

The First Parish in Portland, Maine, Unitarian Universalist

Our Mission:

Nurture the Spirit; Grow in Community; Help Heal the World.



First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church
425 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04102

Contact: Laurie Hasty
207-415-7875
laurie@maine.rr.com

PRESS RELEASE

First Parish Unitarian Universalist to Offer 90th Annual Pageant of the Nativity

"Gift to the Community" to be Held on December 18th in Downtown Portland

PORLAND, Maine, December 2, 2016 – 90 Years. Thousands of actors. Historic garments. Generations of participants. Tens of thousands of attendees. The 2016 Pageant of the Nativity, offered by the First Parish community, is sure to captivate and inspire those who make their way to 425 Congress Street in Portland on Sunday evening, December 18th.

As our community reaches out to each other to find common bonds and ways to share in the holiday spirit of mindfulness and gratitude, this year's presentation of the Nativity Pageant is sure to resonate with the audience in a very personal and meaningful way.

Non-denominational in nature, the event uses soaring music, historic narration and unnamed actors to create a tableau inspired by the 15th Century frescos of artist Fra Angelico. A candle-lit meeting house serves as a both celebratory and solemn backdrop as the production is performed by nearly 80 cast members adorned with costumes and fabrics that date back to the initial performance in 1926. The Vesper Service and Nativity Pageant reflects upon and honors the birth of one of history's great prophets.

"To be able to participate in this production is an unbelievable honor," stated one cast member. "We are there to celebrate with our Greater Portland family, just as the thousands who came before us. While we work hard to strike the proper, statue-like poses at the crescendo of the production, with that majestic organ blazing, I'm willing to bet that a close look at our eyes will show how much that moment, and this production, means to us, to our community."

The event is free and open to the public. Voluntary donations that will help defray some of the cost of this special production and support the mission of the church will be gratefully accepted.

What: First Parish Unitarian Universalist Pageant of the Nativity

Where: The Historic Meetinghouse at 425 Congress Street, Portland

When: Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 pm

Cost: Free (donations accepted)

About First Parish: A welcoming community in the heart of the city, First Parish is housed on the landmark building where the Maine State Constitution was drafted. Our mission is to nurture the spirit, to grow in community and to help heal the world. No matter what your belief or circumstance, we invite you to explore what our congregation might offer you. Whatever your ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religious heritage, or physical abilities, you are welcome here. www.FirstParishPortland.org.