

**WELCOME TO VISITORS:** Visitors are encouraged to sign the Visitor's Book downstairs. Please stop by the Newcomer's Table on the stage in the Vestry. It has information on the First Parish Church and Unitarian Universalism. Join us for our fellowship hour in the Vestry following the service. Nametags help us to identify one another. You can order one at the Visitors' Table. Our minister, staff and identified leaders are available to meet with you to answer questions about our community.

**THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON** was gathered as the town church in 1664. The congregation worships in its fourth Meeting House which was completed in 1755. A town clock and Revere-cast bell rings out our call to service every Sunday. The congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a liberal faith that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; 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 community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Membership is open to all age 13 and older. If you are interested in membership, please speak to the minister or any member of the Membership Committee.

*"First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."*

**First Parish Staff:**

|                      |   |                                  |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Minister             | Rev. Elea Kemler<br>minister@uugroton.org | (978) 448-5106                   |
| Director of RE       | Denise Noble<br>dreuugroton@yahoo.com     | (978) 448-5106<br>(508) 528-8746 |
| Director of Music    | Shawn McCann<br>music@uugroton.org        | (978) 433-7922                   |
| Office Administrator | Susan Parks<br>office@uugroton.org        | (978) 448-6307                   |
| Office Assistant     | Debby Smith<br>grotondeb@hotmail.com      | (978) 448-6307                   |
| Sexton               | Joe Fowler                                | (978) 448-2203                   |

**Officers of the First Parish:**

|                          |                |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Chair, Board of Trustees | Karen Johnson  | (978) 448-9158 |
| Senior Deacon            | Linda Vine     | (978) 448-5310 |
| Treasurer                | Roger Allen    | (978) 448-6089 |
| Clerk                    | Barbara Murray | (978) 448-3706 |

**Our Web Page:** [www.uugroton.org](http://www.uugroton.org)      **Email:** [office@uugroton.org](mailto:office@uugroton.org)

**Office Hours** are Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The telephone number is 978-448-6307.

Our newsletter is published monthly from September through June. The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of the previous month. Articles can be submitted through the church e-mail address, on disk, or placed on the administrator's desk.



**FIRST PARISH CHURCH**  
*Groton, Massachusetts*

**A Warm Welcome to All!**

There is childcare for infants and toddlers through age 4 years beginning at 9:50 AM on the second floor of the East Wing and you are welcome to take children there at any time during the service. There are quiet toys in the soft, red pouches in each pew. The service is also broadcast downstairs in the large room beneath us if children become restless.

*"We are a supportive and welcoming liberal religious community. We live and share our beliefs by: exploring and nurturing our spirits; being inspired by the examples and teachings of diverse religious and moral leaders; fostering faith, justice and stewardship among ourselves and within the larger community; valuing our children and youth; celebrating our individual diversity and common unity."*

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 26, 2009

## A Thought as the Service Begins

"I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*

*(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones, beepers and electronic devices. Please join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.)*

**Ringing of the Bell** Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

**Prelude** Impromptu in Ab major (Schubert)

**Call to Worship** Spirit of Truth, of Life, of Power Adult Choir  
(Westwood, Mason)

**Welcome and Announcements** Melinda Green

**\*Hymn** Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire #34

**Chalice Lighting** Deb Johnson

**Response Hymn** *(please remain seated)* #123

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

## A Time for All Generations

### Candles of Celebration and Concern

You are invited to come forward, light a candle and briefly share a joy or sorrow that has touched your life.

### Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School

Go now in peace. Go now in peace. #413  
May the love of God surround you  
Everywhere, everywhere you may go. (repeat)

**Reading** "The Sun" by Mary Oliver

**Anthem** The Lord Is My Shepherd Adult Choir  
(John Rutter)

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Song without words, Op. 102 No. 4 (Mendelssohn)

**\*Offertory Response** *(Words: Barbara Rich; Music: Joshua Rich)*

Today we give our time  
Our compassion, wit and song  
Everyday we can choose,  
To begin again in love.  
We give what we can,  
Generous as we can  
Opening the doors  
To begin again in love.

**Sermon** Glad to the Brink of Fear Rev. Sue Phillips

**\*Hymn** We are the Earth Upright and Proud #303

**\*Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame  
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.  
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

**Postlude** Impromptu in Ab major (Chopin)

*(Please remain seated during the Postlude. You are also invited to come to the front of the church and light a candle silently during this time. Please place your candle toward the back of the candle table. We ask the congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle is lit.)*

**\*Please stand as you are able.**

*Large Print Hymnals, Sunday Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. If you don't wish to keep your Sunday Bulletin, please place it one of the recycle baskets at the sanctuary exits.*

\* \* \* \*

*Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service! All are welcome to join the Small Group Conversation, a quieter alternative to Fellowship Hour, in the first floor library at 11:30 AM.*

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The flowers in church this morning are given by the Tessier family

**Greeters:** Paula Bogdanoff, Suzanne Nelson

**Ushers:** Susan Hughes, Gregg Baker

**Fellowship Hour Hosts:** Jacquie Rogers, Eleanor Bond