
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord
Sunday, January 14, 2024**

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

THRIVE Communities is this month's Share-the-Plate organization. THRIVE is a critical resource in the greater Lowell community for people returning from prison or jail, and it is a leading voice for meaningful change. THRIVE matches returning citizens with teams of community members to support them through their first year of reentry. This morning, we welcome Kim Yeasir, THRIVE'S CEO (Chief Empowerment Officer), who will speak to us during the service. Also, she will be available at coffee hour to answer questions and hand out additional information. Learn more at www.thrivema.org.

**Racial Justice Action Group
Busing Battleground Viewing and Panelist
Discussion
TODAY! 2:00 p.m.
Parish Hall and on Zoom**

Come watch and discuss *The Busing Battleground*, a PBS documentary showing how civil rights battles were fought in Boston as it implemented court-ordered school desegregation in the 1970s. Viewing followed by panel discussion involving individuals with direct experience with the controversial busing plan. Today from 2:00-5:00 p.m., in person and via Zoom. Hosted by the Racial Justice Action Group at First Parish in Concord. For a registration link and/or Zoom link, write to Jan Power. Drop-ins are also welcome.

**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.

**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.**

**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](#).

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.

Clothing and Miscellaneous Item Collection for CityReach

Our CoA group is collecting items for the homeless community in Boston. Practical unisex clothing is preferred. Please bring donations to the coat closet by January 26.

- New white socks
- New underwear for men and women/bras (all sizes)
- Coats
- Sweatshirts/sweatpants
- T-shirts/long-sleeve shirts
- Jeans/casual pants
- Waterproof boots/comfortable shoes
- Hats/waterproof gloves
- Belts
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Backpacks/fanny packs/small suitcases (wheeled)
- Travel-size toiletries: soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, Chapstick, toothpaste, shaving cream, toothbrushes, disposable razors, tampons

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.