
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Parish in Concord

Sunday, December 17, 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.

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! during Coffee Hour

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 this morning. Or you can put your card(s) in an envelope and drop it by the office while the church is open. The deadline is today.

Reflecting Back on What We've Heard

TODAY! 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, our focus groups with committees, and from the congregational survey. These sessions and the survey 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, over 20 committees in the focus groups, and 174 parishioners responded to the survey. For a summary and discussion of what we've learned, all are welcome to attend and ask questions. Here is a link to the slides that will be used in this presentation that show what we've learned about what the congregation is hoping for in a new Senior Minister:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1di6L0zx2LNk7PJhBZ23KshKfYgc_1FMq/view

If you'd like a more detailed summary of all the data we've gathered from the survey, the listening sessions, and the focus groups, you may find that at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dSEbME_Ms_ZDXpISHT1XOESeS5buUp7Y/view

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.

Please Help Spread Cheer by Delivering a Holiday Plant

Following our Christmas Eve services, the poinsettias and cyclamen that decorated the sanctuary will be delivered to First Parish members who are grieving, undergoing treatment, or more isolated this season. To be part of this delivery effort, you can arrange to pick up plant(s) in the sanctuary immediately after the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, OR in the parlor at First Parish on Tuesday, December 26 between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. To sign up, please contact [Virginia Taylor](#).

First Parish Offices Closed 12/26-12/29

First Parish's offices will be closed for the week between Christmas and New Year's: Tuesday, December 26-Friday, December 29, 2023. (FP is always closed on Mondays.) Front desk volunteers have that week off. Normally, the front desk is covered and the phone is answered from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. The phone will not be answered by a front desk volunteer those four days. During this week, First Parish staff may visit their offices/the building and take time off as they wish. The offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

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.