

# Meeting House News

March 2016



Photo by Terri Ackerman



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Photo by Don Cohen

Do you have pictures of First Parish you'd like to share? If so, please send a JPEG as an *attachment* to the Editor.

**Do you submit events?**  
 Required guidelines are under  
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## Worship This Month

All Sunday Worship Services are held at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted below. The First Parish Café is available for fellowship and light fare before services, at 9:00 a.m.

### Worship at-a-Glance

#### **Sunday, March 6 – “Sowing Every Day Miracles” – Celebration Sunday**

Rev. Howard N. Dana and Rev. Amy Freedman  
Combined First Parish Choirs

#### **Sunday, March 13 – “The Limits of Empathy”**

Rev. Howard N. Dana  
Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

#### **Sunday, March 20 – Palm Sunday**

Rev. Howard N. Dana  
First Parish Choir

#### **Thursday, March 24, at 11:00 a.m. – Maundy Thursday**

Rev. Howard N. Dana  
First Parish Choir

#### **Chowder Luncheon**

#### **Friday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m. – Good Friday, Tenebrae Service**

Rev. Howard N. Dana and Beth Norton

#### **Sunday, March 27 – Easter Sunday, two services: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Rev. Howard N. Dana  
First Parish Choir and Festival Brass

#### **Sunday, April 3 – “Every Day Is Earth Day”**

Rev. Marion Visel  
First Parish Choir and Children’s Choirs

### Walk with Jesus for a Week

Four Worship Services in the Christian Tradition

#### **Palm Sunday**

**Sunday, March 20, 10:00 a.m.**

**Rev. Howard N. Dana and the First Parish Choir**

Ride into Jerusalem with Jesus as he joins fellow Jews for Passover and a protest against the occupying Roman government. Feel how the powers of truth and love can be used to address injustice in our society.



### Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, March 24, 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Howard N. Dana and the First Parish Choir

Join Jesus in a secluded room with his closest friends as he warns them all of the danger they are in, even as he tends to their needs. Communion will be served from the First Parish silver, and we will all enjoy a fish chowder lunch afterward in the Parish Hall.

### Good Friday—Tenebrae Service

Friday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Howard N. Dana and Beth Norton

Mourn Jesus' death on the cross at this solemn service. Feel the despair and the bewilderment of Jesus' friends as they say farewell to his life and his ministry.

### Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 27, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Howard N. Dana and the First Parish Choir and Festival Brass

Celebrate the story of Jesus' resurrection. Rejoice with his friends that love is stronger than death. Feel the places in your life where you can come alive again.

## Sunday Forums

After Worship, starting promptly at 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

**March 6**—Mike Hecht, MIT, "Paving the Human Path to Mars" (rescheduled). Many obstacles remain, but work is progressing rapidly on new solutions and technologies. Dr. Hecht will bring us up-to-date and challenge our expectations. Visit:

<http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/hechtMichael.php>. Host: Alan Whitney

**March 13**—Rick Frese, parishioner and historian, "Concordians and the Civil War." Host: Richard Vargas-Vila

**March 20**—Rev. Jim Sherblom, parishioner, "How I Became a 21st-century Transcendentalist." Host: Patrick Everett

**March 27**—Easter. No Forum.

**April 3**—Dr. Colin Lonsdale, MIT, "The Unnatural Gas Pipeline." Host: Alan Whitney

For more information, contact the chair, Pat Everett, at [pne@aol.com](mailto:pne@aol.com) or 978-369-1589.



## Operations

Fifi Ball, Director of Operations, [fball@firstparish.org](mailto:fball@firstparish.org), or the church office, 978-369-9602 x456.

## Shop Crosby's and Help First Parish

**March 6-12 and June 5-11**

As part of Crosby's Market's Community Commitment Program, First Parish will earn 5 percent of pretax grocery purchases at Crosby's Market by people who submit a voucher when shopping (while paying at the cash register) during the following two weeks:

- March 6-12, 2016
- June 5-11, 2016

Vouchers will be available on the table outside the church front office and from Peg Gallo. Peg works at First Parish on Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., and Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. You may also email Peg at [pgallo@firstparish.org](mailto:pgallo@firstparish.org). *Thank you for supporting First Parish.*

## Auction Fundraiser

**Saturday, April 30, 6:00 p.m.**

The Auction Committee is throwing a “**May Day Eve—Celebrate Spring!**”—themed fundraiser. Would you like to help or donate? [More details later in this newsletter.](#)

## MUUsings

**Sabbatical Starting January 2017**



*\*What makes a fire burn  
is space between the logs,  
a breathing space . . .*

For some time now, when some project or opportunity just beyond the scope of my “real life” has presented itself, I’ve said, “If I ever get a sabbatical . . .” I’ve said this with some wistfulness, since this kind of “breathing space” has seemed like a dream. And so I am deeply grateful that, with the support of Howard, the staff and volunteers here at First Parish, I can begin making plans for a three-month sabbatical starting January 2017.





*Too much of a good thing,  
too many logs  
packed in too tight  
can douse the flames  
almost as surely  
as a pail of water would.*

After almost 22 years in music ministry at First Parish, we have collected many logs together. And what a fire we have built! Though there are days when it feels like “too much of a good thing,” I am far from burnt out. Still, I know I would benefit from some space.

*So building fires  
requires attention  
to the spaces in between,  
as much as to the wood.*

Sabbatical time will allow space for fresh air to blow into the glowing embers of our music ministry, kindling new energy. Our programs will continue on with the support of music staff, volunteers and guest musicians. Perhaps some new initiatives will catch fire.

*When we are able to build  
open spaces  
in the same way  
we have learned  
to pile on the logs,  
then we can come to see how  
it is fuel, and absence of the fuel  
together, that make fire possible.*

I tend to pile on the fuel and over-schedule. I’m hoping to get better at building open space during this sabbatical. Sabbath, or ceasing, is at the root of the word “sabbatical.” Ceasing work and resting will be my first priority. I plan to lay the logs of activity with careful intention.

*We only need to lay a log  
lightly from time to time.  
A fire  
grows  
simply because the space is there,  
with openings  
in which the flame  
that knows just how it wants to burn  
can find its way.*



I hope to return on April 1, 2017, fired up with new energy for the next chapter in this music ministry. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Blessings,  
Beth

\*"Fire" ©2000 by Judy Sorum Brown

## **Dust Off Those *Messiah* Scores!**

**Easter Sunday, March 27, at the end of both services, Choir Loft**

Easter is coming! Singers from the congregation are invited to come to the choir loft during the final hymn on Easter Sunday, March 27, and join the choir, organ and brass in our traditional Easter postlude, G. F. Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." If you have a copy of the *Messiah*, you are welcome to bring it with you. If not, there will be some extra music available, and choir members are always willing to share. We will sing at the end of both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Even if you don't wish to make the climb (or take the elevator) to the balcony, feel free to join in this joyous chorus on Easter morning.

## **Reflections and RE News**

Did you hear the good news? It is the beginning of a new era at First Parish in Concord! As a part of our Annual Pledge Campaign, Religious Education fees will be eliminated next church year. Currently, as a part of our yearly registration, the fee to participate in our RE program is \$100 per child for babies through Eighth Grade, or \$250 per family. If fees present a financial hardship, assistance has always been available from the Director of Religious Education or the ministers.



Our program for children and youth has charged fees for many years. The initiative to remove them began before my arrival. I am grateful for the leadership of the RE Council, Standing Committee and Rev. Howard N. Dana. Why is this such good news? We are one religious community. Our church serves people of all ages and stages of life. There is no other program or ministry of the church that charges fees for service. This commitment is an expression of our belief in the worth and dignity of all. I believe that this will bring greater health to the congregation as a whole and make our RE program more welcoming to new families.

The theme of the Annual Pledge Campaign is “Sowing Everyday Miracles.” The way our teen assistants take responsibility for our preschoolers in Little RE is an everyday miracle. Our Neighboring Activists delivering buckets of sand to Concord seniors makes the world a brighter place. Our kids acting out the story of the “Children’s Crusade” in worship and reflecting on “Black Lives Matter” fills me with hope. All those little moments, when young people learn a spiritual practice or make a difference or meet an adult who cares, sow seeds for the future.

I encourage you to join me in making a generous pledge to First Parish during Celebration Sunday on March 6. Our gifts of time and money to our congregation are an expression of what we value. Together so much is possible!

Blessings,  
Amy

Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education  
Contact at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602.

## Living Statues of Peace



In February, our RE program offered a series of Deepening Spiritually Workshops for children in Kindergarten through 6th Grade. On Sunday, February 7, the theme was PEACE. These photos show all ages working together to create living statues expressing “PEACE.” Other Sunday workshop themes included LOVE, HOPE and YOGA.





## Pastoral Care

*Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings*

**Minister for Pastoral Care**, Rev. Marion Visel

Email: [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org)

Church: 978-369-9602, x414

Cell: 203-931-5329



**Senior Minister**, Rev. Howard N. Dana

Email: [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

Church: 978-369-9602, x411

Cell: 717-412-8543

**March Pastoral Care Lay Minister**, Diane Clapp

Email: [dianebamclapp@gmail.com](mailto:dianebamclapp@gmail.com)

Phone: 781-257-5025

**March Meals Delivery**, Petra Betts

Email: [petrajordan2002@msn.com](mailto:petrajordan2002@msn.com)

Phone: 978-760-0211

## Come to Cook

**Friday, March 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Church Kitchen**

As a part of our shared Pastoral Care outreach, the Caring Connection of First Parish provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition. We are going to cook and you're invited to help! No experience or skills are necessary. Recipes and provisions are provided. Breakfast snacks will be served!



RSVP to Judy Dembsey at [dembsey@verizon.net](mailto:dembsey@verizon.net) or 978-263-3272 (email preferred.)

## Holden Fund of First Parish



The Holden Fund was established at First Parish in 1901, when Ellen Emerson contributed \$3,500 in honor of Nancy Holden for "daughters taking care of mothers in straitened circumstances." Those original instructions have been interpreted more liberally since then to support residents of Concord who require care so they can continue to live in their own homes. Monthly stipends of varying amounts, based upon need, are awarded to help support caregivers (family members or paid professionals).

The Trustees of First Parish have shepherded the fund for over 100 years. They continue to manage the fund but as of July 1, 2016 the Holden Fund Panel, part of our

Pastoral Care program, will handle the administration. The panel has broadened eligibility to include members of First Parish *no matter the town in which they reside*. The Holden Fund Panel reviews applications/extension requests twice a year, in May and October, and reviews emergency applications as needed.

Eligibility criteria are:

1. Financial support is needed to provide for care in the home; no age requirement.
2. Applicant is a resident of Concord or member of First Parish in Concord.

The Holden Fund Panel consists of Rev. Howard N. Dana, Susan Dobbie, Alice Van Deusen, and Rev. Marion Visel. Questions or requests for an application, contact Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602, x414.

## Prayer Bead Workshop

**Saturday, April 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room**



Led by Sue Dobbie, Dana Snyder-Grant and Rev. Marion Visel, a prayer bead workshop will be held in which we'll learn about different forms of prayer and a practical new approach based on a modern use of prayer beads. This is a practice that you can make your own.

The cost is \$10 cash or check to cover supplies for making your own prayer beads.

Sign up with Sue Dobbie ([Susandobbie@gmail.com](mailto:Susandobbie@gmail.com) or 978-501-6969) or use the sign-up sheet in the office. The workshop is limited to 15.

## Social Action Community

### Faith into Action

Now that we've lived with a Black Lives Matter banner on our church for a few months, I've started hearing another round of questions about the Black Lives Matter movement. Who is it? Is it us? What is their platform?

What I hear behind these questions is a desire to form relationships. We want to know that we are part of something bigger, and we want to know who we stand with.

The best way to answer these questions is to go form these relationships, if you can. Black Lives Matter has chapters in Cambridge and Boston. The primary way both chapters communicate is via Facebook. Search "Black Lives Matter" and then the city chapter to follow them and see what you identify with.



Then think about the roots of the Black Lives Matter movement. The phrase “black lives matter” was coined after the not-guilty verdict of George Zimmerman, the Florida man who murdered Trayvon Martin. The phrase came from three black queer women. In other words, the Black Lives Matter movement started because three people who have been oppressed their whole lives because of their race, sexuality and gender commented on a national story that revealed how our country lets itself kill black bodies. The phrase “Black Lives Matter” was revived after Mike Brown was killed in Ferguson, and became a household phrase from then on.

It was not a coincidence that the Black Lives Matter movement was started by three black queer women—these leaders know what oppression looks and feels like. They have felt our culture’s preference for white bodies, for heterosexual bodies, and for male bodies their whole lives. They could comment on oppression in ways that others could not have.

When I say Black Lives Matter, I do not mean that only Black Lives Matter. I mean that black transgender lives matter, and black women matter. I mean that black single mothers matter, and black families matter. Saying “Black Lives Matter” is one way of recognizing that being black impacts the way you interact with the world. It is one way of recognizing the privileges I have as a white person—that the opportunities I have are not the same opportunities as people who are not white.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. If you’d like to learn more, some resources that I’ve found can be helpful are below.

Blessings,  
Bethany

Resources to Learn More:

- BlackLivesMatter.com – <http://blacklivesmatter.com/who-we-are/>
- “Your Life Matters” by Kenny Wiley – <http://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/your-life-matters>
- On Being Asked to Change “Black Lives Matter” to “All Lives Matter” by Dan Schatz – <http://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/change-black-to-all>
- Standing on the Side of Love’s Resources – <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/faith-race-justice>

## Americans for Economic Fairness

**Reclaiming Democracy from Big Money and Global Corporations**  
**Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall**



Concord's own Jeffrey Clements is an author, lawyer and prominent national figure in the efforts to overturn the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. We have the great opportunity and honor to hear him speak about this topic and new efforts to engage communities around the country to stop corporations and the very rich from taking over our democracy. Please come.

Sponsored by Americans for Economic Fairness, Concord Area Humanists and the First Parish Social Action Community. Contact: Fred Van Deusen at [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com) or 978-369-0435.

## Amnesty International Group 15

**Tuesday, March 15, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room**

Our guest will be Amnesty/USA board member, documentary film producer, and peace and justice activist [Terry Rockefeller](#), who will bring us up-to-date on the board's agenda and that of the international secretariat. Group 15 members are particularly interested in the reasoning behind Amnesty's advocacy for the decriminalization of sex workers. Our ongoing projects include work against solitary confinement, the death penalty, violence against women, and supporting our two Azerbaijanian human rights advocates under house arrest.



For information, contact Kathy Taylor: [Kly.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:Kly.taylor@gmail.com) or 781-275-0791.

## Family Homelessness

**Homes for Low-Income Families: Do We Care Enough?:**

**Sunday, March 13, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church**

Over 200,000 families in Massachusetts spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing. Come to this twelfth annual forum on family homelessness to learn more about the issues. Speakers will include: Chrystal Kornegay, Undersecretary, Department of Housing and Community Development; Deborah Goddard, noted authority on housing and community acceptance; and James Eldridge, state senator and legislative leader on low-income housing.

Recommendations for advocacy for the 2016 budget season will be provided.



Chrystal Kornegay Deborah Goddard

This free forum, organized by the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, is open to all. Refreshments provided. Visit [www.endfamilyhomelessness.net](http://www.endfamilyhomelessness.net). Contact: Jane Blumberg at [jane\\_blumberg@me.com](mailto:jane_blumberg@me.com) or 978-369-8520.



## Grant Review

**Period Open until Wednesday, March 2**  
**Comments due Monday, February 29**

Check out some valuable local and international organizations that have applied for Social Action grant funds. The Social Action Community Board has posted a list of the Grant Requests received for the 2015-16 grant cycle on the First Parish website at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/social-action-community/sac-grants>.

Parishioners are welcome to review and comment on these Grant Requests, which are available online and in the First Parish office. Comments are due by Monday, February 29. When commenting, please reference (1) the grant request number and (2) the applicant's name. These comments are one factor used to evaluate grant requests. The SAC Board makes decision by applying policies that are available on the First Parish website under "Social Action Community."

Comments can be left in Bethany's mailbox or emailed to Wendy Holt at [wendyh@dmahealth.com](mailto:wendyh@dmahealth.com). Contact Bethany Russell-Lowe ([BLowe@firstparish.org](mailto:BLowe@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602, x450) with any questions.

## Social Justice Workshop

**Sunday, March 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

Rev. Kathleen McTigue, Director of the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, who preached on January 24, will be returning to lead a social justice workshop. During the workshop, participants will explore ways that can help us say "yes" to the place where their gifts meet the world's need, and "no" to many other areas of need, in order to sustain our commitments and channel our best resources.

Contact Bethany Russell-Lowe ([BLowe@firstparish.org](mailto:BLowe@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602 x450) to sign up. This workshop is free and lunch will be provided for a minimal donation.



## Partner Congregation News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 6:30 p.m., Emerson Room**

***New Minister: Rev. Csaba Todor***

We welcome Rev. Csaba Todor [CHAW-baw TOE-door] to

the ministry of our Keresztúr partner congregation. Rev. Csaba and his family have moved into the Keresztúr parish house. He started his duties on February 15. We have already started working together on the next chapter in our historic partnership. For photos and a write-up about him and his family, see <http://bit.ly/fppcc-csaba>.

### ***Next PCC Meeting***

**Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m., Emerson Room**

The next Partner Congregation Committee (PCC) meeting will include a supper provided by the committee. We welcome anyone interested in the partnership with our friends in Transylvania to join us.

Please visit the partnership page on the First Parish website to find out more about our programs at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-congregation>. Contact: Rodger Mattlage, [rmattlage@mac.com](mailto:rmattlage@mac.com) or 781-259-9639.

### **UUCSJ Learning Trip**

**Fall of 2016 or in 2017**

Would you or your high schooler be interested in joining the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) for an experiential learning trip? UUCSJ offers trips for adults and/or youth to study social and environmental justice issues in Central and North America. The SAC Council is moving forward to sponsor a trip specifically for First Parish adults and/or youth to Nicaragua or Arizona/Mexico in either the Fall of 2016 or in 2017. To get an idea of what these trips offer, please visit <http://uucsj.org/>.



A number of parishioners have already expressed interest and we have formed a Google email group to manage communications. Our current plan is to invite the director of the UUCSJ, Kathleen McTigue, for an evening informational meeting in April. If you have not already told us you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please contact Tony Rodriguez to be added to the Google group, [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com) or 617-877-9542.

### **Standing Committee News**

**Next Meeting: Sunday, March 13, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

### **Congregational Conversations**

On February 7 and 9, the Standing Committee members met with interested congregation members in open discussions about denominational affairs, membership,

the Black Lives Matter banner and more. Thank you to all who attended and shared their ideas.

## New Chair Selection Process

### Effective after the First Parish Annual Meeting in June 2016

At our March 13, meeting, the Standing Committee will identify a Standing Committee chair for the 2017 church year. Over the past two months, a group of three Standing Committee members have been interviewing other members, discussing possible candidates, and identifying issues confronting First Parish and the Standing Committee in the coming years. Once a candidate has been identified and approved by the Standing Committee, he or she will begin working together with me to ensure a smooth transition to new leadership. The new chair's term will become effective after the First Parish Annual Meeting in June 2016.

## Get Involved!

- **Annual Pledge Campaign**—Volunteer now to serve as an outreach steward or ambassador. Contact campaign project manager Rebecca Curzon at [rebeccacurzon@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccacurzon@comcast.net) if you're interested in participating.
- **April 30 Auction**—Contact Auction chair Jennifer Izzo at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com) if you'd like to help.

More on the [Pledge Campaign](#) and [Auction Fundraiser](#) later in the newsletter.

## We Want to Hear from You

Standing Committee members are always eager to talk with First Parishioners. Please reach out to any of us—at coffee hour, at an event, by phone, or by email—to discuss your First Parish experiences. If you have an account on the First Parish website, you can go to the Standing Committee web page and view our meeting minutes, contact information, meeting schedule, governance policies and more: <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/standing-committee>.

Mark Russell Prior, chair, Standing Committee  
[mark.russell.prior@comcast.net](mailto:mark.russell.prior@comcast.net) or 978-369-4901

## Annual Pledge Campaign

### Kickoff on Celebration Sunday, March 6



Parishioners raise 80 percent of the annual budget through pledges. A letter outlining goals for the coming fiscal year (2016/17) was mailed earlier. Among those goals is a commitment to invest in the future by increasing support for young people and families by eliminating religious

education fees—the only department for which additional fees are currently charged. (If you need another copy of the letter, please contact the church office.)

We hope you agree that the goals we've outlined in our letter are timely, relevant, and a cause for celebration. The goals will enable First Parish to continue *sowing everyday miracles* (our theme for this year's campaign) throughout the year ahead. First Parish needs your help; no matter what your level of participation, your pledge makes a big difference.

As we begin planning our next fiscal year, we ask you to consider your pledge and the miracles we can create together. Please join us as we kick off our Annual Pledge Campaign on Celebration Sunday, March 6.

You are welcome to make your pledge:

- During the service March 6
- Online at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org)
- By mail
- Ahead of Celebration Sunday, using pledge cards in the church office

Please join us so we can continue to *sow everyday miracles*.

Suzanne Foley, 2016-2017 Annual Pledge Campaign leader  
Tom Wilson, Treasurer

## Denominational Affairs Committee

### No March Meeting



You are invited to attend a Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) meeting to discover, explore, or share your concerns about issues being addressed within our greater denomination. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month but will not be held in March. The DAC meetings provide you an opportunity

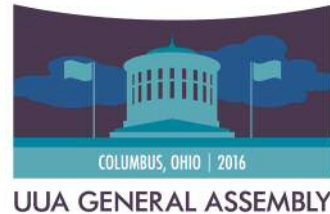
to learn about what is happening to reduce the problem of escalating inequality in our nation. For more information, please contact Paula Vandever at [VandeverP@aol.com](mailto:VandeverP@aol.com) or 978-369-9268.

Also see Alice Van Deusen's article below about the UUA 2016 General Assembly. Join us!



## General Assembly 2016

**“Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect”  
Columbus, Ohio, June 22-26**



Would you like to attend General Assembly 2016 or represent First Parish as a delegate? This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the larger denomination and connect with UU's from across the country. Any member of the congregation may attend or be a delegate. No prior experience necessary. Conference and housing registration begins March 1.

Further details are available at <http://www.uua.org/ga> and at the Denominational Affairs table at coffee hour. If you would like to consider being a First Parish delegate, please contact [alicevandeusen@gmail.com](mailto:alicevandeusen@gmail.com).

## Arts at First Parish

**Fostering Community through the Arts**



Each month the First Parish Arts Council will highlight arts events in the upcoming month that offer opportunities to participate in the ministry of the arts at First Parish. Unless otherwise noted, questions may be directed to [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org).

### Call for People with Special Skills New Arts Events Resource List

The number of arts events at First Parish is growing. To help people coordinate their event, we are compiling a resource list of people with special skills who may be able to assist with planning music events, plays, art exhibits, poetry readings, and more. If you have a skill such as producing, directing, writing (press releases, articles, designing brochures or posters, photography, etc.) and would like to help support arts events at First Parish, please contact Susan Page at [srpage13@gmail.com](mailto:srpage13@gmail.com) or 978-264-4271. She will add your name to the list and be happy to answer your questions.



## Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	March 2	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	March 12	9:00 a.m.	Photography Club
Friday	March 18	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (Note: third Friday)
Saturday	March 19	10:00 a.m.	Flower Arranging Workshop

For more information on these events, check this *Meeting House News*, FP Announce, and the *Sunday News*. **Thank you for supporting the arts at First Parish!**

## Purpose

The purpose of the First Parish Arts Council is to further the mission of First Parish through facilitating, promoting, and coordinating a diverse arts ministry that inspires and celebrates creativity and connection. The council is open to all interested parishioners.

For more information, contact Susan Page, chair, at [srpage10@verizon.net](mailto:srpage10@verizon.net) or 978-264-4271.

## Women's News

### WPA Luncheon and Video

***Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord***  
**Wednesday, March 16, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall**

The Women's Parish Association (WPA) is pleased to host the premier of Doug Baker's 50-minute historical video entitled *Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord*. Socializing begins at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:00 p.m., followed by the premier. For premier only, please arrive before 12:30 p.m. [See video details later in newsletter.](#)

Luncheon cost: \$10. Please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [Pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:Pekindc@comcast.net) by March 13 to make reservations and to communicate food requirements.

## Moms' Night Out



The Moms' Night Out (MNO) group at First Parish was created by moms as a way to socialize, build a support network, and share resources and ideas about raising kids in today's world. All FP moms are welcome! Any mom can organize an event. If you have an idea and would like to host an event, contact Jeanne Williams, [courteje@bc.edu](mailto:courteje@bc.edu).

For details on upcoming MNO gatherings, please join the MNO listserv by sending an email to [valvallancourt@gmail.com](mailto:valvallancourt@gmail.com).

### *MNO Paint and Sip Night*

**Friday, March 4, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

Emily Piper, owner of Maker Farm in Westford, will help us create our own Spring-themed canvas masterpiece in easy-to-follow steps—no experience needed. Please bring a snack or drink to share. Cost: \$30 at the door. Sponsored by the First Parish

Moms' Night Out (MNO) group. RSVP is required to Jeanne Williams, [courteje@bc.edu](mailto:courteje@bc.edu) or 978-578-7515.



## Reproductive Justice

Tuesday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m., *Tricked*

Saturday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m., LUNAFEST

### Upcoming Events

- **Tricked Documentary, Tuesday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m., Parlor**  
“Tricked,” a documentary about human sex trafficking in the U.S. Concord Police Chief, Joseph O’Connor, will participate in a discussion afterward. Event is free; donations gladly accepted.



- **LUNAFEST Film Festival, Saturday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall**  
LUNAFEST, a film festival of short films by, for and about women. Admission: \$10-15. Proceeds benefit the Breast Cancer Fund and a local nonprofit for women.

### Rosie’s Place Collection

Toiletries and feminine hygiene products will be collected at both events for Rosie’s Place in Boston. Contact Lora Venesy ([venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net), 978-254-5433) or Suzie Weaver ([skatesuzie@aol.com](mailto:skatesuzie@aol.com), 978-369-5352).

## Women’s AM/PM Book Group

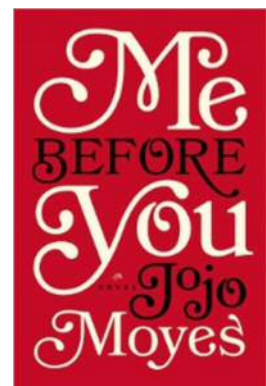
Monday, March 28, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; Brooks Room

Tuesday, March 29, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.; Brooks Room

The March selection for the Women’s AM/PM Book Group is *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join either the evening or morning discussion. If you would like to be added to the Women’s Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).

### Books and Dates for 2016

- March 28/29 – *Me Before You*, Jojo Moyes
- April 25/26 – *Shakespeare Saved My Life: Ten Years in Solitary with the Bard*, Laura Bates
- May 23/24 – *All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel*, Anthony Doerr



## Other Cool Stuff



### Concord Area Humanists

Our meetings bring outside speakers to share interesting Humanistic topics. We socialize and enjoy refreshments, continue with the presentation, and follow with vigorous discussion.

For a current list of our upcoming events, visit [www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org](http://www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org) and click on "Events." Contact Pat Everett, [pne@ao.com](mailto:pne@ao.com) or 978-369-1589.

### First Parish 2016 Auction\* "May Day Eve—Celebrate Spring!" Saturday, April 30, 6:00 p.m.

Welcome spring with your fellow parishioners! The Auction is a wonderful opportunity to bring friends together for an exciting evening of fun and entertainment. It's also the church's biggest fundraiser.

The creativity and generosity of our vibrant community are what make this event a success. Donations are a perfect way to showcase your skills and imagination, as well as to channel the spirit of giving that makes this UU congregation special. We need your help!



More details coming soon on <http://www.firstparish.org>. For information about donations, contact Jeanne Williams at [courteje@bc.edu](mailto:courteje@bc.edu), or stop by the Auction table at coffee hour. To learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Jen Izzo at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com) or 617-869-5563.

\*You may have noticed that the theme of the Auction has changed from the original "Kentucky Derby – Off to the Races." The Planning Committee voted to change the theme in acknowledgement of concerns about the treatment of race horses.

### First Tuesday Group (65+) Wartime and Beyond, a Panel on the Impact of Wartime Experiences March 1, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Parlor

Four panelists will talk about their wartime experiences and how these experiences affected them in later life:

- ◆ **Al Armenti** is a World War II veteran who evolved into a peace activist.
- ◆ **Erica Morrison** experienced occupied Netherlands and learned valuable lessons about "living with less."
- ◆ **Peter Mitchell** grew up in England during World War II, but feels he was



protected from it.

- ◆ **Andy Sapp**, a retired teacher, fought in Iraq, developed PTSD, and became a war protestor at home.

For more information, contact Virginia Taylor, [virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net](mailto:virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net) or 978-263-9777.

### **History Project Video Premier**

**WPA Luncheon Program, Wednesday, March 16, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall  
April 14 and 24, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**



Thanks to the generous donations from members and friends of First Parish in honor of Doug Baker's 35 anniversary, we now have a permanent record of his informative history as a 50-minute video, *Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord*.

This engaging video gives a general history of the five meeting houses that have served First Parish over the past 380 years, depicting their construction and explaining why they were built the way they were. It also recounts many of the traditions, beliefs and legends associated with the congregations who worshiped in them. Thank you to Doug Baker, the History Project Committee, and to all who made this project possible.

The first showing of Doug Baker's video will be at the WPA luncheon on Wednesday, March 16 (details below). Additional evening showings with receptions will be held on April 14 and 24, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at First Parish. Mark your calendars. You don't want to miss this wonderful and long awaited event!

#### ***WPA Luncheon Program***

#### **Doug Baker's Video**

**Wednesday, March 16, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall**

The Women's Parish Association is pleased to host the premier of Doug Baker's 50-minute historical video, *Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord*. Socializing begins at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:00 p.m., followed by the premier. For premier only, please arrive before 12:30 p.m.

Luncheon cost: \$10. Please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [Pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:Pekindc@comcast.net) by March 13 to make reservations and to communicate food requirements.

### *Evening Showings with Receptions*

There will also be evening showings with receptions on April 14 and 24, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at First Parish. Mark your calendars.

## **Jewish Awareness Affinity Group**

**Friday, March 18, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at First Parish**



WWII was a turning point in Jewish history. The Jewish Awareness Affinity Group will view the PBS documentary *Fortress Berlin*. Come view this gripping account of part of the war's end. All are welcome: Jews, non-Jews, friends of Jews, and those that just want a warm place to sit and be together. Contact Dana Snyder-Grant,

[danasg@newview.org](mailto:danasg@newview.org) or 978-760-1129.

## **Oriana Consort Concert**

**Sunday, April 3, at 5:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary**



Cambridge's Oriana Consort sings for the sixth time at First Parish. Walter Chapin and Caroline Harvey will direct *Choral Reincarnations: Old Latin Lives Anew*, in which the Mass, an antiphon, and a medieval poem, reawaken in Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Mass in G Minor* and four choral works by Ola Gjeilo. *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* review last December said, "The chorus sang with warmth and unity . . . inviting sound" and "the audience's warm reception."

A reception follows in the Parish Hall. Contact Walter Chapin, [wchapin@comcast.net](mailto:wchapin@comcast.net) or 339-203-5876.

For the complete program, visit <http://www.orianaconsort.org/concerts/201604.html> .

## Editor's Notes

Next Meeting House News: **Deadline: March 15, 2016**

Next publication date: **March 29, 2016**

We ask your help in reducing the rework of the over 100 monthly submissions received collectively for the *Meeting House News*, *Sunday News* and *FP Announce*.

## "In a Nutshell" Basic Submission Guidelines

Required:

- Event title, day of week (no abbreviations), month (no 'th' or 'rd'), date, time (range), **ROOM**
- Description, including sponsoring committee/organization
- Contact: name, email, phone (Can state "X preferred")
- Font: Arial, Size: 12, no boldface/italics/UPPERCASE/special spacing
- 100 maximum word count, no formatting, and include picture, if possible
- Only send your submission once all information is *final and complete* so be sure to plan ahead. We will need to return a submission if incomplete
- Send submission and photo/image as attachment to email

Important: maximum 100 word count (double-check), no formatting or abbreviations, include a picture if possible, and be sure to spell-check. We go with what you send us. Most submissions forget to include the **ROOM**. This is the only check we use to remind you to make or cancel a room reservation. Thank you!



## First Parish Contacts

Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The building is closed Mondays. Meetings and events may be scheduled for Monday evenings.

Address: 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

Phone: 978-369-9602; Fax: 978-369-8701

Email: [Contact@firstparish.org](mailto:Contact@firstparish.org); Website: [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org)

Church Calendar:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/hours-directions-services/church-calendar>

Sign Up for Emailed First Parish Announcements (FAP):

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/e-mail-lists>

"Like" Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Parish-in-Concord-Unitarian-Universalist/343822177494>

Reserve a Room:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/reserve-a-room>

*First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts, is a welcoming congregation seeking ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.*

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

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*Add us to your address book*

The text "May Day" is written in a highly decorative, cursive script. Each letter is a different color: 'M' is pink, 'a' is blue, 'y' is purple, 'D' is yellow, and 'a' is light blue. The letters are connected and have long, flowing tails, giving it a whimsical and artistic appearance.