
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord
Sunday, December 10, 2023**

*Please check our weekly e-newsletter, FP Weekly, for Zoom links
for events you are interested in attending virtually.*

Remember

Our Holiday Wreath will be in the Sanctuary during the month of December. All are welcome to add ribbons in memory of loved ones who have died.

Bucket Brigade TODAY!

In partnership with Concord Council on Aging, First Parish delivers buckets of sand for Concord seniors to use on icy sidewalks, driveways and steps. All ages are welcome to help! Buckets will be available for pick-up at First Parish on Sundays, December 3 and 10. If you wish, you can decorate the bucket with sharpies or duct tape! A name, address, and drop location are provided for each bucket. The sand is available at two locations in Concord. If you would like to help deliver one (or more) buckets, please sign-up at <https://bit.ly/FPC23buckets>.

Honor Your Loved Ones with Flowers

On Christmas Eve, poinsettias and cyclamen will decorate our Sanctuary. You are invited to place a holiday plant in honor and/or memory of a loved one. A list of those being honored and their donors will be printed in the order of service. The suggested donation is \$25 and the order deadline is December 15. You may either order flowers during Coffee Hour on Sundays, December 3 or 10 or mail a check and a note with your name and the person who you'd like to honor to First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd, Concord, MA, 01742, Attn: Tina Storey. Please write "Holiday Plants" in the memo line.

Mini Holiday Boutique

December Coffee Hours

The Women's Parish Association will have a Mini Holiday Boutique during the December Sunday coffee hours where you can find holiday décor items and remaining catnip balls. As always, the funds raised from the boutique will be used for First Parish facilities, charities, and social action non-profit organizations.

Secret Santa

TODAY! And Sunday, December 17 during Coffee Hour Sanctuary

Once again, we have the opportunity to spread some holiday cheer. As in years past, we are collecting donations of Visa Gift Cards to provide gifts to people served by the Eliot Center, Renewal House and Walden Street school (\$50 is preferred). (There's a surcharge to the buyer, but no fees for the recipient.) Please leave cards blank. Donations will be accepted at coffee hour Dec 10 and Dec 17. Or you can put your card(s) in an envelope and mail it to First Parish (Attn: Paul Langston-Daley) or drop it by the office while the church is open. The deadline is Sunday December 17th.

Celebrating Chanukah!

TODAY! 10:15 a.m.

Kitchen and RE classrooms

During Religious Education, we will explore and celebrate the Jewish Festival of Lights. We will play dreidel, learn holiday customs, and make delicious latkes. If you would like to share your family traditions or help cook, please contact Rev. [Amy Freedman](#).

**Welcome! We are so glad you are here. Please stop by the Welcome Table after service
or fill out a Connection Card located in your pew.**

Bring Awareness to the Climate Crisis – 11th Hour Calling

Monday, December 11, 10:45 a.m.

Front Lawn

Help bring awareness to the Climate Crisis by standing in front of the church with signs for 45 minutes to 1 hour. By holding signs (provided) and playing musical instruments (bring your own), we attract the attention of passersby. Titled “11th Hour Calling,” we did this in October and November. Thirteen people participated each time and it was a lot of fun. The church bell rings at 11 a.m. This is a monthly event on the 11th of the month. Participate and help save our planet-home.

Diversity Committee Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m.

On Zoom Only

Are you looking for a way to get involved in social action at First Parish? Come join the next meeting of the Diversity Committee! We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month via Zoom and everyone is welcome. Please refer to the Zoom link in FP Weekly. Contact Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com) to join our mailing list.

Menorah Lighting

Wednesday, December 13, 5:00 p.m.

Rideout Park West Concord

Join us as we express our solidarity with our Jewish neighbors! This Town of Concord celebration includes lighting the Menorah with Kerem Shalom; music, craft goody bags from Concord Recreation and Concord Free Public Library, and Latkes from Debra's Natural Gourmet.

Volunteer Sign-up for Children’s Holiday Craft Workshop

Friday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 16, 11:00 a.m.

Parish Hall, Brooks, Emerson, Ripley & Greeley Rooms

Thank you for being part of this magical event at First Parish in Concord. Teen and adult elves are needed to help children make holiday crafts. The volunteer shift runs from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 16 (if you are able to arrive at 11 a.m. to set-up that would be great)! There will also be a group of volunteers setting up the tables and signs on Friday December 15 from 3-5 p.m. Please sign-up online:

<https://forms.gle/tQMencAXGWWo5LPY7>.

If you have any questions, contact craftsworkshop@firstparish.org or stop by the Children’s Holiday Craft Workshop table during coffee hour.

Children’s Holiday Craft Workshop

Saturday, December 16, 12:00 p.m.

Parish Hall, Brooks, Emerson, Ripley & Greeley Rooms

Join us for a magical afternoon of gift-making and holiday spirit! Children can choose from many crafts to make perfect gifts for family, teachers, or friends. No advance registration is necessary. Families can just show up, but no drop-offs please; adult supervision is required. Cost: \$10/child, \$30/family. If you have any questions, please contact craftsworkshop@firstparish.org or stop at the elf workshop table during coffee hour.

Christmas Organ Concert

Saturday, December 16, 4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

You, your family and friends are invited to a beautiful Christmas organ concert by Eric Huenneke, playing on our Russell & Co. pipe organ.

No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.
Sanctuary and on Zoom

Wanted: Angels, donkeys, sheep, shepherds, wise men... This all-ages service will feature our no rehearsal pageant! We'll cast the parts that morning and provide props and costumes. Join us for an energizing retelling of the Nativity story with music and carols. If you'd like to join the all-ages "Pop-Up Choir" for the service, come at 9 a.m. to learn two very easy, fun songs. All ages and whole families are encouraged to sing!

Reflecting Back on What We've Heard
Sunday, December 17, 11:15 a.m.

Sanctuary

Please join members of the Ministerial Search Committee to learn about what we heard in our small group listening sessions with members of the congregation and our focus groups with committees. These sessions have helped us identify and prioritize what qualities our members believe are most important for our new Senior Minister. We met with over 60 people at a dozen listening sessions, and over 20 committees in the focus groups. For a detailed summary of what we've learned, all are welcome to attend and ask questions.

Spread Cheer with Holiday Flower Delivery
Sunday, December 24

Would you help us spread holiday cheer by delivering a holiday plant? Following our Christmas Eve services, poinsettias and cyclamen will be given to First Parish members who are grieving or more isolated this season. To deliver a plant, please contact [Virginia Taylor](#).

Real World Tools for Addressing Conflict in Healthy Ways

Saturday, January 27, 9:30 a.m.

Parish Hall & Parlor

Have you ever avoided conflict because you weren't sure how to respond? Maybe you were worried things might escalate? Or maybe you just didn't feel equipped to respond at the moment. Please join us for this practical workshop. We'll begin the day with a bit of theory from restorative practices and end the

day with practice of the tools you've learned. You will leave this workshop with concrete tools to respond in healthy ways when conflict is present. This will include bystander intervention, de-escalation, and other helpful means for addressing conflict in the moment.