

First Parish in Portland, Unitarian Universalist
is a member congregation
of the Northern New England District
of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is a religious organization that combines two traditions: the Universalists, who organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, who organized in 1825. They consolidated into the UUA in 1961.

Both groups trace their roots in North America to the early Massachusetts settlers and to the founders of the Republic. Overseas, their heritages reach back centuries to pioneers in England, Poland, and Transylvania.

Each of the 1,041 congregations in the United States, Canada, and overseas are democratic in polity and operation; they govern themselves. They unite in the Association to provide services that individual congregations cannot provide for themselves. Each congregation is associated with one of the UUA's 19 districts.

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with Jewish-Christian roots. It has no creed. It affirms the worth of human beings, advocates freedom of belief and the search for advancing truth, and tries to provide a warm, open, supportive community for people who believe that ethical living is the supreme witness of religion.

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world and community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part.



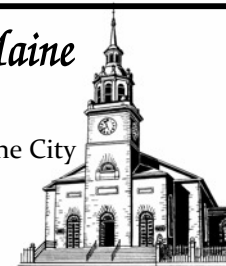
*The First Parish in Portland, Maine
Unitarian Universalist*

A Welcoming Congregation in the Heart of the City

**Sunday
Bulletin**

February 5, 2012

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



**We worship together
every Sunday at 10:00 AM
Join us.**

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

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

Sunday February 5th Service

Islam

Reverend Christina Sillari

Sunday February 12th Service

Love

Reverend Christina Sillari

**Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parish
Hall following today's worship service.**

Noonday Concert Thursday February 9th, 12:15PM

Michael Albert, oboe and Bekka Willey, piano

Facts and Figures from Sunday January 29, 2012

Attendance: 209

Religious Exploration: 36

Share the Plate: \$198.28

This week, Children and Youth will begin in the Sanctuary for a
Time for All Ages, and then be sung out to their classes.
The Youth Group will sit together and remain in the service.

Worship Service Information

Translations of prayers and songs integrated into today's service, as well as information on our musical guests can be found on the insert to the Order



First Parish Shares the Plate

Our Share The Plate partner for February will be Learning Works, a non-profit in the heart of Portland that provides learning opportunities for at-risk youth, the immigrant community, and low-income families in the city. First Parish is working closely with Learning Works to serve our neighbors through their English language teaching programs for our Burundian members and through their support and involvement in the Center for Restorative Justice at First Parish.

Our thanks to The Makinis, Stone McFarquhar, and any others who kindly contributed food and refreshments for fellowship hour today.

Flowers are given today by Joy and Tan Larrabee.

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

It is much appreciated if you can sign up for future weeks (sign-up sheet is near the opportunity buffet in the Parish Hall) or contact Wendy Stanley at 207-899-2530 or gwsgance@yahoo.com for donation of refreshments, or Nancy Bills at 767-1109 or nancybills@msn.com. We would love to acknowledge you in the bulletin.

Reverend Christina Sillari's Office Hours

Tuesdays 10AM-2PM

Thursdays 2PM-6PM

and by appointment

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

First Parish Office is Open

Tuesdays 9AM-2PM

Wednesdays 9AM-2PM

Thursdays 9AM-6PM

Fridays 9AM-2PM

Contact Us:

773-5747

office@firstparishportland.org

Upcoming First Parish Activities

Newcomer Lunch Today!

On the first Sunday of every month, we invite newcomers to join Rev. Christina Sillari for a light lunch and conversation as a way of learning a bit more about our community. Bring your coffee downstairs to the Basement Community Room. The next Newcomer Lunch will be on Sunday March 4th.

Next First Parish Neighborhood Dinner is this evening! Will You Help Us?

Volunteers sought for two shifts for the Sunday 2/5 Neighborhood Dinner: Meal prep and cooking (2-5PM); Serving and clean-up (5-7PM). Contact Marge Stockford, mstockford@maine.rr.com, 619-7133 to get involved. It's a great way to be in true community!

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 773-5747

If you weren't able to participate in the Congregational Meeting last weekend, please consider joining Rev. Christina and members of the Governing Board SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12th

when we will have another congregational meeting in the Basement Community Room after the worship service

Childcare will be available on the second floor of the Parish House

Due to the wonderful First Parish renaissance of the past year, we have had a surge of people attending Sunday Service. The resulting growth in membership requires unprecedented change for both First Parish and its members. Through education, input from the UUA and regular congregational feedback, the leadership is now in a place to articulate a framework to support necessary development for First Parish. Please plan to join us at one of the meetings, where we will "honor the past," present a succinct summary of First Parish's current governance, by-laws and culture, then present a broad strategy for achieving our mission and vision. Most importantly, there will be a lot of time for all of you to ask questions, share your experiences and make suggestions.

Upcoming First Parish Activities

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) 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.

Next Meeting of the First Parish Book Group Monday February 13th, 7PM at First Parish

The next meeting of the First Parish Book Group will be on Monday, February 13th at 7pm at First Parish. We will be reading Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh. In March we will be During our March discussion, each of us will bring our favorite Mary Oliver poem to share. All are welcome! FMI: Mary Wheeler, maryalisonwheeler@yahoo.com.

First Parish Family Fun Night Returns in February!

On February 25th we will be having the second of our Winter Family Fun nights! Join us from 5PM-8PM for a pajama party and 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

SAVE THE DATE, FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 27TH FIRST PARISH AUCTION

FUNraising for our mission, hope you'll be there!

Anyone interested in donating an auction item or joining our planning committee, please contact the Auction Chair, Linda Shary at 807-7812 or grayshoal@gwi.net

Ongoing First Parish Activities

Mrs. Kim's Mitten Bag

For a few years now, members and friends of First Parish have donated mittens and other warm winter clothing to be given to the grammar school on Munjoy Hill. "Mrs. Kim," a teacher, is Sylvia Skillin's daughter, and tells us that many children come to school without adequate warm clothing. Last year, we scoured GoodWill and Salvation Army for children's jackets and other cold weather items. Beautiful hats, scarves and mittens were made by several parishioners. We hope you'll help us bring some warmth to others! Look for a bag or basket in the Parish Hall on Sundays. We look forward to your contributions! Please contact Joan Stanton if you have any questions: 767-5655

First Parish Junior Choir Rehearsing

The First Parish Junior Choir, conducted by Lynne Beasley, rehearses each Sunday at 9AM upstairs in the Parish Hall. All children grades 3-8 are welcome. This is a great opportunity to work with an accomplished youth choir conductor!

Community Announcements and Events

Burundi: The Heart of Africa a Meeting at Hope.Gate.Way Church

Sunday, February 12 | 3-5 pm | 185 High Street, Portland

On Sunday afternoon, February 12, 2012, from 3-5 pm, Families & Friends of Burundi, a newly-formed Portland-based group, will host an educational and cultural event to introduce the public to the current genocidal situation in Burundi. In addition to an overview of the current situation, members of Families & Friends of Burundi will offer personal stories, share music and cultural items, and provide delicious food prepared by a Burundi chef. Donations will be gratefully received.

Soulful, Joyful and Spiritual Voices a celebration of African American History Month Wednesday, February 15, 2012

at The Wishcamper Center at USM 44 Bedford Street, Portland
Reception 5PM, Performances 6PM

featuring Lorraine Bohland joined by pianist Terry Foster

First Parish Announcements

Chalice Groups! Have You Joined One? Interested?

Two First Parish Chalice Groups are still open: A Young Women's Group that meets on the Third Sunday of each month 4:30-6PM, and a Chalice Group that meets on the Second Wednesday of each month 7-8:30PM. Please contact the First Parish office to register!

Do you support Marriage Equality in Maine?

Join Rev. Christina at a Fundraising Dinner organized by the Equality Maine Foundation

The First Parish office will be coordinating a group registration so that we can have a First Parish table at the event!

Rev. Sillari will be attending the Equality Maine Foundation 28th Annual Awards Dinner on Saturday March 24th 2012 at 5:30pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay. She would love it if members and friends of First Parish who are going to the dinner would sit together. If you are already planning on going, and would like to sit with others from First Parish; or if you hadn't considered going, but would like to join, please contact Emily Brocks: 773-5747 or office@firstparishportland.org by FEBRUARY 20th. She will collect payment for your ticket, and your meal choice so that we can make a group reservation for a table.

Are you a Keyholder?

Do you have a key to First Parish? If you do, and you use it only infrequently (less than once per week), please speak with Emily in the office. We need to collect extra church keys, and to be aware of all of the church keyholders.

Did You Know First Parish Can Provide Childcare?

If you will be attending a meeting or event here at First Parish, and your child is in 4th grade or younger and will be here at the church, please contact Allison Gammons: allisondre@gmail.com in advance and she will set up childcare.

Nametags! Are You Wearing One?

Please wear a nametag (per very nicely worded request of the minister). If you do not have a permanent nametag, please use a sticky nametag for today. Our ushers can assist you with information about getting a permanent nametag.

FP Announcements ctd.

Good Drivers Needed!

Many elders within our congregation cannot attend Sunday morning worship either because they do not have a car, or because they are not able to drive. Rides are needed to and from church for people living in Portland and neighboring towns. This is an important ministry to First Parish. Please contact Rev. Henry Warren at hwarren@maine.rr.com if you can help out.

Some of our Burundian friends need transportation during the week to get to medical appointments, a cafe for a cup of coffee and relaxed conversation, job interview, grocery shopping or to attend worship on Sundays. This is an opportunity to be in relationship with our amazing friends from Africa. Please contact Kitty Coughlin at 767-4614 or catherine.m.coughlin38@gmail.com if you can help in this way.

Do you have an announcement or article you would like to submit to the Sunday Bulletin (weekly), or Stone Soup (monthly)?

Please submit content to: office@firstparishportland.org

Content due by:

Wednesday 12PM for the Sunday Bulletin

The 15th of the month for the following month's Stone Soup!

Week at a Glance

For Complete Calendar, visit www.firstparishportland.org

Saturday February 4th

Tousignant Memorial (rental) 11AM
Choir Rehearsal 1PM

Sunday February 5th

Stewardship Meeting 9AM
Youth Choir 9AM
Newcomer Lunch 11:30AM
Neighborhood Dinner 5PM

Monday February 6th

Mindfulness Meeting 6PM

Tuesday February 7th

Daytime Chalice Group (offsite) 11:30AM
Middle Eastern Drumming Class (rental) 5:30PM
Pastoral Care Team Meeting 6:30PM
By-Laws Task Force Meeting 6PM

Wednesday February 8th

Tai Chi 9AM, 6PM
Conversation about God with Rev. Christina 6:30PM

Thursday February 9th

Noonday Concert 12:15PM
Music Theory Class 6:30PM
Choir Rehearsal 7:10PM

Friday February 10th

Wedding Rehearsal 5PM (rental)

Saturday February 11th

Walsh-Anderson Wedding 4PM (rental)

Sunday February 12th

Junior Choir 9AM
Congregational Meeting 11:30AM