
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord
Sunday, January 7, 2024**

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

Meet Rev. Mary Margaret Earl TODAY! after the service

Parlor

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl and staff from the UU Urban Ministry will be at coffee hour today to tell you more about the UUUM's work with their Roxbury neighbors in a shared mission to advance racial, social, and economic justice – and fun! After coffee hour, the Racial Justice Action Group is hosting them for a vegan lunch.

New Opportunities for Connection: Join a Small Group Ministry Group! Registration Deadline: January 20

During the past years, groups have gathered at First Parish to explore some of life's issues, whether of small or great consequence, and to listen deeply to each other as part of a facilitated discussion. Participants in these groups get to know people in the congregation whom they might never have encountered otherwise, and also to deepen connections with individuals they may already know. The groups consist of 6-8 people who meet for 90 minutes twice a month and are led by a trained facilitator. They will meet from February to June. All are welcome to participate.

[Register here.](#)

We are hoping to be able to accommodate your first or second choices but if there are difficulties we will be in touch. Any questions, contact [Lillian Anderson](#).

How Much Do YOU Know About the Complex Issue of Reparations? Mondays, January 8 and 15, 10:00 p.m. On WGBH (Channel 2)

The First Parish Commission on Institutional Change (COIC) recommends we all watch AMERICA REFRAMED on two nights — Mondays, January 8 and 15 at 10 p.m. on WGBH (Channel 2). This special program entitled “The Cost of Inheritance” uses personal stories, to take a thoughtful look at our history and where some of today's social inequities got started. [Click here](#) for more information. Please direct questions or comments to either [Toby Smith Ropeik](#) or [Darren Smith](#).

11th Hour Calling Standout Thursday, January 11, 10:45 a.m. In front of First Parish

Join the Environmental Team in front of the church on the 11th day of each month from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. We hold signs to call attention to passersby of the climate crisis. The church bell rings to alert people in the area. Signs are provided.

**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.**

MLK Day Concert by MMMH
Monday, January 15, 3:00 p.m.
Parish Hall

The “Music Makes Me Happy” (MMMH) chorus will present a concert of songs paying tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., songs from the Civil Rights movement, and gospel songs. MMMH is an adult special needs chorus, directed by Marsha Martin. MMMH pianist Devereux Geiger will accompany. The chorus will be joined by guest soprano Ella McGaunn Geiger and speaker Jen Turner from Concord’s Robbins House African American History Museum. There is no charge for admission. All are welcome. Donations to MMMH are appreciated.

Environmental Team Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom only

We are beginning a new year. You can attend once or frequently. Current projects: Monthly 11th Hour Calling Standouts, Hosting the Environmental Justice Legislative Table Presentation in the Sanctuary on January 20, and Stop Private Jet Expansion. Make suggestions, take leadership, coordinate and market. Everyone is welcome. For the Zoom link, check *FP Weekly* or email gail.kharidia@gmail.com.

Environmental Justice and Building Our New Grid – Where Should It All Go?
Saturday, January 20, 2:00 p.m.
Church Sanctuary and on Zoom

Join the MA Environmental Justice Legislative Table to discuss the elephant in the room: how do we build the renewable, distributed electric grid we need fast, while not repeating the mistakes of the past? Learn more about their vision for infrastructure, energy democracy, and centering frontline communities in the process, as well as the current policy proposal from the EJ Table to greenlight good projects fast and nip bad projects in the bud.

The EJ Table: 6 groups plus allied supporters. For the in-person and Zoom registration link, email gail.kharidia@gmail.com.

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.