
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Parish in Concord

Sunday, May 5, 2024

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

Make a Last-Minute Pledge

Join the majority of First Parish members and friends who have already pledged in expressing support for First Parish, its programs, and its ministerial candidate. A pledge in any amount is welcomed and valued. Thanks to all who have pledged for next year. And, feel free to increase your pledge. There is still time for new or updated pledges to be counted in the July 2024-June 2025 budget. Ways to pledge:

- Fill out a pledge card and mail it to or drop it at First Parish.
- Pledge online using the “Pledge Now” button on the FP website: firstparish.org.
- Email your pledge to Fifi Ball in the business office at fball@firstparish.org.
- Telephone your pledge to Fifi Ball at 978-369-9602 x456.

Thank you!

Church Photo Directories are Here!

Thanks to all for your patience, the church photo directories have finally arrived! Everyone who had their photo taken is entitled to a directory, and after those people and our staff get their directories, whatever is left will be available for others to take. We are labeling directories with the names of those who should get one, and they will be available in the Parish Hall at coffee hour for the next few Sundays, so please pick yours up if you're here. You may also pick yours up in the office during the week (Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.).

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.

11th Hour Calling Stand Out **Saturday, May 11, 11:00 a.m.**

Join the Environmental Team and congregants in front of the church to bring attention to the Climate Crisis to passersby by holding signs. Arrive at 10:50. Signs are provided.

Celebration of Hope Benefit Fundraiser **Saturday, May 11, 11:00 a.m.**

The Barn at Gibbet Hill in Groton

The Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) is a sponsor of the Domestic Violence Support Network's (DVSN) 25th Anniversary Benefit Fundraising Brunch and invites you to attend! DVSN is a Concord-based organization that works in collaboration with communities to end domestic violence. The event will be held at The Barn at Gibbet Hill in Groton. To purchase tickets, see the link in *FP Weekly* or go the DVSN's website. Please contact Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com) if you plan to go and would like to sit together.

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.

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 for the June 2 Annual Meeting. Reports received after May 13 will be added to the Report after June 2 and included in the final 2023-2024 Annual Report to be completed in the fall. Please submit your report as a Word document. Include the group name plus the name and contact information of the group's current chair. 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, 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.

True Story Theater

Thursday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.

Parish Hall

On May 16th from 7:00-8:30 p.m., a unique gathering for our FP community, sharing our stories in this time of transition from pandemic to new minister! True Story Theater is a unique form of improvisational theater inviting audience members to tell their stories or concerns and then acts out those stories on the spot. Those of us who have experienced this theater have found it spiritual, healing, funny, and always showing a new perspective. We will warm up with Inter-play exercises with CC King. Refreshments afterwards.

Covenant Reflection Circle

Sunday, May 19, 11:30-12:30

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).