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## SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord**

**Sunday, May 19, 2024**

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

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### **Opportunity to Sign the Membership Book TODAY! Upstairs Foyer**

Not a member but maybe you've been waiting and just didn't know how? We will have the membership book open after service today, right in the front door foyer. If this is not convenient, please contact Liz Rust ([Liz@TheTrusts.net](mailto:Liz@TheTrusts.net)) or Seth Carrier-Ladd ([scarrierladd@firstparish.org](mailto:scarrierladd@firstparish.org)) and we are glad to make other arrangements.

### **Portrait Slideshow Debut TODAY! 11:15 a.m.**

#### **Parlor**

The larger, multi-use screen is now installed in the Parlor. Join the Welcoming Walls Committee after Sunday's service to view one use: the evolving historical slideshow of images of our ministers and other leaders of our congregation throughout the years, accompanied by information about their contributions and times. We look forward to your suggestions on how to make it better!

### **First Parish Photo Club Annual Exhibit TODAY! During the Coffee Hour**

The First Parish Photo Club is holding its annual exhibit today at Coffee Hour after the service. We will have our images on display at the back of the stage and also on a perpetual slideshow that is running in the Parish Hall. We invite everyone to attend.

### **Money Matters**

#### **TODAY! 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

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. We will also hold a Zoom session on Monday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. (<https://bit.ly/FPBudget2025>). Please reach out to Leah Russell ([LeahKRussell@gmail.com](mailto:LeahKRussell@gmail.com)) with questions.

### **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.

**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.**

**Potluck and Visioning: By Your Side Singers**  
**Thursday, May 23, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Parish Hall**

Have you wondered about joining First Parish's "pastoral choir" and its ministry of musical presence? Have you, or a member of your family, had the experience of a visit from the By Your Side Singers? You are invited to a potluck dinner and visioning evening for the By Your Side Singers on Thursday, May 23 at 6:00 p.m. We will eat together, sing together, tell stories of how this group came to be, appreciate its role in our congregation and community now, and begin to envision the future of the group. Contact Beth Norton ([bnorton@firstparish.org](mailto:bnorton@firstparish.org)) with any questions. See *FP Weekly* for the RSVP link.

**Rise Up Singing**  
**Friday, May 24, 7:00 p.m.**

**Parish Hall (or patio if weather is warm)**  
Start your holiday weekend in song! Rise Up Singing is an informal, monthly song circle that is open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages and experience. Family groups are especially welcome! Whether you are a seasoned folk musician or a novice guitar player, there is a place for you! Copies of *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again* are available to borrow, or you can bring your own copy. Singing starts at 7:00 p.m. and usually winds up around 8:30 or 9:00. Stay for as long as you like. Contact Beth Norton, Director of Music Ministry, for more information: [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org).

**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 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 a.m. 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 a.m.**  
**Church Grounds**

Join your fellow citizens to celebrate democracy! Come to First Parish on Saturday, June 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 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.

**Goodbye Party for Seth Carrier-Ladd**  
**Sunday, June 9, 11:30 a.m.**

**Parish Hall**  
Seth joined us as Interim Minister in August 2022. During the last two years, Seth helped us let go of the past, recognize and define our liminal hopes and challenges, and prepare our hearts and minds for a future with a new Senior Minister. Let's gather to celebrate. The Standing Committee invites all First Parish members and friends of all ages to join us at this goodbye party for Seth. There will be food, festivities, songs, toasts, and fun for all as we celebrate and say goodbye. Please plan to come! If you have questions, contact Susan See at [susan.b.see@gmail.com](mailto:susan.b.see@gmail.com).