
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord
Sunday, December 3, 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! and December 10

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.

Religious Exploration Outreach

TODAY! 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Outside on the sidewalk beside Wright Tavern

Want to help spread the word about our fantastic Religious Exploration programs for children and youth? We need some volunteers at a table during the annual Town of Concord Holiday Tree Lighting and Parade today from 3-6 p.m. on the sidewalk beside the Wright Tavern. We will have literature, hot cocoa, cookies, crafts, and games. Let's tell other families about First Parish's great RE programs! Hosted by the Membership Committee. Please email [Heather Packard](mailto:Heather.Packard@firstparish.org) to volunteer.

**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.**

Transcendentalism Council of First Parish in Concord

Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary and on Zoom

Jeffrey S. Cramer is the Curator at the Walden Woods Project Library and a noted author. In this lecture he will discuss his life dedication to Henry David Thoreau. His books include *Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition* (Yale University Press, 2004) and *The Quotable Thoreau* (2001). He served as the historical consultant for the Ken Burns-produced documentary *Walden* created for the Walden Pond State Reservation in 2017. For more information, email Shelley_Hawks@msn.com.

Beyond the Notes Concert

Friday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.

Parish Hall

Hailed as “Bold...edgy...totally engaging! Not to be missed!” Beyond the Notes is an immersive concert experience like no other, that changes the perceptions of traditional classical concerts. In addition to a creative and unexpected musical program, the audience is invited to submit questions to the artists which are drawn randomly and answered on stage throughout the evening. Violinist Sarah Whitney will be joined by guest artist duo Cello e Basso with Emmanuel Feldman, cello and Pascale Delache-Feldman, double bass. Together, they will present an innovative program of solos, duos and trios. 10% of proceeds will be donated to Unicef to support the crisis in Gaza. Prelude music will feature students from Concord Conservatory of Music and artwork from Powers Gallery will be showcased on stage. Tickets \$30 advance purchase/\$15 student/\$35 day of at the door.

TICKETS:

<https://BTNDDecember2023.eventbrite.com>

First Parishioners receive 10% off advanced purchase price by using code FP10.

Holiday Concert and Tea

Saturday, December 9, 2:00 p.m.

Sanctuary, Parish Hall, Parlor

The Women’s Parish Association cordially invites all First Parish folks and their families to a special holiday concert by the Conchords in the Sanctuary followed by a festive tea in the Parlor and Parish Hall. There is no charge for this event. Reservations are not required but are very helpful for planning purposes. For reservations, contact [Dian Pekin](#).

Celebrating Chanukah!

Sunday, December 10, 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](#).

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.

**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.

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](#).