

Meeting House News

May 2016



Photo by Kathleen Elcox

NOTE: The next issue of the newsletter will be the last issue until September. Please send all July to September 10 submissions by May 17. It will be a full newsletter.

Do you submit events?

*Required guidelines are under
[Editor's Notes](#)*

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Photo by James Pazaris

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Last Call for Pledges
May 8 Deadline – Campaign Closes



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, May 1 – “The Faith that Sustains Us --
Reflections from Youth and Lifelong UU Adults”**

Bethany Russell-Lowe and First Parish Youth
First Parish Gospel Singers



Sunday, May 8 – “Rituals of Peace”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir and Children’s Choirs

Sunday, May 15 – Music Sunday: *Frostiana* by Randall Thompson

First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra
Elizabeth Norton, conducting

Sunday, May 22 – “Rest and Rejuvenation”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

**Sunday, May 29 - "Bless All Who Serve:
UUs Beyond the Barbed Wire"**

Rev. Sarah Lammert, UUA Director of Ministries and Faith
Development
Robert Goodearl, baritone; Nancy Ackerman, clarinet



Sunday, June 5 – “Ours to Follow: Judith Sargeant Murray”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

Sunday Forums

After worship, promptly at 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

May 1—"The New Civil Rights Movement"

Carl Williams, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, will discuss the Ferguson rebellion, the Black Lives Matter movement, efforts at police reform, and the most effective ways to support black folks in their struggle for true equality.



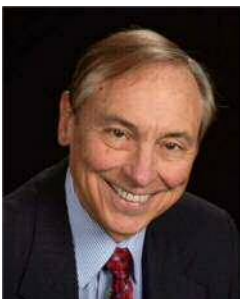
Do you support the "Black Lives Matter" banner at First Parish or do you feel uncomfortable about it? (For example, why not "All Lives Matter?") Is the Black Lives Matter movement relevant to Concord? Come join the conversation and learn how we have arrived at the current moment in the struggle for racial justice. Contact: Patrick Everett, pne@aol.com. Host: Jack Nevison

May 8—"Paris Climate Agreement. What Does it Mean for US?"

Gilbert Metcalf, a climate and energy economist at Tufts University and a former official in the Obama Administration, participated in the Paris meetings, where negotiators from nearly 200 countries finalized a new agreement last December to limit global greenhouse gas emissions. The new agreement represents a sharp departure from the approach taken in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Come learn more.



May 15—"Mediation Matters: Rock Bands, Indian Tribes, Ball Parks, etc."



Eric Van Loon has mediated and taught it in over 40 states and 9 countries. He cofounded the world's largest mediation company and is a former Concord Town Moderator. He's been labeled a "Best Lawyer in America," an "Entertainment Industry Power Mediator," and a "Distinguished Fellow" of the International Academy of Mediators. Eric will provide examples of intriguing mediations and insight into why businesses, governments, nonprofits and individuals have found it a superior way to resolve a wide variety of disputes.

These are the last Forums until October 2016. For more information or to suggest a topic or speaker, contact chair, Pat Everett, at pne@aol.com or 978-369-1589.

New Ministerial Intern

Jan Hutslar Arriving Early August

The Ministerial Intern Committee is delighted to announce the selection of Jan Hutslar as our Ministerial Intern for next year. The following is a note from Jan.



In July 2014 I packed up my Honda Fit, said my goodbyes and drove west on my way to Starr King School for the Ministry. I [had] spent the previous 12 years as a director of religious education for the Canton, New York, Unitarian Universalist church. During that time I fell in love with congregational life and our Unitarian Universalist faith. I began to feel a call to ministry. I didn't want to go. I didn't want things to change. I had found home among the rivers and forests. I built my own house and raised my daughter and created family and had cherished friendships. But I had to go.

Now, two years later, I am finishing up my coursework and packing for the trip back east. I will be arriving in Concord in early August to be your intern minister. I am looking forward to getting to know you all and to learning and serving alongside you. I bring curiosity, an open heart and enthusiasm for this journey we will share.

See you in August—Jan

Deborah Greeley Herb Garden

We have a treasure in the lower church grounds, a place to relax and center one's Self. Take time for a quiet visit to the Deborah Webster Greeley Herb Garden, located on the lower church grounds beyond the Chapel. Meditate on the scent of a biblical herb; contemplate the taste of fresh basil; offer a prayer of gratitude for the abundance of life in the garden; pluck a bay leaf for your pot of soup. The Herb Garden is open year-round and it will look its best come June. There is another lovely photo on the left wall just inside the office.

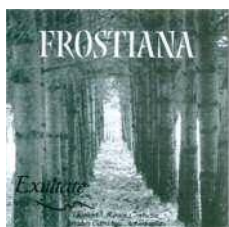


MUUsings



“Choose Something Like a Star” and “The Road Not Taken” are two Robert Frost poems that I can confidently recite from memory. Actually, it would be more accurate to say that I can *sing* these two poems by heart. Probably most Americans who sang in a high school or college chorus can make this same claim. These poems have found their home in my memory through the musical settings of the American composer Randall Thompson. They are classics of 20th-century choral music from his larger work *Frostiana*.

Randall Thompson [1899-1984] and Robert Frost [1874-1963] brought a distinctly American voice to their respective arts. Both spent the bulk of their lives in New England and taught at New England colleges—Thompson at Wellesley and Harvard, Frost at Amherst College. While many of their contemporaries explored *avant garde* paths in music and poetry, these artists both rooted their work in traditional models and forms.



Frost and Thompson were good friends, so it was logical for the town of Amherst, Massachusetts to reach out to the pair when commissioning a composition for the town's 1959 bicentennial. Initially, the town leaders asked Thompson to set Frost's 1941 poem “The Gift Outright” (which Frost later recited at John F. Kennedy's inauguration). But Thompson preferred to select the texts himself.

The result was *Frostiana – Seven Country Songs*, for chorus and piano. Thompson composed the work in July 1959 while in Gstaad, Switzerland. Frost first heard it at the premier on October 18, 1959, with Thompson conducting. Apparently, Frost was so delighted with the setting that he stood and bellowed “Sing that again!” at the conclusion.

Thompson's musical language embraces and enriches Frost's poetic expression of the wisdom found in nature, everyday life and rural tradition. In 1965, Thompson composed a chamber orchestration of the piano score that further enhanced this magical marriage of word and music. Because the male and female singers of the Amherst Bicentennial Chorus rehearsed separately, the composer structured the work so that only three of the seven movements are scored for mixed choir; two are for men's voices and two for female singers.

On Music Sunday, May 15, the First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra will offer Randall Thompson's *Frostiana* in our worship service. We hope this hour of music and poetry will give us all “. . . something like a star/to stay our mind on and be staid.”

Blessings,

Beth

Beth Norton, Director of Music

Contact at music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, x420.



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
Wednesday	May 4	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting (all welcome)
Sunday	May 8	3:00 p.m.	Photography Club Annual Exhibit and Reception
Saturday	May 14	9:00 a.m.	Photography Club
Saturday	May 14	7:00 p.m.	Laszlo Gardony, jazz pianist
Sunday	May 15	10:00 a.m.	Music Sunday—Randall Thompson's <i>Frostiana</i>
Friday	May 20	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing
Sunday	May 22	7:00 p.m.	Sarasa Chamber Music, <i>Quasi una Fantasia</i>

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.

Religious Education News

Youth Program Café

Sunday, May 1, 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Parish Hall

This gathering will be held before the service during our usual First Parish Café. This will be a time to review and plan youth programming with Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education, and Rev. Howard N. Dana. There will be coffee, tea, muffins and sweet treats! Those who have participated in youth programming, our youth, mentors and parents of teens, your voice is very important to this discussion. Please plan to attend if you can.



May Day Celebration: K-Grade 4

Sunday, May 1, 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., Outdoors

Join us for a celebration of spring! On May 1, Kindergarten to Fourth graders will participate in a traditional May pole dance and make flower wreaths and festive May baskets. Fifth graders and up are encouraged to attend the Youth Service.

Parenting in a Diverse World

Sunday, May 1, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Chapel; Child care in Emerson

How do we talk about race and racism with our children? When we encounter people who are different, how can we foster understanding? Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education, is offering a series of Parent Circles. This is a chance for parents to connect with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. Please register: afreedman@firstparish.org. Child care will be provided in the Emerson Room. *For planning, please let us know names and ages of children using child care.*

RE-FRESH Friday Feast

May 20, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Parish Hall

All First Parish families and Religious Education (RE) supporters are invited to our RE-FRESH Friday Feast! The RE Council is hosting this celebration, which will include dinner, child care and World Café-style conversations to help shape our 2016 – 2017 Religious Education program. We want to build on the offerings you love most and that speak to the needs of our children, youth, parents and RE volunteers. What do you want your child(ren) to experience at First Parish? What do you want to experience with your family? How can we make our RE program more fun, engaging and meaningful? Please be in touch if you did not receive an e-vite and plan to attend, or if you are unavailable but would like to offer feedback and ideas.

How Many Eggs Will Hatch?

Sunday, May 29, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m., Outdoors

Join Kimberly Brainerd and her hen, Livvy, for a special program at First Parish for kids of all ages. Chickens will hatch anything. (Even duck eggs!) But, they have to be “in the mood.” The Brainerd family knew that Livvy wanted to “set” on eggs when she started stealing everybody else’s eggs and would sit on them all day. Hazel would lay an egg nearby, and they would find Hazel’s egg underneath Livvy. Winnie laid an egg . . . they found it under Livvy! So, the Brainerds bought her a “clutch” of eggs, and she’s been sitting on them ever since. The hatching eggs are from four different breeds that are due to hatch anytime! See the photo: Copper Marans (dark egg), Reese Cream Legbar (green egg), Easter Eggers (2 blue eggs), and Cuckoo Bluebar (2 white eggs). Come and meet Livvy and most likely some brand new chicks.



Summer 2016 Kids Program

Sundays, July and August, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., First Parish in Concord

We are thrilled to announce that our church will offer programming for kids during the services in July and August. Sunday activities will include messy art projects, outdoor fun, yoga, and drumming. A professional teacher will lead the program and a teen assistant will care for our youngest children. An adult volunteer will offer support each Sunday. Stay tuned for more exciting information and a summer schedule!

For more information on any of these wonderful programs, contact Rev. Amy Freedman, afreedman@firstparish.org, 978-369-9602, x415.

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

May Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Sue Dobbie

Email: susandobbie@gmail.com

Phone: 978-456-8432

Cell: 978-501-6969



May Meals Delivery

Bev Bringle

Email: bevbringle@yahoo.com

Phone: 978-369-4793

Marian Stanley

Email: marian.stanley@gmail.com

Phone: 978-369-2008

Freezer Is Full Again

Periodically, members diligently cook to restock the First Parish freezer to provide meals for those who are facing challenging situations. On Friday, March 19, Vivienne Aldrich prepared the menu and supervised the First Parish kitchen cooks: Katherine Bovey, Helene Clayton, Anne Fortier, Kathy Mayer, Susan Page, Carolyn Shohet, Marie Talbot, Mary Lou Toussaint and Briana Yablonski.



A giant thank you to Barry Copp who washed all those pots and trays. Thank you also to those who shopped: Susie Weaver, Joyce Biggs and Holli Jones-White, and to those who helped with advertising and publicity: Cassy Bosworth for *Sunday News*, Victor Curran for *First Parish Announce*, and Judy Dembsey for the Caring Connection communication.

Easter Plants Delivered



Have you wondered where the lovely lilies displayed at the Easter service have gone? Caitlin Selle arranged for delivery of the plants to members who are on the Pastoral Care List. Caitlin, Holli Jones-White and Lois Whitney delivered them. Thank you, all!

First Parish Rides

"The greatest luxury is not driving."—Michael Caine

Do you need transportation help to come to First Parish on Sundays? First Parish offers rides to Sunday worship and other parish events, in addition to rides for medical appointments, etc. on weekdays. With a few days' notice we can usually fulfill a local request for a ride. Our drivers would love to help! (Sorry, Michael Caine is not available! Neither is Faith Ringgold.)

To request a ride, please contact our Rides Coordinator, Suzanne Hogan, suzanne.hogan@comcast.net or 978-318-9035. Our back-up Rides Coordinator is Suzanne Knight, suzanneknight@comcast.net or 978-369-9636.



Standing Committee News

Next Meeting: Sunday, May 15, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Senior Minister Evaluation

The Standing Committee evaluation of Rev. Howard N. Dana has been completed. This annual practice, designed to ensure the success of First Parish's partnership with Howard, was embraced by Howard and the Standing Committee when Howard was called as our Senior Minister and Head-of-Staff three years ago.



The Senior Minister Evaluation Group, consisting of two Standing Committee members, developed five open-ended questions encompassing the goals that Howard and the Standing Committee agreed upon in the beginning of the year. The group obtained feedback from all 11 Standing Committee members and an additional 12 people chosen from among First Parish leaders. Feedback was then compiled into a summary evaluation report, presented to Howard, and discussed with Howard at the April 10, 2016, Standing Committee meeting.

Feedback was very positive and highlighted Howard's strengths and achievements over the past year. Recommendations for improvements were also provided in a number of areas. The summary evaluation report is available on the Standing Committee Reports Web page on the First Parish website.

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

At our next Standing Committee meeting on May 15, Howard and Director of Operations Fifi Ball will present the first draft of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. This budget will be based on revenue projections generated from the Annual Pledge Campaign 2016-2017.

If you haven't yet pledged to support the programs and operations of our church, it's not too late! Please consider your pledge amount carefully. We have a lot to preserve and much more to accomplish!

Annual Meeting 2016

The First Parish Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2016. At the meeting, the congregation will receive reports from staff and committees, vote on officers and committee members, approve delegates to General Assembly, approve the budget for next year, and more. Who can vote at our Annual Meeting? Our bylaws state that First Parish members who have signed the Membership Book at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting may vote. So, if you are considering joining our community and would like to participate and vote, you must sign the book before Friday, May 13, 2016!

Important Dates!

- **Annual Pledge Campaign – Sunday, May 8, 2016** is our pledging deadline. Pledges received on or before that date will be used as a foundation for fiscal year 2017 budget projections.
- **Annual Meeting Membership Deadline – Friday, May 13, 2016** is the deadline for signing the First Parish membership book if you'd like to vote at Annual Meeting.
- **Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Presentations – Sunday, May 22, 2016.** The first draft of next year's budget will be presented at congregational discussions hosted by the First Parish Finance Committee in sessions before and after the service.
- **First Parish Annual Meeting 2016 – June 12, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.**

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

Last Call for Pledges

May 8 Deadline – Campaign Closes

In support of our FY2016/17 operating budget, on May 8 First Parish's Annual Pledge Campaign draws to a close. By mid-April, we had received these pledges:

- From 322 families
- Totaling \$764,422 (Target: \$1.02 million)



We are grateful to all who have so generously pledged. We still need your help, however, to meet our target. If you have not yet pledged, we encourage you to step up and make a financial commitment that will help First Parish meet the goals that have been determined by our own membership, and continue “sowing everyday miracles” in our community and in the wider world.

Remember, you must pledge by May 8 in order for it to be counted toward our budget for the coming year. Please pledge now—and be as generous as you can. Thank you.

The Annual Pledge Campaign Team

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

Denominational Affairs Committee

GA Delegates to Be Nominated at DAC Meeting

Monday, May 16, 7:30 p.m., Brooks Room

You are invited to attend a Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) meeting. This year, the UUA General Assembly (GA) theme is “Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect.” If you wish to be a delegate, please contact Alice Van Deusen whose article follows in this newsletter. The proposed slate of delegates to GA will be nominated at the May 16 DAC meeting.

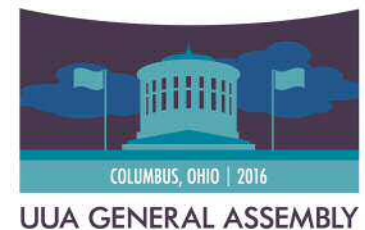
All delegates are expected to attend the June 13 DAC meeting which will focus on General Assembly. For more information, please contact Paula Vandever at VandeverP@aol.com or 978-369-9268.

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.



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 alicevandeusen@gmail.com or 978-369-0435 (email preferred).

Social Action Community

Faith into Action

As you may know by now, May 15th is my last day here. This summer, I will be completing a hospital chaplaincy internship at Beverly Hospital. This is a requirement for Unitarian Universalist ministry. Then, in August, my husband and I will pack up a moving truck with all our belongings (and our two cats) and head out to Syracuse, NY, where I have signed onto a two-year ministerial internship. My husband will be enrolling in a graduate program at Syracuse University that is just right for him. We are both excited by the changes that lie ahead of us!



And I am feeling sadness as our time together draws to an end. In just a few weeks, I will be saying goodbye to dozens of you who I've worked closely with, and dozens more who I have come to know over my four years here. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you all through my social action and youth roles here. I have appreciated your curiosity, your thoughtful critique, and your encouragement. Together, we have built a budding social action ministry.

There are no immediate plans to hire a replacement for my position, but the SAC Board and other lay leaders are actively discussing what this position should look like and what the hiring timeline will be. I have shared with social action leaders and with Howard how I envision this role changing to encourage even more dynamic social action work. The decision on what position to hire for is in capable hands.

When I first heard that our Black Lives Matter banners had been stolen, I, like many of you, was filled with sadness. And then, I saw how our Race Conversations group *showed up* at the Patriots' Day parade to make sure Black Lives Matter was present there. And how our staff *showed up* to give input to a press release as soon as we met on Tuesday morning. I was suddenly so proud. I felt, in my bones, how much work we have done together this past year. The work has been immense in scope, and challenging at times, but it has also been incredibly gratifying and energizing. I predict that this energy will continue into next year.

I will miss you all incredibly, but this Unitarian Universalist world we are part of is small. Maybe our paths will cross again.

It has been a pleasure to work with you. Thank you for helping me learn how to be a better minister.

—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, May 17, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

Planning continues for a fall community event focused on the death penalty and its relationship to inequality in the United States. We'll hear reports on coordination with Amnesty's regional field office; fund raising; additional cosponsors; and confirmation of dates and speakers.



Our ongoing projects include work against solitary confinement, violence against women, and working to lift the house arrest of our two Azerbaijanian human rights advocates, who are desperately in need of medical care. For information, contact Kathy Taylor, Kly.taylor@gmail.com or 781-275-0791.

Boston Pride Parade

Saturday, June 11, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Boston

SAVE THE DATE!



The Diversity Committee will take a group of parishioners to march with our First Parish banner in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 11. The parade starts at noon. Please join us for this fun, family-friendly event and help us show our support for the LGBT community. Those wishing to attend the Pride Service at the Arlington Street Church beforehand may join us afterward before the parade starts. Email Sara Ballard or sign up at coffee hour if you'd like to participate. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org or 978-371-0723 (email preferred).



Mother's Day Walk for Peace

Sunday, May 8, 8:00 a.m. to Noon, Boston



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 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. Contact: Margie King Saphier, mksaphier@comcast.net or 781-424-2179.

Partner Congregation News

Jazz Concert and Reception Fundraiser

Saturday, May 14, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Parish Hall

The Partner Congregation Committee will present a benefit concert by acclaimed jazz pianist Laszlo Gardony. Born in Hungary, he toured worldwide, performed with many leading musical artists and groups, made recordings, and now teaches at Berklee College of Music. Funds are being raised to help bring the new minister of our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Rev. Csaba Todor, and other members to visit us this fall.



Suggested minimum donation is \$25; a reception will follow. Tickets are available at coffee hour and at the door. Contact Lillian Anderson for more information at lillianand@comcast.net or 978-369-1458.

SAC Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 4:30 - 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. Contact: Janine Olson, janineolson@mssb.com.

UUUM Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 15, 1:00 p.m., First Church in Roxbury



The UU Urban Ministry has revitalized its efforts to live into the part of its mission focused on building bridges and connecting people and communities, now more important than ever given the backlash to the Black Lives Matter movement, the fearmongering directed against Muslims, and the deepening mistrust between communities that rarely engage with each other. Come learn how you can be a part of it. Lunch provided. This is an important event!

Contact: Rev. Rebecca Hinds, UUUM Director of Congregational and Volunteer Engagement, 617-318-6010 x214. More information at <http://www.uuum.org/>

Women's News

Reproductive Justice Group Follow-Up

Thank you for the outpouring of support for our women's justice initiatives. We are grateful. We raised \$979 at our showings of *Tricked* (sex trafficking documentary) and *Lunafest* (a film festival by, for, and about women). \$300 went to the Breast Cancer Fund and \$679 went to RIA House (RIA stand for Ready. Inspire. Act.), an agency for women who have been exploited or sex-trafficked.



We collected hundreds of items for Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women in Boston (soap, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, dental products, hygiene products and more). Thank you!

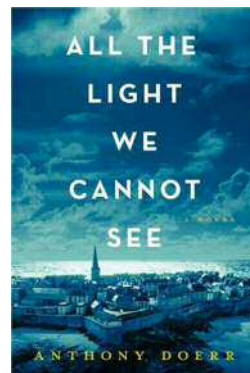
To learn more, contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net, or 978-254-5433.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, May 23, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; Brooks Room

Tuesday, May 24, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.; Brooks Room

The May book and final selection of the year for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel*, by Anthony Doerr. 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.



WPA Tea with Ellen Emerson

Saturday, May 14, 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Join the Women's Parish Association (WPA) for afternoon tea as we celebrate our 135th anniversary with a special program: **Tea with Ellen Emerson**. All First Parish women, men and youth and their friends are warmly invited!

Lisa Steigerwalt will educate and entertain us as she appears as Ellen Emerson, one of the WPA's founders, honoring her life and exploring the fascinating history of tea and the important role it can continue to play in our social lives today. For reservations, by May 11 contact the church office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net.



WPA Craft and Flea Market

Saturday, June 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Parish Hall

The Women's Parish Association (WPA) is holding a special Craft and Flea Market—rain or shine. Juried crafters and vendors will be selling a variety of items, including crafts, household items, jewelry, children's items, antiques, collectibles, etc. Stay tuned for news about other available items. Food will be sold throughout the day.

Table rentals are \$35.00 per table. To rent a table or to arrange for donations of high quality gift items to the WPA table, contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net right away.

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. Upcoming events include the following:

- May 4, Dialog and Film Screening
- May 10, Small Group Discussion
- June 4, Reason Rally

For more details, visit www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org and click on "Events." Contact: Pat Everett, pne@aol.com or 978-369-1589.



Ferry Beach Retreat

May 27-30 (Memorial Day Weekend), Saco, Maine
Registration from April 17 through 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 through May 1 or in the church office.

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+)

Tuesday, May 3, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Parlor

Come explore “Adapting to Change While Continuing to Do What You Love.” Some changes in life are both hard to avoid and hard to accommodate.

1. What changes in your life are challenging you?
2. What adjustments do you need to make?
3. What’s keeping you from responding?
4. What actions can you take right now?

This session will feature facilitated small groups of six to eight people to enhance participation and learning. Come explore others’ challenges and find some answers to your own! For more information, contact Virginia Taylor, virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net or 978-263-9777.

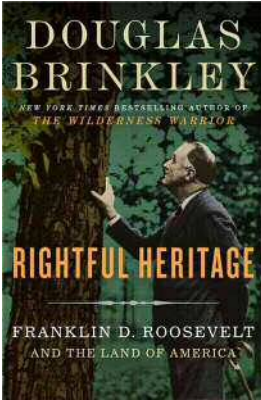
Historian to Speak on FDR

“Passionate Protector of Public Lands”

Friday, May 13, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

The Transcendentalism Council, Environmental Leadership Team and Thoreau Society are honored to welcome historian Douglas Brinkley to First Parish. Brinkley, CNN’s Presidential Historian, is the award-winning author of over 30 books on American history. Dubbed “America’s new past master” by the *Chicago Tribune*, Brinkley is professor of history at Rice University and contributing editor at *Audubon*.





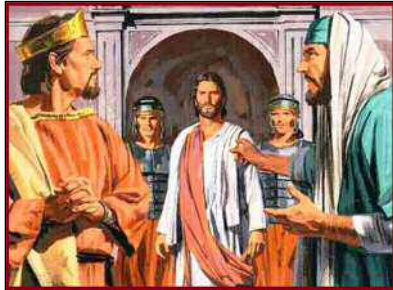
He will present his latest book, *Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America* (2016), in which he examines FDR's role as a passionate protector of public lands.

"Stunningly researched and compellingly written. . . . Brinkley's vivid account of Roosevelt's pioneering preservationism serves as a much-needed beacon and bible." –Megan Marshall

Reception and book signing will follow. \$5 suggested donation. Contact Dianne Weiss at diannemcweiss@comcast.net or 978-505-3417.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

Friday, May 20, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room



Topic: the sermon of Rev. Howard N. Dana from Palm Sunday, "Joyous Defiance." What does it tell us about the roots of anti-Semitism? How is that different from what we learned and experienced growing up in a Christian culture? Come share snacks, join the discussion, and relate it to anything that moves you. All are welcome. For more information or to get a copy of the sermon, contact Dana Snyder-Grant at danasg@newview.org or 978-760-1129.

Photography Club Annual Exhibit

Sunday, May 8, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Come enjoy fantastic photos, have your picture taken in our fun photo booth, watch a 20-minute slide show of club members' pictures, purchase greeting cards and more. Members will be glad to discuss their images and techniques, and help you with your photographic questions. Yummy refreshments will be provided.

This is a free event. Just turn up and bring your friends and family. For additional information, please contact Kathleen Elcox, kelcox1@verizon.net, 978-318-1970, or Fred Van Deusen, fredvandeusen@gmail.com, 978-369-0435.



Sarasa Chamber Ensemble

Sunday, May 22, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

The Sarasa Chamber Ensemble will be performing at First Parish. Come hear a program titled, "Quasi Una Fantasia," featuring works by Purcell, Britten, Barber and a world premier by Thomas Vignieri. For tickets and information, visit <http://www.sarasamusic.org/concerts/>. Tickets are also available at the door.



Website Wonder Quiz Question

Have you been checking out the First Parish website, appreciating the many wonderful resources First Parish has to offer? Well, practice your navigation skills to answer this quiz question.

First Parish works thanks in large part to the many volunteers that help. What volunteer opportunity focuses on "including emergency child care, transportation, errands, meals, and elder services, and also visiting those who live in Concord-area nursing homes"? (Answer at end of newsletter.)

Editor's Notes

Next *Meeting House News* **Deadline: May 17, 2016**

Next Publication Date: **May 31, 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 First Parish Announce weekly emails.

Next MHN Issue Is Last for Summer

The next issue of the *Meeting House News* will be the LAST issue until September, so please plan ahead for your committee's approval to get your submission in by **May 17**. Please:

- Be sure to include information through the first full week of September.
- Plan ahead for room reservations and include room in your submission.
- Plan to highlight the success of your event(s) with a brief (2-3 sentences) fun follow-up submission with photographs in the September issue (deadline **August 16**).
- Lengthy information can be put on the recently updated First Parish website.

What May I Submit for Publication?

The *MHN*, *Sunday News* and FP Announce are reserved for events at First Parish, events sponsored by First Parish, or something that falls under a staff member or First Parish committee or group. We hold to this policy, but if you feel your event deserves special consideration or are not sure whether your announcement fits in this guideline,

please contact the appropriate staff member for clarification before you submit your message. If your submission does not fall within this guideline, the church office would be glad to print your write-up for the First Parish bulletin board. Please email or drop off a printable final form to the church office. We are glad to help as best we can.

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; after 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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Add us to your address book



Answer to the Website Wonder Quiz Question

Caring Connection. If you would like to help with that effort or would like to request its help, please contact the church office at contact@firstparish.org or 978-369-8602.

Black Lives Matter Banners Stolen from First Parish in Concord

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2016

Contact: First Parish in Concord, MA, Unitarian Universalist
blacklivesmatter@firstparish.org

Our congregation is saddened that First Parish in Concord's Black Lives Matter banners were taken this past Saturday night. We are also saddened that we did not have the opportunity to have a conversation with whoever stole the banners. A community-wide conversation is what we were seeking when we hung the banners last December. Upon noticing the banners were gone, First Parish in Concord staff contacted police immediately. New banners have been ordered and will be hung upon arrival.

Together with Unitarian Universalists across the country, First Parish in Concord proclaims that Black Lives do, indeed, Matter. We acknowledge that through slavery, discrimination, segregation, and mass incarceration, our society has continued to tell black people their lives do not matter. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in promoting justice, equity and compassion in all human relations, and that all people have inherent worth and dignity. If there truly were racial equity in our society, there would be no need to say Black Lives Matter.

We at First Parish in Concord find it ironic that our banners were stolen the weekend before Patriots' Day. Two-hundred-forty years ago today, Concord's ancestors fought to free themselves from the oppressions of English rule. People of African descent in Concord and across the colonies fought in the Revolutionary War. Years after that, even while discrimination against freed blacks was alive in Concord, others of our Concord ancestors fought for abolition.

Today, we all live in a society that does not treat people equally. We are all complicit in this system. We at First Parish in Concord admit we are sometimes racist ourselves. And yet, we put ourselves firmly on the path to becoming more aware of our racial biases. We are working for a more anti-racist society.

During the Patriots' Day parade, when members of our congregation held Black Lives Matter signs, they had the opportunity to talk with many people about this moral stand First Parish in Concord has taken. If you wish to join this conversation, we will be hosting a forum with ACLU Massachusetts Attorney Carl Williams on Sunday, May 1, at 11:30 a.m. in our Sanctuary (located at 20 Lexington Rd). Williams will speak about the current Black Lives Matter movement and how it is relevant to Concord.

First Parish in Concord appreciates how the Concord Police Department was immediately attentive to our stolen banners. They are working diligently to investigate the case. Anyone with information should contact the Concord Police at **978-318-3400**.