



# The First Parish in Portland, Maine Unitarian Universalist

A Welcoming Congregation in the Heart of the City



We worship together  
every Sunday at  
10:00 am Join us!

## Sunday Bulletin

January 8, 2012

*The Mission of First Parish:  
Nurture the Spirit, Grow in Community  
and Help Heal the World*

425 Congress St. Portland, Maine 04101 207-773-5747 [www.firstparishportland.org](http://www.firstparishportland.org) [office@firstparishportland.org](mailto:office@firstparishportland.org)

### First Parish & You

#### Faith in Action Meeting January 15th

On Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, immediately after coffee hour, we invite you to join us to hear more details about the projects already underway and to brainstorm about projects we could add to this list. Come help us serve our community and our neighborhood.

#### First Parish Book Group Meets January 16th (note the new date)

The next meeting of the First Parish Book Group will be on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at First Parish. We will be reading *Night of Many Dreams* by Gail Tsukiyama. All are welcome! FMI: Mary Wheeler, [maryalisonwheeler@yahoo.com](mailto:maryalisonwheeler@yahoo.com).

#### Calling All Men to the Men's Luncheon on January 18th

Please contact David Burns at [drburns78@myfairpoint.net](mailto:drburns78@myfairpoint.net) or 892-1381 if you will be attending this month's luncheon. Men's Luncheons begin at noon, and include camaraderie, homemade food and discussion. All, young and old, are welcome to attend.

#### First Parish Family Fun Night January 20th

On January 20<sup>th</sup> we will be having the first of our Winter Family Fun nights! Join us from 5pm-8pm for games and a potluck dinner in the Parish Hall. Families of all shapes and sizes are invited to come! For more information, contact Allison Gammons, Director of Religious Exploration: [allisondre@gmail.com](mailto:allisondre@gmail.com)

#### Chalice Group Sign up is going on now!

Call Emily in the First Parish office to sign up: 773-5747

Group options:

Daytime group: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month 11:30am -1pm.

Evening group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month 6:30-8pm

Buddhist group: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month 7-8:30pm

Couples' group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month 7-8:30pm

Young Adults' group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month 7-8:30pm

Young Women's group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month 4:30-6pm

*If you're interested in joining a group but the times listed don't work for you, call Emily, and tell her what would work for you. Perhaps in the near future, we can make it happen!*

#### Sunday January 8th Service

Hiding

Reverend Christina Sillari

#### Sunday January 15th Service

Racism

Reverend Christina Sillari

#### Thursday January 12th Noonday Concert

Atlantic Chamber Ensemble: Christina Chute, cello,  
Chiharu Naruse, piano, Kim Lehmann, viola, Robert Lehmann, violin,  
Dean Stein, violin

#### FAITH IN ACTION MEETING • Sunday January 15th

11:30am-1pm • Basement Community Room

*Learn about the progress of our efforts in our Neighborhood  
Find out how you can get involved!*

Since 1674, we have aspired to be a  
"Warm and Welcoming Place in the  
Heart of the City."

*Welcome!*

Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Parish House following our service and sign our guest register.

We are a non-creedal faith community, encouraging folks to explore in their own way and at their own pace.

On the first Sunday of the month, we invite newcomers to join us after the service for lunch with the Minister, conversations about membership and First Parish history.

#### Rev. Christina Sillari's Office Hours:

Rev. Sillari's office hours are:

Tuesdays, 10am-2pm

Thursdays, 2pm-6pm,

and by appointment.

Please contact the First Parish Office to make an appointment with Rev. Christina.

#### January 1, 2012

Attendance: 146

Share the Plate: \$146.85

***Please keep in mind that we need food and flowers throughout the year!***

***Thanks to Stone McFarquhar, Sally Waite's circle supper group, and any others who kindly contributed food and refreshments for fellowship hour today!***

It is much appreciated if you can sign up for future weeks [at the opportunity table] or contact Wendy Stanley at (207) 899-2530 or

[gwsgance@yahoo.com](mailto:gwsgance@yahoo.com). We would love to acknowledge you in the bulletin!

***Our appreciation goes to Russell, Susan and Hope Correia for the donation of flowers for today's service. The flowers are given in memory of Alice Haskell.***

#### First Parish Shares the Plate!

Our Share The Plate partner for January will be the "Neighborhood" Faith in Action initiative that the congregation voted to pursue during last May's annual meeting. Neighborhood Faith in Action projects that will be supported by these funds include the restorative justice center we are scheduled to open here at First Parish early in 2012, the monthly neighborhood dinners held in our basement community room, the Portland High School tutoring project, and the Safe Harbor project that supports our Burundian friends who are seeking political asylum. We are thrilled to have so much going on in our neighborhood this year for which these funds will go to great use. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

LUNCH  
WITH  
THE  
MINISTER

TUESDAY  
JANUARY 10th  
12:30pm

## Let's Go to Burundi!

Join Rev. Christina and Burundian friends of First Parish for a continued discussion about our congregation's relationship with liberal religion in Burundi.

Saturday January 14th 10am-12pm in the Parish Hall.

## FIRST PARISH & COMMUNITY NOTICES

### Unitarian Universalist Parenting/ Parenting as Spiritual Guides Workshop

This spring we will be offering a workshop mini-series on "UU Parenting" to explore the role of parents as spiritual guides, and the unique challenges that can come with raising a Unitarian Universalist child.

If you are interested in learning more about this group, or think you would like to participate, please contact Allison Gammons, Director of Religious Exploration ([allisondre@gmail.com](mailto:allisondre@gmail.com)) by January 30th. The times and dates, as well as the number of sessions in the series will be determined based on the availability and preferences of those interested in participating. The UU Parenting mini-series will begin in mid-February or early March and is open to parents and other adults who find themselves in a parenting role.

### It's Getting Cold Out!

If you or your family are in need of warm layers, contact the First Parish office, and we will get you an application to a local foundation that can provide winter clothing and boots.

### Centering Through Sung Prayer with Nancy Bowker

Monday nights (time TBD) in the Meeting House

January 30th Feb 6th Feb 13th, \$60

Scholarships available - please contact Rev. Christina

Come explore the power of prayer through deep listening and authentic expression; through silence, sound and words. Enter the living stream of prayer and be welcomed into a deeper communion with the self, each other, and the Source of prayer. In solitude and community, we will share an experience of our own sung prayer. "Sung prayer with Nancy is one of the most powerful spiritual experiences I have encountered in a long time."

- Rev. Christina Sillari

### JOBS JOBS JOBS!

If you have small jobs with which you would like some assistance, and/or if you are aware of any employment opportunities in the community, please contact Reverend Christina.

### Are UU a Great Communicator?

If you have web-site skills, are willing to help with PR and would enjoy connecting with our wider Unitarian Universalist community, First Parish needs you! We are seeking several people to serve on the **Communications Council**. Please e-mail Bette Brunswick at [bettejnb@yahoo.com](mailto:bettejnb@yahoo.com) for more information. Thank you for considering this most important ministry at First Parish.

### Help Comes in Many Forms

Members of First Parish come together to offer assistance to our community in many ways. Whether a ride or a meal would make a difference in your life, or you are in need of spiritual support, or help through a crisis, the First Parish Pastoral Care Team is available provide help along the journey. Contact the Team at 773-5747 or [office@firstparishportland.org](mailto:office@firstparishportland.org).

### Calling all Atheists, Agnostics, Theists, Deists and Seekers!

Please join Reverend Christina for a conversation about God.

Wednesday February 8th

6:30-8:30pm

Please let Emily in the office know if you will be coming.

[office@firstparishportland.org](mailto:office@firstparishportland.org) 773-5747

## The Coming Week at a Glance

For Complete Calendar visit

[www.firstparishportland.org](http://www.firstparishportland.org)

### Sunday January 8th

New Member Ceremony

(during worship service) 10am

Pageant Cast Party Potluck 5pm

### Monday January 9th

Mindfulness Meeting 6pm

Buddhism for UUs\*

\*New off-site location 7:30pm

### Tuesday January 10th

Sanctuary Rehearsal 9am

Lunch with Reverend Christina 12:30pm

Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm

### Wednesday January 11th

Tai Chi 9am, 6pm

### Thursday January 12th

Sanctuary Rehearsal 9am

Noonday Concert 12:15pm

Music Theory Class 6:30pm

Choir Rehearsal 7:10pm

### Sunday January 15th

Faith in Action Meeting 11:30am

Pageant Post-Production Mtg 1:30pm

### Monday January 16th

Mindfulness Meeting 6pm

Book Group Meeting 7pm

### Tuesday January 17th

Governing Board Meeting 6:30pm

### Wednesday January 18th

Tai Chi 9am, 6pm

Men's Luncheon 12pm

### Thursday January 19th

Noonday Concert 12:15pm

First Parish Trustees Meeting

Music Theory Class 6:30pm

Choir Rehearsal 7:10pm

### Friday January 20th

RE Family Fun Night 5pm

### Saturday January 21st

Pastoral Care Team Retreat 9:30am

### Sunday January 22nd

Membership Council Mtg 11:30am