



## What's Happening at First Parish?

# MEETING HOUSE NEWS

**DECEMBER 2018**



Photo by Lois Suarez



### SAVE THE DATES!

*Children's Crafts Workshop, December 1*  
*WPA Holiday Concert and Tea, December 8*  
*Copley Singers Concert, December 14*

## Table of Contents

Sundays at First Parish	3
Worship-at-a-Glance	3
Special Events	3
Blue Holidays Vespers	3
Holiday Memorial Wreath	4
Poinsettia Celebration	4
Poinsettia Delivery	4
Secret Santa	4
Share the Plate	5
Pastoral Care	5
Ministers	5
Programs	5
First Tuesday Group	5
Come to Cook	6
Exploring Spiritual Disciplines	6
Cancer Support Group	6
Caregiver Support Group	7
Music Ministry	7
MUUsings	7
Copley Singers Holiday Concert	8
Religious Education (RE) News	8
Message from Amy	8
December RE at A Glance	9
Guest at Your Table	9
Legacy Giving Committee	9
Operations	10
Weather Closing Policy	10



Photo by Susan Page

## Next Meeting House News

**Deadline: December 11**

**Publication: December 19**

Arts at First Parish	10
Events at A Glance	10
Copley Singers Holiday Concert	11
Social Action Community	11
Amnesty International, Group 15	11
Women's News	12
AWE Upcoming Events	12
Women's AM/PM Book Group	13
Women's Parish Association	13
Holiday Concert and Tea	13
Women's Retreats 2019	13
Other Cool Stuff	14
Children's Holiday Craft Workshop	14
Partner Congregation News	14
Refurbished Organ Update	14
Scholarships Update	15
Student Group to Visit	15
Communications at First Parish	15
Update to <i>The Sunday News</i>	15
Publicity Deadlines	17
First Parish General Information	17
Celebration Handout	19





## Sundays at First Parish

*A welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.*



### Worship-at-a-Glance

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

#### **Sunday, December 2 – “Hanukkah and Resistance”**

Zachary Roe, Social Action Director  
First Parish Choir

#### **Sunday, December 9 – “For the Love of Advent”**

Laurel Gray, Ministerial Intern  
First Parish Choir

#### **Sunday, December 16 – “Dickens Christmas”**

Rev. Amy Freedman  
First Parish Choir and Children’s Choirs

#### **Sunday, December 23 – “Solstice: The Showing of the Sacred”**

Rev. Marion Visel  
First Parish Choir

#### **Sunday, December 30 – “What We Cast Off and What We Carry”**

Laurel Gray, Ministerial Intern  
Pamela Schweppe and Tamasin Foote, sopranos

#### **Sunday, January 6 – “The Ordinary and Ordination”**

Rev. Gary Smith, Minister Emeritus  
The Concorde



### Special Events

#### *Blue Holidays Vespers*

#### **“The Solace of Winter”**

**Tuesday, December 4, 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel**

Gather in community to find stillness in the midst of all that is going on in the world and in your own life. Find comfort in the beauty of candles, music, and understanding. Rev. Marion Visel, Ministerial Intern, Laurel Gray, Beth Norton, and the By Your Side Singers will offer a holiday alternative—a quiet space to share reflective words and music of solace. Though the winter holidays are not always merry, this time can be a time of loving kindness and gentle community. All are welcome.

*Continued next page.*



### ***Holiday Memorial Wreath***

#### **In the Sanctuary through December**

The Holiday Memorial Wreath located at the front of the Sanctuary is a way to acknowledge the memory of a loved one who has died. Tie a ribbon to the wreath for those you wish to remember. The wreath will remain in the Sanctuary through December. We also invite you to tie a black ribbon on the wreath in memory of black lives lost to injustice.

### ***Poinsettia Celebration***

**Donate a plant in memory or honor of a loved one  
Sundays, December 9 and 16, 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 23 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 9 and 16 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 16 (suggested amount \$20).

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

### ***Poinsettia Delivery***

**Wednesday, December 26, at 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary**

Bring good cheer to a parish member and perhaps meet someone for the first time by helping with the deliveries of Christmas poinsettias. Contact Caitlin Selle at [selle.caitlin5@gmail.com](mailto:selle.caitlin5@gmail.com) or 978-371-3915 to let her know you plan to deliver a plant or two and meet her in the Sanctuary to pick up the plants for delivery.

### ***Secret Santa***

**Pick Names: Coffee Hour, Sundays, December 2 and 9  
Gifts Collected: Coffee Hour, Sundays, December 9 and 16**

Make a difference this holiday season! Be part of this beloved First Parish tradition. Our wish lists this year are coming from Renewal House, Walden Street School, and the Eliot Center. These gifts truly matter to those receiving them.



Come pick names at coffee hour on December 2 and 9 and deliver your unwrapped gifts back to coffee hour either December 9 or 16. Gifts will be collected and delivered to the recipients before Christmas. Any questions? Contact Bob Brack at [brackrobert@gmail.com](mailto:brackrobert@gmail.com) or 508-735-6394 (e-mail preferred).

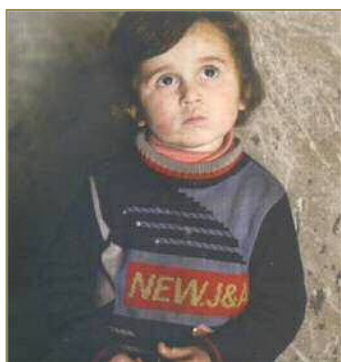
*Continued next page.*





## *Share the Plate*

### **December's Recipient – International Rescue Committee**



The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover, and gain control of their future. When an emergency arises, the IRC arrives on the scene within 72 hours with urgently needed supplies and expertise. They have won top marks by charity watchdog groups for efficiency and effectiveness. Please consider giving generously to help the IRC's work. Please check out their good work at <https://www.rescue.org/>. Questions? Contact Kathy Spang, [katalinspang@yahoo.com](mailto:katalinspang@yahoo.com) or 781-273-0032.

## **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

##### **Ministerial Intern, Laurel Gray**

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

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 412

Cell: 401-932-7855

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

Email: [dana.snydergrant@gmail.com](mailto:dana.snydergrant@gmail.com)

Cell: 978-760-1129



## **Programs**

### *First Tuesday Group*

#### **Winter Holiday Celebration – “Winter Holiday Photos and Song”**

**December 4, from 1:30-3:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

Our Winter Holiday Celebration begins with winter photographs from three First Parish Photo Club members, followed by small groups sharing personal photos of the winter season. The afternoon concludes with everyone gathering around Gerry Hurley at the piano for holiday songs and refreshments.

*Continued next page.*



Please come with a winter holiday photo that you are willing to share. Refreshments will include eggnog, cookies, coffee, tea, and...your favorite holiday treat if you bring a plate to share (welcome, but not required).

While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years. For more information, contact Virginia Taylor at [virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net](mailto:virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net) or 978-263-9777.

### ***Come to Cook***

**Friday, December 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Kitchen**

The Caring Connection provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition. It is time to fill the freezer again. Join us December 7 in the First Parish kitchen. If you are willing to help, please RSVP to Judy Dembsey at [judydembsey@gmail.com](mailto:judydembsey@gmail.com) or 978-263-3272 (email preferred).

### ***Exploring Spiritual Disciplines***

**“Spiritual Audacity: Six Disciplines of Human Flourishing”**

**Mondays, January 14 – February 25, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (no class February 18), Chapel**

Jim Sherblom will lead a program based on his new book exploring spiritual disciplines:

- Resilience or self-reliance
- Ego surrender, surrendering self to attain higher Self
- Gratitude transforms our well being
- Generosity transforms our relationship to others
- The Unknowable nature of divine mystery
- Spiritual awakening, realizing our best self

We will be doing and discussing exercises for self-realization from the book. The class size is limited. Please preregister at [jimsherblom@gmail.com](mailto:jimsherblom@gmail.com) or in the church office.

### ***Cancer Support Group***

**Wednesdays, 9:15 -10:30 a.m., Greeley Room**

**September 19; October 3, 17; November 7, 21; December 5, 19**

All cancer patients and survivors (First Parish member or not) are welcome to join this free, confidential, and caring support group. The group provides gentle embodied support through the sharing of our stories while being present to others. Drawing on the practice of InterPlay®, we'll explore our experiences through simple movement, words, sound, and stillness, and engage in ways of moving through them. The emphasis will be on our present experiences to know better the next steps on our path. New members welcome.

For more information on InterPlay: [www.interplay.org](http://www.interplay.org). Questions and sign up, contact C.C. King, MA in Expressive Therapies, certified InterPlay® Leader and trainer, visual artist, teacher and workshop facilitator, [ccking.interplay@gmail.com](mailto:ccking.interplay@gmail.com).

*Continued next page.*





### Caregiver Support Group

**Monthly on First Mondays, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.**

Are you caring for a family member, an aging parent (perhaps while caring for your children), an ill spouse, a sibling or a child with physical or mental issues? Whether you are providing direct care or overseeing care at a distance, you don't have to sacrifice yourself in the process. Get support from others while learning new coping skills. We welcome new members to join this ongoing group.

Contact Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 203-931-5239, or Diane Clapp, [dianebamclapp@gmail.com](mailto:dianebamclapp@gmail.com) to learn more, or if you are unable to attend Monday afternoon meetings.

## Music Ministry

### MUUsings

"One Christmas was so much like the other, in those years around the sea-town corner . . . that I can never remember whether it snowed for six days and six nights when I was twelve, or whether it snowed for twelve days and twelve nights when I was six . . ." (Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales")



Dylan Thomas' evocative opening words from this beloved story come to mind as I prepare for what will be my 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve at First Parish in Concord. While there are particular memories that stand out from the last quarter of a century of Christmas Eve services—like the year we celebrated all together outside because the Sanctuary was still under renovation, or the year the choir sang the "Silent Night" words printed in the hymnal while the congregation sang the "real" words that everyone knows—each Christmas Eve has been pretty much like the other. I can't remember exactly when any of these things happened. They are all enfolded into the timelessness of Christmas rituals. Details change, and traditions are tweaked over the years, but the essential nature of our Christmas celebration has remained comfortably constant.

All that said, 2018 is a year when we'll introduce a few changes to this otherwise established tradition. Most of them having to do with music. As with other years, we'll have four evening services (3:00, 5:00, 7:00 and 9:00), each ending with lighted candles and "Silent Night." The 3:00 p.m. family service will feature the Children's Choirs, led by Gail Carey, and a brass quartet playing carols. The Gospel Ensemble led by Anderson Manuel, and our "house band" led by Gail Carey, will offer the 5:00 p.m. music. The 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. services will each have organ accompaniment by our Parish organist, Eric Huenneke.

The Conchords quartet will provide anthems at the earlier service, and the First Parish Choir at the final service of the evening. See "Celebrate," at the end of this newsletter, for more details about celebrating the holidays at First Parish.



*Continued next page.*



Who knows what memories will crystalize around Christmas 2018. Will we recall these particular changes a generation hence? What I know is that it will be a blessing to join once again with this community to celebrate the rebirth of hope at Christmastide.

Blessings,

Beth

Beth Norton, Director of Music Ministry

Contact: [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602, ext. 420

### **Copley Singers Holiday Concert**

**Friday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary**

**[See page 11 for details.](#)**



## **Religious Education (RE) News**

### **Message from Amy**

During this holiday season, I encourage you to make time and space to light a chalice with your family. Thirty-nine children painted their own chalices during a recent Multiage program. If your

family did not attend that Sunday, you can make a chalice out of a flower pot, order one from a UU potter online, or simply use a candle.

Lighting a chalice at home is a way to bring a centering moment or a shared ritual into your everyday life. Times to light a chalice include at mealtimes, during meditation, or while celebrating special milestones or offering prayers for loved ones.

You can light your chalice in silence or read a poem or other inspiring words. Many families have everyone share something from their day. You might ask:



- What are you grateful for today?
- What is one kind thing you did for someone today?
- Who is in your heart and on your mind today?

Blessings of the season, Amy

Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education

[afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602



*Continued next page.*





## December RE at A Glance

Day, Date, Time	Theme	Description
<b>Sunday, December 2</b> 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Hanukkah	Religious Education
<b>Sunday, December 9</b> 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Advent	Religious Education
<b>Sunday, December 16</b> 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Winter Solstice	Religious Education (Return Guest boxes to First Parish.)
<b>Sunday, December 23</b> 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Holiday Tea	Multi-age Program
<b>Sunday, December 30</b> 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	"What We Cast Off and What We Carry"	Sunday Service for All Ages Led by Laurel Gray No RE or Little RE

## Guest at Your Table

**Return Box: Sunday, December 16**

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



Please bring your "Guest at Your Table" box back to church on Sunday, December 16. Our UU Tweens (Grades 4 and 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 [uuscs.org](http://uuscs.org). Questions? Email Amy: [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

## Legacy Giving Committee

### Legacy Investment Fund

**"Financing Our Future and Expanding our Horizons" Panel Discussion**

**Sunday, December 2, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p. m., Sanctuary**

Come hear three First Parish members who've made legacy gifts share how and why they gave to the Legacy Investment Fund, First Parish's "endowment." Over time we hope to increase the fund so it can finance more of the annual operations, sustain our properties, provide a safety net, and expand our reach. Come hear how you can help generate current income, see it at work, and more. Questions? Contact Tom Wilson, chair, Legacy Giving Committee, [twilson@wilsongroup.com](mailto:twilson@wilsongroup.com) or 617 281-1198.



## Operations

### Weather Closing Policy

#### When does First Parish close, cancel events, or delay opening?

Generally, when the Town of Concord closes schools and/or Town buildings, First Parish closes. If the state governor issues a state of emergency, possibly including a travel ban, First Parish will close. First Parish may also close when the National Weather Service issues a local blizzard or major storm warning.



#### Where to Find Information

When a decision is made to close, or delay the opening of, First Parish, details will be announced via

- First Parish website, <http://firstparish.org/wp/>
- Boston TV channels
  - WCVB Channel 5
  - 7NEWS/NBC
  - WBZ-TV News Channel 4 and WBZ NewsRadio 1030
- RE Announce



Please look to one of the above sources for details on any First Parish weather-related closing, cancellation, or delayed opening.

Fifi Ball

Director of Operations

[fball@firstparish.org](mailto:fball@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602, x456



## 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).

#### Events At A Glance

Day	Date	Time	Event
Saturday	Dec 1	1:30 p.m.	Children's Crafts Workshop
Friday	Dec 7	7:00 p.m.	AWE Movie Night
Saturday	Dec 8	9:30 a.m.	First Parish Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults)
Saturday	Dec 8	3:00 p.m.	WPA Holiday Concert and Tea

*Continued next page.*



Day	Date	Time	Event
Friday	Dec 14	7:30 p.m.	Copley Singers Concert
Friday	Dec 21	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Caroling

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

### Copley Singers Holiday Concert

Friday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary



Praised by The Boston Musical Intelligencer for their “nuance, sweetness, and musical conviction in a wide repertoire of Christmas works,” the Copley Singers have performed throughout New England. Choral Director Brian Jones is Emeritus Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church in Boston. The Copley Singers’ December 14 performance will offer holiday classics, and some contemporary pieces, and attendees are invited to join in “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing,” “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” and “It Came upon a Midnight Clear.” You can purchase tickets at <https://copleysingers.org/>.

## Social Action Community

Faith into Action

### Amnesty International, Group 15

“Write for Rights”

Visit Coffee Hour Table: Sunday, January 6, 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 18, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room



December is our annual “Write for Rights” meeting. This year, along with tens of thousands of people around the globe, we’ll be writing in support of selected women activists who are suffering human rights abuses in their home countries. You can become a part of this, the biggest human rights event in the world, by stopping by our table during coffee hour on January 6. Hope to see you there. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, [nilyons22@gmail.com](mailto:nilyons22@gmail.com), or 978-369-6109.



## Women's News

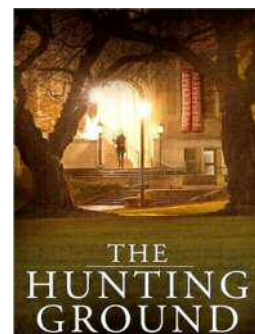
### AWE Upcoming Events

#### Advocates for Women's Empowerment

- **First Friday Film Series:** Friday, December 7, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
- **December Meeting:** Saturday, December 15, 8:00 a.m., Parlor
- **Feminist Book Group:** Wednesday, January 30, 7:00 p.m., Location TBD

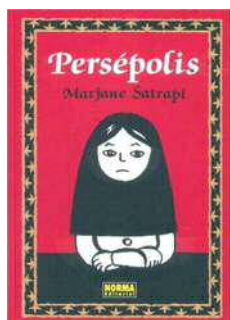
#### *Free Feminist Film Series*

We'll show *The Hunting Game*, a documentary that focuses on the epidemic of sexual assaults at U.S. colleges. This often-harrowing documentary combines the recollections of victims with disturbing statistics demonstrating the depth of the problem, while officials continue to downplay the issue. There will be an opportunity for informal discussion following the film. Contact: Lou Toussaint, [mloutoussaint@gmail.com](mailto:mloutoussaint@gmail.com).



#### *December Meeting*

Join us for our monthly business roundtable meeting, where we'll discuss the status of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities at those events. Please come if you are thinking about a specific initiative to advocate for women, or would like to positively support our events. Ideas for new initiatives may bubble up as well! Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month. All meetings and events are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions. Contact: Lora Venesy, [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).



#### *Feminist Book Group*

We'll discuss *Persepolis*, an autobiography by Marjane Satrapi. The author depicts her childhood up to her early adult years in Iran during and after the Islamic Revolution, including how the Iranian Revolution shaped her life and the lives of her friends and family. The novel narrates "counter-historical narratives that are mostly unknown by a Western reading public." *Persepolis* is a reminder of the "precarity of survival" in political and social situations such as those faced by Satrapi as a child in Iran. Contact: Merrill Comeau, [14thebeesknees@gmail.com](mailto:14thebeesknees@gmail.com).

#### *Mailing List*

To join, contact Lora Venesy, [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net). Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/concordwomen/>.

#### *Mailing List*

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







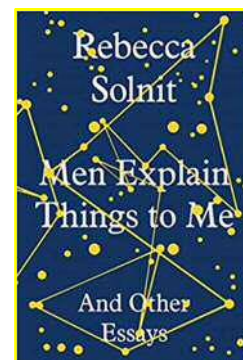
## Women's AM/PM Book Group

**Monday, December 3, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room**

**Tuesday, December 4, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room**

As has been our custom, the book group will read and discuss one book for November and December. The selection is *Men Explain Things to Me*. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the 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, contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).



## Remaining Dates and Books for 2018-2019

Date	Book	Author
Dec 3/4	<i>Men Explain Things to Me</i>	Rebecca Solnit
Jan 28/29	<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>	Celeste Ng
Feb 25/26	<i>Euphoria</i>	Lily King
Mar 25/26	<i>Perfectly Miserable: God, Guilt, and Real Estate in a Small Town</i>	Sarah Payne Stuart
Apr 29/30	<i>The Little Paris Book Shop</i>	Nina George
May 20/21	<i>Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919</i>	Stephen Puleo

## Women's Parish Association

### Holiday Concert and Tea

**Saturday, December 8, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Parish Hall**

**Reservations: By December 1**



Beautiful music by the Conchords and a delicious tea are being lovingly planned for you and your family and friends at our annual WPA Holiday Concert and Tea. This is our gift to the entire community. All men, women, youth, and children are warmly invited! There is no charge. Bring a plate of sweets to share if you wish. Reservations are not required but are helpful for planning purposes. Contact the church office at 978-369-9602 or [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) by December 1.

## Women's Retreats 2019

**Registration: December 2 to January 6**

**Senexet House: January 11-13, January 25, 27; First Parish: February 8 and 9**

Once again we will host three retreat offerings:

- ♥ **1st Weekend Away:** Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, January 11-13, at Senexet House, Connecticut. (Note: Earlier weekend than usual.)

*Continued next page.*



- ♥ **2nd Weekend Away:** Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, January 25 - 27, at Senexet House, Connecticut.
- ♥ **"At Home" Retreat:** Friday evening and Saturday morning through afternoon, February 8 and 9, at First Parish.

This year's retreats will focus on "Our Voices, Our Peace, Our Power" as we share our time together. Banish all cares as we relax, have fun, rejuvenate, get to know each other, and explore these topics, their intersection, and their meaning in our lives. All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome!



### **Registration**

Registration will begin December 2 and continue through January 6. Registration forms will be available at coffee hours on December 2, 9, 16, and January 6. Forms will also be available in the church office and online after December 2 at <https://firstparish.org/wp/news/forms/>. Late registrations will be accepted on a space available basis.

Questions About:

- **Retreats?** Contact Bozena Smith at [bozenasmith@mindspring.com](mailto:bozenasmith@mindspring.com).
- **Registration or requesting financial assistance?** Contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or 978-369-1471.

## **Other Cool Stuff**



### **Children's Holiday Craft Workshop** **Saturday, December 1, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

Come join the fun. First Parish children are invited to create beautiful handmade gifts for the holidays with the help of a merry band of elves! Cost: \$15/child; \$45/family, max.

To volunteer, contact [elf@firstparish.org](mailto:elf@firstparish.org) or Kristin Moore, Kimberly Brainerd, or Jeanne Williams.

## **Partner Congregation News**

### **Refurbished Organ Update**

With the help of a share from our congregation's generous donations at our Christmas Eve services, our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr was able to refurbish their organ, move it down to the main floor where its voice can be better heard, and then renovate the old organ loft for



*Continued next page.*



additional seating. There was a grand celebration service and concert attended by dignitaries, both local and from the Hungarian Unitarian Headquarters, including their Bishop. Many thanks to everyone in our congregation who helped to make this possible for our partners!

### *Scholarships Update*

Many thanks to all of the generous First Parishioners who made scholarship donations for deserving Transylvanian Hungarian students at the Keresztúr high school and its graduates in college. The money will be sent very soon for distribution to the students before the Christmas holidays.



Berde Mózes Unitarian High School; Muses and Virtue

### *Student Group to Visit*

Transylvanian Student Folkdance Group to Visit Next Fall  
October 24 to November 4 or 5

The Partner Congregation Committee is excited to announce that we will welcome the Sékelykeresztúr Unitarian school's Vadrozsák (Wild Roses) Folkdance Group and Lelkes Band next fall on their performing tour of New England.



We expect to host 20 young dancers, musicians, and accompanying adults, as well as a five-member delegation from our partner congregation. There will be opportunities for First Parish members to be involved. Please look for more information as plans evolve. You may see a video of the dancers here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=am9vXLjYESY>

## **Communications at First Parish**

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

Are you wondering when to use *The Sunday News*, FP Weekly emails, and/or the *Meeting House News*? Are you looking for the year's MHN deadlines to put in your calendar? Well, pick up a copy of the brochure "Publicizing Events at First Parish in Concord" on the table outside the church office, and distribute it to new committee members for the latest and greatest!

### *Update to The Sunday News*

Some people with an upcoming event several weeks out, request an entry in *The Sunday News* every week to publicize their event. Due to limited space



*Continued next page.*





and the increasing number of requests for *Sunday News* entries, we are limiting to three the number of times an article can be printed in *The Sunday News*.

If you need more than one week in *The Sunday News*, when you submit it to Sarah Burns, let her know the three Sundays you want to run your publicity, whether in a row or spaced out. There is no limit to the number of times a request can appear in the FP Weekly email. Questions? Please contact Sarah at [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602.

## Publicizing First Parish Events

### 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 the brochure, “Publicizing Events at First Parish in Concord,” on the table outside the church office! Thank you.

### Steps to Send Entry

1. Plan ahead; then add a “fudge factor”—extra time for committee review and for Editor’s questions. We recommend a week. 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*; maximum three times for one event, sent 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* on the next page.
3. Write draft, send for review, rewrite, and send final form **as an attachment** to the Editor before deadline. We cannot use copy when sent within an email, due to the many added characters and additional editing required.







## Publicity Deadlines

Next *Meeting House News* deadline: **December 11, 2018**

Next Publication Date: **December 19, 2018**

- **FP Weekly Deadline** – Noon, Friday for Monday email, which includes two weeks of upcoming events.
- **The Sunday News Deadline** – Noon, Wednesday before the Sunday service. Please note that the order of service insert, or *The 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.

## Meeting House Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Publication	Holiday*
Jan-2019	11-Dec-2018	19-Dec-2018	C, 12-25-2018
<b>Feb-2019</b>	<b>15-Jan-2019</b>	<b>23-Jan-2019</b>	
Mar-2019	19-Feb-2019	27-Feb-2019	
<b>Apr-2019</b>	<b>19-Mar-2019</b>	<b>27-Mar-2019</b>	
May-2019	9-Apr-2019	17-Apr-2019	E, 4-21-2019 P, 4-19-2019
<b>Jun-2019**</b>	<b>21-May-2019</b>	<b>29-May-2019</b>	

\*Holiday = (C)Christmas, (E)Easter, (P)Passover

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

## First Parish General Information

### Office Hours

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 Weekly:** Sign up to receive announcements by email, <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/>



*Continued next page.*



**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. All rights reserved. FPC Meeting House News December 2018. Add us to your address book.*





# CELEBRATE!

HOLIDAY AND DECEMBER EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR 2018

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD

SEE COMPLETE DETAILS OF THE HOLIDAY EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE *MEETING HOUSE NEWS*.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP: ADVENT

*"Against the darkness winter brings, we bring our light. The candles of our hearts lit by the Advent Star. In darkened places, to guard the longest night."* —Ernest Sommerfeld  
Sunday, December 2, 10:00 a.m.: "Hanukkah as Resistance."

Zach Roe, First Parish Choir

Sunday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.: "For the Love of Advent."

Laurel Gray, First Parish Choir

Sunday, December 16, 10:00 a.m.: "Dickens' Christmas," Rev.

Amy Freedman, First Parish Choir and Children's Choirs.

Sunday, December 23, 10:00 a.m.: "Solstice: The Showing of the Sacred." Rev. Marion Visel, First Parish Choir.

Sunday, December 30, 10:00 a.m.: All Ages Service, Laurel Grey, Pamela Schweppe and Tamasin Foote, soloists.

## WORSHIP: CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Christmas Eve service with music by our Children's Choirs and Brass Ensemble.

5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Christmas Eve service with music by the Gospel Ensemble and Contemporary Band

7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve service with music by The Conchords and organist, Eric Huenneke.

9:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve service with music by the First Parish Choir and organist, Eric Huenneke.

*Each evening service concludes with candle lighting and "Silent Night"*

## REMEMBER

### The Holiday Memorial Wreath

The Holiday Memorial Wreath, located at the front of the Sanctuary, is a way to acknowledge the memory of a loved one who has died. Tie a colored ribbon to the wreath for those you wish to remember. You are invited to tie a black ribbon on the wreath in memory of black lives lost to injustice. The wreath will remain in the Sanctuary throughout the holidays.

## WORSHIP: BLUE HOLIDAYS VESPERS "The Solace of Winter"

**Tuesday, December 4, 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel**

Gather in community to find stillness in the midst of all that is going on in the world and in your own life. Find comfort in the beauty of candles, music, and understanding. Rev. Marion Visel, Ministerial Intern Laurel Gray, Beth Norton, and the By Your Side Singers will offer a holiday alternative—a quiet space to share reflective words and music of solace. Though the winter holidays are not always merry, this time can be a time of loving kindness and gentle community. All are welcome.

## LISTEN AND COMMUNE

### Holiday Concert and Tea

**Saturday, December 8, 3:00 p.m.**

This year's Holiday Concert and Tea, sponsored by the Women's Parish Association, will add a special sparkle to your holiday season. The a cappella singing group, The Conchords, will entertain you with a variety of seasonal and popular songs. Following the concert, enjoy a festive tea. There is no charge for this event. Attendees, please bring a plate of sweets to share, if you can. Bring family and friends for a joyful afternoon! Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) by December 5 for reservations. All men, women, youth, and children are warmly invited!

### Copley Singers Holiday Concert

**Friday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.**

Praised by The Boston Musical Intelligencer for their "nuance, sweetness, and musical conviction in a wide repertoire of Christmas works," The Copley Singers' December 14 performance will offer holiday classics, some contemporary pieces, and attendees are invited to join in "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and "It Came upon a Midnight Clear." You can purchase tickets at <http://copleysingers.org>.

## SING

### Rise Up Caroling

**Friday, December 21, 7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

All are invited to "Rise Up Caroling," an informal evening of carol singing on Friday, December 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Singers of all ages; please bring voices, instruments, and cookies to share. Carol lyrics and sheet music for instrumentalists are provided.

## HONOR

### Donate a Poinsettia in Memory of a Loved One

On Sundays, December 9 and 16, 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 23 order of service, and the poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary throughout the holidays. To donate a poinsettia, visit the poinsettia table at coffee hour following the December 9 and 16 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), or eave a note and donation in the office before December 16 (suggested amount \$20). Your donation supports the work of the Flower Committee throughout the year.

## SHARE

### **Moms' Night Out Annual Holiday Cookie Swap Friday, December 7, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

Bake a batch or two and come swap cookies and recipes with fellow members of our community. Please bring a dozen or more cookies (the amount you wish to exchange), a label listing the ingredients, and a snack or drink to share. Celebrate the season, enjoy a fire in the fireplace, and take home some delicious treats for the holidays! RSVP to Leah Russell at [leahkrussell@gmail.com](mailto:leahkrussell@gmail.com) or 978-266-1216 (email preferred).

### **Help Deliver Poinsettias**

#### **Wednesday, December 26, 10:00 a.m.**

Deliveries of Christmas poinsettias will take place Wednesday, December 26, at 10:00 a.m. Bring good cheer to a parish member and perhaps meet someone for the first time. Contact Caitlin Selle at [selle.caitlin5@gmail.com](mailto:selle.caitlin5@gmail.com) or 978-371-3915 to let her know you plan to deliver a plant or two, and meet her in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, December 26, at 10:00 a.m.

## CREATE

### **Children's Holiday Craft Workshop**

#### **Saturday, December 1, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

The Children's Holiday Craft Workshop will be held on Saturday, December 1, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. First Parish children are invited to spend the afternoon creating beautiful handmade gifts for the holidays, with the help of an intergenerational community of adult and teen elves. This has been a First Parish holiday tradition for more than 40 years! Cost: \$15 per child, max \$45 per family; no RSVP needed. To volunteer, contact [elf@firstparish.org](mailto:elf@firstparish.org) or ask one of the Head Elves: Kimberly Brainerd, Kristin Moore, and Jeanne Williams.

## DELIGHT

### **Join the Little Angels Choir**

#### **Sunday, December 9, 10:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary**

The world needs more angels! On Sunday, December 9, our yearly tradition of joy, the Little Angels Choir, will be transformed to include the whole congregation. In the service, during the Message to Children, all those who feel angelic are invited to don a halo and join the choir. Halos provided.

## GATHER

### **Christmas Caroling**

#### **Sunday, December 23, 1:00 p.m.**

Come help bring holiday cheer to our parishioners and others who can't get out this season. Singers of all ages welcome! We will meet in the Parlor on Sunday, December 23, at 1:00 p.m. and then carpool to area nursing facilities to sing. Afterward, we'll head back to First Parish to enjoy cookies and hot

chocolate together. Feel free to wear festive attire and bring cookies to share. Please sign up by calling the church office at 978-369-9602 or by emailing Rev. Amy Freedman at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org). Drop-ins are also welcome!

## SERVE

### **Secret Santa**

Each year, First Parish reaches out to the Walden Street School, the Eliot Center, and UU Urban Ministries to provide Christmas Wish lists from their clients. At coffee hour on both December 2 and December 9, you will have an opportunity to select from these lists. After purchasing the present(s), you return them, unwrapped but tagged with the person's first name and organization, to First Parish. The deadline for delivering the gift to First Parish is Sunday, December 16. The gifts will be delivered to the organizations before Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Brack at [brackrobert@gmail.com](mailto:brackrobert@gmail.com) or 508-735-6394 (e-mail preferred).

## GIVE

### **Welcome a Guest at Your Table**

During the holiday season, everyone is asked to remember the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and their grassroots partners around the world. Guest at Your Table boxes sit on your dining room table during the holiday season, collecting spare change and dollars. This practice reminds us of our blessings and the importance of sharing. If you did receive a box in worship on November 18, please pick up one from the church office after Thanksgiving. Please return your box to First Parish by Sunday, December 16, so our 4th and 5th graders may count our contributions.

## CELEBRATE

### **Three Kings Day with Santuario Luterano**

#### **Sunday, January 6, 5:00 p.m., at Santuario Luterano**

Join Zach Roe and members of First Parish as we visit Santuario Luterano in Waltham for the celebration of Día de los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) on Sunday, January 6. Mass will be at 5:00 p.m., and the event will begin at 6:00 p.m. Día de los Tres Reyes celebrates the arrival of the three kings from the biblical story of the nativity. There will be homemade Puerto Rican food, decorating of boxes for the youth, passing out gifts and sweets, and the Three Kings will be making an appearance as well! Santuario Luterano is a Spanish speaking Lutheran congregation led by the Rev. Ángel Marrero, who is Zach's husband. Space is limited, so please reserve a spot by RSVPing on the First Parish in Concord—Social Action Community page on Facebook ([facebook.com/fpcsac](https://facebook.com/fpcsac)), or contact Zach directly at [zroe@firstparish.org](mailto:zroe@firstparish.org).