

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

– Desmond Tutu

“Leadership is service, not position.”

– Tim Fargo

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.

Weston, Massachusetts

Gathered in 1698

ORDER OF SERVICE

January 12, 2025 A.D. at 10:30 am

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on “Melcombe” C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)
Hymn Prelude on “Stuttgart” Charles W. Douglas (1867-1944)

CALL TO WORSHIP – by the Rev. Reinhold Niebuhr (*adapted*)

One: Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime;

Many: **therefore we must be saved by hope.**

One: Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense
in any immediate context of history;

Many: **therefore we must be saved by faith.**

One: Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;

Many: **therefore we are saved by love.**

One: No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of
our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint;

Many: **therefore we must be saved by the final form of love,
which is forgiveness.**

* HYMN 494 – “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

Minister: The Peace of God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

EXCHANGE OF PEACE AND WELCOME

CHURCH COVENANT:

**In the love of truth and the spirit of Jesus Christ
We join for the worship of God and service to humankind.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

O God keep us from missing life by small neglects that blind the eyes of the spirit. Keep us from being overly analytical when we need to be understanding; from talking too much when the situation demands listening; from being too orderly when we may need the disorder of insight; from being so involved in the immediate that we miss the long view of the soul; from making such great efforts in life, when the truth that saves is so simple; from over-appreciating our own efforts while underappreciating the contributions of others. This we ask in the name of your son Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying together:

Our Father...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell,
Betsy Gibson, and Nancy Piedra

In Honor and Celebration of Alan Flynn,
the Sexton of First Parish for the last 35 years

MUSIC MEDITATION Variations on "Eternal God, Strong to Save"

DISMISSAL TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Go now in Peace, go now in Peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.**

READING: Matthew 23: 1-12

ANTHEM

"Music, Spread Thy Voice Around"
from *Solomon*

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

SERMON: "Ripples in the Water: Musings on
Legacy and Making a Difference"

Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell

MUSIC MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY:

"Sing with Joy"
from *Judas Maccabaeus*

George Frideric Handel

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**Praise God, the Love we all may share;
Praise God, the beauty everywhere;
Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;
Praise God, the Truth that makes us free.**

*CLOSING HYMN S7 (*front of hymnal*): “O Day of Light and Gladness”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Sonata No. 2 – IV Fuga: Allegro moderato Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in loving memory of The Rev. Dr. Harry H. Hoehler, *Minister Emeritus* of First Parish, whose memorial service was held here yesterday.

Our Greeter this morning is Caroline Marple.

First Parish Church has long welcomed people with different perspectives, backgrounds, and orientations. As a Welcoming Congregation, we happily invite all people to be a part of our 21st century community and church. If you are visiting, we hope you will fill out a welcome card and put it in the collection plate and introduce yourself to the ministers.

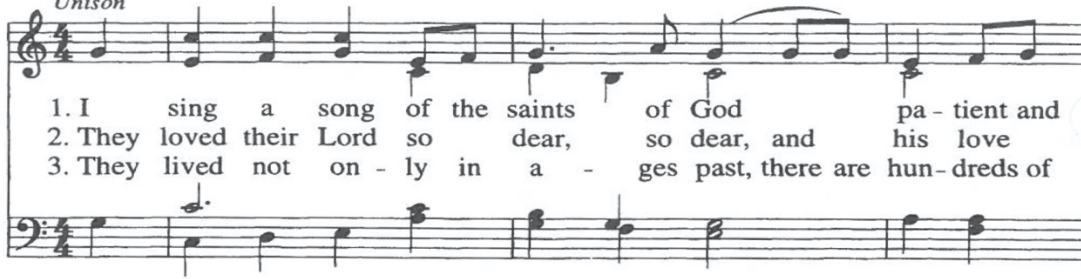
Please join us for a festive fellowship hour after church with cake (!) as we celebrate Alan Flynn’s 35 years of service to First Parish Church.

STAFF

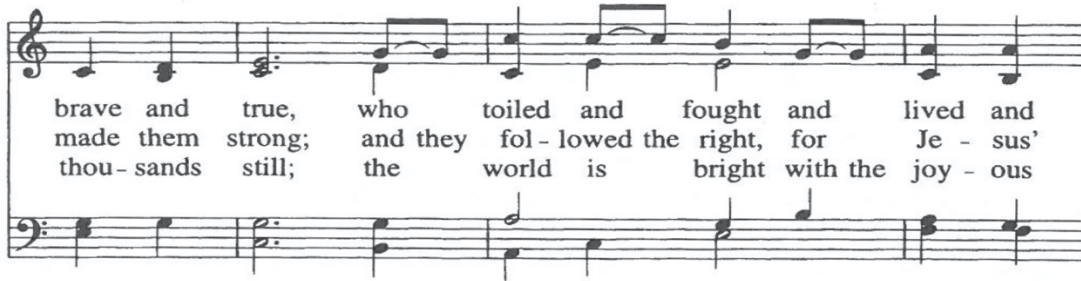
Minister:	Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Asst. Minister of Families & Community Outreach:	Rev. Sarah Napoline
Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator:	Robert Jones
Music Director:	TJ Rufo Curran
Organist:	Geoffrey Wieting
Choir Soloists:	Nathaniel Bear, Benjamin Doyle Rose Hegele, Nathan Savant
Parish Administrator:	Betsy Gibson
Sexton:	Alan Flynn
Fellowship Coordinator:	Paula Leger
Video Production Staff:	Peter Constable

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

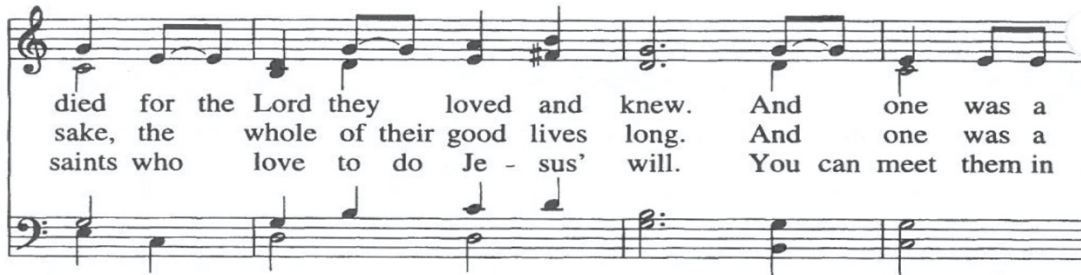
Unison



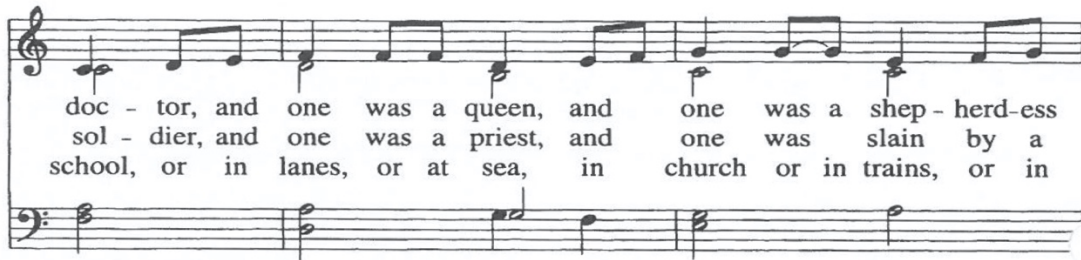
1. I sing a song of the saints of God pa-tient and
2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and his love
3. They lived not on-ly in a- ges past, there are hun-dreds of



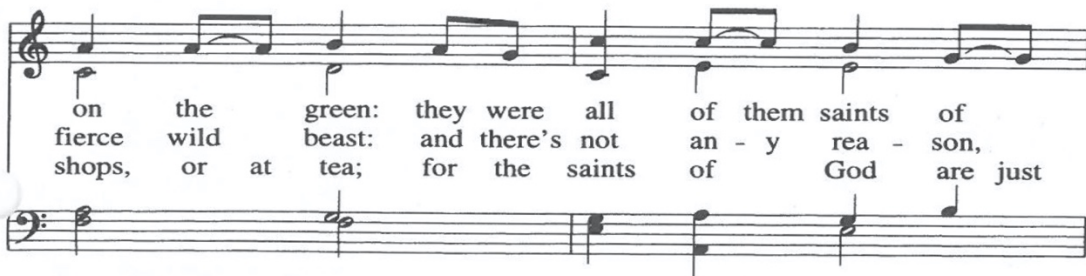
brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and
made them strong; and they fol- lowed the right, for Je- sus'
thou- sands still; the world is bright with the joy- ous



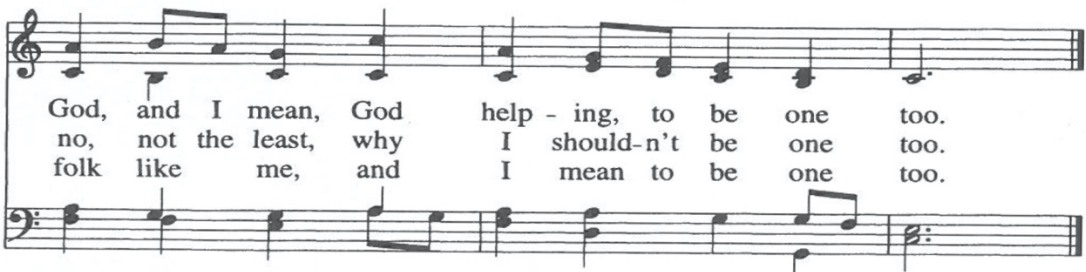
died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a
sake, the whole of their good lives long. And one was a
saints who love to do Je- sus' will. You can meet them in



doc- tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep- herd-ess
sol- dier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a
school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church or in trains, or in

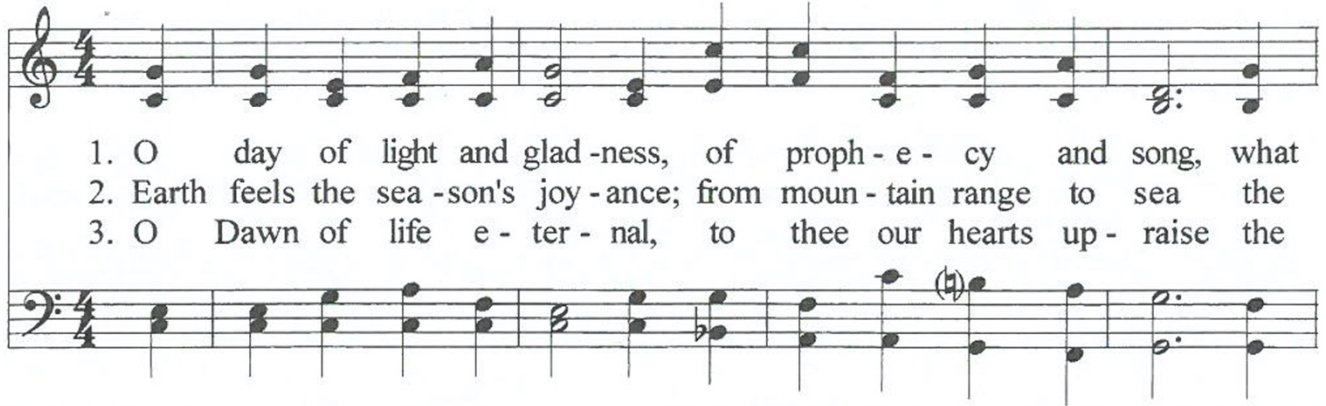


on the green: they were all of them saints of
fierce wild beast: and there's not an- y rea- son,
shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just

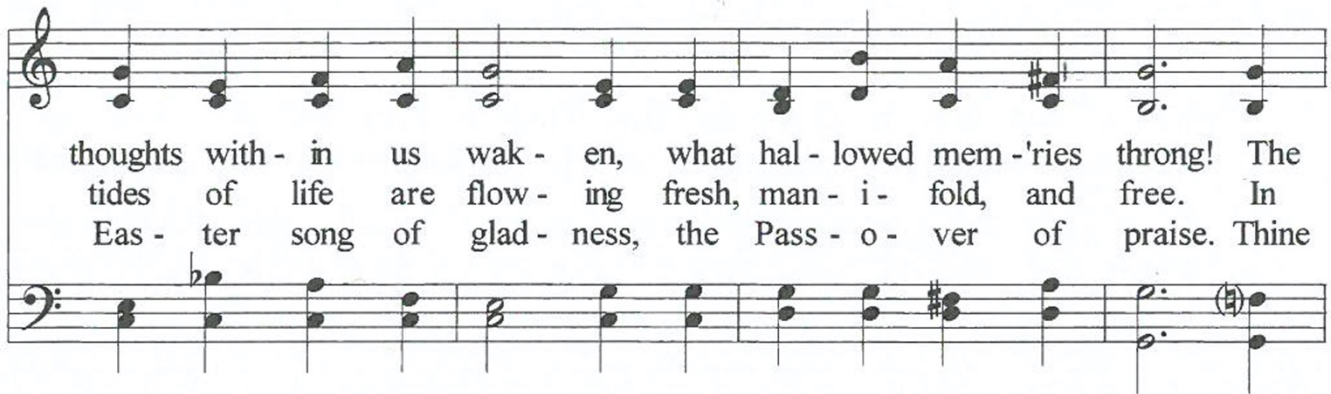


God, and I mean, God help- ing, to be one too.
no, not the least, why I should-n't be one too.
folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

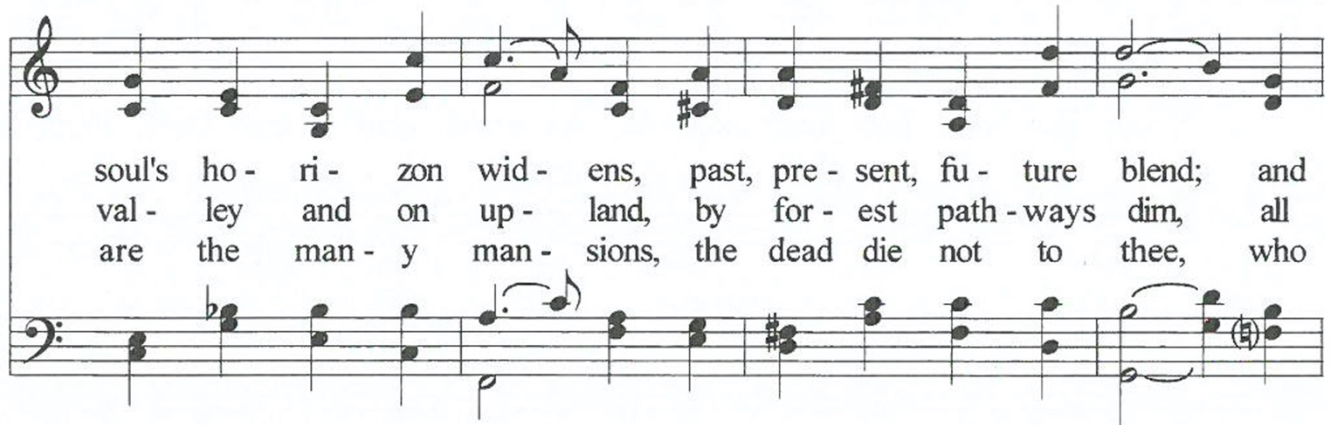
O Day of Light and Gladness



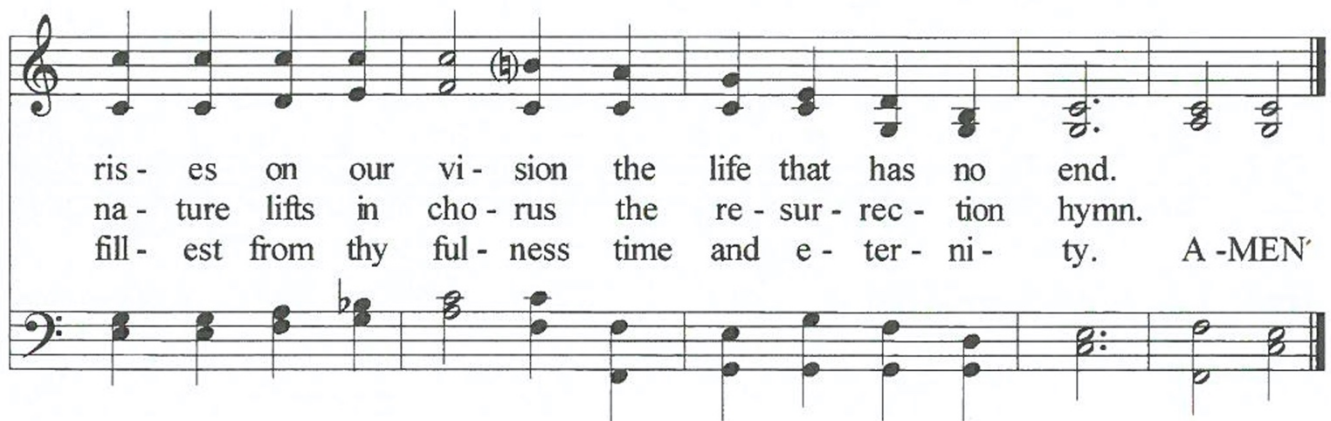
1. O day of light and glad-ness, of proph-e-cy and song, what
2. Earth feels the sea-son's joy-ance; from moun-tain range to sea the
3. O Dawn of life e-ter-nal, to thee our hearts up-raise the



thoughts with-in us wak-en, what hal-lowed mem-'ries throng! The
tides of life are flow-ing fresh, man-i-fold, and free. In
Eas-ter song of glad-ness, the Pass-o-ver of praise. Thine



soul's ho-ri-zon wid-ens, past, pre-sent, fu-ture blend; and
val-ley and on up-land, by for-est path-ways dim, all
are the man-y man-sions, the dead die not to thee, who



ris-es on our vi-sion the life that has no end.
na-ture lifts in cho-rus the re-sur-rec-tion hymn.
fill-est from thy ful-ness time and e-ter-ni-ty. A-MEN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KNITTERS & STITCHERS – Meet in person on most Mondays at noon in person in the Parlor.

LADIES WHO LUNCH – The group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at noon in the Library. Bring your favorite lunch; we'll provide coffee and tea.

WEEKLY THURSDAY MORNING MEDITATION meets on at 8:30 am on Zoom for approximately 45 minutes **<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87938995674>**

CHOIR REHEARSAL, THURSDAYS, 7:30 PM in the Loft.

STAFF AND COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS - *News & Views* will be published in advance of the 2025 Budget Hearing on Sunday, Jan. 26, and the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 2. Deadline for submission of Annual Reports is *Friday, Jan. 17* (in advance of MLK, Jr. Day).

COMMUNITY YOGA FLOW CLASS, FRIDAY, JAN. 17, at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. This free class is open to anyone; bring a mat, blocks (if you have), water bottle and an open mind! Questions? Contact Sarah Napoline (**sarahnapoline@FirstParishWeston.org**).

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SALLY GILMAN, SATURDAY, JAN. 18, AT 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

STANDING COMMITTEE will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 pm in the Parlor and on Zoom: **<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8286031801>**

BRISTOL LODGE JANUARY SUPPER PREP & DELIVERY, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22 – Save the date and watch for menu details to come!

FPCW BOOK GROUP, Thursday, Jan. 23, 9:30 am in the Parlor and via Zoom. We'll discuss *All the Beauty in the World*, a memoir by Peter Bringley. **<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83268162066>**

STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU DINNER/TRIVIA NIGHT, FRIDAY, JAN. 24, 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. All those who made a commitment to support the church financially in 2025 by Dec. 31 are automatically invited. If you have questions, please call the Church Office.

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING, SUNDAY, JAN. 26, following worship.

327TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, SUNDAY, FEB. 2, after worship. Come experience the “wise congregational way” in action. Here we have no bishops, popes, presbyteries, or regional councils. As the oldest continuing democratic institution in town, we will celebrate our community, elect officers, welcome new members, and approve a budget for 2025.

ONE OF MY FAVORITE HYMNS

Do you have a favorite hymn that you love to sing or hear? This fall we are continuing with an occasional element in our Service on Sundays. People are invited to sign up to introduce one of their favorite hymns. Each volunteer has 3-5 minutes to share a favorite hymn and why it is meaningful to them. It could be the music, or the lyrics, or that it was sung at an important moment in their lives. What's your favorite hymn? To sign up, speak with one of the Ministers or call the Church Office (781.893.7798).

COMING UP A FIRST PARISH . . .

SATURDAY, JAN. 18, AT 11:00 AM – Memorial Service for long-time FPCW member and singer in the Choir Sally Gilman

SUNDAY, JAN. 19 – Our Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. service at 10:30 am

FRIDAY, JAN .24, 6:30 PM – Trivia Night and Dinner hosted by the Stewardship Committee

SUNDAY, JAN. 26 – Annual Budget Hearing Sunday with special pulpit moment with staff from the Community Day Center in Waltham

SUNDAY, FEB 2 – Our 327th Annual Meeting and welcoming of New Members.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9 – Chocolate Sunday, our annual celebration of all things chocolate. Bring some of your favorite treats to share and, if you'd like to contribute something special to be raffled off, please contact Robert Jones (rjones@firstparishweston.org). Proceeds will benefit Family Promise of MetroWest, a Natick-based non-profit that assists homeless families in the area.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 6:00 PM – Family-Friendly Pizza & Game Night at First Parish! Close out February with family, friends, and fun! We'll supply the pizza and soft drinks; feel free to BYO wine and beer – to drink responsibly, of course! If coming, we ask that you let us know what game(s) you will bring - there soon will be a link on the FPCW website calendar or you can call the Church Office.

COMMUNITY DAY CENTER IN WALTHAM NEEDS MEN'S DENIM AND SWEATPANTS

The Community Day Center of Waltham (CDCW), MetroWest's only drop-in day center for the homeless, needs men's denim and sweatpants. CDCW is a safe place where unhoused adults can pick up mail, share a warm meal, and get hygiene items and clothing. Recently, the center created a welcoming, well-stocked shop onsite where visitors can browse free clothing. Men's denim and sweatpants are flying off the shelves, and they could use our help keeping these popular items in stock. Please bring a new or gently used pair (or two) of men's jeans and/or sweatpants to church by February 16. Donation bins will be located in the breezeway and vestibule outside the church office. Contact Camille Schmidek at schmideks@comcast.net/617.895.8495 with any questions. Thank you!

CDCW Director of Operations Chloe-Rose Crouch will join us during service on Sunday, January 26, to speak about the center's work and impact. Learn more about CDCW at communitydaycenter.org

LOCAL PETITION AVAILABLE AFTER SERVICES TODAY

A number of townspeople and First Parishioners are organizing a petition to the Select Board to hold a Special Town Meeting in early March just on the Water Tank project. At December's Town Meeting the issue didn't achieve the needed 2/3 vote, in part due to new issues raised at Town Meeting and limited time for discussion within a crowded agenda. Those issues should be discussed at length, without competing issues, if we are to make a well-considered decision about this crucial issue. Since the tanks were described as failing and, if they failed, no resident or business would have access to water for weeks, if not months, we feel we need to reconsider this issue as soon as possible. Members of First Parish will be in the breezeway after today's service with a petition to ask the Select Board to schedule a Special Town Meeting for this purpose where all points of view can be discussed thoroughly.

METROWEST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS PRESENTS
Grow Native Plants in Mini-Greenhouses in the SNOW!

January 15

Four sessions at 10 am, Noon, 2 pm, and 4:00 pm

Learn a new technique for growing our local native flowering perennials from seed. Your potted seeds will stay outdoors until spring and then baby native plants will appear! For info or to register, go to: www.metrowestclimatesolutions.org

CHOCOLATE SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR
ON FEBRUARY 9TH!



In advance of Valentine's Day, our Fellowship Hour will feature CHOCOLATE, along with some other items. Our extraordinary chocolate fountain will be humming away, complete with a fountain attendant to do the dipping and keep everything clean/sanitary and orderly and we invite you to bring some of your favorite confections to share.

In addition to donations and the chocolate fountain, we are holding a raffle for some extra special treats provided by some of our favorite chocolatiers & bakers. The raffle will benefit MetroWest Family Promise. It is sure to be lots of fun for all ages! Whether you consider it a special occasion or an annoying Hallmark holiday, we can let Valentine's Day be a reminder of the importance of love in all forms (AND an excellent excuse to eat chocolate!).

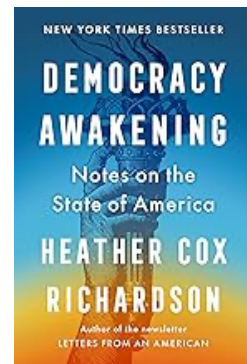
NEW EXHIBIT IN THE MARY JO RINES GALLERY
Irma G. A Century of Hats and Spirit, photographs by Leann Shamash

Showing now in the Mary Jo Rines Gallery is Newton-based educator and photographer, Leann Shamash's *Irma G: A Century of Hats and Spirit*. On view through March 31, this exhibit features captivating portraits of the artist's mother, Irma Gershkowitz, striking expressive poses in hats representing a life spanning nearly a century. Drawing us into the relationship between Leann and her mother, the photographs capture the treasure of life experience in Irma's presence and the beauty and wonder that transcend age.

Leann's work has been shown in museums, galleries, and libraries throughout Massachusetts including the Griffin Museum of Photography, Brickbottom Gallery, Bromfield Gallery, New England Biolabs, the Newton Free Library, and the Weston Public Library. She has participated in Newton Open Studios and her work has twice been featured in The Art Connection's Art Bingo.

Leann will join us on Sunday, Jan. 19, during Fellowship Hour for an artist talk. Be sure to swing by the gallery after service to meet her and learn more about her art. Explore more of Leann's work at wordshavewings.net, leannshamashphotography.com, and coming soon to the Mary Jo Rines Virtual Gallery at firstparishwestonart.org.

NEW GROUP FORMING FOR 2025:
Defending Democracy Book & Discussion Group
Meeting on the last Friday of the month,
starting on Jan. 31 at 4 pm.



Join us for a new community-wide discussion group informed by the latest book by historian and author, Heather Cox Richardson, *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America*. As our country begins a new chapter, the need to learn about our history, make connections, share ideas, and defend the institutions of our democracy become crucially important. We hope to have a couple of copies of the book in the Church Library soon for borrowing.

To sign up, email Jeff Barz-Snell (jeffbarzsnell@firstparishweston.org)
or Sarah Napoline (sarahnapoline@firstparishweston.org)
or call the Church Office (781.893.7798).