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## SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord  
Sunday, May 12, 2024**

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

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### **Church Photo Directories are Here! TODAY! 11:00 a.m.**

#### **Parish Hall**

The new church photo directories have arrived and are available at coffee hour today for those who had their photo taken. They are marked with the names of those who are entitled to one. Any extras left will be available to others later. You may also pick yours up in the office during the week (Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **Friday, May 17th: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia (IDAHOBIT)**

Created in 2004, this day draws attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by LGBTQI+ people as well as all those with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics. Why May 17th? That's when the WHO delisted homosexuality as a disease in 1990. Still, only 36 countries allow same-sex marriage, and violence

**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.**

and discrimination continue against members of the LGBTQ+ community to this day. On May 17th, the Diversity Committee stands with others around the world to affirm & recognize the universal human rights of LGBTQI+ persons.

### **Money Matters**

**Sunday, May 19, 11:30 a.m.**

#### **Bulkeley Room & Zoom**

Learn more about next year's budget! Come find out how we allocate our resources and see the budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June. This is an opportunity to ask questions about church finances and discuss issues related to our fiscal position with members of the Standing Committee. Please reach out to Leah Russell ([LeahKRussell@gmail.com](mailto:LeahKRussell@gmail.com)) with questions.

### **Covenant Reflection Circle**

**Sunday, May 19, 11:30-12:30 p.m.**

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.



### **American Experience: The Riot Report**

**Tuesday, May 21, 9:00 p.m.**

#### **On PBS**

Our First Parish Commission on Institutional Change (COIC) urges everyone to watch an upcoming episode of American Experience on PBS. It's a landmark documentary about the infamous Kerner Commission, a group appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to investigate causes of violence in American cities. Their 1968 report offered such a

shockingly unvarnished assessment of race relations that Johnson refused to acknowledge its findings. The program explores the social dynamics that doomed the report's findings to political oblivion.

Contact Toby Smith Ropeik

([tobyasmith@gmail.com](mailto:tobyasmith@gmail.com)) or Darien Smith

([darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com)) with questions.

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

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

Find Ferry Beach 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)).

### **Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, June 2, 11:30 a.m.**

#### **In the Sanctuary and on Zoom**

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, June 2, starting at 11:30 am. Anyone with business to bring before the Annual Meeting who has not already contacted Gib Metcalf, Chair of the Standing Committee, should do so no later than Monday, May 20. The warrant will be posted later that week and will include all business to be taken up at the meeting. Thanks!

### **Democracy Festival**

**Saturday, June 8, 11:00-2:00 p.m.**

#### **Church Grounds; Inside if it rains**

Join your fellow citizens to celebrate democracy! Come to First Parish on Saturday, June 8 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm on the church grounds, inside if it's rainy. We are at a turning point in this country. Learn how you can help protect our democracy, build a Democracy Movement, and create the country we want to be. It starts with all of us. Invite your family and friends! Become a part of our history, eat, drink, engage with others, listen to good music, and have some fun too!