
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord
Sunday, February 23, 2025**

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

First Parish Women's Gathering

Friday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.

Parish Hall & Parlor

All FP women are warmly invited to an evening of exploring Our Voices with social time, focused sharing, song, and dance. Please bring a contribution to our potluck reception, beverages are provided. Free of charge, no rsvp required.

Sponsored by the Women's Retreats Committee.

Questions? Contact Bozena Smith at

bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

First Parish Women's

At-Home Retreat

Saturday, March 8, 8:30

p.m.

Parish Hall, Parlor, and other rooms



First Parish Women's At-Home Retreat,

Saturday, March 8, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

All FP women are warmly invited to deeply explore our theme Our Voices at this day-long retreat of workshops, sharing of stories, crafts, yoga, games, song, dance, companionable silence, social time, and more. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Fee is \$90.

Register online 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.

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.

Huddle with Concord Indivisible

TODAY! 2:00 p.m.

Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Jeff Thielman, head of the International Institute of New England, will speak at the latest Concord Indivisible huddle. IINE, based in Lowell and Boston, has been an immigrant and refugee support organization for many decades. They collaborate with those of us in FP who support the Hakimi Afghan family. Join with other backers of human rights Sunday February 23 from 2-4 at Harvey Wheeler. Opportunities for hands-on actions will be part of the huddle.

**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.**

Rise Up Singing!

Friday, February 28, 7:00 p.m.

Parish Hall & Parlor

Rise Up Singing is an informal, monthly song circle that welcomes 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, with song lyrics and chords, are provided. Singing starts at 7pm and usually winds up by 8:30 or 9:00. You can stay for as long as you like. And you're welcome to bring snacks to share. Contact Beth Norton, Director of Music Ministry for more information: music@firstparish.org.

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.

**Pathways to Belonging Class - 3 Part Series
Sundays, March 23, March 30, April 6, 11:45
a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Brooks Room

Are you new to First Parish? Have you been coming for a while but haven't connected yet? This is your opportunity to share and explore your spiritual roots, how they connect to Unitarian Universalism and understand how First Parish works. Information about membership will also be discussed. A light lunch is provided. Childcare may be provided upon request.

**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).



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.

Red Cards

People concerned about their immigration status are staying away from churches, schools, hospitals and clinics. Knowing their rights, including the requirement of a judge’s order to enter their homes, can provide small but essential protection. Printed up on business-sized red cards, in multiple languages, these essential rights are being distributed in many venues. Would you like to help? Contact our Social Action Minister Rev. Paul at plangston-daley@firstparish.org.

Legal Support for Migrants

The Immigration Justice Task Force continues to urge you to provide financial support to non-profit legal services for immigrants seeking asylum and other protections. Without a lawyer, a huge majority of legitimate cases fail. With one, success is far more likely. IJTF suggests these area providers: 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.