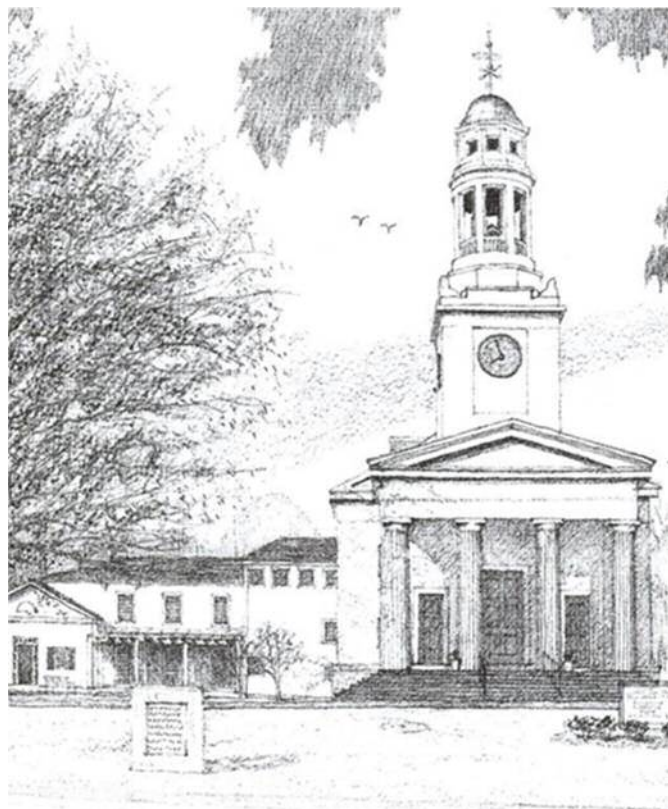




What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

JANUARY 2019



Drawing by Richard (Kel) Keleher

Next Meeting House News

Deadline: January 15

Publication: January 23

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Photo by Tom Brosnahan



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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, January 6 – “For the Time Being: A Sermon for the New Year”

Rev. Gary E. Smith, Minister Emeritus
The Conchords

Sunday, January 13 – “Moving Forward by Looking Back: How We Move Ahead During Tumultuous Times”

Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Senior Minister and Executive Director
UU Urban Ministry
First Parish Choir

Sunday, January 20 – “Called to Beloved Community”

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President
First Parish Choir

Sunday, January 27 – “Holding Loss and Hope”

Rev. Marion Visel
First Parish Choir

Sunday, February 3 – “Immigrant Experience”

A musical service for immigration justice
First Parish Choir and guest musicians

Special Events

Visit by UUA President

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association
January 20, 10:00 a.m. Worship Service – “Called to Beloved Community”



Unitarian Universalists are being called in this moment to live more powerfully and boldly into Martin Luther King’s vision of Beloved Community. What does this look like and how do we answer “Yes” to this calling in our lives and in our congregations?

Rev. Frederick-Gray’s sermon is followed by a Sunday Forum starting promptly at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary entitled, “A Conversation and Q/A with UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray.”



Listening to Past Sermons

Would you like to listen again to a sermon that touched you deeply or hear a sermon that you missed? The sermons from most all past services are recorded and are available to you on the Worship page of our website at <https://firstparish.org/wp/worship/past-worship-services/>. The services are listed by date, with the most recent listed first.

Notice the date, title, minister, playback triangle, speaker volume slider control, duration (length in minutes), and file size. Click the playback triangle to start.



Download a Podcast

The Download file link is not active, but you can download a podcast or listen from the First Parish iTunes account: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/first-parish-in-concord-sermons/id91460245?mt=2>.

Borrow a CD

If you don't want to listen online, you are welcome to sign out a CD copy of the full service, available on the bookshelf in the Parlor.

On Sabbatical

A reminder that Rev. Howard N. Dana is on a three-month sabbatical, from December through February. Granted by the Standing Committee, Rev. Dana told us in September, “I plan to use that time to rest, rejuvenate, and look forward to what is next in our ministry here. Plans are in place for the church to operate normally during the sabbatical. Rev. Marion Visel will move to full-time work during that time.”

Sunday Bouillon Volunteers Needed

We might begin making bouillon in early January again if we have enough volunteers. Remember how delicious the bouillon was on a cold winter Sunday? Can you help one Sunday a month by buying, preparing, serving, and/or cleaning up? Kel Keleher will be there most Sundays to help clean up. You could team up with a friend—one does the buying and preparation, both serve (and schmooze with parishioners enjoying the bouillon), and the other cleans up; or any other way you'd like. Please contact Kel Keleher at kel@rkeleher.com or 978-944-2734 if you are interested.





Sunday Forums

11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

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

Sunday, January 20 – Conversation and Q/A with Unitarian Universalist Association President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

The Forum Committee invites everyone to a conversation with the UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. She was elected President of the UUA on June 24, 2017. Prior to her election, she served as Lead Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, Arizona. Susan played a critical role in the long-term campaign to end the constitutional violations of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio.



Susan received a Masters of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She is a lifelong UU who grew up in the St. Louis area. She lives now in Cambridge, Massachusetts with her husband Brian and their son.

Pastoral Care

Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

Ministers

Minister for Pastoral Care, Rev. Marion Visel

Email: mvisel@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 414

Cell: 203-931-5239



Senior Minister, Rev. Howard N. Dana

Email: hdana@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 411

Cell: 717-412-8543

Ministerial Intern, Laurel Gray

Email: lgray@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 412

Cell: 401-932-7855



January Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Sally Brandon Bemis

Email: sgbrandon@me.com

Cell: 978-505-0492

Continued next page.



Pastoral Care Programs

Caring Connection Meals Program

Open Table, Welcome

Beginning this January, through the cooperation of Jeanine Calabria of Open Table and Pastoral Care, an arrangement has been made to have Open Table provide meals. We are thankful for their cooperation and look forward to the continuation of this very important Caring Connection Meals Program here at First Parish to help those during stressful times.

Caring Connection Cooks Thank-You

Thank you all who helped with the Caring Connection cooking session on Friday, December 7. The freezer is now stocked with many tasty meals.

Thanks to the efficient shoppers: Suzie Weaver, Joyce Biggs, and Holli Jones-White; and the amazing cooks: Holly Cratsley, Leslie Fisher, Laurie Foster, Kristin Haddad, Denise Howard, Joan Hurst, Betty Knake, Krysten Morganti, Linda Reynolds, Janet Rothrock, Toby Smith, Marian Stanley, Dean Aldrich and Barry Copp. We were finished in record time!



First Tuesday Group

"Capturing Memories on Paper: Our Lives in Words"

Tuesday, January 8, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

By capturing your past one story at a time, you recreate your life in words for future readers. You may also write for the personal pleasure and insight that comes from reconstructing parts of your life in words.

The workshop will be led by Virginia Taylor, who has both written and taught recording memories. Virginia will show us how to write in response to a prompt, such as my childhood best friend, the kitchen table, a turning point. Participants will have a chance to gather in small groups and share their work, if they choose.

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

Exploring Spiritual Disciplines

"Spiritual Audacity: Six Disciplines of Human Flourishing"

Mondays, January 14 – February 25, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Chapel

No class February 18

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

Continued next page.



We will be doing and discussing exercises for self-realization from the book. Class size is limited. To register, contact Jim at jimsherblom@gmail.com or sign up in the church office.

Vivienne Aldrich Thank-You

On behalf of the Pastoral Care Council and all who are involved in pastoral care, whether as cooks, doing deliveries or recipients of the Caring Connection's meals, we would like to thank Vivienne Aldrich, the meals preparation coordinator, for her outstanding efforts the past several years. She has selected recipes (some of her own), arranged the cooking days, and provided an incredibly organized kitchen. All her hard work has been very much appreciated.

Music Ministry

MUUsings

On Friday, November 2, after the massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, folks from First Parish and other faith communities in Concord gathered for a candlelight vigil on the steps outside Kerem Shalom. We greeted worshippers as they arrived for the Shabbat service with light and with song. We sang, “*Hineh ma tov umah na yim*” (How good and pleasant it is when people dwell together in unity), “Courage, my friend, you do not walk alone . . .”, “We are a gentle angry people and we are singing for our lives . . .”, “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,” and many others. The singing, unrehearsed, all-inclusive, imperfect and heartfelt, brought strangers together and gave us strength in that communal act of solidarity, sadness, and hope. And it expressed to the worshippers at Kerem Shalom the depth of our support and our love as no other gesture could.



I am literally a child of the 1960's. The backdrop for the first decade of my life was the political turmoil of that period and the music of the civil rights and Vietnam protests. The voices I heard as a very young musician were those of the sixties folk revival: Peter, Paul, and Mary, Pete Seeger, Joan Baez. From a very early age, I have understood the power of song to unite people in common cause; to express our deepest fears and our greatest vision.

The songs that were sung at 1960's demonstrations and sit-ins came out of the black church, the labor movement and the American folk song repertoire. They were songs everyone could sing; songs everyone knew, or felt they knew—songs that could be adapted to the situation. My experience in this current new era of activism, at women's marches and at anti-white supremacy marches, has been that crowds are more apt to chant (and yell) than to sing. More than once, I've had people say to me, as we marched, “I wish we could sing.” And my response is, “Then let's sing.”

If this is something you have thought, or said, at a public witness or demonstration, please come to the January 5 “Song Leading for Justice” workshop led by Matt Meyer. It promises

Continued next page.



to be an empowering, inspiring morning for all. We can all be song leaders. We don't need to look to others to make it happen.

Blessings,

Beth

Beth Norton, Director of Music Ministry

Contact: music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 420

Religious Education (RE) News

A Message from Amy

"Living Our Seven Principles" was our theme this fall. We learned about our Unitarian Universalist values and how to practice them in our daily lives.

This Winter our theme is "Celebrating Our Six Sources." As Unitarian Universalists, we draw wisdom and inspiration from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience, such as the following:

- sense of wonder we all share
- people from long ago and today, whose lives remind us to be kind and fair
- the ethical and spiritual wisdom of the world's religions
- Christian and Jewish teachings that tell us to love all others as we love ourselves
- use of reason and the discoveries of science
- harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life



If you have not done so already, please join our First Parish in Concord Families Facebook group so Dawn and I can share ideas and resources to support your family every day. You can discover more about our programs for children and teens, including schedules for each age group on our website <https://firstparish.org/wp/>.



Blessings of the season, Amy
Rev. Amy Freedman
Minister of Religious Education
afreedman@firstparish.org or
978-369-9602

Continued next page.



Religious Education

Day, Date, Time	Theme	Description
Sunday, January 6 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Wonder	Religious Exploration
Sunday, January 13 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	UU Heroes	Religious Exploration
Sunday, January 20 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	MLK Weekend	Multi-age Program
Sunday, January 27 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Kindness	Religious Exploration

OWL Parent Orientation

Sunday, January 13, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Emerson Room



First Parish is pleased to offer comprehensive sexuality education not only to adolescents but also to First, Second, and Fifth graders! Our Whole Lives (OWL) is designed to be

developmentally appropriate. Little OWL will be offered for children in Grades 1 and 2. Middle OWL is for tweens in Grade 5. This program will be offered in the spring for eight Sundays and will begin a little earlier than our regular Religious Education time. These classes will meet from 10:00-11:15 a.m.



Parents or guardians are required to attend an orientation session. If you decide not to have your child participate, they will be included in another RE class during the 8-week program. For questions or to attend the Parent Orientation, please contact Dawn Van Patten, dvanpatten@firstparish.org.

Would You Like to Join a RE Team?

Sunday, January 6, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Emerson Room

This year we have working groups focusing on certain areas of our Religious Education program. These teams meet at First Parish in the fall, winter, and spring with a shared meal and child care. The teams may choose to meet at other mutually agreeable times and/or communicate online to work together on their areas of focus. We have openings on the following teams.

Continued next page.



[Social Action Team](#)

Helping all ages make a difference in the world through education and service.

[Teacher Resource Team](#)

Supporting our volunteer teaching teams by providing resources.

[Welcome Team](#)

Creating a welcoming and warm environment for all families, including guests and newcomers.

[Youth Team—Full](#)

Our second RE Team gathering will be Sunday, January 6. If you'd like to join a team or learn more, please contact our Minister of Religious Education, Amy:

afreedman@firstparish.org.

Finances

Tax Planning

IRAs and Qualified Charitable Distributions

Are you over 70½ and worried you won't be able to deduct your gifts to First Parish under the new tax law? Not to worry. Under the new federal tax law, many IRA owners who are 70½ or older can save money on their taxes by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from their IRA directly to First Parish (or other qualified public charity). QCDs are free of income tax, up to a maximum of \$100,000, and count toward satisfying the donor's minimum IRA distributions required after age 70½.

While this technique is not new, it is even more attractive in light of the increase in the standard deduction and limitation of the deduction for state taxes. Last year, the standard deduction for a couple over sixty-five was \$15,200: \$12,700 plus \$1,250 additional per person over sixty-five. The standard deduction for a couple over sixty-five has now increased to \$26,500: \$24,000 for married couples filing jointly, plus \$1,250 per person over sixty-five. At the same time, the deduction for itemizing state taxes income and property is now capped at \$10,000. Therefore, in 2018, an over sixty-five couple would need to have more than \$16,500 of deductions, primarily charitable contributions and mortgage interest, to exceed their \$26,500 standard deduction. Many donors who have itemized their deductions in the past will no longer do so and will not save any additional taxes for their charitable contributions. But a qualified charitable distribution from the donor's IRA allows the donor to effectively keep the deduction, by removing the donated IRA funds from the donor's taxable income. And, as before, it effectively reduces your Massachusetts income by that amount as well.

Note that the requirements are specific. The company that maintains the IRA must transfer the gift directly to the qualified organization. IRA owners should not withdraw funds and then contribute them to charity separately. Amounts withdrawn in that way will be taxable to the donor. Consult with your financial advisor or IRA custodian to assure you satisfy the requirements.

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Respectfully submitted by the Finance Committee. Please contact the Director of Operations, Fifi Ball, fball@firstparish.org, with questions or comments.

Legacy Giving Committee

Supporting the Future of First Parish



On December 2, the Legacy Committee hosted a panel discussion on how we can support the future of First Parish by putting First Parish in your estate. In future issues, we will offer ideas to consider if you want to remember First Parish and be remembered by First Parish.

One quick idea is to designate First Parish as one of your beneficiaries to your IRA Account. You can set up for First Parish to receive a percentage; then you can use your funds as needed. And you can change this if ever needed. What remains supports your family and First Parish. Think about it. Thank you. Questions? Contact Tom Wilson, chair, Legacy Giving Committee, twilson@wilsongroup.com or 617 281-1198.

Operations

Weather Closing Policy

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

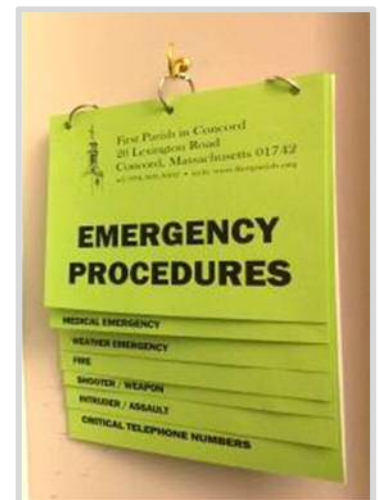
Please review Page 10 in the [December 2018](#) issue of the *Meeting House News*.

Emergency Procedures

First Parish has recently written down and posted Emergency Procedures. These cover events such as medical, weather, and fire emergencies. The Emergency Procedures are posted strategically around the Meeting House. If you have questions or comments, please contact Fifi Ball at fball@firstparish.org.



Fifi Ball
Director of Operations
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.

Events-at-a-Glance

Day	Date	Time	Event
Saturday	Jan. 5	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<i>Song Leading for Justice</i> with musician and community organizer Matt Meyer
Saturday	Jan. 12	9:30 a.m.	First Parish Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults)
Friday	Jan. 19	4:00 p.m.	AWE Movie Night, "Made in Dagenham"
Friday	Jan. 25	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.

Song Leading for Justice

With Musician and Community Organizer Matt Meyer
Saturday, January 5, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Parish Hall



A fully participatory workshop designed to build skills and confidence for community song leading. We'll share best practices for invitational leadership and energetic encouragement to singing. We'll also expand your repertoire for singing without accompaniment and learn new songs to build a just and sustainable world. Join us for an experience of leading and following, rhythm and words, and the sound of a community in harmony together.

Matt Meyer is a musician and community organizer who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country.





Social Action Community

Faith into Action

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, January 15, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room



Immigration reform tops the action agenda. We will be brainstorming how to collaborate with like-minded groups and creating publicity to dispel the myths that surround the issue. Ongoing letter writing includes supporting individuals whose dire situations require urgent action and the release of two Azerbaijanian students imprisoned for peaceful protests. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, nilyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.

Women's News

AWE Upcoming Events

Advocates for Women's Empowerment

- **First Friday Film Series:** Friday, January 7, 4:00 p.m., Chapel
- **January Meeting:** Saturday, January 19, 8:00 a.m., Parlor
- **Feminist Book Group:** Wednesday, January 30, 7:00 p.m., West Concord

Free Feminist Film Series

We'll show *Made in Dagenham*. Based on a true story, the film explores the movement that caused a significant law reform. Female workers walk out of the Ford Dagenham factory in protest against sexual discrimination, demanding equal pay, and causing a lot of public attention around the world. The strike is successful and leads to the Equal Pay Act of 1970. Contact: Lou Toussaint, mloutoussaint@gmail.com.



January 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.

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

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situations such as those faced by Satrapi as a child in Iran. We'll meet at 14 Pleasant Street, West Concord. Contact Merrill Comeau, 14thebeesknees@gmail.com.

Rosie's Place

Thank you to the volunteers who cooked and served dinner at Rosie's Place on December 9. Our next date in March will be announced soon. Contact Suzie Weaver, skatesuzie@aol.com, to sign up in advance.



Mailing List

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

Margaret Fuller and #MeToo

Speaker Mary-Wren vanderWilden Facilitates a "Conversation"
Tuesday, January 29, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Emerson Room



Margaret Fuller [1810-1850] fought for women's equality and facilitated "conversations" encouraging women to develop their intellect. In 1845, she published *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, a feminist classic. Men and women are invited to join Mary-Wren vanderWilden as she facilitates "conversation" about Fuller and feminism today. We will discuss a short excerpt to be emailed to you to read ahead of the evening.

To register, visit the church office or call 978-369-9602. Pre-registration and the prepayment of a \$10 fee is required. Contact Shelley_Hawks@msn.com. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, January 28, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room
Tuesday, January 29, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

Our first book of the New Year is *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. Discussions will be held on Monday, January 28, and Tuesday, January 29. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a discussion. There's no need to sign up!



Continued next page.



If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

Remaining Dates and Books for 2019

Date	Book	Author
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

Open Table's Community Dinner

WPA's Participation

Thursday, February 7, 5:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Reservations by February 1

Come join the WPA at Open Table's First Thursday Community Dinner! All WPA members and friends are welcome to participate in a delicious communal meal and conversation. If you would like to join old and new friends in this very rewarding and enjoyable event, please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net.



Open Table

*Caring for Families
& Creating Community*

Friday Night with Friends

Friday, January 25, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall and Parlor

Reservations by January 14

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

The WPA is making plans for another popular *Friday Night with Friends*. Details will appear in *The Sunday News* and the FP Weekly announcements, and emails to the WPA membership. To reserve a spot, contact the office at 978-369-9602 or pekindc@comcast.net by January 14.



Women's Retreats 2019

Registration Deadline: January 6

"Our Voices, Our Peace, Our Power"

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.)
- ♥ **2nd Weekend Away:** Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, January 25 – 27, at Senexet House, Connecticut
- ♥ **"At Home" Retreat:** Friday evening, February 8, and Saturday morning through afternoon on February 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 continue through January 6. Registration forms will be available at coffee hour January 6, as well as in the church office, and online at <http://firstparish.org/forms>. Late registrations will be accepted on a space available basis.

Questions

- About the retreats? Contact Bozena Smith at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.
- About registration or requesting financial assistance? Contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

Other Cool Stuff

Concord Area Humanists

Wednesday, January 9, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Artificial Intelligence (AI) will inevitably surpass human intelligence, eventually evolving its own software "DNA." If AI doesn't care about people, it may destroy everything we value. But if we're careful how we build it, AI could deliver a vastly better world than the present day. Self-aware or "conscious" AIs may ask the universal human questions: What are we? Why are we here? What is the true nature of Reality?



Experts Carl Feynman (left), computer scientist, and Terry Riopka (right), researcher in Deep Learning, will introduce the possibilities. Join us for this lively discussion! Questions? Contact Franklin Davis, franklin.davis@gmail.com.





Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

Reverberations of the Holocaust, Beyond Its Victims

Friday, January 18, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room

We will always be shaken by the appalling inhumanity of the Holocaust. Descendants of the perpetrators—highly-placed and ordinary—struggle with the deeds of their forebears. Join a lively and wide-ranging discussion of this issue! We'll share challah, wine, blessings, and conversation. All are welcome. For more information, contact Laura (Nixdorf) Bernstein, lnrb1943@gmail.com or 781 430-6115.

Partner Congregation News

New Treasurer Needed

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 6:30 p.m., First Parish

The PCC is seeking a qualified individual to join our committee and act as our treasurer. We meet monthly during the church year on a Thursday evening, which usually includes a potluck supper and some socializing with a great group of people. If you're interested in helping us keep our partnership with the congregation in Székelykeresztúr strong by taking on this important task, please contact either Rodger Mattlage at rmattlage@mac.com or Lillian Anderson at lillianand@comcast.net.

Student Group to Visit

Transylvanian Student Folk Dance Group to Visit October 24 to November 5

Welcome dinner and performance: Saturday, October 26, First Parish



The PCC will sponsor and host the Székelykeresztúr Unitarian School's Vadrózsák (Wild Roses) Folk Dance Group and Lelkes (Spirited) Band next fall.

We'll welcome 20 young dancers, musicians, and accompanying adults, and a five-member delegation from our partner congregation. They'll visit and perform in Concord, at the Belmont UU, at Ferry

Beach in Portland, Maine, and in Vermont. There will be opportunities for First Parish members to be involved.

Welcome Dinner and Performance

Save the Date

Saturday, October 26, at First Parish

Look for more information as plans evolve.

Continued next page.



Scholarship Donations Follow-Up

Many thanks to the 63 individuals, families, and groups who made scholarship donations for 54 deserving Transylvanian Hungarian students at the Keresztúr Unitarian High School and its graduates in college. You'll be pleased to know that the money has now been wired to Transylvania and distributed to the students.



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 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 your entry 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 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



Meeting House News (MHN)

Wendy Wolfberg, Editor
978-578-1077, cell
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.



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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* and on below.
3. Write draft, send for review, rewrite, and send final form **as an attachment** to the Editor before the 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: **January 15, 2018**

Next Publication Date: **January 23, 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, *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 on Wednesday. Much appreciated. Thanks for your help.

Meeting House Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Publication	Holiday*
Feb-2019	15-Jan-2019	23-Jan-2019	
Mar-2019	19-Feb-2019	27-Feb-2019	
Apr-2019	19-Mar-2019	27-Mar-2019	
May-2019	9-Apr-2019	17-Apr-2019	P, 4-19-2019 E, 4-21-2019
Jun-2019**	21-May-2019	29-May-2019	
Sep-2019	20-Aug-2019	28-Aug-2019	
Oct-2019	17-Sep-2019	25-Sep-2019	
Nov-2019	15-Oct-2019	23-Oct-2019	
Dec-2019	12-Nov-2019	20-Nov-2019	
Jan-2020	10-Dec-2019	18-Dec-2019	

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

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

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What May I Submit for Publicity?

What may I submit for publication in First Parish communications?

The *MHN*, *The Sunday News*, and FP Weekly are reserved for events at First Parish, events sponsored by First Parish, or something that falls under a staff member or First Parish Committee or Group. We hold to this policy, but if you feel your event deserves special consideration or are not sure whether your announcement fits in this guideline, please contact the appropriate staff member for clarification before you submit your message. If your submission does not fall within this guideline, the church office would be glad to print your write-up for the First Parish bulletin board. Please email or drop off a printable final form to the church office. We are glad to help as best we can.

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; **Website:** 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/>

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 © 2019 First Parish in Concord, Unitarian Universalist. All rights reserved. FPC Meeting House News January 2019. Add us to your address book.

