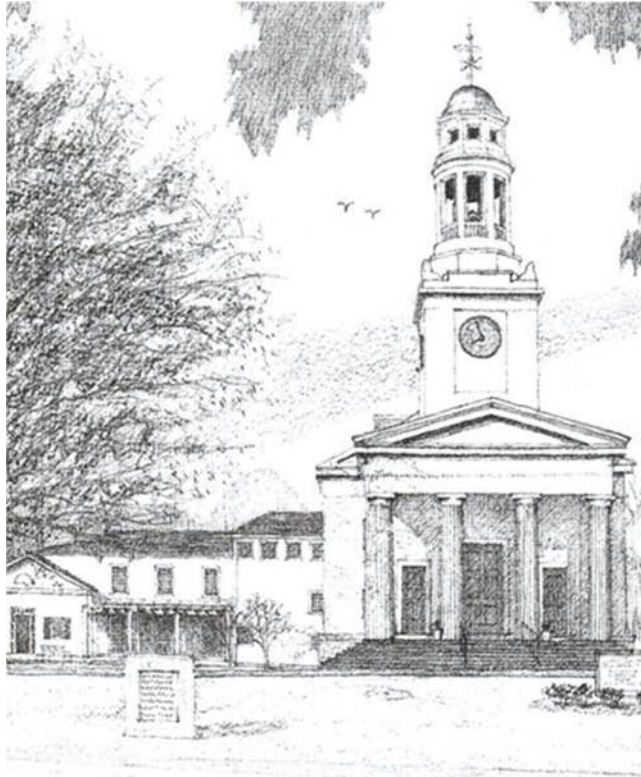


Meeting House News

April 2016



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
[Editor's Notes](#)

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Photo by Terri Ackerman

Do you submit events?
Required guidelines are under
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Sundays at First Parish

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

Worship-at-a-Glance

Sunday, April 3 – "Every Day Is Earth Day"

Rev. Marion Visel
First Parish Choir

Sunday, April 10 – "Spiritual Appetite"

Rev. Howard N. Dana
Gospel Singers and First Parish Choir

Sunday, April 17 – "ISIS's Religious War"

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

Sunday, April 24 – "Passover's Enduring Power"

Rev. Howard N. Dana
Lincoln Ringers

Sunday Forums

After Worship, promptly at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sanctuary

April 3—Jack Nevison, "How Walden Pond Works." Jack will present his model based on the 2001 U.S. Geological Survey's scientific report, *Geohydrology and Limnology of Walden Pond, Concord, Massachusetts*. Host: Patrick Everett

April 10—Lee McIntyre, "Truth and Willful Ignorance in the Internet Age." Lee will explore the roots of willful ignorance, which lead to disrespecting truth and to the denial of the climate change we have witnessed in recent years. Host: Patrick Everett

April 17—Nasir Rana, "About Islam." Come hear practicing Muslim Nasir Rana address questions about his faith and its role in the modern world. Host: Jack Nevison

April 24—Parishioners Gib Metcalf and Fred Van Deusen, "First Parish Finances." Gib and Fred will present information from the First Parish benchmark study to see how our finances compare to those of other churches. They will highlight major findings and answer questions about the study. Host: Woody Vandever



May 1 - Carl Williams, “The New Civil Rights Movement?” An ACLU attorney, Carl will focus on issues of racial justice and police practices, speaking about the movement nationwide and in Massachusetts. Host: Jack Nevison

For more information, contact the chair, Pat Everett, at pne@aol.com or 978-369-1589.

MUUsings

“All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well”—Julian of Norwich (c.1342-1416)

Julian of Norwich was a medieval anchoress and mystic whose hermitage was the tower of the Church of St. Julian in Norwich, England. When she was thirty, Julian became gravely ill and was given last rites. Close to death and delirious, she experienced 16 revelations of Jesus. After her recovery, she recorded these mystical encounters in a book called *Revelations of Divine Love*.



Julian was deeply distressed by the pestilence and tumult of her time and the sinfulness of humankind. But she also saw sin as a path to self-knowledge and the realization of God’s love. She experienced God as an immanent, compassionate presence who suffered along with creation, rather than as a transcendent ruler and judge. Julian also believed the Trinity included feminine and masculine aspects. These and other views fell well outside the Catholic orthodoxy, but her writings were never refuted by the church authorities—probably because she was a woman.

Revelations of Divine Love conveys Julian’s optimistic theology and her ultimate faith in the power of divine love. No matter what the trial. . . all manner of thing shall be well.” Adaptations of this phrase have appeared in many texts, including the Catholic Catechism. T. S. Eliot famously quoted her in “Little Gidding.”

The By Your Side Singers have been singing two beautiful musical settings based on Julian’s words. One is a mystical, minor chant that repeats the words “All Will Be Well” over a dissonant, but soothing drone. The other is British folk singer Sydney Carter’s “Julian of Norwich,” which elaborates on her hopeful vision: “Love like the yellow daffodil is coming through the snow . . . ring out, bells of Norwich, and let the winter come and go. All shall be well again, I know.” The song embraces us in our meditation together and brings hope to those for whom we sing.

Julian's faith speaks to me through these songs as the bulbs and daffodils break through the ground (and sometimes the snow). Spring is a time to trust our resilience and our capacity for growth and healing, even in the turmoil of dissent and illness.

"Ring out, bells of Norwich, and let the winter come and go. All shall be well again, I know."

Blessings,
Beth
Beth Norton, Director of Music
Contact at music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602.

Hope Out Loud 5

UU Urban Ministry, Sunday, April 10, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Roxbury

All are invited to "Hope Out Loud 5: Open Doors, Open Hearts," a festival bringing communities together through music in the historic Meeting House in Roxbury. Featured performers will be UUUM Roxbury Youth Program participants, MssngLnks, musiConnects, and The Boston Children's Choir.

Members of the First Parish Choir will be singing with the Hope Out Loud Festival Choir. The concert is open to all ages and will be followed by a festive reception. UUUM is located at 10 Putnam Street in Roxbury. Admission is free. Contact Rev. Rebecca Hinds for more information: rhinds@uuum.org or 617-318-6010, x214.

Reflections and RE News

Congratulations to our Coming of Age youth! On February 28, 11 youth offered their credos, personal statements of belief, and led the Coming of Age service. The congregation was moved by the thoughtful reflections from our Ninth Graders: Simon, Julian, James, Lex, Henry, Sarah, Charlotte, Ayden, Isaiah, Caitlin and Jack. We send our support to Connor, whose grandmother recently died, and best wishes to Cece, who



has moved away. If you missed the service, an audio recording is available at church. I would like to express my appreciation for Bethany Russell-Lowe, our Youth Program Director, and our Coming of Age mentors—Del Friedman, Margot Kimball and Eric Moore—for leading such a meaningful program this year.

Parent Circles

Sunday, April 3 and 10, May 1, 11:30 a.m.

This month begins a series of First Parish Parent Circles. I will offer three sessions on Sundays following the service: April 3, April 10 and May 1, 11:30 a.m. Child care will be provided. This will be a chance for parents to connect with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. What does it mean to be a UU parent? How can we be spiritually resilient in the face of life's challenges? I will have resources to share with you and look forward to deepening our connections with one another. If you have not done so already, please register for all three sessions by emailing me: afreedman@firstparish.org.



Cooperative Passover

Saturday, April 16, 5 p.m.

You are invited to celebrate one of my favorite holidays—Passover! I am honored to have been asked by Dana Syder-Grant to lead the First Parish Cooperative Passover Seder on Saturday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. The Jewish Awareness Affinity Group is preparing a wonderful meal. You can reserve your place at the table by purchasing a ticket at coffee hour. Cost is \$20 for ages 13-80; free for anyone over 80 or under 7, and \$10 between 7 and 12.

Passover is both a meal and a retelling of the Exodus story, with readings, songs and the eating of symbolic foods. So, whether or not you have ever celebrated Passover, I hope you will come with your whole family. Children are not only welcome—they make the Seder more special and fun. Hope to celebrate with you!

Feedback and Feast Night

Friday, May 20 – Save the Date!

Please save this date. On Friday, May 20, the RE Council will be hosting a RE Feedback and Feast Night. You will be receiving invitations and more detailed information soon. We are planning this event as a fun way to celebrate our Religious Education program and to share with one another our hopes and dreams for the upcoming year. As always, we want our offerings for children, youth and families to build community, deepen spiritually, and make a positive difference.

Blessings,

Amy

Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education

Contact at afreedman@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602.

Pastoral Care

Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

Minister for Pastoral Care, Rev. Marion Visel

Email: mvisel@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, x414

Cell: 203-931-5329



Senior Minister, Rev. Howard N. Dana

Email: hdana@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, x411

Cell: 717-412-8543

April Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Dana Snyder-Grant

Email: danasg@newview.org

Phone: 978-266-9409

Cell: 978-760-1129

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 or 978-501-6969) or use the sign-up sheet in the office. The workshop is limited to 15.

Small Group Ministry

Mondays, from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m., Parlor

April 11 through June 20 (6 sessions: 4/11, 4/25, 5/9, 5/23, 6/6, 6/20)

Small Group Ministry provides an opportunity to listen and share topics of meaning in everyday life, our experiences and beliefs, in a committed group of 8 to 10. We'll explore our UU beliefs while living in a challenging world. Topics include standing on the side of love, practicing compassion, living with gratitude, and experiencing humility. Participants agree to regular attendance and to guidelines on how the group will be together.



Facilitator is Merrill Comeau. Limited to 10 participants. To register, you can sign up on the clipboard in the church office or contact Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org, or 978-369-9602, x414.

Standing Committee

Meeting: Sunday, April 10, 6:00 p.m., Chapel

New SC Chair Selection

Kristin Haddad has been selected as the Standing Committee chair for the 2017 church year. Kristin will assume the chair's role at the July 2016 Standing Committee Meeting. Over the past three months, a group of three Standing Committee members has been interviewing other SC members, discussing possible candidates, and identifying issues confronting First Parish and the Standing Committee in the coming years. Their report was presented to the full Standing Committee at our March 13, 2016 meeting, and Kristin's selection was unanimously approved. Kristin will work with me during the remainder of this year to ensure a smooth transition. Please congratulate Kristin on her selection and thank her for her willingness to serve.

Finance Committee Benchmark Survey

The Finance Committee, a subcommittee of the Standing Committee, presented the results of a benchmark survey performed this year, comparing First Parish financials to those of 11 other churches. Finance Committee members will be presenting their findings in various forums in the coming weeks. A report summary is available here: <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/finance-committee>.

Get Involved!

- **Annual Pledge Campaign**—If you haven't pledged yet to support First Parish for the coming year, it's time to do so! Help us to continue "Sowing Everyday Miracles" at First Parish.
- **April 30 Auction**—Come and enjoy a wonderful evening at the First Parish Auction. It's not too late to make a donation, and tickets go on sale soon. Contact Auction chair Jennifer Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com if you'd like to help.

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 or 978-369-4901

Annual Pledge Campaign Update

Annual Pledge Campaign Ends May 8

How Are We Growing?

First Parish's Annual Pledge Campaign in support of our operating budget for FY2016-2017 is off to a wonderful start. By mid-March, we had received:

- \$609,012 in pledges
- Pledges from 197 families

We still have far to grow, however. It costs at least \$2,000 per household to keep our doors open, and our costs rise each year. If every household increases its pledge by at least 5 percent, we will be able not only to fulfill our mission, but also to achieve the important goals that have been identified by our own congregation and staff.

If you've already made your pledge, we thank you. If you have not yet pledged, we ask you to consider the role First Parish plays in your life, in the lives of those you love, and in the lives of others you don't know other than by their need. We ask you to pledge generously.

Our Annual Pledge Campaign ends on May 8, so it's important that you make your pledge right away. Please join us, so we can continue *sowing everyday miracles*.

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

Auction 2016—May Day!

Saturday, April 30, 6:00 p.m.
Online Auction April 20-28

Tickets on sale now. Cocktails! Raffles! Dinner! Music!

Celebrate spring with your fellow parishioners during this lively evening of fun and entertainment. Bid on fabulous items such as vacation homes in Maine, Paris and Mexico; Red Sox tickets; dinner parties; ski tickets; voice lessons; and much more.

Doors open at 6:00. Dinner at 7:00. Live Auction at 8:00. \$40/person. Adults only. Tickets can be purchased at the Auction table during coffee hour or in the church office.



For more details on the Gala and Online Auction, visit www.firstparish.org/auction; or contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com or 617-869-5563.

Social Action Community

Faith into Action

Moving on May 15

As many of you have heard by now, I will be leaving First Parish in Concord on May 15 of this year. It has been a wonderful 4 years with you! I have learned so much from all of you.

This summer, I will be doing a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Beverly Hospital. This is a requirement of all people seeking to become a Unitarian Universalist minister. Then, in the fall, I will be moving to Syracuse, New York to complete a two-year ministerial internship at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse. This is one of the final steps in the process of becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister. My husband and I are both excited about the adventure that lies ahead.



I am sad to be leaving you all. You have taught me so much about ministry and what it means to be people of faith engaging in work out in the world.

In my last few months here, I am hoping that something new and exciting will come forth. Starting this month, the Social Action Community board will be presenting and hearing input on a proposal for a new way of practicing, funding, staffing and communicating about social action at First Parish in Concord. In some ways, this is something that has been in the works for a few years. In other ways, this proposal is a direct reflection of what we heard from *you* last fall. I hope that you will engage in this process and give your input. Listening sessions are currently scheduled as follows:

- April 3 at 11:30 a.m., Greeley Room
- April 10 at 11:30 a.m., Brooks Room
- April 12 at 7:00 p.m., Ripley Room
- April 14 at 10:00 a.m., Brooks Room

If you have any questions, or want to chat about this process, email me at blowe@firstparish.org.

Blessings,
Bethany

Bethany Russell-Lowe, Social Action Director and Youth Program Director
Contact at blowe@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602.

Amnesty International Group 15

Tuesday, April 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

The main focus this month is to begin planning a community event to bring home the human side of the death penalty in the United States. The issue has been on Amnesty's agenda since the 1970's and we're encouraged by the increasing support for its abolition. Our ongoing projects include work against solitary confinement, violence against women, and requesting medical help for our two Azerbaijanian human rights advocates under house arrest. For information, contact Kathy Taylor, Kly.taylor@gmail.com or 781-275-0791.

Annual Nick Ressler Blood Drive

Saturday, April 9, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Hunt Recreation Center

You can make a difference on Saturday, April 9 by donating blood at the 16th Annual Nick Ressler Blood Drive. Sixteen years ago, 300+ First Parish and community members rolled up their sleeves for Nick and we are grateful so many continue to donate. We are pleased that over 2000 individuals have been given the gift of more time because of blood collected during the past 16 years. Join us at Hunt Recreation Center, 90 Stow St on Saturday, April 9, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Email NickResslerBloodDrive@gmail.com to request an appointment time.

Environmental Leadership Team

Tuesday, April 19, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Parlor



The Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) helps First Parish become more environmentally sustainable and eco-conscious. If you have a green project that you would like to work on or an idea for a green educational event at First Parish, come join the ELT meeting this month.

Hope Out Loud Concert

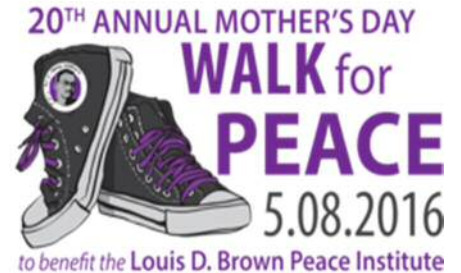
Sunday, April 10, 3:00 p.m. at the UU Urban Ministry, 15 Putnam Ave., Boston

Sam Martinborough, director of MssngLnks in Boston, will be conducting the UU Urban Ministry's annual Hope Out Loud concert. Roxbury residents, Roxbury Community College singers, and members of UU congregations across the region will participate in this concert. For more information, contact Rev. Rebecca Hinds (rhinds@uum.org, 617-318-6010, x 214) or Elizabeth Norton (music@firstparish.org, 978-369-9602, x420). Directions at http://www.uuum.org/?page_id=1372.

Mother's Day Walk for Peace

**Sunday, May 8, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, Boston
20th Anniversary, Save the Date**

Looking for a way to live out our Black Lives Matter banner? Join the Mother's Day Walk for Peace! This year is the 20th anniversary of this event. Come walk with the thousands from Boston and with many UU congregations. The Peace Walk is the major fundraiser that supports the vital work of the Louis D Brown Peace Institute. Each Sunday, now through April 24, you can visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour to make a donation and/or sign up to participate in the Peace Walk.



If you have questions, please contact Bethany Russell-Lowe (BLowe@firstparish.org, 978-369-9602, x450) or Margie King Saphier (mksaphier@comcast.net, 781-424-2179).

Musketaquid Earth Day

Celebrating the confluence of Art and Nature
Saturday, April 30, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Schedule of Events:

- **10:00 a.m., River Ceremony**—Singing, drumming and launching of Earth Floats. Come at 9:30 a.m. to make your own at The Old Manse.
- **11:00 a.m., Earth Day Parade**—Giant puppets, stilts, dancers, music parade down Monument and Main Streets from The Old Manse to The Umbrella Community Arts Center.
- **11:45 a.m., Arts and Environment Festival**—Local food, kids and community activities, and table exhibitors on the front lawn of The Umbrella.
- **Parade and River Ceremony Workshops at The Umbrella**—Make a costume, headdress, puppet, banner, musical instruments, Earth floats and more for Earth Day. \$5 per person/\$10 per family; pay at the door. Registration encouraged, but not required. Sundays, April 10 and 17, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; and Thursdays, April 1 and 14, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.



For more details, visit www.theumbrellaarts.org/arts-environment/earth-day-2016. Contact CC King: ccking.interplay@gmail.com or 978-710-1153 cell (email preferred).

Partner Congregation News

Special Event: Saturday, May 13, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

The Partner Congregation Committee hopes to bring a delegation from our partner church in Székeleykeresztúr, Transylvania, including their new minister, Rev. Csaba Todor, to visit Concord this fall. Planning is under way for a musical event and reception on May 13 to help raise funds to cover their travel expenses. Please put this date on your calendars, and stay tuned for more details. Contact: Lillian Anderson at lillianand@comcast.net or 978-369-1468.

SAC Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Brooks Room

The Social Action Community board meets on the second Tuesday of the month. All meetings are open to the congregation. Come listen and learn about upcoming social action activities and what the SAC board is working on this year.

SAC Listening Sessions

Congregation Feedback on Proposal Needed

After a congregation-wide evaluation of our current social action last fall and a winter of analyzing that data, the Social Action Community board has drafted a proposal for how we will manage social action going forward. This proposal includes a plan to:

- Prioritize social action efforts
- Hire a new SAC staff person
- Fund social action
- Communicate social action activities

Please come to a Listening Session on one of the following dates to help us firm up this proposal with your input. Attend one of the sessions below:

- April 3 at 11:30 a.m., Greeley Room
- April 10 at 11:30 a.m., Brooks Room
- April 12 at 7:00 p.m., Ripley Room
- April 14 at 10:00 a.m., Brooks Room

Contact Bethany Russell-Lowe (BLowe@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, x450) for more information.

UUCSJ Learning Trip

Fall of 2016 or during 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 during 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 or 617-877-9542.

Denominational Affairs Committee

Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m., Brooks Room



Attend a Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) meeting to hear and share your ideas about our greater denomination. This year, the UUA General Assembly (GA) theme is “Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect.” UU’s will explore multifaith, multiracial community organizing—fusion partnerships, civil disobedience,

voting rights campaigns, and more. See Alice Van Deusen’s article below. The proposed slate of delegates to GA will be nominated at the May 16 DAC meeting. All delegates are expected to attend the June 13 DAC meeting, which will focus on General Assembly. For more information, please contact Paula Vandever at VandeverP@aol.com or 978-369-9268.

General Assembly 2016

“Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect”

Columbus, Ohio, June 22-26

Would you like to participate in General Assembly (GA) without traveling to Ohio? You can be an off-site delegate, joining the discussion and voting on issues while wearing your favorite jammies! Or gather with fellow off-site delegates from First Parish.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Positions not filled by members traveling to Columbus can be assigned to off-site delegates. A description of fees, agenda, requirements for participation, and the responsibilities of a delegate are available at the UUA site (<http://www.uua.org/ga>).

The proposed slate of delegates will be nominated at the May 16 meeting of the Denominational Affairs Committee; and all delegates will be expected to attend the June 13 DAC meeting, which will focus on issues related to General Assembly. Please note that registration fees for both on-site and off-site delegates increase on May 1.

If you are interested in representing First Parish at GA either remotely or in Columbus, please contact Alice Van Deusen at alicevandeußen@gmail.com or 978-369-0435 (email preferred).

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.



Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Saturday	April 2	4:00 p.m.	Ben Tull Photo Display Reception
Sunday	April 3	5:00 p.m.	Oriana Consort Concert
Wednesday	April 6	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	April 9	9:00 a.m.	Photography Club
Sunday	April 10	3:00 p.m.	G. F. Handel's "Allegro" – Robert Gartside Voice Studio
Sunday	April 10	3:00 p.m.	Hope Out Loud Concert at First Church in Roxbury
Friday	April 15	7:00 p.m.	Meeting House History Film
Friday	April 22	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (Note: third Friday)
Sunday	April 24	7:00 p.m.	Meeting House History Film

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 or 978-264-4271.

Women's News

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.

For details on upcoming MNO gatherings, please join the MNO listserv by sending an email to valvallancourt@gmail.com.

Reproductive Justice

Lunafest Fundraiser Film Festival
Saturday, April 9, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall



Enjoy a night of films and refreshments while supporting great causes! LUNAFEST is a film festival of short films by, for and about women. Proceeds benefit the Breast Cancer Fund and RIA House, a Framingham nonprofit providing services to women affected by sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. Purchase advance tickets online for \$12 (<http://www.lunafest.org/concord0409>) or at the door for \$15.

Collection Drive

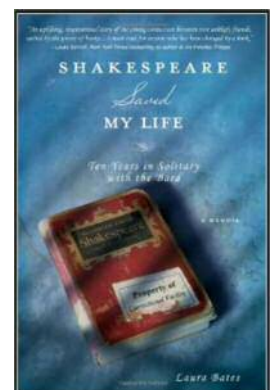


We are also collecting toiletries and feminine hygiene products for Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women in Boston. Leave items in the marked box in the coatroom or bring them to LUNAFEST.

Contacts: Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net, 978-254-5433) or Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com, 978-369-5352).

Women's AM/PM Book Group
Monday, April 25, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; Brooks Room
Tuesday, April 26, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.; Brooks Room

The April book for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *Shakespeare Saved My Life: Ten Years in Solitary with the Bard*, by Laura Bates. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a



discussion. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at 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

WPA Luncheon Program

Special Feminist Tour; Robbins House, Concord

Wednesday, April 13, 11:00 a.m.

Reservations by April 6

The Women's Parish Association will host a tour of the Robbins House, which will highlight the compelling life story of Harriet Jacobs, who wrote *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, the first "slave narrative" written by a woman, detailing her quest to emancipate herself and her children. After the tour, people will gather back at First Parish for a discussion led by tour director Elon Cook. Bring a bag lunch. Light desserts and drinks will be served. Reservations are required, since space is limited. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net by April 6.



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 and click on "Events." Contact Pat Everett, pne@aol.com or 978-369-1589.



Douglas Baker Presents—New Dates

**Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord
CORRECTED DATES for Evening Showings, with Light
Refreshments**

Friday, April 15, and Sunday, April 24; 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall



Please join us for showings of *Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord*, a video written and presented by Douglas Baker and made possible by donations from members of the congregation last year.

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.

You don't want to miss this wonderful and long-awaited event! Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Sue Beck at sbeck345@comcast.net.

**Thank you to our
donors.**

Ferry Beach Retreat

May 27-30 (Memorial Day Weekend), Saco, Maine

Registration from April 17 to May 1



Join families, couples and singles from our own congregation and First Parish in Lexington for a relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Registrations for the retreat will be taken at the Ferry Beach table at coffee hours from April 17 to May 1, or in the church office during those two weeks.

As of April 17, the Registration Packet can be downloaded from www.firstparish.org/forms. Also, check out the excellent summer camps and conferences for all ages at Ferry Beach, at www.ferrybeach.org. For questions or to inquire about scholarship assistance, contact Darien Smith (darien@smithquest.com, 978-369-1471).

First Tuesday Group (65+)
Technology for Communicating
Tuesday, April 5, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Parlor

Bob Bratzler, who conducts programs in computer technology for the Concord Council on Aging, will discuss *Getting More Out of Your Computer and Smart Phone*—ways other than email to stay in touch. He will review Skype, FaceTime, 23 Snaps, and smartphone messaging. The presentation will include live demonstrations, as well as references to other community opportunities to further your individual skills. Come with your charged-up laptop, cell phone and a healthy curiosity! For more information, contact Virginia Taylor, virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net or 978-263-9777.

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 or 339-203-5876. For the complete program, visit <http://www.orianaconsort.org/concerts/201604.html> .

Passover Seder

Saturday, April 16, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall



The Passover Seder is an ancient celebration of freedom. Our Minister of Religious Education, Rev. Amy Freedman, is leading our service this year. The Parish Hall becomes our family dining room. Get tickets at coffee hours and sign up for your role. Suggested donation: \$20 for adults, \$10 for those ages 7 to 12, and free for those under age 7 or over age 80. All profits to First Parish. Whether you have a Jewish background or never attended a Seder before, you are welcome!

Questions: contact fpseder@googlegroups.com or Jim Snyder-Grant, jim.snyder.grant@gmail.com or 508-572-2985.

Photo Directory Update

A Big Thank-You to Lou Toussaint and Victor Curran

Everyone is waiting for the new directory and it is coming along. The first round of proofing and correcting is done, and we are waiting for the second proof and hoping it is perfect and we can approve the printing. The hope was to have it to you all by the end of March; unfortunately it looks to be mid-April.



This is a perfect time to thank Lou Toussaint for hours of time on data entry detail, her scheduling appointments, collecting information, and always being there to make sure those appointments went smoothly. She was there for the first meeting with Jim at Lifetouch a year ago and has hung in all the way to the corrections on the proof. She kept the whole process running smoothly. And Victor Curran volunteered hours of his graphic arts skills to coordinating the cover and designing the First Parish information pages. Thank you both for dedication and service.

Editor's Notes

Next *Meeting House News* **Deadline: April 19, 2016**

Next Publication Date: **May 3, 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*.

Submission Guidelines

Required:

- Event title, day of week (no abbreviations), month (no 'th' or 'rd'), date, time and/or time range, **ROOM**
- Description, including sponsoring committee/organization.
- Contact: name, email and phone (can state preference).
- Font: Arial; Size: 12; no boldface/italics/UPPERCASE/special spacing.
- 100 maximum word count, no formatting, and include picture, if possible.
- Send your submission only once all information is *final and complete*; so be sure to plan ahead. We will need to return a submission if it is 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. Questions, contact the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg: wolfberg@post.harvard.edu or 978-496-1397 (email preferred). 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; Website: 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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