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## SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord  
Sunday, March 24, 2024**

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

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### **Budget Information Session**

**TODAY! 11:30 a.m., Emerson Room**

**Monday, March 25, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Wondering how we allocate our resources?  
Curious about the financial importance of the  
Annual Pledge Campaign? As we begin thinking  
about next year's budget, the Standing Committee  
finance team will host a budget information  
session to review income, expenses, projections,  
and long-range considerations. (Can't make it in  
person? Join us via Zoom on Monday, March 25th  
at 7:00 p.m.) Please speak to Leah Russell,  
978-660-7076, if you have any questions.

### **Welcoming Walls Forum**

**TODAY! 11:30 a.m.**

**Sanctuary**

After much planning, our minister portraits in the  
Parish Hall will be taken down and safely stored  
in time for the Patriots' Day pancake breakfast  
hosted by the Standing Committee. Our  
celebratory banners will be hung so that the wider  
community can feel the vibrancy of our current  
congregation. Today, the members of the  
Welcoming Walls Committee will present their  
work and hopes for the future. There will be a  
viewing of the new and evolving slideshow of the  
portraits, with information about each of the  
ministers and a couple of lay people who made  
significant contributions to our parish.

### **Membership Book Signing**

**TODAY! in the Front Foyer**

Reminder: Today is the last time we will have the  
Membership Book open to be signed in time for  
voting for the new senior minister on May 5. If  
you want to sign but cannot make it today, please  
contact Liz Rust: [Liz@therusts.net](mailto:Liz@therusts.net).

### **April 13 Musical Auction Party**

**Tickets Available TODAY!**

**at Coffee Hour**

On Saturday, April 13, enjoy a party with First  
Parish friends. Your hosts will provide  
"Marvelous Music, Decadent Desserts, and  
Luscious Libations." The entertainment is by the  
wonderful and talented trio "Molly, Will, and  
Carole." They present a fun and lively program  
of well-loved songs and originals in rich  
three-part harmony with piano accompaniment.  
The festivities will start at 7:30 p.m. at Darien  
Smith's home, co-hosted by Lillian Anderson,  
Sara and Stoney Ballard, and Susan See. We will  
welcome guests ready for wonderful company,  
entertainment, drinks, and desserts! Tickets are  
\$30 each.

**The family of Cynthia Ellis** would like to  
inform First Parish friends that Cynthia has  
moved to the Concord Park assisted living  
facility. She welcomes visits.

**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.**

**A Conversation with the 2024 Greeley Peace Scholar, Fatemeh Shams**  
**Sunday, April 7, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Parish Hall and on Zoom**

The 2024 Greeley Peace Scholar, Fatemeh Shams, who currently serves as Associate Professor of Persian Literature and Gender Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, will give a presentation about her poetry and life as an intersectional feminist activist followed by a reception hosted by The Women's Parish Association and The Diversity Group. For further information and reservations, contact [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net). Free and open to the public.

**Share the Plate Submissions for 2024-2025**  
**Submissions due by April 21**

Please go to <https://forms.gle/oC5AqcTit8SZMFde6> and fill out the short submission form. What non-profit groups or organizations do you support? Please consider submitting your commitments outside of First Parish for our Share the Plate program. Each month we share our collection with the organizations recommended by you and provide a minimum of \$3,000 to those organizations. This should be a 501-c3 organization that you have a relationship with, or that you work with. Questions? Ask Paul, our Minister of Social Action.

**Update on New Photo Directories**

We know that the wait for our new photo directories has been long, and we apologize for the delay. We finally received the proof of the directory from the company recently and have mailed it back with our final approval. Once they receive it, we were told it will take twenty days to produce the directories, and then they will be shipped to us. Therefore, we expect to receive the directories in early to mid-April. Please stay tuned for a notification when they've arrived.

**The First Parish Commission on Institutional Change (COIC)** voted on March 16, 2024 to sunset our group, effective at the close of Annual Meeting 2024. Two and a half years ago, the Standing Committee gave us a charge to review all church politics, practices, and procedures and suggest ways to better align them with our UU values and our desire to both dismantle white supremacy and offer radical welcome. Members of the COIC believe we have fulfilled that charge to the best of our abilities. This does NOT mean our congregation is finished with its anti-oppression responsibilities. Some COIC suggested changes are already underway (Welcoming Walls, bylaw revision, etc.). Other suggestions were outlined in last year's report to the Standing Committee that is available online: [https://firstparish.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/COIC\\_report1\\_revised\\_published\\_041623.pdf](https://firstparish.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/COIC_report1_revised_published_041623.pdf). We will also issue a final report later this spring that will be available to the full congregation. And we plan to make a final presentation to the congregation. More information about scheduling this presentation will be coming soon.