas Caroling

**Sunday, December 22, 1:00 p.m.**

Come help bring holiday cheer to our parishioners and others who can't get out this season. Singers of all ages welcome! Carolers may join us for lunch and then carpool to area nursing facilities to sing. Afterward, we'll head back to First Parish to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate together. Feel free to wear festive attire and bring cookies to share. Please sign up by calling the church office at 978-369-9602, or by emailing Rev. Amy Freedman at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org). Drop-ins are also welcome!

## SERVE

### Secret Santa

Each year, First Parish reaches out to the Walden Street School, the Eliot Center, and UU Urban Ministries to provide Christmas Wish lists from their clients. At coffee hour on both December 1 and December 8, you will have an opportunity to select from these lists. After purchasing the present(s), you return them, unwrapped but tagged with the person's first name and organization, to First Parish. The deadline for delivering the gift to First Parish is Sunday, December 15. The gifts will be delivered to the organizations before Christmas. If you have any questions, or you would like to help out with distributing wish lists or organizing donations, please contact Bob Brack at [brackrobert@gmail.com](mailto:brackrobert@gmail.com) or 508-735-6394 (email preferred).

## PROVIDE

### Holiday Gift Bags for Those in Prison

Again this year, Concord Prison Outreach (CPO) is sponsoring the Holiday Gift Bag Project for our neighbors in the two Concord prisons. For information on how you can help, get the flyer at coffee hour, see them attached to the big green bucket in the coat room, or read the article in the Concord Journal or other towns' local papers. To learn more about the Holiday Gift Bag Project and other CPO programs, visit [concordprisonoutreach.org](http://concordprisonoutreach.org). Additional information can be obtained from: Don Miller, [donaldbmiller@comcast.net](mailto:donaldbmiller@comcast.net); or 978-610-6298. Sponsored in partnership with SAC.

## GIVE

### Welcome a Guest at Your Table

During the holiday season, everyone is asked to remember the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and their grassroots partners around the world. Guest at Your Table boxes sit on your dining room table during the holiday season, collecting spare change and dollars. This practice reminds us of our blessings and the importance of sharing. If you did not receive a box in worship on November 24, please pick up one from the church office after Thanksgiving. Please return your box to First Parish by Sunday, December 15, so our 8th graders may count our contributions.

## GATHER

### Third Sunday Supper

**Sunday, December 15, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

All ages are invited to gather for Sunday Supper. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, with a maximum of \$20 per family. Youth Group members eat free! We will make our own crepes for dessert. Feel free to bring a beverage of your choosing, and/or your favorite topping for crêpes: berries, bananas, whipped cream, lemon curd, fudge, caramel, Nutella, or chocolate chips. Please sign up online at: <https://forms.gle/QgBUhuCDPpfNwNgi9>. Even if you haven't signed up, you are welcome! Questions? Contact Sue Ryan at [susanryan101@comcast.net](mailto:susanryan101@comcast.net).

## HONOR

### Honor Your Loved Ones with Flowers

Come to the poinsettia table at coffee hour if you wish to donate a plant in memory of a loved one. Their name and yours will be included in a memorial listing in the December 22 order of service, and the poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary throughout the holidays. To donate, please visit the poinsettia table at coffee hour following the December 8 and 15 services, or stop by the Parish Hall at 9:30 a.m. before the services. Contact Linda Reynolds at 978- 371-0562 or [LSmithReynolds@aol.com](mailto:LSmithReynolds@aol.com), or leave a note and donation (suggested amount \$20) in the office before December 15. Your donation supports the work of the flower committee through the year.