

## *What's Happening at First Parish?*

# MEETING HOUSE NEWS

**DECEMBER 2016**



*Photo by Lois Suarez*

***The Table of Contents and other links  
are live. Click away!***



### Table of Contents

Sundays at First Parish	3
Worship-at-a-Glance	3
Blue Holidays Vespers	3
Christmas Eve Services	3
Sunday Forum	4
Poinsettia Celebration	4
MUUsings	5
Religious Education (RE) News	6
A Message from Amy	6
Religious Education	6
Little Angel Sunday	6
Little Angels Rehearsals	7
Guest at Your Table Box	7
Grade 8, OWL Parent Orientation	7
Join Our Christmas Tableau	8
Christmas Caroling	8
Adult Religious Education	9
Men's Spirituality Retreat	9
Pastoral Care	9
Ministers	9
Pastoral Care Library	10
Come to Cook!	10
Drivers Needed	10
Standing Committee News	11
Congregational Conversations	11
Staff Compensation Report	11
Conversation on Social Justice	11



Photo by Susan Page

**NOTE: Publication dates have changed. Please see [Editor's Notes](#) for details. Thank you!**

**Next Meeting House News**

**Deadline: December 13**

**Publication: December 21**

Goals Update	11
Arts at First Parish	12
Upcoming Events	12
FP Flowers on YouTube	13
Children's Holiday Craft Workshop	13
Social Action Community	13
SAC Board Update	13
Crop Walk Thank You	14
Open Table Drivers/Riders Needed	15
Partner Congregation News	15
Documentary Screening – 13 <sup>TH</sup>	16
Women's News	16
Moms' Night Out	16
Women's AM/PM Book Group	17
Women's Parish Association	18
Holiday Concert and Tea	18
Quilt and Art Print Raffle	18
Women's Retreats 2017	18
Other Cool Stuff	19
First Tuesday Group (65+)	19
Photo Club Seeks New Members	19
Website Wonder	20
First Parish Floor Plans	20
Editor's Notes	20
FP General Information	21
First Parish Floor Plans	22



## Sundays at First Parish

All Sunday Worship Services are held at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

### Worship-at-a-Glance

#### **Sunday, December 4 – “The Little Prince’s Small Things”**

Rev. Csaba Tudor, our partner congregation’s new minister  
First Parish Choir

#### **Sunday, December 11 – “Joy—The Highest Goal”**

Rev. Howard N. Dana  
Contemporary Vocal Ensemble; Gail Carey, director

#### **Sunday, December 18 – “Gloria!—A Vivaldi Winter Celebration”**

First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra

#### **Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Potluck Brunch—No Service**

Brunch with Rev. Howard N. Dana

#### **Sunday, January 1 – “A Change in Perspective for a New Year”**

Jan Hutslar, Ministerial Intern  
Pamela Schweppe, soprano



### Blue Holidays Vespers

“The Gift of a Quiet Hour”

**Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., Chapel**

For those who desire a contemplative space this holiday season, come breathe and gather your thoughts in the quiet beauty of candles, music and understanding. Rev. Marion Visel, Jan Hutslar, Beth Norton and the By Your Side Singers will offer a holiday alternative—a quiet space to share reflective words of remembrance, solace and comfort. Though the winter holidays are not always merry, this time can be a time of loving kindness and gentle community. All are welcome.

### Christmas Eve Services

**Four services on Christmas Eve**

Time	Service	Description and Music
3:00 p.m.	Family Service, “Carols and a Crèche”	We’ll share the Christmas story by building the nativity together. Congregational carol singing.
5:00 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Service	Nativity tableau with carol singing and music by our Children’s Choirs.
7:00 p.m.	Traditional Lessons and Carols	Music by the Gospel Choir and “The Conchords.”
9:00 p.m.	Traditional Lessons and Carols	Music by the First Parish Choir.

## First Parish Café

The First Parish Café is available on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Come to the Parish Hall and enjoy the fellowship and light fare before the service.

## Sunday Forum

**After Worship, December 4, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary**

*This is the last Forum until January.*

### ***Panel Discussion: Our Transylvania Partnership—Perspectives and Directions***

This year we have the privilege of hosting a delegation of eight leaders from our partner congregation, including their new minister, Rev. Csaba Tódor, who along with Rev. Howard N. Dana will lead a discussion about the current state of our historic partnership and some emerging ideas about our next chapter together.



A panel of members from our Partner Congregation Committee and the delegates from Székelykeresztúr will provide important perspectives.

### ***Our Partner Congregation***

Over the course of the last 23 years, we have developed a strong partnership between our congregation and the Hungarian Unitarian congregation in the town of Székelykeresztúr in the Transylvanian region of Romania.

## Poinsettia Celebration

**Donate a plant in memory or honor of a loved one.**

**Sundays, December 4 and 11, visit the poinsettia table at coffee hour**

Come to the poinsettia table at coffee hour if you wish to donate a plant in memory of a loved one. Their name and yours will be included in a memorial listing in the December 18 order of service, and the poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary throughout the holidays.



### ***Donations***

To donate a poinsettia:

- Visit the poinsettia table at coffee hour following the December 4 and 11 services.
- Stop by the Parlor before the services at 9:30 a.m.
- Contact Linda Reynolds at 978- 371-0562 or [LSmithReynolds@aol.com](mailto:LSmithReynolds@aol.com).
- Leave a note and donation in the office before December 12 (suggested amount \$20).

Your donation supports the work of the Flower Committee throughout the year.



## MUUsings

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to all.”

—Luke 2:14

“Shivering, frozen mid the frosty snow in biting, stinging winds;  
running to and fro’ to stamp one’s icy feet, teeth chattering in the bitter chill.  
To rest contentedly beside the hearth, while those outside are drenched by pouring rain.  
We tread the icy path slowly and cautiously, for fear of tripping and falling.  
Then turn abruptly, slip, crash on the ground and, rising, hasten on across the ice lest it  
cracks up.  
We feel the chill north winds coarse through the home despite the locked and bolted  
doors . . .  
This is winter, which nonetheless brings its own delights.”  
– Vivaldi, Winter Sonnet from “The Four Seasons,” Concerto in f-minor

These two texts, one biblical and one secular poetry, inspired the Italian Baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi [1678-1741] to write music that has remained popular through many generations. Both evoke winter, Christmastide, and the turning of the year. The passage from Luke is the song a host of angels sang to awe-struck shepherds in the Christmas story. The sonnet is the descriptive text upon which Vivaldi based his famous “Winter” violin concerto in f-minor from “The Four Seasons,” Opus 8. The music he wrote for violin solo and string orchestra vividly depicts the sensations, joys and hazards of the winter season in what was an early example of “program” music (instrumental music intended to portray a nonmusical story) in western Europe.

### *First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra* **Sunday Service, December 18, 10:00 a.m.**

On Sunday, December 18, as we approach the winter Solstice, Christmas and the New Year, the First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra will celebrate the winter holidays with a service of music by Antonio Vivaldi, featuring his familiar and much-loved *Gloria* for chorus, soloists, and orchestra; and the “Winter” concerto with our own Siri Smevig as soloist. We hope you will join us in this musical celebration of the season.

Blessings, Beth  
Beth Norton, Director of Music  
Contact: [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602



## Religious Education (RE) News



### A Message from Amy



The focus for our program for children this winter is World Religions. Given the current political climate, it is more important than ever to teach our children an appreciation of religious teachings, customs, and wisdom. During the month of December, we will offer experiences that will allow our children to connect with the deeper meaning of the season. My prayer for all of our First Parish families is that we slow down to savor the beauty and delights of this season in order to give back. In this spirit, we make real the vision of Peace on Earth with all her people one.

Blessed Be, Amy  
Rev. Amy Freedman  
Minister of Religious Education  
[afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org)

### Religious Education

Day, Date, Time	Theme	Description
Sunday, December 4 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Advent	Sunday Morning Religious Education
Sunday, December 11 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Winter Solstice	Sunday Morning Religious Education
Sunday, December 18 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Little Angels, Hanukkah	Sunday Morning Religious Education (Return Guest boxes to First Parish.)
Sunday, December 25	Merry Christmas!	No Religious Education

### Little Angel Sunday

**Sunday, December 18, 9:30 a.m., Classrooms**  
**Wear a White or Light-Colored Shirt**

All children who wish to be “Little Angels” should arrive at their classrooms by 9:30 a.m.. We will assist them in donning simple robes and halos, and then we will head upstairs to practice their procession and song in the Sanctuary.

Please have your child *wear a white or other light-colored shirt*. The two front pews will be reserved for parents of angels. Our hope is that this will be fun for everyone, kids and adults. Please reassure your child that it’s really okay to choose not to participate.

Contact Dawn Van Patten with any questions: [dvanpatten@firstparish.org](mailto:dvanpatten@firstparish.org).

## Little Angels Rehearsals

**Sunday, November 27, December 4 and 11, During RE Classes**

“Little Angels” is a long-standing tradition at First Parish! On Sunday, December 18, our youngest children are invited to dress as “Little Angels” and process into the Sanctuary, singing “This Little Light of Mine” for the congregation.

RE classes on the Lower Level (Preschool, Kindergarten, and First Grade) will learn the song together during RE classes on November 27, December 4, and December 11. Sue Beck is leading the group, and Chris Randall will accompany the group on guitar.



Please contact Dawn Van Patten with any questions: [dvanpatten@firstparish.org](mailto:dvanpatten@firstparish.org).

## Guest at Your Table Box

**Return by Sunday, December 18**

Over the holiday season, we invite a “Guest at Your Table,” a traditional fundraising practice for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The boxes were given out during our Thanksgiving service and are also available in the church office.



Please bring your “Guest At Your Table” box back to church on Sunday, December 18. Our Grade 5, who are learning about the UUSC, will count our contributions. Otherwise, please count up your donation and write a check for the amount payable to UUSC. UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world.

For more information, visit [uusc.org](http://uusc.org). Questions? Email Amy: [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

## Grade 8, OWL Parent Orientation

**Sunday, December 4, 4:00-6:30 p.m., Emerson Room**

“Our Whole Lives” (OWL), the comprehensive sexuality program, will be offered to eighth graders at First Parish in Concord beginning in January. The goals of the program are to help young people learn about safe sexual relationships in the context of Unitarian Universalist principles, to help them make responsible decisions, and to increase their understanding and respect for themselves and others.

In order for your child to be enrolled in OWL, both parents are required to attend a Parent Orientation on Sunday, December 4 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at First Parish. This year’s Grade 8 OWL teachers will facilitate the orientation: Andrea Hubbard-Nelson, Louisa Paushter, Tim Peacock, and Eric Read.



*Continued next page.*

Please let Amy know ASAP if you plan to enroll your Grade 8 young adult in this important program: [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

### Join Our Christmas Tableau

**Rehearsal: Sunday, December 18, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sanctuary**

**Tableau: Saturday, December 24, 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary**



All are welcome to help bring the Christmas story to life during one of our candlelight Christmas Eve services. We will create a living tableau, with adults and children wearing costumes during the traditional carols and readings. There will be one rehearsal, on Sunday, December 18, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Adults, youth, and children 6 years and older can play all parts except for the sheep, who must be 5 to 7 years old to fit in our adorable costumes. Please consider doing this as a family for an especially memorable experience. This year our Junior Choir (Grades 1-3) and Chalice Choir (Grades 4-6) members are welcome to sing and also be in the tableau.

Please email Amy if you would like to participate: [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

### Christmas Caroling

**Stay tuned for details.**

This is what the Christmas season is all about! Children and adults are invited to bring the gift of musical cheer to our parishioners and others who can't get out this season. We will meet at the church and carpool to area nursing homes to sing. Afterward, we'll head back to First Parish to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate together. All are welcome! Stay tuned for more detailed information in upcoming announcements. Lora Venesy: 978-254-5433 or [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).



### Seven Ways to Savor the Holidays

To revisit this lovely tip list from last year's December 2015 *Meeting House News*, follow [this link to the First Parish website](#).



## Adult Religious Education



An exciting list of new adult religious education and spiritual enrichment opportunities for 2016-2017 offered by our ministerial staff and others was included in the November issue of the *Meeting House News*. Want to ask Santa for some time off for yourself? Pick an offering and keep an eye out in 2017 for details in the FP Announce weekly emails, *The Sunday News*, and the *Meeting House News*. Here are some details on one of the offerings . . .

## Men's Spirituality Retreat

**With Rev. Howard N. Dana and Jeff Clanon**

**Save the date:** Saturday, January 28, 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

**Sign-up required. Limit 40**

Join other First Parish men in this day-long men's spirituality retreat. Together we will explore ways to deepen our own spiritual practices and learn from one another. The day will include a variety of activities designed to help men better understand their own religious needs and gifts. One or more ongoing groups may emerge from this workshop. Call the church office to sign up or email [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org).

## Pastoral Care

***Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings***

### Ministers

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

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

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 414

Cell: 203-931-5329

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

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

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 411

Cell: 717-412-8543



**December Pastoral Care Lay Minister**, Dana Snyder-Grant

Email: [danasg@newview.org](mailto:danasg@newview.org)

Phone: 978-760-1129



## Pastoral Care Library

Located in the hallway between the Brooks Room and the Stage



The Pastoral Care Library has undergone a transformation. It has lots more shelf space, a new catalog, the addition of a small amount of fiction, and a locked box for date due cards. There are books on many subjects that affect our daily lives as well as for those times when life is difficult and we are looking for consolation. There are books on spiritual parenting, later life, medical information, and more. The library is located in the hallway behind the stage. Please visit the Pastoral Care Library and see if there is something there for you.

## Come to Cook!

Friday, December 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Kitchen

As a part of our shared Pastoral Care outreach, the Caring Connection 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! Wonderful time of fellowship!



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

## Drivers Needed

*Thank you, Suzanne Hogan*

One of the important programs that Pastoral Care provides is rides. Suzanne Hogan, who has been our Rides Coordinator for years, has stepped down from this position. We sincerely thank her for her service! Pat Brinkman is our new Rides Coordinator.



### Drivers Needed

We find that we need more drivers who can be contacted when someone needs a ride to an appointment or to a First Parish service or event. Rides are arranged for by email, which is sent to a group of members who have volunteered to be contacted as potential Ride Providers. If there is a match, the Rides Coordinator connects the Ride Provider with the Ride Requestor.



If you need a ride or are interested in volunteering, please contact Rides Coordinator Pat Brinkman at [pabrinkman@comcast.net](mailto:pabrinkman@comcast.net) or 781-259-9639.

## Standing Committee News

**Next Meeting: Sunday, December 11, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

On Sunday, November 13, the Standing Committee held its monthly meeting. The routine business on our agenda included the review of the semiannual Staff Compensation Report. Treasurer Tom Wilson reported on input received from the recent Congregational Conversations on Finance. We also spent time discussing the status of Social Justice at First Parish. In December, we will be reviewing the status of the “Black Lives Matter” banner hanging in front of our church. Our meetings are open. We welcome anyone interested to attend our next meeting.

### Congregational Conversations

On November 7 and 8, a few First Parishioners attended the congregational conversations hosted by the Finance Committee. Last year’s spending and this year’s budget were reviewed. The possibilities of capital budgeting, a process for legacy giving, and ideas for improving the pledge campaign were also discussed. If you have any questions about these discussions, please contact our Treasurer, Tom Wilson, at [twilson@wilsongroup.com](mailto:twilson@wilsongroup.com).

### Staff Compensation Report

Two times a year, Fifi Ball prepares a report for the Standing Committee to demonstrate how the salaries of our church staff align with the recommendations provided by the UUA. The recommendations are published annually and include considerations based on our church size and location. The report provided in November showed that much of our staff is currently below the midpoint guideline for our church. This is extremely relevant information, as forming our budget is a demonstration of our social justice priorities.

### Conversation on Social Justice

The Standing Committee took time during our November meeting to learn about what is happening in our Social Action Community (SAC). There was an overview of the hiring process, including Howard’s ultimate responsibility for selecting the new staff member. There was discussion about the job description for a SAC director and the continuing debate between looking for an administrator versus a community organizer. There are many questions about how our parish can best move forward in this important work. The SAC board is seeking new members. If working on these questions is appealing, this is a great time to get involved.

### Goals Update

At our meeting on November 12, the following goals were approved to guide the Standing Committee through 2018.

- Create a process to ensure policies are maintained
- Strengthen connections to other congregations and to the wider denomination
- Support SAC and its pilot programs

*Continued next page.*

The Standing Committee is still working on two other goals in the areas of leadership and supporting social justice. The committee plans to finalize those goals at our December meeting.

### 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 e-mail to discuss your First Parish experiences. You can find the contact information for each Standing Committee member, along with meeting agendas, governing policies, meeting minutes and reports at <http://firstparish.org/wp/connection/committees/standing-committee/>.



Best regards,  
Kristin Coffman Haddad, chair, Standing Committee  
[Kristin.haddad@gmail.com](mailto:Kristin.haddad@gmail.com) or 978-254-5012

### 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).



### 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.

### Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Saturday	December 3	1:30 to 4:30 p.m.	Children's Holiday Craft Workshop
Wednesday	December 7	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	December 10	9:30 a.m.	Photography Club Open to all First Parish adults
Saturday	December 10	3:00 p.m.	Women's Parish Association Holiday Concert and Tea
Friday	December 23	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing, a holiday edition of First Parish's monthly song circle

For more information on these events, check this *Meeting House News*, FP Announce, and *The Sunday News*. For additional information, contact Susan Page, chair, at [srpage10@verizon.net](mailto:srpage10@verizon.net).



## FP Flowers on YouTube

### "First Parish In Concord Flowers by Season"



This beautiful four-minute video highlights most of the arrangements created by First Parish's very talented Flower Committee for our Sanctuary over recent years. Because the aim of the Flower Committee is to reflect the present moment in nature, the video is arranged seasonally. Notice the changes in plant material and palette as the seasons progress, and enjoy the beauty as it develops over the year.

You can find the video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeS5fN4W42M> (with Sound On you'll hear a lovely soundtrack).

## Children's Holiday Craft Workshop

**Saturday, December 3, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., First Parish**

First Parish children are invited to spend the afternoon creating beautiful handmade gifts for the holidays, with the help of a community of adult and teen helper elves. Lots of *new* crafts this year! Cost is \$15 per child, maximum \$45 for a family; no registration needed. Snacks and drinks provided.



To volunteer, sign up at coffee hour or contact Patty Popov, [ppopov@wesleyan.edu](mailto:ppopov@wesleyan.edu) or 978-369-1990. Your holiday planning elves are Dave Elwood, Jan Goddard-Taylor, Marilyn Lowitt, Kristin Moore, Patty Popov, and Jeanne C. Williams.

## Social Action Community

**Faith into Action**

### SAC Board Update



#### *SAC Coordinator and Community Organizer*

At our November SAC Board meeting we decided to hire a part-time SAC Coordinator, and to further investigate ways to have access to a Community Organizer on a part-time basis.

The SAC Coordinator will work with the Board to support existing social action programs at First Parish and help integrate these initiatives throughout the Parish. The Community Organizer will focus on expanding the scope of one of the two priority areas

*Continued next page.*

identified by the congregation: either *Economic and Racial Inequality* or *Climate Change and Environmental Justice*. The SAC Coordinator position will be an interim position through June of 2018, and the Community Organizer would assist us through June of 2017, after which the effectiveness of each position will be evaluated.

As always we invite you to share your ideas and feedback. If you know of anyone qualified and interested in either opportunity, please contact Wendy Holt [wendyh@dmahealth.com](mailto:wendyh@dmahealth.com).

### ***Join the SAC Board***

We are still actively looking for more parishioners to join the SAC Board. Please contact any one of us if you are interested in contributing your thoughts to the direction of First Parish social justice work.

### **SAC Web Pages**

Please check out our Web pages on the new First Parish website. Our pages include descriptions of our social action [programs](#) and a [calendar](#) of this year's SAC events.

Working with and for you to advance social justice, your Social Action Community Board:

Bob Brack, [brackrobert@gmail.com](mailto:brackrobert@gmail.com), 508-735-6394

Leslie Fisher, [lesliefisher@treitman.com](mailto:lesliefisher@treitman.com)

Tricia Haut, [triciahaut@gmail.com](mailto:triciahaut@gmail.com)

Wendy Holt, [wendyh@dmahealth.com](mailto:wendyh@dmahealth.com)

Janine Olson, [janine.olson@morganstanley.com](mailto:janine.olson@morganstanley.com), 508-479-1015

Tony Rodriguez, [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com), 617-877-9542

Margie King Saphier, [margie.king.saphier@gmail.com](mailto:margie.king.saphier@gmail.com), 781-424-2179

### **Crop Walk Thank You**

**Next year – Sunday, October 22, 2017**

Many thanks to all who helped with this year's Crop Walk: those who walked, donated, provided refreshments, helped at coffee hour, volunteered as crossing guards, helped set up and clean up, made banners, supervised the youth art contest, or participated in any way. The Walk was successful thanks to all the enthusiastic participants! \$31,312 was raised to help fight hunger and poverty.

Donations to the First Parish team can still be made online at [www.concordcrop.org](http://www.concordcrop.org). Please join us next year! Questions? Contact Sara Ballard at [sara@sb.org](mailto:sara@sb.org) or 978-371-0723.



## Open Table Drivers/Riders Needed

One Monday a Month, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Open Table is in *urgent* need of drivers and riders for Monday food pickup and drop-off. Get your strength training by helping to transport much needed food from South Boston to our area!

Are you looking for a tangible way to make a critical and positive difference in your neighborhood and support a long-standing First Parish initiative? Can you lift up to a 50-pound bag of potatoes? Whether you can assemble a team or want to join one, please contact Fran Warner at [buddyw61@yahoo.com](mailto:buddyw61@yahoo.com) or 781-354-5002.

## Partner Congregation News

We are delighted to welcome eight members of our partner congregation from Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, who are visiting us from November 25 to December 6. They will attend the worship service on December 4, which will be followed by a Forum at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, where they and Rev. Howard N. Dana will speak about many aspects of partnership. There will be a farewell potluck dinner and party that evening at 6:00 p.m., and all who engaged with them during their visit are encouraged to attend. There are also other opportunities to attend activities and outings with them during their visit. Please contact Lillian Anderson at [lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net) or 978-369-1468 to RSVP for the potluck or sign up for other activities.





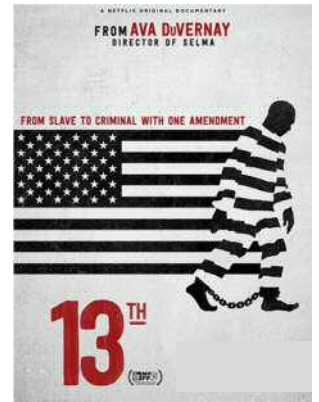
### ***Laptop Donations Requested***

The Partner Church Committee seeks donations of six to eight used laptops, either PC's or Macs, that can be sent to Székelykeresztúr to be used by students at the Unitarian high school. They will be wiped clean of all data before being sent there. If you can help, please contact Dana Booth at [dana.a.booth@gmail.com](mailto:dana.a.booth@gmail.com) or 978-369-5702.

### **Documentary Screening – 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Parlor**

Ava DuVernay's extraordinary documentary refers to the Constitution's 13th Amendment, which reads, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States." The progression from that second qualifying clause to mass criminalization and the sprawling American prison industry is laid out with a potent mixture of archival footage and testimony from an array of activists, politicians, historians, and formerly incarcerated women and men.



Please join us. Contact Margie King Saphier, [margie.king.saphier@gmail.com](mailto:margie.king.saphier@gmail.com) or 978-369-4467.

## **Women's News**

### **Moms' Night Out**

#### **Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange**

**Friday, December 9, 7:30 to 10:00 p.m., Parlor**



The holidays will be here before you know it! Bake a batch (or two or three or four) and come swap cookies and recipes with fellow members of the First Parish community. Celebrate the season, bring a snack or drink to share, and take home some delicious treats. Stay tuned for more details and please mark the date on your calendars!

RSVP to Leah Russell, [leahkrussell@gmail.com](mailto:leahkrussell@gmail.com), 978- 266-1216; or Jean Chandler, [jeanjeanc2@aol.com](mailto:jeanjeanc2@aol.com).





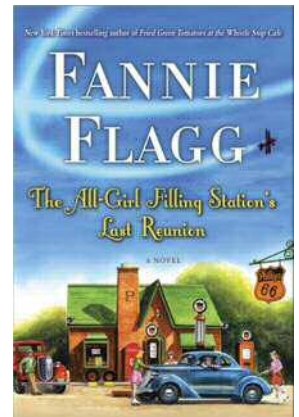
## Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, December 5, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Tuesday, December 6, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

As is our custom, the Women's Book Group will be reading one book for November and December. The selection is *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion*, by Fannie Flagg.

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join a discussion—there's no need to sign up! 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).



## Dates and Books for 2016-2017

Date	Book	Author
Dec. 5/6	<i>The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion</i>	Fannie Flagg
Jan. 30/31	<i>The Nightingale</i>	Kristin Hannah
Feb. 27/28	<i>Brooklyn</i>	Colm Tóibín
March 27/28	<i>Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family</i>	Amy Ellis Nut
April 25 (a.m.) May 1 (p.m.)	<i>We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves</i> NOTE: The evening discussion is on a later date due to Concord Town Meeting on April 24.	Karen Joy Fowler
May 22/23	<i>Spinster: Making a Life of One's Own</i>	Kate Bolick



## Women's Parish Association

### *Holiday Concert and Tea*

**Saturday, December 10, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Parish Hall**

**RSVP by December 6**



This year's Holiday Concert and Tea will bring special joy and sparkle to your holiday season. The critically acclaimed and ever popular Winiker Brothers Trio will offer seasonal music along with jazz and popular tunes. This is a band not to be missed!

From their early youth, Bo and Bill Winiker were part of their father's legendary band, which played for numerous grand-scale galas in the Boston area. They currently play at a variety of events, from family celebrations and weddings to grand scale galas. Following the concert, a traditional tea will be served in the Parish Hall.

There is no charge for this event; however, attendees are asked to bring plates of sweets to share, if they wish. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) by December 6 for reservations. All are warmly invited!

Bring your family and friends to share an afternoon of joy and spiritual renewal.

### *Quilt and Art Print Raffle*

**Tickets at coffee hour; Through December 18**

The Women's Parish Association (WPA) is selling raffle tickets for a spectacular king-size quilt and a lovely art print of Leonard Weber's Townscape of Concord. Raffle tickets will be sold at coffee hours from now until December 18. Prices for raffle tickets are five dollars each, or five tickets for twenty dollars. Contact Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) for further information.



## Women's Retreats 2017

**Registration Deadline: January 8**

*"To Thine Own Self Be True: Knowing Your Authentic Self"*

Once again we will host three retreats offerings:

- ♥ **1st Weekend Away:** Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, January 20 - 22, at Senexet House, Connecticut
- ♥ **2nd Weekend Away:** Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, January 27 - 29, at Senexet House, Connecticut
- ♥ **"At Home" Retreat:** Friday evening, February 10, and Saturday morning through afternoon on February 11, at First Parish

*Continued next page.*

This year's retreats will focus on *"To Thine Own Self Be True: Knowing Your Authentic Self."* Banish all cares as we relax, have fun, rejuvenate, get to know each other, and explore what it means to know and express our core beings. All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome!

### **Registration**

Register by January 8. Late registrations will be accepted on a space available basis. Registration forms will be available at coffee hour December 11 and 18, and January 8. Starting December 11, forms will also be available in the church office and at <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/forms/>.



Questions? Contact Bozena Smith at [bozenasmith@mindspring.com](mailto:bozenasmith@mindspring.com) or 978-371-1060.

## **Other Cool Stuff**

### **First Tuesday Group (65+)**

**Winter Holiday Celebration: Personal Shared Stories**

**Tuesday, December 6, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Parlor**



Come with a small item or photograph that is connected to a personal three-minute story you are willing to share. Gather around the fire in the Parlor fireplace, listen to others' stories, sing a few seasonal songs, and see a skit or two. Refreshments will include eggnog, a table of cookies, coffee, tea, and your favorite holiday snacks (if you bring a plate to share). So come celebrate the holidays with a shared story at our December meeting!

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

### **Photo Club Seeks New Members**

**Saturday, December 10, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Emerson**

We are a noncompetitive, informal photography club for First Parish adults, from novice to professional. As a member you can:

- Enjoy other members' pictures and display some of your own
- Make new friends
- Refine your "eye"
- Learn new photography techniques
- Take field trips, both near and far



*Continued next page.*

For information, contact Kathleen Elcox, 978-318-1970, [Kelcox1@verizon.net](mailto:Kelcox1@verizon.net), or Fred VanDeusen, 978-369-0435, [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com); or come to First Parish at 9:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month. Enjoyment of photography and a camera are all that's required. See our brochure on the table outside the office.

## Website Wonder

### First Parish Floor Plans

Are you wondering where the room is located for your meeting? You can download the *FP Floor Plans* PDF to your computer and/or cell phone [from the website](#) and enlarge as needed to read more easily. Remember to check online guidelines for room reservations and cancel a room if no longer needed. Thank you!

## Editor's Notes

Next *Meeting House News* **Deadline: December 13, 2016**

Next Publication Date: **December 21, 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. Please review guidelines in the [June 2016 Meeting House News Issue](#). When you submit, you will receive a confirmation email that your submission was received. Please contact the Editor if you do not receive a confirmation email.

**NEW**—If you submit regularly, please request a template file of your copy from the Editor that you can edit and submit to reduce rework for you and the Editor. Thank you.

*MHN* Schedule for 2016-2017

Please note: the publication dates for the Meeting House News have been changed.



*For your calendars:*

Month	Deadline	Publication
December	Tuesday, November 15, 2016	Tuesday, November 23, 2016
January	Tuesday, December 13, 2016	Tuesday, December 21, 2016
February	Tuesday, January 17, 2017	Tuesday, January 25, 2017
March	Tuesday, February 14, 2017	Tuesday, February 22, 2017
April	Tuesday, March 14, 2017	Tuesday, March 22, 2017
May	Tuesday, April 18, 2017	Tuesday, April 26, 2017
June*	Tuesday, May 16, 2017	Tuesday, May 24, 2017

\*Include information for June, July, August, and the first week of September.



## FP General Information

### Office Hours

#### September 6 through June

Regular office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. The office is closed on Mondays.

### Contact Us

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://firstparish.org/wp/news/calendar/>

FP Announce: Sign up for announcements by email, <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/>

### FP Facebook:

"Like" our Facebook page:

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

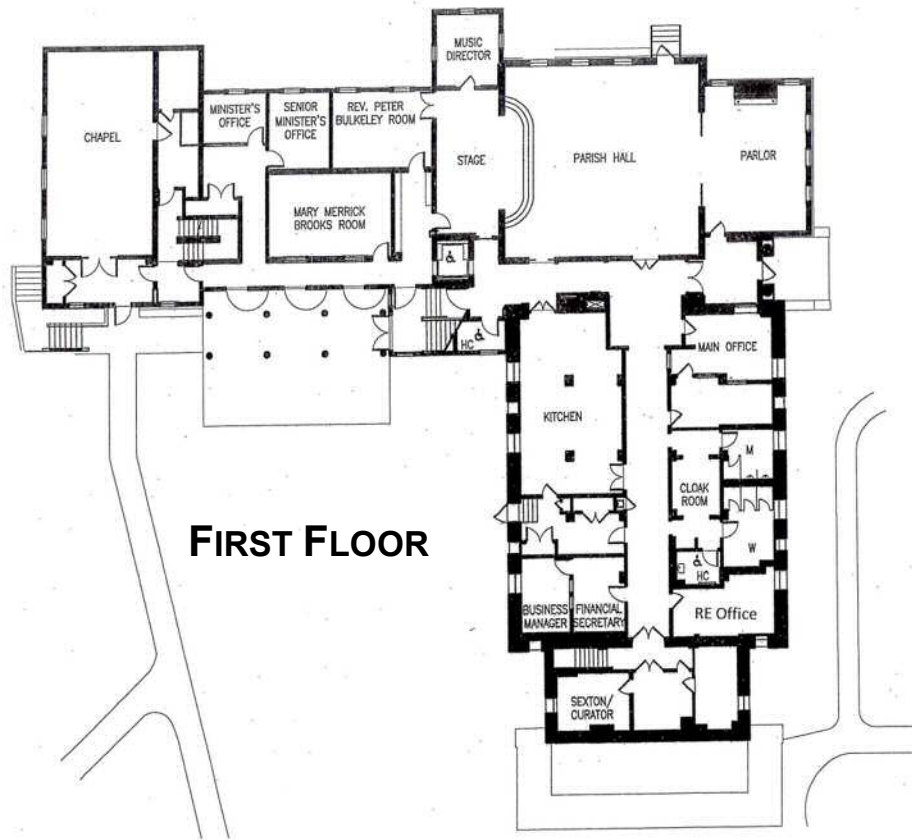
Reserve a Room: <http://firstparish.org/wp/connection/reserve-a-room/>

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

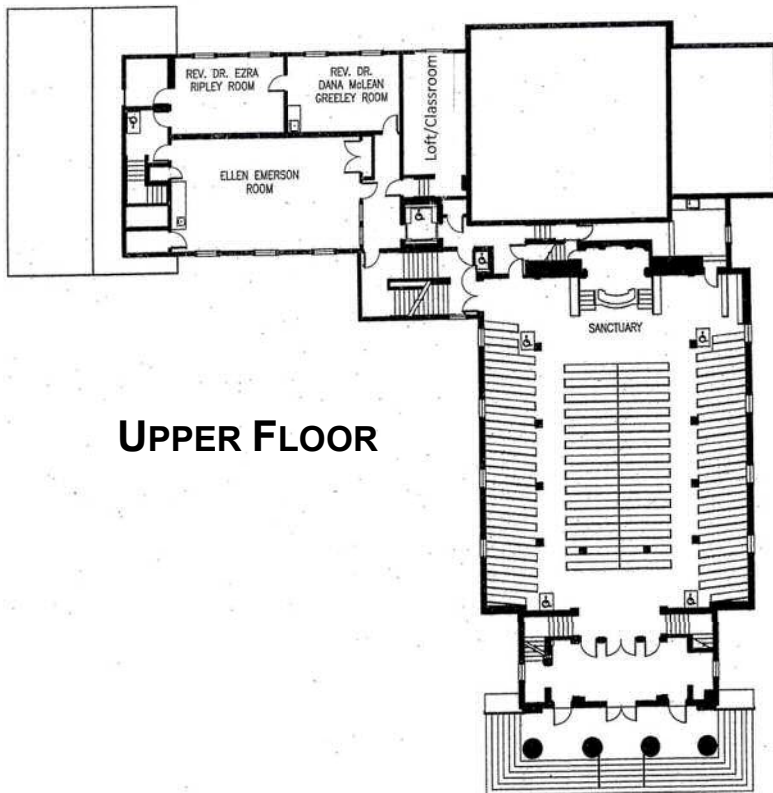
*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association  
Copyright © 2016 First Parish in Concord, Unitarian Universalist  
All rights reserved. FPC Meeting House News December 2016  
Add us to your address book*



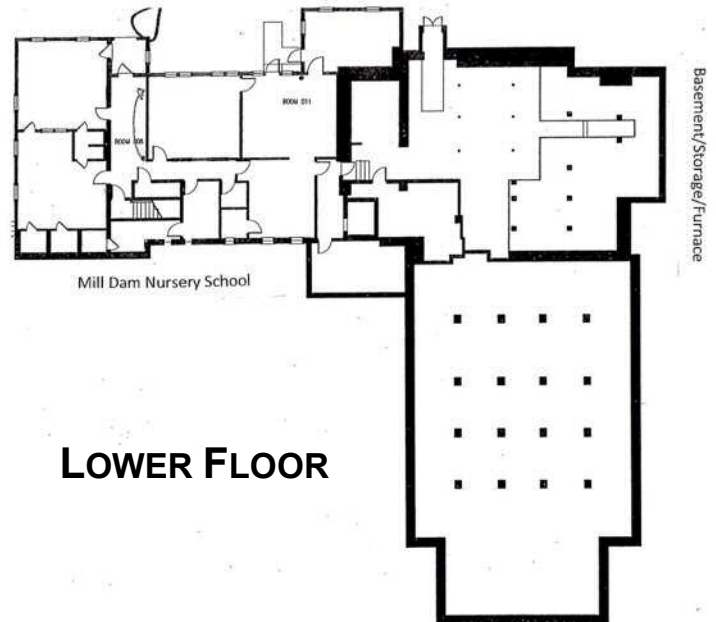
# FIRST PARISH FLOOR PLANS



FIRST FLOOR



UPPER FLOOR



LOWER FLOOR