



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

# MEETING HOUSE NEWS

**APRIL 2018**



*Beneath the frozen ground is a bounty waiting to spring forth. Spring's coming! First Parish Herb Garden. Photo by Dian Pekin.*

**Name and Format Change**  
**"FP Announce" to "FP Weekly"**  
**Read more on Page 19.**

**Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, June 10**  
**Save the Date**

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*Snow people from FP Announce.*

### **Meeting House News, May**

**Deadline: April 17**

**Publication: April 25**



### **Cooperative Passover Seder**

**Saturday, April 7, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall,  
details see Page 18.**

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## Sundays at First Parish

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

### Worship-at-a-Glance

#### **Sunday, April 1 – Easter Sunday**

**Two services, at 9:00 and 11:00**

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Choir and Festival Brass

#### **Sunday, April 8 – “Transylvanian Pilgrimage”**

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Choir

#### **Sunday, April 15 – “Striving for Imperfection”**

Zachary Roe, Social Action Program Director

Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

#### **Sunday, April 22 – “The Presence of Justice”**

Rev. Jo VonRue

Lincoln Ringers with Sarah Whitney, violin

#### **Sunday, April 29 – “Now That We Are Woke”**

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Children’s Choirs and Adult Choir

Graduating Senior Recognition

#### **Sunday, May 6 – Coming of Age Service**

Coming of Age teens with mentors and Rev. Amy Freedman

Gospel Choir



### First Parish Café

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

### Sunday Forums

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



#### **April 8—Climate Justice and First Parish**

Should First Parish adopt a Climate Justice mission statement? First Parish's Environmental Leadership Team is proposing to do just that.

Come learn about the proposed language for our Annual Meeting warrant article. Come hear from UU MassAction staffer Evan Seitz

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and parishioners from First Parish Bedford involved with civil disobedience actions to stop the West Roxbury fracked gas pipeline.

### **April 22—Finding Help for Addiction**

What are the resources available in our area? What do you want to know? Do you have questions – such as, If I live in Concord can I go to another town for help? What is suboxone? Fentanyl? What is an appropriate treatment? Come to this Forum and ask your questions in a safe place.



Lou Fackert is the Director of Training at Baycove, an organization in Boston that provides effective, compassionate care to over 20,000 individuals. She has been working and doing research in the education and training field for the past 25 years. She developed Bay Cove's current training model, comprised of over 60 courses taught in diverse learning environments. Many of these courses are now taught at other human service agencies across the state. For more information or questions or to join the Forum Committee, contact the cochairs: Pat Brinkman at [pabrinkman@comcast.net](mailto:pabrinkman@comcast.net) and Alan Whitney at [awhitney@alum.mit.edu](mailto:awhitney@alum.mit.edu).

### **Walk for Peace**

**Sunday, May 13, Bus leaves 8:30 a.m., Return 1:30 p.m., First Parish  
Donate and/or sign up starting Sunday, April 8**

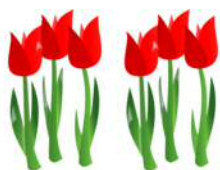
All ages are invited to join the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace! A free bus from First Parish in Concord will leave at 8:30 a.m. to take walkers to Boston and will return by 1:30 p.m. This is a three-mile walk. All walkers are asked to register and contribute at least \$10.



Visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour. If you have questions, contact Margie King Saphier at [margie.king.saphier@gmail.com](mailto:margie.king.saphier@gmail.com) or 781-424-2179.

### **MUUsings**

I first heard the *Székely Áldás* (Székely Blessing ) or *Házi Áldás* (House Blessing) in 2002 at the UUA General Assembly in Quebec City. Rev. John Gibbons recited the Hungarian and the English during a plenary presentation by the UUA's Partner Church Council. Our choir was preparing for its first musical pilgrimage to Transylvania later that summer; and when I heard the beautiful blessing in two languages, I thought, "wouldn't they make a wonderful 'partner song' together." I asked John for permission to use the words and his translation and then wrote two independent melodies that could each stand alone yet made a lovely harmony when sung together. This reflected the relationship between two strong, independent faith communities that had covenanted to be partners, bridging barriers of language, culture, and history, creating together what neither congregation could create alone.



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We sang the *Áldás* with our partners in Székelykeresztúr that first summer. It was warmly received then, and has subsequently been shared in congregations all over Transylvania and the United States. It was published in our 2005 hymnal supplement, *Singing the Journey*. When the choir returned to Székelykeresztúr in 2007, we were greeted by the Keresztúri choir, formed since our first visit, singing a beautiful rendition of the *Székely Áldás*. There were tears.



In 2002, I knew so little about the *Áldás* or about Transylvania. When I got there, and saw the *áldás* carved into plates displayed on the walls of a Transylvanian pottery market, I began to realize how well-known it was in that culture. I had assumed a lot in taking those words, setting them to music, and then bringing them to Transylvania! If I were to encounter the words for the first time today, I would be hesitant about appropriating that traditional text. Even though the song was graciously received and seems to be genuinely appreciated by Transylvanians and Americans, I still blush over that first well-intentioned but privileged assumption.

It has been said that getting to know another culture is like peeling an onion. Each layer reveals new levels of understanding and leads closer to the core. And it's rarely achieved without tears. I am looking forward to returning to Székelykeresztúr with the 2018 Family Pilgrimage this month. Together we will continue to cultivate this long-standing relationship of independence and harmony, peeling the onion and deepening our understanding of ourselves and one another.

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



### **Messiah Sing**

**Easter Sunday, April 16, both 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. (NOTE service times.)**

Dust off those *Messiah* scores. Easter is coming! Singers from the congregation are invited to come to the choir loft during the final hymn on Easter Sunday and join the choir, organ, and brass in our traditional Easter postlude, G. F. Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." If you have a copy of the *Messiah*, you are welcome to bring it with you. If not, there will be some extra music available, and choir members are always willing to share. We will sing at the end of both the 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock services. Even if you don't wish to make the climb (or take the elevator) to the balcony, feel free to join in this joyous chorus on Easter morning.

### **Music Sunday – May 20**



We will perform Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass* for chorus and string orchestra—a deeply stirring piece of music that evokes the harmony of the spheres, the chaos of the city and the grounding of the individual in community. The First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra will be joined by dancers, choreographed by Sarah Ford Terrey. A very special event!



## Religious Exploration News



*Neighboring Activist Class (Grade 6), here at the bake sale, also lit the Social Action Candle on Sunday, February 11.*

“Neighboring Activists” is the name for the Grade 6 group here at First Parish in Concord. Our goal is to put our Unitarian Universalist values into action.

So far this church year, we have sent cards to inmates in Concord prisons, delivered sand to senior citizens living in Concord, weeded the garden at Hugh Cargill Community Garden for two people who couldn't, had a bake sale, completed the Crop Walk Against Hunger, and made care packages for children at local hospitals.

We enjoyed helping other people, and we felt good while we were doing these things. We hope the hundreds of people who receive our cards, sand, and care packages feel loved and appreciated. We light this Social Action Candle knowing that we have helped others and hoping to inspire others to make a difference.

## Religious Exploration

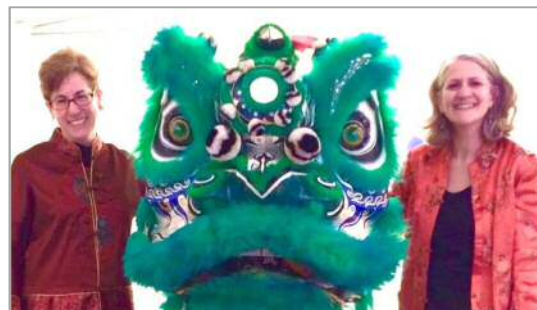
Day, Date, Time	Theme: Emergence	Description
Sunday, April 1 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Services for All Ages	Little RE Available. Easter Egg Hunt on Grounds at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 8 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Emergence from Slavery into Freedom—Passover	Religious Exploration
Sunday, April 15 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	T.B.A.	Multiage Program (K-6)
Sunday, April 22 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Earth Day	Multiage Program (K-4 and 6)
Sunday, April 29 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Emergence of Life in the Story of Evolution	Religious Exploration

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Discover more: <http://firstparish.org/wp/learning/re/>.

If you have questions about our programs for children and youth, please contact

- ♥ Dawn Van Patten, Assistant Director of Religious Education, at [dvanpatten@firstparish.org](mailto:dvanpatten@firstparish.org)
- ♥ Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education, at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).



## Youth Group

### Youth Service

#### Learning Trip to City Reach

**Friday and Saturday, April 27 to 28**

If you are a teen in grades 9 to 12, join us for a learning service trip to *City Reach* in Boston. City Reach is an organization that supports those that are experiencing homelessness in Boston. Cost is \$70. Spots are filling fast, so please be in touch soon if this is something you are interested in doing.

### Youth CON

**Friday, May 11, 6:00 p.m. to Saturday, May 12, 6:00 p.m.**

If you are a teen in grades 9 to 12, join us in May for a 24-hour *Youth CON* at the UU Church in Belmont. A great way to connect with other teens in our UU world! The theme will be social justice as it relates to mass incarceration. Cost will be around \$40.

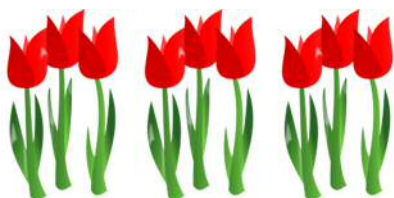
### Learning Service

Trip to Puerto Rico

**Fall 2018**

Teens and parents of teens, please keep an eye out for a letter detailing a possible fall learning service trip to Puerto Rico.

If you are interested in any of these events, please contact Jo VonRue at [jvonrue@firstparish.org](mailto:jvonrue@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602, ext. 412.





## 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: 203-931-5239



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

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

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 411

Cell: 717-412-8543

**Minister in Residence, Rev. Jo VonRue**

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

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 412

Cell: 570-899-0457



**April Pastoral Care Lay Minister, April 1-15 Peter Nobile**

Email: [peter.nobile@gmail.com](mailto:peter.nobile@gmail.com)

Cell: 617-872-4365

**April Pastoral Care Lay Minister, April 16-30 Lori Gill-Pazaris**

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

Cell: 978-505-2720

### Spiritual Enrichment Program

**“Photography as Meditation”**

**Monday afternoons in April, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Dates: April 2, 9, 16, 23 (4 sessions)**

**Explore** photography as a form of meditation practice through accessible contemplative photography and centering/meditation exercises. No experience required except knowing how to use your camera or smart phone. Bring your camera/phone to each session.

**Sign up** on the clip-board in the Front Office, or contact Marion Visel, at [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 203-931-5239 (cell). Group is limited to 14 with preference given to those who plan to attend all four sessions.



### The Holden Fund

The Holden Fund was established at First Parish in 1901, when Ellen Emerson contributed \$3,500 in honor of Nancy Holden for “daughters taking care of mothers in straitened circumstances.” The original instructions have been interpreted more liberally since then to support those who require care so they can continue to live

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in their own homes. Monthly stipends based upon need are awarded to help support caregivers (family members or paid professionals). The Holden Fund is meant to supplement other income and benefits.

Twice a year, in April and October, the Holden Fund Panel reviews applications/extension requests and emergency applications as needed.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

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

### **Holden Fund Panel**

- Rev. Howard Dana, Susan Dobbie, Alice Van Deusen, and Rev. Marion Visel.
- For information or application, contact Rev. Marion Visel at [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602, x414.

### **Come to Cook**

**Friday, June 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Kitchen**

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

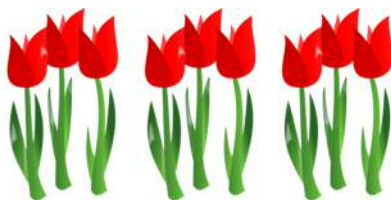
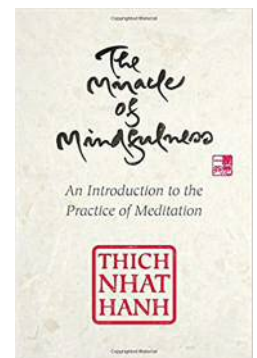


Please RSVP to Judy Dembsey, at [dembsey@verizon.net](mailto:dembsey@verizon.net) or 978-263-3272 (email preferred).

### **Pastoral Care Library**

**New book: *The Miracle of Mindfulness***

In this beautiful and lucid guide, Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh offers gentle anecdotes and practical exercise as a means of learning the skills of mindfulness—being awake and fully aware. From washing the dishes to answering the phone to peeling an orange, he reminds us that each moment holds within it an opportunity to work toward greater self-understanding and peacefulness. This edition also features Thich Nhat Hanh's inspiring calligraphy and photographs from his travels around the world. (Submitted by Enid Boasberg, Pastoral Care Librarian.)



# Standing Committee

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 8, 6:15 p.m., Emerson Room



## News Updates

### *Meeting Summary*

On March 11, the Standing Committee met in the Emerson Room. In addition to our regular business, we heard some initial information about the possibility of a cellular antenna in our steeple, we elected Toby Smith Ropeik as an incoming chair for church year 2018-2019, and discussed how to move forward with the policy revision on the 7.5% allocation for social action purposes. Next month we will be talking about the possible ordination of Mark Richards, and have further conversations with SAC about this year's pilot programs and approval for Standing Committee operations policies. Minutes from our meetings are regularly posted on the [SC website page](#).

### *All-Parish Retreat*

Thank you to Jim Sherblom and Jim Tull, who facilitated a hugely successful all-parish retreat on March 10. The themes addressed in this retreat: building connected community, changing who we are (diversifying), and reaching outward—themes that were identified from the congregational conversations and the February Survey results. The 110 first parishioners present were challenged to think about our future and invited to act as change agents in our community.

### *Thank you!*

I want to place a special call out to the Year for Reflection and Visioning subcommittee: Lora Venesy, Kate Svrcek, Tom Wilson, and Toby Smith Ropeik. This team has worked very hard to coordinate and communicate the many aspects for our "Year for Reflection and Visioning." Although the listening and visioning input that was planned has now been gathered, the work that has been identified as important is only beginning. As I write for this newsletter, our group is examining results and considering how best to proceed. An overview of the survey results is being prepared to share with the full congregation. Requests for help and further input will be forthcoming.

### *7.5% SAC Policy Update*

**Proposal discussed Sunday, April 29. Will be voted on at June 10 Annual Meeting.**

As we approach the Annual Meeting, the Standing Committee continues to work on drafting a recommended policy utilizing congregational feedback in the [Social Action Grant Survey Results](#). On April 29, the Standing committee will be discussing their policy proposal that will eventually become a warrant for the annual meeting June 10. Details will be available in the *Sunday News* and *FP Weekly*.

### *New Chair Elected*

On Sunday, March 11, the Standing Committee elected Toby Smith Ropeik to become the next chair of Standing Committee, effective June 11, 2018. Toby was recommended by the Standing Committee Leadership Task Force, after interviewing all members of the Standing Committee. In their recommendation, the group commented on Toby's excellent leadership,

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organizational and communication skills as well as her passion and vision. Congratulations Toby and thank you for taking on this role!

### ***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. 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

### **Annual Pledge Campaign**

The Annual Pledge Campaign is under way. If you have already pledged, thank you! If you have not yet pledged, please consider that by pledging annually, you show your commitment to First Parish and the love we give to each other and to our wider community.

Please bring home a pledge card and consider what you can give for next year (July 2018-June 2019). If you prefer, you may pledge online using the [Pledge Now button](#) at the “Giving” section of our website.



### **Legacy Giving Ideas**

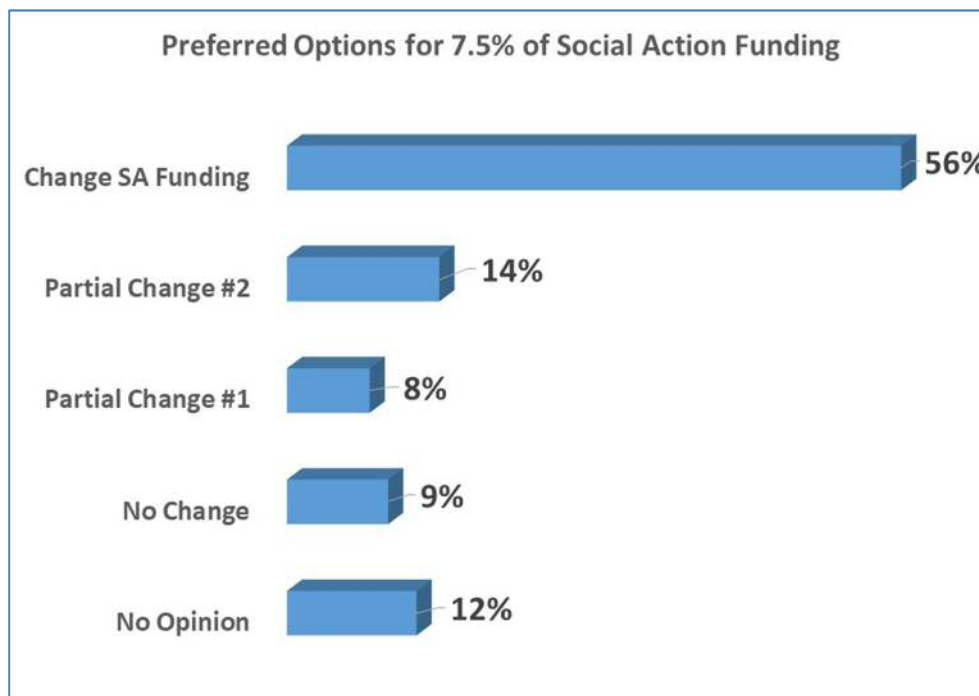
As the Legacy Giving Committee, here's another idea on how to determine the legacy commitment you want for First Parish. Several parishioners have developed an investment account where First Parish is the sole beneficiary. Each year they add the “right amount” of dollars they feel comfortable with. These dollars will grow from contributions and investment returns; that way, they are not taking anything away from their children while providing for First Parish's future. Think about it. Would this work for you? Send your ideas to Tom Wilson, chair, Legacy Committee, at [twilson@wilsongroup.com](mailto:twilson@wilsongroup.com). Thank you.



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## Social Action Grant Survey Results

As part of the *Year for Reflection and Visioning*, the Standing Committee asked you to express your preference about our current practice of setting aside 7.5% of our annual pledges for social action grants. Here is a graphic of the survey results by Preferred Options, which are defined below:



### **Change SA Funding**

Eliminate 7.5% of pledges social action allocation. Move Coordinator and budget to regular FP programs. Coordinator, in consultation with SM, SAC Board, and parishioners administers budget to support social justice efforts, which may include grants.

### **Partial Change #2**

Reduce portion of 7.5% to fund Coordinator's salary; keep remaining amount to fund Social Action Grants only.

### **Partial Change #1**

Retain 7.5% of pledges to go only to Social Action Grants. Coordinator position may be eliminated unless money is found in budget.

### **No Change**

Retain 7.5% of pledges to Social Action to be where part is used for Coordinator's salary and part is used for Grants.

The full congregation will vote on whether to reaffirm, revise, or revoke our current 7.5% policy at the Annual Meeting June 10.

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## Nominating Committee

### Can You Serve on the Standing Committee?

The Nominating Committee would like to know if you are interested in serving on the Standing Committee in the future! Standing Committee members serve on the governing board of First Parish. In partnership with the minister, staff, and congregation, the Standing Committee establishes the policies by which our church operates.



Candidates must be members of First Parish and should have interest and experience in such matters as governance, operations, finance, committees, or other parts of church life. You can find out more about the Standing Committee and the Nominating Committee on the First Parish website. If interested, please email [eric.aaron.moore@gmail.com](mailto:eric.aaron.moore@gmail.com).

## Arts at First Parish

### Fostering Community through the Arts

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



## Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Friday	April 6	7:00 p.m. Concord Academy	AWE Movie Night—Annual Lunafest at Concord Academy
Wednesday	April 11	6:30 p.m.	Arts Council meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	April 14	9:30 a.m.	First Parish Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults)
Friday	April 27	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly song circle)
Sunday	May 20	10:00 a.m.	Music Sunday—Ola Gjeilo's <i>Sunrise Mass</i> : First Parish Choir, Festival (string) Orchestra, and dancers

For more information on these events, check this *Meeting House News*, FP Weekly and the *Sunday News*.

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.

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## Call for People with Special Skills

### New Arts Events Resource List



The number of arts events at First Parish is growing. To help people coordinate their event, we are compiling a resource list of people with special skills who may be able to assist with planning music events, plays, art exhibits, poetry readings, and more. If you have a skill such as producing, directing, writing (press releases, articles, brochures or posters, photography, etc.) and would like to help, please contact Susan

Page at [srpage13@gmail.com](mailto:srpage13@gmail.com) or 978-264-4271. She will add your name and be happy to answer your questions.

## Social Action Community

### Faith into Action

### Partner Congregation News

#### Cards or Gifts Delivered

#### Due by April 8 or earlier



Twenty-seven multigenerational pilgrims from First Parish will travel to visit our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, from April 12 through 23. They will be happy to deliver your card or a small, flat, lightweight gift (or cash) for scholarship students and friends.

You may leave items in the PCC box in the church office by April 8 or sooner, or mail them to Rodger Mattlage, P.O. Box 541, Lincoln, MA 01773. Contact Rodger, at [mattlage@mac.com](mailto:mattlage@mac.com) with any questions.

Many thanks to all those who came to our recent fundraiser, and/or bid on auction items. Approximately \$1,200 was raised for the Pilgrimage Assistance Fund.

### SAC Calendar

Keep an eye out for more through FP Weekly, the *Sunday News* insert, and our [Facebook page](#). For more events, you can also check out our SAC Calendar on the church bulletin board or on the door to my office (the Loft).

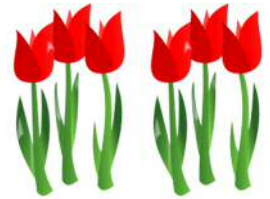


In peace and hope,  
Zach

Zachary Roe  
Social Action Coordinator  
[zroe@firstparish.org](mailto:zroe@firstparish.org), 978-369-9602, ext.450



# Women's News



## AWE Upcoming Events

### Advocates for Women's Empowerment

Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE, formerly Reproductive Justice) shares the following news:

- **LUNAFEST:** Friday, April 6, 7:00 p.m., Concord Academy Auditorium
- **Nobel Peace Prize Speaker:** Sunday, April 8, 5:00 p.m., First Parish
- **Cook and Serve:** Sunday, April 22, Rosie's Place, Boston
- **Toiletry Drive:** Month of April
- **Next Meeting:** Saturday, April 21, 8:00 a.m., First Parish

### *LUNAFEST*

Join us at LUNAFEST, a fundraising film festival by, for, and about women, to benefit women's reproductive health and cosponsored with Concord Academy in their state-of-the-art auditorium. There will be refreshments for purchase and a 50/50 raffle. Tickets, \$15 general admission, can be [purchased online](#) or at the door. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the event, contact Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).



### *Nobel Peace Prize Speaker*

Don't miss a presentation by Tawakkol Karman, the first Arab woman and second Muslim woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Ms. Karman is a women's rights and peace activist.

### *Volunteers Needed to Cook and Serve Dinner at Rosie's Place*

We are looking for volunteers age twelve and up to cook and serve dinner at Rosie's Place in Boston. We'll carpool from church at 1:30 p.m. and return by 6:30 p.m. Past volunteers have found this a meaningful way to do direct social action work. Advance sign-up required. Contact Suzie Weaver at [skatesuzie@aol.com](mailto:skatesuzie@aol.com).



### *Toiletry Drive for Rosie's Place and Open Table*

Starting April 1, we invite you to put unopened full- and travel-size toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, lotion, lip balm, combs/brushes, and hygiene items (pads, tampons) in the collection boxes in the coatroom. Contact Suzie Weaver ASAP at [skatesuzie@aol.com](mailto:skatesuzie@aol.com).

### *Monthly Meetings*

Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Our meetings and events are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions who wish to advance women's rights and improve their lives.

### *Mailing List*

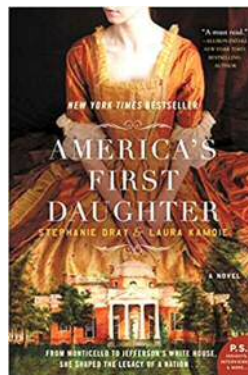
To join, contact Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).

## Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, April 23, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Tuesday, April 24, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

For April we will be reading the historical novel *America's First Daughter*, by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a discussion. There's no need to sign up!



## Remaining Dates and Books for 2017-2018

Date	Book	Author
April 23/24	<i>America's First Daughter</i>	Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie
May 21/22	<i>Necessary Lies</i>	Diane Chamberlain
June TBD	Annual Potluck and Book Choosing for 2018-2019	

## Women's Parish Association

### Flea Market Coming

Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Parish Hall and Parlor

Get ready to donate to this important fundraiser organized by the Women's Parish Association.

- ♦ **Donations:** Contact Melita Teichert at [mmtconcord1@gmail.com](mailto:mmtconcord1@gmail.com) to arrange for donations of household items, collectibles, antiques, jewelry, toys, etc.
- ♦ **Pick Up:** Contact Marilyn Lowitt at [marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net](mailto:marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net) or 978-793-0267 if you need items picked up.
- ♦ **Table Rental:** Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [pekinc@comcast.net](mailto:pekinc@comcast.net) to rent a table. Rental fee is \$35. Tables are going fast, so rent one now!



Bring friends and family to this fun day of socializing, snacks and lunch, and shopping for bargains!

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***Tour Walden Pond Visitor Center***  
**Special Tour of Stunning New Visitor Center**  
**Wednesday, May 16, 11:00 a.m.**

Another popular off-site visit and bagged lunch program is being planned. There will be a morning visit and tour of the stunning new Walden Pond Visitor Center, with its interactive exhibits and a new welcome video about Thoreau and Walden produced by Ken Burns. The LEED Gold, net zero energy building is well worth the visit! You'll also have time to shop in the new Thoreau Society Shop.



Bring a bagged lunch and meet back at First Parish afterward for more conversation. Dessert and drinks will be provided. More details to follow. Contact Dian Pekin at [pekincd@comcast.net](mailto:pekincd@comcast.net) for reservations.

## Other Cool Stuff

### ***Amnesty International, Group 15***

**Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room**

**Speaker: Thursday, April 26, 7:00 p.m., Monument Hall, 62 Monument Square**



Mark your calendars! Sister Helen Prejean ("Dead Man Walking") will be with us April 26. At our meeting we'll be finalizing last-minute arrangements for her visit. Ongoing projects include Massachusetts prison reform, death penalty abolition, the prevention of violence against women worldwide, and the freeing of two Azerbaijanian student activists.

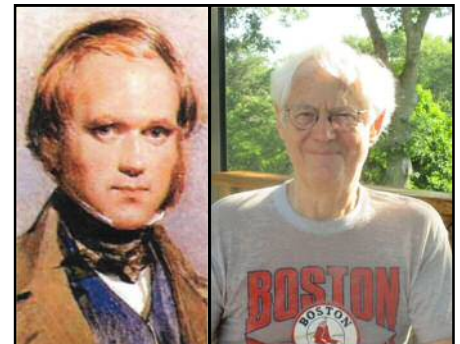
All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons at [njlyons22@gmail.com](mailto:njlyons22@gmail.com) or 978-369-6109.

### ***Concord Area Humanists***

**First Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

#### **April 4 – Bryan Hamlin** **"Darwin As A Person"**

Hamlin commenced university in 1959—centennial year of the publication of Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species*. Aware of this, he studied early life forms, majoring in microbiology. What was Darwin like as a person? We will look at his family life, friendships, his health struggles. What did he believe, and how does his scientific work stand the test of time? We will also discuss Darwin's links with the United States, including the Boston area.



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## **May 2 – Roy Speckhardt** **“Humanism and Change”**

Speckhardt, Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, will draw from his book *Creating Change through Humanism*. He will discuss the modern humanist movement, being at the forefront of such social issues as civil rights, women’s rights, religion-free science, LGBTQ equality, and environmental preservation. He will argue for the need to be open about being “good without god,” and combating the anti-humanist prejudice of the Religious Right. His book will be for sale.



Questions to Pat Everett, [pne@aol.com](mailto:pne@aol.com).

## **Cooperative Passover Seder** **Saturday, April 7, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

Our Passover Seder is a fun and meaningful ritual for all ages! Rev. Amy Freedman is leading our Seder with Dana Snyder-Grant and Zach Roe. Our gathering will include a retelling of the Passover story and a potluck dinner.

Whether you have a Jewish background or have never attended a Seder before, you are welcome. Each person is asked to choose a job (setup or serving or cleanup) and to bring one or two items. [Sign up online](#) or on the [First Parish website](#). Questions? Contact Dana Snyder-Grant at 978-760-1129 or [dana.snydergrant@gmail.com](mailto:dana.snydergrant@gmail.com).

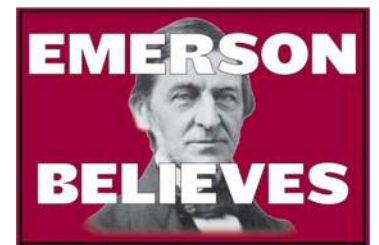


## **“Emerson Believes”**

**Lecture and Seminar**  
**Tuesday, April 10, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Emerson Room**  
**Preregistration required**

The Transcendentalism Council is sponsoring Emerson scholar Wendell Refior to give a brief lecture on the beliefs, influences, and thought of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

A seminar will follow, where participants can discuss selections from Emerson’s works, including “Nature,” “Self-Reliance,” “Spiritual Laws,” “Circles,” “The Transcendentalist,” “The Over-Soul,” and Divinity School Address. (NOTE: This image of Emerson is used by permission of the Concord Free Public Library.)



Limited to 20. Preregistration required. Fee: \$10. Contact Dianne Weiss at [diannemcweiss@comcast.net](mailto:diannemcweiss@comcast.net) or sign up in the church office. To hold your place, please

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send a check to First Parish in Concord and on the subject line enter: Transcendentalism Council.

## **Ferry Beach Retreat**

**Friday to Monday, May 25 - 28**

**Registration: April 8 - 29**

Join families, couples, and singles from our congregation and First Parish in Lexington for this relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine, over Memorial Day Weekend. Registrations will be taken during coffee hours and in the church office.

As of April 8, the Registration Packet can be downloaded from [www.firstparish.org/forms](http://www.firstparish.org/forms). To check out the campus, summer camps, and conferences for all ages, visit <http://www.ferrybeach.org/>. For questions or to inquire about scholarship assistance, contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).



## **FP Announce Changes**

**New Name and Format**

**Starting Monday, April 2**

“First Parish Announce” email will be switching to a once-a-week format and will now be known as “First Parish Weekly.” Instead of daily email notices, you will receive one longer-format email each Monday. These will contain the events for the following two weeks, as well as events further out on the horizon.

Submission guidelines will remain the same as they were for First Parish Announce. “Publicizing Events at First Parish” brochures can be found outside the front office. For questions or concerns, contact Sarah Burns at [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).



## **First Tuesday Group**

**“Play it again, Sam—Music around the world”**

**Tuesday, April 3, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

We will gather around Jerry Hurley on the piano and sing songs for a “round the world tour” celebrating foreign countries and cities (songs such as *Lady of Spain*, *Waltzing Maltida*, *I Love Paris*). At each stop on our journey, Anne Fortier will lead a quick exercise where participants can share (in a few words) a personal experience from that part of the world. There may well be time for your favorite song to be included, so come prepared to hum a few bars for the piano player!

While our focus is senior affairs, please come if you are interested, whatever your age. For

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

## Patriots' Day Parade

**Monday, April 16, Gathering at 8:30 a.m.,  
Stowe Street near the Hunt Gym**

The First Parish [Reclaim Our Democracy](#) group and its supporters will be marching in this year's Patriots' Day Parade in Concord. Please join us and help support our cause! If you are interested in participating, please email Fred Van Deusen at [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com).



## Talk and Walk with Jim Sherbloom

**"Transcendentalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"**

**Sunday, April 15, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., new Walden Pond Visitor  
Center, 915 Walden Street, Concord**

What is transcendentalism and how does it fit into modern life? Are you a transcendentalist? Come learn about transcendentalism from our own twenty-first century Concord transcendentalist, Rev. Dr. Jim Sherbloom, author of *Spiritual Audacity: Six Disciplines of Human Flourishing*. Following Jim's talk, join him for a transcendental walk into the wildness of Walden Pond.

## Communications at First Parish

**To whom and by when do I send my submission?**

Please pick up a copy of the brochure "Publicizing Events at First Parish in Concord" on the table outside the church office.

## Publicity Deadlines

Next May Meeting House News deadline: **April 17, 2018**

Next Publication Date: **April 25, 2018**

- **FP Weekly (formerly "Announce") Deadline** – Noon Friday for following week
  - **Sunday News Deadline** – Noon Wednesday before the Sunday service
- Please note that the order of service insert, or *Sunday News*, is compiled, formatted, printed, folded, and inserted on Fridays. As you can imagine, it takes time to pull this all together in an already busy office, and last minute submissions are problematic. Please plan ahead. Your insert copy **MUST** be received by noon on Wednesday. Much appreciated. Thanks for your help.

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### Steps for Publicizing a First Parish Event

1. Plan ahead; then add a “fudge factor”—extra time for committee review and for Editor’s questions. We need you to adhere to deadlines.
2. How much lead time does the Editor need? Which Editor?
  - a. **Weekly** email – FP Weekly; send to Sarah Burns by Friday noon
  - b. **Sunday** insert – *Sunday News*; send to Sarah by Wednesday noon
  - c. **Monthly** newsletter – *Meeting House News (MHN)*; send to Wendy by the deadline noted in the first two pages of your last *MHN* or on the [website under “News”](#).
3. Write draft, send for review, rewrite, and send to Editor before deadline.

### Editor Information

FP Weekly (formerly “Announce”), *The Sunday News*  
Sarah Burns, Office Administrator and Editor  
978-369-9602  
[sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org)



*Meeting House News (MHN)*  
Wendy Wolfberg, Editor  
978-578-1077, cell  
[wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu) (email preferred)



We are glad to answer any questions. Please review deadlines and guidelines.  
Thank you.



### Meeting House Newsletter Deadlines

Updated as of March 14:

Issue	Deadline	Publication
May	17-Apr-18	25-Apr-18
Jun*	15-May-18	23-May-18
Sep	21-Aug-18	29-Aug-18
Oct	18-Sep-18	26-Sep-18
Nov	16-Oct-18	24-Oct-18
Dec	13-Nov-18	21-Nov-18
Jan 2019	11-Dec-18	19-Dec-18
Feb 2019	15-Jan-19	23-Jan-19

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

### Questions?

Please contact the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg: [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu) or cell phone, 978-578-1077 (email preferred). Thank you!



# First Parish 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 Weekley:** 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 © 2018 First Parish in Concord, Unitarian Universalist*

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Add us to your address book*

***Love, Light, and Community  
at First Parish  
Happy April!***

