
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Parish in Concord
Sunday, April 21, 2024

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

Coffee Hour Earth Month Celebration TODAY! in Parish Hall

Come to Coffee Hour and celebrate Earth Month with earth-friendly, plant-based snacks. Pick up information on Earth Day, Lawn Care, Ways to Combat Climate Change, and more. Hosted by the Environmental Team.

Help Build the Democracy Movement TODAY! 3:00 p.m.

Parish Hall

Join with the First Parish Reclaim Our Democracy team to help build a powerful, inclusive, collaborative Democracy Movement. If we are to defeat the MAGA movement, we need to build a Democracy Movement that is bigger and more powerful than theirs. Together we need to plant the seeds that will build this movement and save our democracy. It starts with all of us. Join us today at 3:00 p.m. We'll discuss and learn together what we can all do to help save our democracy. Let's see what emerges.

Share the Plate Submissions TODAY

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 fill out the short submission form for 2024-2025 at <https://forms.gle/oC5AqcTit8SZMFde6>. 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 (978-760-1129 or dana.snydergrant@gmail.com) or Rev. Amy Freedman (afreedman@firstparish.org).

Covenant Reflection Circles

Wednesday, April 24, 5:00-6:00 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 scan the



**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.**

Welcome Rev. Jennifer Johnson
Sunday, April 28, 11:15 a.m.
Parish Hall

Help us welcome our candidate by bringing goodies to share for a gala coffee hour on April 28. Come hear her preach on April 28 and May 5, and if you are a member, stay for the meeting on May 5 after the service for the vote on whether to call her to be our settled minister.

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.

The Gospel According to This Moment: The Spiritual Message of Henry David Thoreau
Monday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary and on Zoom

Henry David Thoreau is best known today as an advocate for simple living, environmental preservation, and civil disobedience. Retired Unitarian minister Barry Andrews will discuss Thoreau's unconventional religious faith. Book-signing to follow in Parish Hall. To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ThoreauGospel> and click the Get Tickets button, then choose either In Person or Online.

Annual Reports Due Monday, May 13

All First Parish groups and committees may email their 2023-2024 Annual Reports to Janet Smylie at AnnualReports@firstparish.org. Reports received by Monday, May 13, will be included in the initial Annual Report made available in time for the June 2 Annual Meeting. Reports received after May 13 will be added to the initial Report after June 2 and thereby included in the final 2023-2024 Annual Report to be completed in the Fall 2024. Each report may be submitted as a Word document. Please include the group name, name of the group's current chair, and the chair's contact information. Also list five members of the group (can include the chair), plus the name and email address of the chair for next year (July 2024-June 2025). Though the church year won't be over by the time this report is due, please describe the group's activities during the July 2023-June 2024 church year. Submitting an Annual Report accomplishes the annual rechartering process for FP groups.

Registration Open for Ferry Beach Retreat
Friday, May 24 - Monday, May 27

Find Ferry Beach Retreat and Registration info at 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).