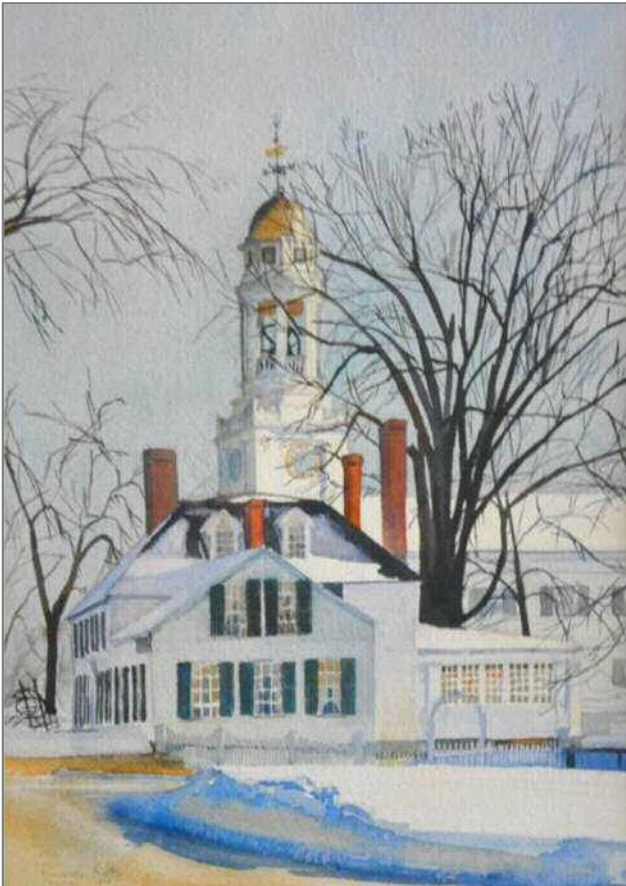




What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

March 2019



Painting by Russell Smith

Next Meeting House News

Deadline: March 19

Publication: March 27

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"Light from Above," drawing of pulpit skylight by Peter Nobile.



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You can now download the guidelines brochure [here](#) if you send in entries for publication in *The Sunday News* insert, the FP Weekly emails, or the *Meeting House News* – THANKS!

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, March 3 – “Reach High, Reach Wide” – Celebration Sunday

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Combined Choirs

Sunday, March 10 – “Faith of the Very Old”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
Lincoln Ringers

Sunday, March 17 – “Dying on Your Own Terms”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

Sunday, March 24 – “Diet of Torda—1568”

Rev. Lehel Molnar, Balázs Scholar at Starr King Seminary
First Parish Choir

Sunday, March 31 – “The Face of Poverty in Concord”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Sunday, April 7 – “Just Love”

Laurel Gray, Ministerial Intern
Gospel Ensemble and Children’s choirs



Celebration Sunday

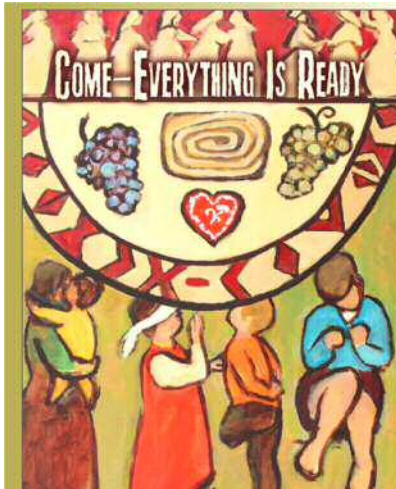
2019-2020 Annual Pledge Campaign Kickoff—Sunday, March 3



“Reach High, Reach Wide” is the theme for this year’s Annual Pledge Campaign. We reach high for First Parish and wide beyond our doors through our participation and our gifts. Celebration Sunday is a special service to honor all we accomplish by giving generously to First Parish. Join us on March 3 and make your pledge for the coming year. Pledge cards will be available, and cake at coffee hour is part of the celebration! If you can’t attend that day, you can pledge in the coming weeks or online. For more information about this year’s campaign, please see the Pledge Campaign 2019-

visit <http://firstparish.org/wp/giving/> or contact Darien Smith, darien@smithquest.com, project manager for the 2019-2020 Annual Pledge Campaign.

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World Day of Prayer

Service and Luncheon

**Friday, March 1, 11:00 a.m., Trinitarian Church,
54 Walden Street**

The Trinitarian Congregational Church will host Concord's commemoration of the 2019 World Day of Prayer (WDP). The WDP Women of Slovenia wrote this year's service, which will serve as a reminder that all people, regardless of social or economic status, are welcome to participate in life's feast. The women's dance group *Skyloom* will add interesting thematic sacred dance elements to the service. The service is followed by a lunch celebrating the people of Slovenia.

The service will be held in the Sanctuary and the luncheon in the Parish Hall of Trinitarian Church at 54 Walden Street. There is no charge for the luncheon. Reservations are not required. A freewill offering will be accepted at the service. All men, women, and youth are warmly invited.

Share the Plate

March's Recipient—Open Table



Since 1989, 30 years ago, Open Table has been providing a hot dinner along with fellowship and support every Thursday night in the Parish Hall of First Parish. In 2017, the program expanded to include a permanent facility in Maynard, with a grocery-store-style food pantry. Open Table has also acquired a refrigerated truck and plans to establish a mobile pantry this year. Open Table is supported by over 600 dedicated volunteers, including many First Parish members. Questions? Contact Jeanine Calabria, executivedirector@opentable.org and visit <http://www.opentable.org/>.

Sunday Forums

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

Sunday, March 24 – “Concord Responds to the Climate Crisis,” Kate Hanley, Concord’s Director of Sustainability

How is Concord responding to the climate crisis and how can churches, other community organizations, and families help the town achieve its climate action goals?

Ms. Hanley will discuss the role she plays in town government; what the Sustainability Division has achieved to date; and how she is working with a new Climate Action Advisory Board to develop a municipal climate action plan. We are all called to be part of this planning process, since the lives of our children and grandchildren are at stake.



Continued next page.

Sponsored by the Environmental Action Team. For more information, contact Alan Whitney, awhitney@alum.mit.edu.

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



March Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Peter Nobile

Email: peter.nobile@gmail.com

Cell: 617-872-4365

Update on Search

for Next Pastoral Care Minister

Before Rev. Marion Visel retires in June, the Advisory Search Committee is helping Rev. Dana select her successor. Comprised of Jeff Clanon, Diane Clapp, Dana Snyder-Grant, and Virginia Taylor, the committee has narrowed the original field of 18 applications to 4 whose perspectives and experiences best fit the needs of our congregation. Now we are beginning an intensive process to cull through the applicants' websites, sermons, and references in preparation for in-person interviews at First Parish in March. All of the candidates demonstrate both an affinity for pastoral care and life experience that would help equip them to direct our program. The goal is to move toward appointing someone who can both carry on Rev. Visel's legacy and bring their individual strengths to the Ministry for Pastoral Care.





Pastoral Care Programs

First Tuesday Group

“Keeping Concord Vibrant”

March 5, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

What forces shape the vitality of today’s New England small towns? In the face of changes in the economy, transportation, communication, and intergenerational relations, what makes sense? How can we balance necessary change with sustaining tradition to evolve sensibly? Small town expert Gary Kleiman will talk and lead a discussion on ways seniors can benefit from, and contribute to, a vibrant Concord.

Come prepared to discuss your list of concerns for Concord and our neighboring small towns. *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.

Capturing Memories on Paper

March 20, 27; April 3, 10, 17, and 24—from 1:30-3:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Connecting with the future, giving our descendants an impression of our lives, is one good reason to write memories down. Perhaps even more important is the personal pleasure and insight that often comes from reconstructing parts of our lives in words.

This six-week workshop will invite participants to write their memories down—not as full-length autobiographies but as short reflections in response to concrete writing prompts. Each week we’ll start with a different memory prompt—ranging from “the kitchen table,” “a childhood friend,” to “a turning point.” We will discuss tips for writing vivid descriptions and look at samples of powerful writing. Mostly we will write. Participants will have an opportunity to share their writing with the group if they choose.

Reflecting on our lives, one story at a time, offers a portal to reenvisioning all the stages of our lives and the selves we are or have been. Facilitator is Virginia Taylor, Ph.D., virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net or 978-263-9777, former professor of English and currently a private writing instructor.

Participants: Maximum 12. There are a few spaces left, so sign up soon in the church office or contact Rev. Marion Visel, mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239 (cell).

Caregiver Support Group

First Monday Monthly, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Chapel

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 that meets the afternoon of the first Monday of each

Continued next page.

month. If you are new to the group, please call Marion or Diane before arrival. Walk-ins discouraged.

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

Cancer Support Group

Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m., Greeley Room

All cancer patients and survivors (FP member or not) are welcome to join this free, confidential, and caring support group at First Parish. 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. For more information on InterPlay: www.interplay.org.

Questions and sign up: C.C. King (M.A. in Expressive Therapies, certified InterPlay® leader and trainer, visual artist, teacher and workshop facilitator), ccking.interplay@gmail.com.

Music Ministry

MUUsings

By Gail Carey

"In your light, I learn how to love.
In your beauty, how to make poems.
You dance inside my chest where no-one sees you,
but sometimes I do, and that sight becomes this art."
— Rumi



In a world riddled with fear and unfiltered righteousness, we pause.
We slow our pace to remember what is good, what is kind.
We bother to listen deeply so that we might live into our best selves.

Beginning March 5, we will begin a monthly series of contemporary evening worship services. These more informal services will create space for relationship building across church programs. We will learn what inspires our First Parish leaders to their life work. We will share loving intentions or light candles in silence. We will sing together in solace, rejuvenation, and joy. We will build bridges of compassion that allow us better to rally together in the mission of our shared church home.

Continued next page.

In the words of Parker Palmer: “The human soul doesn't want to be fixed, it simply wants to be seen and heard. The soul is like a wild animal—tough, resilient and shy. When we go crashing through the woods shouting for it to come out so we can help it, the soul will stay in hiding. But if we are willing to sit quietly and wait for a while, the soul may show itself.”

Come sit with us, slow your pace, let yourself be known. We will meet the first Tuesday of each month (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) in the Chapel. Services will be led by Gail Carey, Assistant Director of Music Ministry and Laurel Gray, First Parish Ministerial Intern. Musicians from the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble will lend their voices in congregational singing. Come get to know your lay leaders a little more deeply. Let us shine more brightly in each other's light.

Come as you are.
See you there!

The Open Door

An Evening of Contemporary Worship

First Tuesday of the Month: March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4

From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

Come gather with us for vibrant evening worship and real connection!

March 5 kicks off our first evening of The Open Door. It is a chance for church programs to come together in shared purpose. As a member of the Social Action Community, you might share a reflection on what inspires you to your life work. As a lover of singing, you might help be a part of the music that holds us in times of uncertainty.

- ♥ We will radically welcome you with joyous song.
- ♥ We will center ourselves in community with music and meditation.
- ♥ We will be inspired by member reflections on themes of social justice.
- ♥ We will create space for heart-centered intentions.
- ♥ We will go forth from a place of deeper compassion and renewed hope.

Please join us. Services will be led by Gail Carey and Laurel Gray, FP Ministerial Intern, with musicians from the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble. Come get to know your lay leaders a little more deeply. Learn what inspires us forward together in kindness. Come as you are.

Gail Carey
Assistant Director of Music Ministry
gcarey@firstparish.org



Adult Education

Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council

Abolitionist Reenactment

**“An Appearance by Mary Merrick Brooks [1801-1868]”
Wednesday, March 13, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., Parish Hall**



Historical reenactor Diann Ralph Strausberg will perform as Mary Merrick Brooks [1801-1868], a leader of Concord's abolition movement and member of First Parish. She was a courageous Unitarian woman who led Concord's fight against slavery but who will be shown as a whole person in the context of her times.

Presented by the Transcendentalism Council and the Concord Historical Collaborative. A fee of \$10 is requested at the door, or you can register through the Concord-Carlisle Adult and Community Education program. To register or learn more about the program, visit [here](#). Questions? Contact Dianne Weiss, diannemcweiss@comcast.net or 978-505-3417.

Editor's Note: Sanborn-U.U. Couch and the Concord Abolitionists

First Parish is directly connected to the efforts of the Concord abolitionists. You may find the article in the “Curator's Corner” section of the May 2017 MHN of interest. From the First Parish website, download the [Mhn2017-05 issue](#) and see page 11.

Famous Concord Loves

**“No Remedy for Love”—Flirtation, Romance, and Scandal in 19th Century Concord
Thursday, March 28, 7:30 - 900 p.m., Emerson Room**

This fascinating lecture by historian Richard Smith will explore the loves, rejections, entanglements, and scandals of some of Concord's most famous residents. \$5.00 at the door. Questions? Contact Dianne Weiss, diannemcweiss@comcast.net or 978-505-3417.



Religious Education (RE) News



A Message from Amy

For the Spring term, we will be “Connecting with Nature.” With the pace of modern living, pressure to “succeed” and the distractions of technology, we can feel separated from the Earth.

Of course, our living depends on the interconnected web of life.

Continued next page.

This spring we will reconnect with the wonder that surrounds and sustains us through time outdoors, mindfulness practices, science experiments, stories, and play!

If you would like to explore this theme at home, I highly recommend the following books:

- “How to Raise a Wild Child: The Art and Science of Falling in Love with Nature,” Scott D. Sampson
- “Nurturing the Soul of Your Family: 10 Ways to Reconnect and Find Peace in Everyday Life,” Renee Peterson Trudeau
- “A Grateful Heart,” edited by M. J. Ryan, 365 blessings, organized by season, to make every mealtime more nourishing.

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

Workshop for Parents

“Healthy Reflections”

Sunday, March 24, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Wright Tavern

Building on a session with our UU Tweens, Neal Potash and Jeff Clanon will offer a workshop for parents and caregivers. In his book, Sometimes I Think I Must Be Crazy, psychotherapist Neal Potash puts a humorous but direct finger on some of the negative self-talk that virtually all of us have experienced. Using the book as a tool, he will offer a workshop aimed at elevating, normalizing, sharing, and strategizing how we can constructively deal with these potentially limiting patterns of thinking.



Parents or caregivers of children and teens who are interested and/or concerned about their child’s mental health and psychological development are invited. Our time together will include sharing and demonstrating ways to help kids be more open and comfortable sharing their negative feelings and thoughts as well as their positive ones.

Child care will be available upon request: afreedman@firstparish.org.



Social Action Community

Faith into Action

Advocacy Forum

“Caught in Family Homelessness: Parents Tell Their Stories”

Sunday, March 24, 2:00-4:00 p.m.; Reception Follows

Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street, Concord

In Massachusetts, 200,000 families spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing. One event can propel toward eviction. Come hear stories of three mothers who experienced homelessness with their families. You have a role to play in preventing future stories.



The Fourteenth Annual Forum of the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness starts with hearing from housing advocates about the programs that work and the importance of advocacy. Rev. June Cooper from City Mission–Boston and Kelly Turley, Associate Director of Mass Coalition for the Homeless, will lead the charge. Our legislators will be there to hear us. All are welcome to this free forum. A reception will follow. Contact: Jane Blumberg, jane_blumberg@me.com and www.endfamilyhomelessness.net.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room

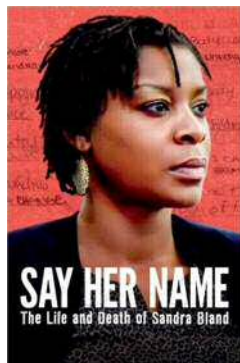
We'll continue to plan actions on immigration issues, including joining local efforts. Our monthly letter writing supports individuals worldwide whose lives are in jeopardy because of their human rights work. We've made new, and we hope fruitful, contacts to aid two Azerbaijanian students imprisoned for peaceful protests. The abolition of the U.S. death penalty and tracking Massachusetts prison reform round out our agenda. All are welcome to join us. For more information: Nancy Lyons, nilyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.



Documentary and Panel Discussion

“Say Her Name: The Life and Death of Sandra Bland”

Saturday, March 9, 1:00-4:30 p.m., Parish Hall



This documentary explores the circumstances contributing to the death of Sandra Bland, a politically active 28-year old African American. The film team followed the two-year wrongful death legal case begun shortly after she died, exploring questions regarding what happened and what we may learn from her tragedy. Join the Racial Justice Action Group for a showing and panel discussion with Cannon Lambert, the Bland family lawyer, and filmmakers Kate Davis and David Heilbroner. For further information: Wendy Holt, wendyh@dmahealth.com.

Women's News

AWE Upcoming Events

Advocates for Women's Empowerment

- **First Friday Film Series:** Friday, March 1, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
- **March Meeting:** Saturday, March 16, 8:00 a.m., Art Gym, West Concord
- **LunaFest:** Saturday, March 30, 7:00 p.m. (Doors Open), 7:30 p.m. (Film), Concord Academy Performing Arts Center, 166 Main Street. Look for signs on campus that night directing people.
- **Toiletry Drive for Women:** Begins Sunday, March 31, Coatroom

Free Feminist Film Series

We'll show *The Wife*, starring Glenn Close, 2018 Oscar-nominee for Best Actress. She plays a talented writer who starts to think about shared compromises, secrets, and betrayals as her husband is about to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Contact: Lou Toussaint (mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

March Meeting

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. Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month and are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions.

NEW LOCATION: Art Gym, 152 Commonwealth Avenue in West Concord (above Nashoba Brook Bakery). Contact: Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net).

LunaFest

Join us at LunaFest—a fund-raising film festival by, for, and about women. Proceeds will benefit Dignity in Asylum (<https://www.dignityinasyllum.org/>), a woman-founded nonprofit that supports asylum seekers, refugees, people who have been granted asylum, and unaccompanied minors at risk of homelessness in our local area. The evening will include refreshments for purchase and a raffle. Tickets are available online (\$15) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-concord-ma-tickets-55641583474>) or at the door (\$20). Contact Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net).



Toiletry Drive for Women

Start saving items for our toiletry drive, March 31 through April 30. We will collect unopened full- and travel-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, lotion, lip balm, combs/brushes, and hygiene items (pads, tampons) for Rosie's Place and Open Table. Contact Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com).

Mailing List

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

Women's AM/PM Book Group

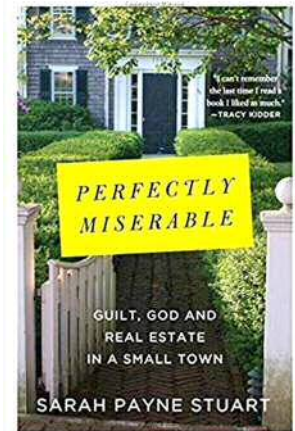
Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, March 25, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Tuesday, March 26, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

The March book selection is *Perfectly Miserable: God, Guilt, and Real Estate in a Small Town*, by Sarah Payne Stuart. 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.



Remaining Dates and Books

Date	Book	Author
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

WPA Flea Market

Our Fundraiser Is Almost Here!

Saturday, April 6, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Bulkeley Room

Donations: April 3 and April 4



Don't forget to come to the Flea Market and bring friends and family for interesting browsing and shopping. There will be a few craft tables along with interesting vintage and antique items and collectibles. Snacks and lunch available all day. Entrance fee: \$1.00.

Donations

Bring items that you want to donate to this important fundraiser. Household goods, children's items, collectibles, antiques, jewelry, and more in good condition are all welcome.

Contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to rent a table or volunteer to help. Rental fee is \$35.

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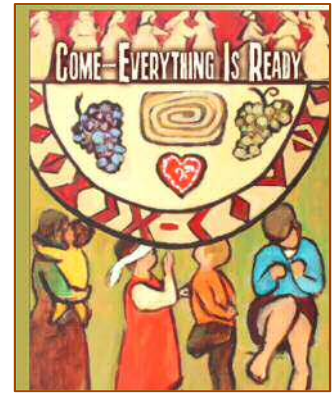
World Day of Prayer

Service and Luncheon

Friday, March 1, 11:00 a.m.,

Trinitarian Church, 54 Walden Street

The Trinitarian Congregational Church will host Concord's commemoration of the 2019 World Day of Prayer (WDP). The WDP Women of Slovenia wrote this year's service, which will serve as a reminder that all people, regardless of social or economic status, are welcome to participate in life's feast. The women's dance group *Skyloom* will add interesting thematic sacred dance elements to the service. The service is followed by a lunch celebrating the people of Slovenia.



The service will be held in the Sanctuary and the luncheon in the Parish Hall of Trinitarian Church at 54 Walden Street. There is no charge for the luncheon. Reservations are not required. A freewill offering will be accepted at the service. All men, women, and youth are warmly invited.

An Evening Celebrating Victoria

Saturday, March 9, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall and Parlor

RSVP by March 4

You deserve to take a break from all your hard work for so many worthy causes! Don't miss this WPA event. Prof. Karen Antonowicz will discuss Victorian history, customs, and fashions. Whether or not you're following WGBH's *Victoria*, this event will provide an enjoyable time exploring a fascinating era. Feel free to dress in period costumes if you like. All women, men, and youth are warmly welcome. Invite family and friends for a fun night out.



Refreshments will include Victorian desserts and beverages. Charge: \$10. For reservations, sign up at coffee hour; contact the church office, 978-369-9602; or email Dian Pekin, pekindc@comcast.net.



Other Cool Stuff

Concord Area Humanists

“Higher Ambition: How Great Leaders Create Economic and Social Value”
Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Capitalism has led to dramatic economic world growth, but *shareholder value creation* has emerged as the only purpose of corporations. More CEO's are now pursuing “higher ambition,” adopting a *multi-stakeholder* perspective, as opposed to a shareholder-only perspective, leading their companies in a way that builds trust and commitment with employees, customers, business partners, community, and the larger society. Who are these CEO's, and how are they organizing, managing, and leading differently? Harvard Business School Professor Emeritus Mike Beer will report on this development.



Cuban Circle Dance Introduction

Friday, March 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Join our circle to smile and laugh as we learn the basics of Salsa Rueda de Casino. No knowledge or partner needed. Please bring indoor shoes or slippers. We'll warm up your cold feet! Sponsored by the First Parish Spanish Affinity Group. For questions, contact Susi Chivvis, schivvis@comcast.net or 508-572-9318.

Ferry Beach Retreat – Save the Dates!

Friday to Monday, May 24 – 27, in Saco, Maine
Registration in April



Mark your calendars to join families, couples, and singles for this relaxed weekend on the beach with First Parish friends, old and new, at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center over Memorial Day Weekend. Rooms and camping are available onsite. There have been some upgrades to the campus and changes to lodging choices and agreements for our use of

the space. Look for registration details in April. More information at <https://www.ferrybeach.org/>.

For questions, contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.



Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

“The People of the Joke”

Friday, March 15, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room



The Jewish people have been persecuted, exiled, dispersed, and almost annihilated. How have they been able to survive and thrive and find a balance between assimilation and preserving Jewish faith and culture? In March, we will explore one survival tactic—humor! You are welcome to bring along your favorite Jewish jokes to share with the group. Or, you can just come and enjoy hearing them all! Please bring a snack or beverage to share with the group. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dana Snyder-Grant, dana.snydergrant@gmail.com or 978-760-1129.

Pancakes and Prizes for Pledgers

All-Church Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 23, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall



A drop-in pancake breakfast, complete with First Parish celebrity chefs and prizes, will be held the morning of Saturday, March 23. All are welcome to the breakfast, free of charge, anytime from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. There will be a *Reach High, Reach Wide* prize raffle for those who attend and pledge that morning or have previously pledged to the 2019-2020 Annual Pledge Campaign. Come see who will be flipping flapjacks to serve up your delicious breakfast! Word has it that Red Sox tickets and “Miss Saigon” tickets will be among the prizes you could win!

Partner Congregation Committee News



Partner Church Fundraiser

An Evening of Hungarian Food and Dance

Saturday, March 23, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Enjoy a Transylvanian extravaganza—an authentic Hungarian dinner, a performance of Hungarian dances featuring Dénes Takácsy, and meet Rev. Lehel Molnár, this year’s Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry.

This is a fundraiser to help bring a group of 25 from Székelykeresztúr to Concord in the fall of 2019, including the Vadrózsák (Wild Roses) student folk dance troupe and chaperones, and a partner delegation, including Rev. Csaba Tódor and family. Information available [here](#). There is no charge, but donations will be solicited. RSVP to Peggy Claybrook, pclaybrook@comcast.net, or the church office.

Reclaiming Our Democracy

“Taking Big Money Out of Politics”—Alexandra Chandler
Sunday, March 10, 4:00 p.m., Parish Hall

For better outcomes, we must have the courage to demand better from our leaders. Alexandra knows about courage. In 2006, as a transgender woman, she was one of the first in the U.S. intelligence community to transition on the job. As a candidate for office in the 3rd Massachusetts Congressional District in 2018, she did not take political action committee (PAC) money and continues to lead the charge against big money in politics.



Alexandra will speak about her experience, pending election reform, and how “we the people” can take action. Seating is limited. Request [free ticket](#). Contact: Kate Kavanagh, katekav@gmail.com or 508-397-6507.

Publicizing an Event 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 and distribute it to new committee members for the latest and greatest! You can download the brochure from the [church’s website here](#).

Update to *The Sunday News*

Due to limited space, 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.



Organizational E-mail Lists

Please note that some organizations at First Parish, such as Religious Education and AWE, maintain their own email lists. See their write-ups in this newsletter for more information.

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 in the table 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: **March 19, 2019**

Next Publication Date: **March 27, 2019**

- **FP Weekly Deadline** – Noon, Friday for Monday email, which includes two weeks of upcoming events.
- **The Sunday News Deadline** – Noon, the 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.



Continued next page.

Meeting House Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Publication	Holiday*
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.

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, March 2019. Add us to your address book.





Below is the first in a series of letters from various First Parish “personalities” who have some things to say to us about this year’s pledge campaign. Their letters are appearing as blue inserts in the Sunday orders of service. This one from February 17, and subsequent inserts, will also be available on the website at <http://firstparish.org/wp/giving/>.

Good morning!

It’s me—your spiritual home. So great to hear your footsteps in the vestibule this cold winter morning and feel you slide all snugly into one of my pews. I love people in the house—filling it high and wide! I am here to shelter you. That’s my job, and I’m proud to do it. I’m not bragging, just speaking factually, when I say I’m one of the most important buildings in a town bursting with historic structures. Okay, I’m a little vain about it—do you know there are scads of tourists who visit me?

I’m well cared for, thank you very much, but parts of me are just old, and you know what that means. I’m expensive. And, as I mentioned before, a tiny bit vain. There’s no denying I’m getting shabby at the tippy top. It bothers me—my steeple’s beauty and purpose are part of what makes me unique among Concord’s old buildings. It harkens to everyone who sees it, “Come, a church!” The steeple is supposed to be gilded, painted in gold, like the beacon it is. But, frankly, the regilding project gets knocked out of the budget year after year.

Yes, I’m grateful for the repairs and spit and polish I get every week—and that we’re smart enough to try to put money aside each year toward costly long-term maintenance. However, every year the money allocated for taking care of me gets eaten up before attention can be paid to my tippy top. Oh, I understand that every department is on a reduced budget because we didn’t raise enough money last year, but my vanity doesn’t respond to rational arguments. My steeple wants to glow.

I’m getting my hopes up again this year. My crew—Lisa Bennett, Phil D’Amico, and CC King—are asking you to reach deep so we, as a congregation, can reach high and wide. The ‘high’ specifically refers to my steeple, in case no one else mentions that.

Please pledge generously on Celebration Sunday, March 3, or in the coming weeks.

Love,
The Meeting House

2.17.19