

What Do You Love Best About First Parish?

March 2019

The warm welcome and connection I experience every time I walk through the door.



Authentic and meaningful connection.

Community rejoicing in taking care of each other.



Helping us to be the best humans possible.

Such a welcoming community. I am grateful that my daughter is growing up in this supportive and loving community.



Mostly I love how we take care of each other.



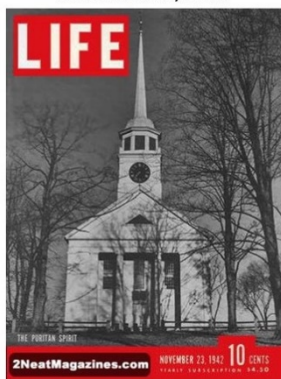
I love that we are a community of everyday people who really DO care about and look after one another.



First Parish is a dynamic community of welcoming, non-judgmental people who support each other.



November 23, 1942



Elea's spiritual leadership, philosophical wit and warm wisdom provide weekly inspiration.

We all have at least two selves struggling over the direction in our lives, one open and optimistic, the other fearful and mistrustful. The self in us that will win is the one we feed.

Thank you for feeding me when I was starving.

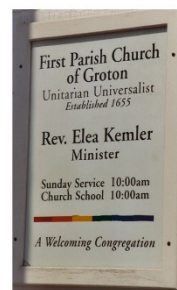


That it nudges me to be a better person.



Community Connections Conscience

I'm happy to be part of this wonderful community that comes together in this "strong old house".



After 41 years it still feels new and exciting and familiar and comforting.



Answers from Annual Pledge Forms (March 2019)

First Parish is a dynamic community of welcoming, non-judgmental people who support each other. Elea's spiritual leadership, philosophical wit and warm wisdom provide weekly inspiration. I'm happy to be part of this wonderful community that comes together in this "strong old house", aka FPC 😊

- 1) The way we truly care about each other and have each other's backs.
- 2) The positive impact we can see we are having on our youth.
- 3) The wisdom in the room whenever a group of us meet together.
- 4) Sunday morning in the sanctuary.
- 5) And of course, Elea, Shawn, Liz, Marissa

Acceptance, accessibility, resources.

After 41 years it still feels new and exciting and familiar and comforting.

Being in a church on Sunday used to bring up a lot resistance from childhood memories that Jewish people don't go to church on Sundays. I've learned to substitute appreciate for the diversity of the congregation, the gay-lesbian acceptance, the caring for each other we so often are able to do. It's a unique place, this old building, with new ideas about old pre-conceived notions.

Caring committee that give away money to the needy; that we encourage the children to question; that people are empowered to help others both as part of the larger community and quietly as individuals who do it just because it is the right thing to do; that in addition to being serious about making the world a better place, we remember to laugh.

Community rejoicing in taking care of each other. Helping us to be the best humans possible.

Community, compassion, spirituality, and positive action.

Community, family, social justice, love, respect, friends, hard work + fun! We look forward to the year ahead :)

Community; our strong, old house; the peace that I find here.

Elea, storytelling, and lots of other stuff.

EVERYTHING!!

Family

First Parish cherishes everyone, honors their spiritual journey and respects whatever faith or circumstance brought them to our door.

I am grateful to be part of this beloved community. I am always inspired by Elea and proud of the good work we accomplish by working together.

I love SO many things -- the honesty, humor and wisdom of Elea's sermons. The love I feel every time I enter the sanctuary, and the fact that it is a safe place for our youth to discover and grow into their authentic selves. The experiences of love and acceptance, encouragement and support. It's amazing to see, and something to celebrate.

I love that we are a community of everyday people who really DO care about and look after one another.

I love the caring and commitment of the people.

I love the community of people that I have met and what we as a church stand for in the world.

I love the fellowship, support, chance to sing with a good choir, and last not least the sermons.

I love the history and beauty of the building.

Music; sermons; ritual; youth vitality and the energy given to support them; small group ministries; knowing we are committed to, and DO, make a difference in the world.

My husband is a quietly practicing Buddhist. I am a solitary witch. Our family, including our children are politically progressive. First Parish is a safe place for us to land every Sunday, feel connected to others, and feel renewed.

My tribe {heart symbol}

Opportunities for kids to lead and get involved.

Pretty much everything!
Sense of community, love, commitment to making (and living) a difference.
Sermons, music, community
Sharing the bitter and sweet; inspirational and thought-provoking sermons by ELEA!
Such a welcoming community. I am grateful that my daughter is growing up in this supportive and loving community. Mostly I love how we take care of each other.
That it is there!
That it nudges me to be a better person. Community, connection, conscience.
That there is always a community I can return to. For the ways you empower youth. For the support you provided me during my ministerial formation process.
The community and the spirituality.
The community of supportive, loving, people, each willing to share their spiritual and life journey.
The community. The choir. RE.
The people AND the building. I love the caring and commitment of the people. I love the history and beauty of the building.
The people, the Sunday services, and our work in the community.
The people. Elea.
The people; it is accepting; it is a second family.
The warm embrace of me, of who I am, and my daughter.
The warm welcome and connection I experience every time I walk through the door. Authentic and meaningful connection.

The way the congregation gathers to support those in need - especially the collations, when people are grieving. And, of course, the music!

There is so much to love. First Parish and Elea's sermon sets the tune for my week and however chaotic or disappointing it may end up, I can always look forward to my Sunday "reset" again!!

We have been so welcomed here with loving kindness by everyone we've met.

We make a difference. A positive feeling of 'community'. We are neighbors and friends.

Welcoming all.

We all have at least two selves struggling over the direction of our lives, one open and optimistic, the other fearful and mistrustful. The self in us that will win is the one we feed. Thank you for feeding me when I was starving.

FPCoG is my home away from home. I love the people and our minister (one of the nicest people). Going to church is always uplifting.

Elea's sermons. Shawn's music. Well everything really.

My space and place of true community. Love!

Community and sacred space.

Its vibrant & inclusive community! I no longer live in the area but its wonderful going online to see news and to hear Elea's sermons!

The community and making a difference in the world!

That we are raising generations of children that will understand what racial, social, and economic injustice are and they will learn what can be done by them personally to improve the lives of those who suffer these injustices. They will learn that we are all one and all in need of love.

Choir

Elea. Inspiration. Beloved community. Children's work. Connections. Music. Stories. Coming of Age.

The warm welcome we have received. The sense of love and community that informs every interaction. Every smile. That this is a place that holds ALL of it: the joy, the sorrow, the sometimes painful recognition of what is and the joy and faith of what can be. And of course ELEA!

It is a welcoming congregation, although I am not able to attend regularly.

The sense of community and unity in an increasingly divided world.

Early service, it means a lot to me.

Support and advice in times of need. Positive outlook.

The people and amazing sermons. The excellent music.

Street Address (no mail)

First Parish Church of Groton
1 Powderhouse Road
Groton, MA 01450

Mailing Address

First Parish Church of Groton
PO Box 457
Groton, MA 01450

Contact

978-448-6307
office@uugroton.org
www.uugroton.org
facebook.com/uugroton

