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## SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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### **Welcoming Walls Coffee Hour TODAY!**

This past week our valued minister portraits were carefully removed from the Parish Hall and Parlor, professionally wrapped, and stored on site. Come visit us at coffee hour and see how we are now celebrating our history with an evolving slideshow. Images of the portraits are accompanied by text providing historical context and information about who these ministers (and other First Parish notables) were and their contributions to our congregation and beyond.

### **A Conversation with the 2024 Greeley Peace Scholar, Fatemeh Shams**

**TODAY! 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.

### **Diversity Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.**

#### **Zoom only**

The Diversity Committee this year is focused on LGBTQ and disability justice. We'd love to have you join us at our next meeting as we discuss initiatives in those areas. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month via Zoom and everyone is welcome. Contact Suzie Weaver ([skatesuzie@aol.com](mailto:skatesuzie@aol.com)) to join our mailing list.

### **11th Hour Calling Standout**

**Thursday, April 11, 11:00 a.m.**

#### **In Front of Church**

Please join the Environmental Team and other "save the climate advocates" in front of the church. We hold signs to bring attention to passersby of the climate crisis. 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.**

### **Covenant Reflection Circles**

**Thursday, April 18, 5:00-6 p.m. online**

**Wednesday, April 24, 7:30-8:30 p.m. online**

**Sunday, May 19, 11:30-12:30 in person**

Bringing the inspiring words of our First Parish Covenant into the life of the community invites each of us to consider our responses, hopes and concerns. We are creating space to process and think about what it really means to consider how we apply it in our lives. This is an opportunity to share our thoughts, hopes, feelings and struggles as we live into our Covenant together. This single session spiritual practice is a facilitated process, one hour long. To register, [click here](#) or use the QR code.



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

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. Please go to <https://forms.gle/oC5AqcTit8SZMFde6> and fill out the short submission form. Questions? Ask Paul, our Minister of Social Action.

### **First Parish Passover Seder**

**Tuesday, April 23, 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Parish Hall**

Whether you have a Jewish background or never attended a Seder before, you are welcome. Passover is both a meal and a re-telling of the Exodus story with readings, songs, and eating of symbolic foods. Children make the Seder even more special and fun! Our Cooperative Seder will include a potluck dinner. Each person is asked to choose a job (set-up or serving or clean-up) and to bring one or two items. Please sign-up online: <https://bit.ly/FPC24Passover>. Questions? Contact Dana Snyder-Grant ([dana.snydergrant@gmail.com](mailto:dana.snydergrant@gmail.com) or 978-760-1129) or Rev. Amy Freedman ([afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org)).

### **First Parish Responds to Colonization and Slavery**

**Sunday, April 28, 11:45 a.m.**

#### **First Parish Sanctuary**

How do we want to respond to First Parish's history related to colonization and slavery? First Parish was involved in the colonization of Concord, which proved harmful to Indigenous people. Two former ministers enslaved people. We have options. The Commission on Institutional Change (COIC) invites everyone to discuss our options. Please direct any questions to Ken Reeves at [ken\\_reeves@hotmail.com](mailto:ken_reeves@hotmail.com).

### **Registration Open for Ferry Beach Retreat**

**Friday, May 24 - Monday, May 27**

Registration for the annual Ferry Beach Retreat is now open! Find Retreat and Registration info at [firstparish.org/forms](http://firstparish.org/forms), including how to access the online Registration pages. For many years, we have gathered over Memorial Day Weekend, along with parishioners from First Parish in Lexington, for a retreat at the Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Our time there brings individuals, couples, and families together for fellowship, fun, and renewal. We invite you to join in this year! Questions? Contact Darien Smith ([darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com)).