
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord
Sunday, April 28, 2024**

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

Welcome Rev. Jennifer Johnson

TODAY! 11:15 a.m.

Parish Hall

Help us welcome our candidate while enjoying goodies at our gala coffee hour. If you are a member, plan to stay for the meeting next Sunday after the service for the vote on whether to call her to be our settled minister.

First Parish Responds to Colonization and Slavery

TODAY! 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.

COIC Final Report Now Available

The final report from the First Parish Commission on Institutional Change (COIC) is now available on the church website at:

<https://firstparish.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/COIC-Final-Report-Year-2-041824.pdf>. We

encourage everyone to read it. It contains a summary of the work we have done during the last 2.5 years, along with recommendations that we believe will be crucial to our congregation's future success. Questions can be directed to co-chairs Darien Smith (darien@smithquest.com) or Toby Smith Ropeik (tobyasmith@gmail.com).

Vote on Monday to Stand Up for Ellen

Monday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.

CCHS

A grassroots group of community members is working together to help Concord do the right thing and joyously name our new middle school after our native daughter and heroine Ellen Garrison. Come join us and Stand Up for Ellen! Since last spring when this was first proposed, RJAG and others in our community have been celebrating the recognition of Concord's Ellen Garrison, the educator and civil rights activist. Vote at town meeting on April 29th! For more information, go to <https://standupforellen.com/> or see us at coffee hour. At coffee hour, we will have more information, lawn signs.

Coffee/Tea on May 2 and Pasta Dinner on May 3 with our candidate, Jennifer Johnson

In addition to today's coffee hour, there are two other opportunities open to all to meet and ask questions of Jennifer Johnson. The first is a coffee/tea at church at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 2. The second is a family-friendly (for all ages) pasta dinner (gluten-free and vegan options available) in the Parish Hall on Friday, May 3, starting at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up for either or both so we can know how much food to provide. You may either sign up at coffee hour or by using this form: <https://forms.gle/jiesdjMecUhdJ4pL7>.

**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.**

**UUUM Program Spotlight & Open House
Thursday, May 2, 5:00 p.m.**

UU Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam St., Boston
Carpool into Roxbury with Rebecca Winborn, one of our UUUM delegates. Here's what you'll experience: Presentations from each of UUUM's programs; sharing of participants' personal experiences; a tour of UUUM led by students from the youth program; an update from UUUM staff about accomplishments and hopes for the future; and plenty of food, drink, and dessert. Contact Rebecca if you'd like to join us: rwinborn84@gmail.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.

**Diversity Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 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) to join our mailing list.

Covenant Reflection Circle

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 QR code.



**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).