
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Parish in Concord

Sunday, February 16, 2025

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

2025 Women's At-Home Retreat

Friday, March 7 & Saturday, March 8

Women's At-Home Retreat Registration is Open! The Retreat will take place at First Parish on Fri March 7, starting at 6:30 p.m., and on Sat March 8, 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., all in person only. Our theme is "Our Voices".

* Friday's segment is open to all FP women, free of charge, registration not required. Potluck refreshments.

* Saturday's segment requires registration and a fee of \$90. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/at-home-retreat-2025-our-voices-tickets-1223868988089> or use the QR code. Last day to register is February 28. Questions? Contact Bozena Smith.



Pledge Campaign Seeks Stewards

We need your help! The Annual Pledge Campaign, conducted during the month of March, seeks new pledge stewards to assist in the campaign. A steward helps the campaign by contacting up to ten members who have not yet pledged to remind them about the pledge campaign and provide information about pledging. Most contact is by email and starts in

mid-March and concludes around the first of April. Messages are personal and positive. See Dave Elwood (daveelwood@hotmail.com) at coffee hour for more info.

Red Mugs at Coffee Hour for Visitors and Newcomers

If you are new here and you wish, please take a red mug for your beverage at coffee hour, which is a signal that you would appreciate a friendly welcome and conversation. Please visit the Welcome Table for more information, to request a name tag, or sign up to receive our FP Weekly email newsletter. To our parishioners - if you see someone using a red mug, we encourage you to approach them, say hello, talk with them, and make them feel welcome.

Red Cards: What Are They?

Red cards: Immigrants now fear being snatched when going to hospitals, clinics or their workplaces, or afraid they could be taken while their children to school, so they don't send them. Red cards, business-card-sized, available in multiple languages, clearly state their rights, and let immigrants (and anyone who might be targeted) know there are people who care. Rev. Paul and Jane Blumberg are working with others to distribute them in Waltham and Lowell. Want

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.

to help? Contact Rev. Paul at plangston-daley@firstparish.org.

Legal Support for Immigrants

Something you can do: The Immigration Justice Task Force urges you to support lawyers who work pro bono to seek safety and human rights for their immigrant clients with legitimate reasons to remain in the US. Multiple non-profit organizations in the Boston area offer free legal representation. The IJTF is familiar with: Mabel Center www.mabelcenter.org, MIRA www.miracoalition.org, RIAN www.riancenter.org, PAIR www.pairproject.org, DeNovo www.denovo.org. ILRC www.ilrc.org/legal-listservs.

Concord Indivisible Supporting Immigrants Sunday, February 23, 2:00 p.m.

Harvey Wheeler Community Center

On the heels of the last highly successful IJTF collaboration with Concord Indivisible: Another way to support immigrants. At the next huddle, Jeff Thielman of the International Institute of New England will speak, and then there will be opportunities for immigrant rights lobbying actions. We encourage you to show up at Harvey Wheeler.

Rising Together: Social Gathering!

Saturday, March 1, 5:00 p.m.

Parish Hall

Join us for a social gathering at First Parish on Saturday, March 1, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Enjoy light refreshments and entertainment as we celebrate our vibrant community and welcome our new minister. This event is family-friendly and open to all members and friends and is sponsored by the pledge campaign team. No pledge requests will be made

at this event. For questions or to help: Dave Elwood at daveelwood@hotmail.com.

Difficult Conversation Resilience Circles: On Democracy

Sunday, March 2, 11:30 a.m.

In-Person

The goal of this Listening Circle event is to create space for shared emotional connection about the impact of the current Federal Administration on our lives. Our aim is to support this community in exploring our collective experience together. This event will provide a space for people to connect, share their experiences, and look to the future. During this experience, you will be asked questions to explore this issue on a deeper level. When participating you have the responsibility to listen and an opportunity to be heard. Please see *FP Weekly* for more information and registration.

Metta for Mindfulness

Series begins Tuesday, March 4, 9:30 a.m.

Zoom Only

Metta for Mindfulness will return for a Zoom only drop-in six week session, beginning on Tuesday March 4, 2025 from 9:30 am-10 am and continuing through April 8, 2025. I believe that this is a time in our world for metta or loving kindness. Drop by any Tuesday, starting March 4 at 9:30 am. The Zoom link will be listed in *FP Weekly*; I believe that the value of the meditation is improved with consistency, so if you can, I recommend you come to most or all of the Tuesdays. I hope to see you in metta, Dana.

Trans Inclusion in Congregations Program

**Webinars: March 6, March 20, April 3,
7:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Discussions: March 9, March 23, and April 6,
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Brooks Room/Emerson Room

The Diversity Committee invites you to participate in the “Trans Inclusion in Congregations” program, developed by the Transforming Hearts Collective. The program includes six 45- to 55-minute recorded webinars, plus 3 discussion sessions. Watch the webinars on your own OR at First Parish on Thursday March 6, March 20, April 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm. The discussion sessions will be at First Parish from 11:30 am-1:00 pm on Sundays March 9, March 23, and April 6. Registration is required by March 2 (scan QR code). For questions, contact Paul Langston-Daley (plangston-Daley@firstparish.org).



Kathy Spang Art Exhibit Ongoing until mid-March Stairwell Gallery and Back of Stage in the Parish Hall

Kathy Spang has installed an exhibit of 25 of her paintings in the stairwell gallery and on the boards in the back of the stage in the Parish Hall. The exhibit will be up for about six weeks, through the middle of March. There will not be any reception. For more information, please contact Kathy: 781-273-0032 or katalinspang@yahoo.com. Or visit her website: katalinspang.com

Host Families Needed April 24 - 28

As part of a U.S. concert tour forty members of the chorus of the Unitarian High School in Kolozsvár, Transylvania, along with five adult chaperones, will visit and perform in Concord. We will need volunteers to host them for four nights, which includes providing breakfast and

transportation to and from First Parish each day. Each host will have two or more visitors stay with them. For more information or to volunteer to host, please contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org or visit the Partner Congregation table at coffee hour.

Concord Needs First Parish to help on April 19. Be a Concord250 Ambassador — sign up ASAP!

When: Saturday, April 19, 2025, 7 am to 7 pm, in 3-4 hour shifts. What: Volunteer in a small team, based right outside First Parish, to assist visitors on April 19. More specific information about the day’s activities will be shared once it is fully developed. I am already helping with Concord250! You can still help, during a shift that does not conflict with your other plans for the day. How do I get involved? Please email 250celebration@concordma.gov and Nancy McJennett_nrm@newleafpm.com. *****Be sure to specify that you want to work a shift at First Parish.