



What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

April 2019



Look for the blooms of our beautiful pink flowering memorial dogwood honoring Valerie Holt. (Photo credit: Sara Ballard)

Next Meeting House News, May

➡ **Deadline: April 9** ⬅
Publication: April 17



**All-Congregation Annual Meeting,
 Sunday, June 9, 11:30 a.m.**

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From our amazing Flower Committee, a previous arrangement giving us a peek at a little spring color to inspire and bring you joy. (Photo credit: Ellen Whitney)



Ellen Whitney used moss, forsythia, and a log from her backyard, paired with pansies from the Mill Brook and daffodils from Crosby's, to create an Earth Day arrangement that reflects stirring ground in Concord to inspire you.

Cooperative Passover Seder
Saturday, April 27, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall
 (For details, [see page 8.](#))

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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

Read times and locations carefully for this month! Services are held at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, April 7 – “Just Love”

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

Sunday, April 14 – Palm Sunday

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

Thursday, April 18 – Maundy Thursday

Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel; join Open Table
for dinner starting at 5:30 p.m.
Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

Friday, April 19 – Good Friday

Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel
Rev. Howard N. Dana and Beth Norton

Sunday, April 21 – Easter Sunday

TWO services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir, organ and brass

Sunday, April 28 – “Passover: Stories of Making it Through”

Laurel Gray, Ministerial Intern
First Parish Choir

Sunday, May 5 – Coming of Age Service

Rev. Amy Freedman; Coming of Age teens and mentors
Gospel Choir

Share the Plate

April’s Recipient—LGBT Asylum Task Force

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Asylum Task Force is dedicated to supporting and empowering LGBTQI individuals who are fleeing persecution and seeking asylum in the United States.



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Those who file for asylum in the United States are not permitted to work until they are granted a work permit and social security number, a process that can take more than a year. During that time, the Task Force strives to provide housing, legal assistance, financial support, and community for asylum seekers.

Sunday Forums

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

April 7 – “Restorative Justice in Action”



Dr. Fania E. Davis is a leading voice as a Greeley Scholar speaker, restorative-justice writer and practitioner, and professor and scholar for a movement that is gaining increasing attention, credibility, and action.

Coming of age in Birmingham, Alabama during the social ferment of the civil-rights era and the murder of two close childhood friends in 1963, Fania has developed and practiced a passionate commitment to social transformation, including bringing an active restorative justice program to Oakland, California.

Among her many honors, Ms. Davis is a Woodrow Wilson fellow and was named by the Los Angeles *Times* as a New Civil Rights Leader of the 21st century.

For more information or questions, or to join the Forum Committee, contact Christian Krueger at christiantwkrueger@gmail.com or Alan Whitney at 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



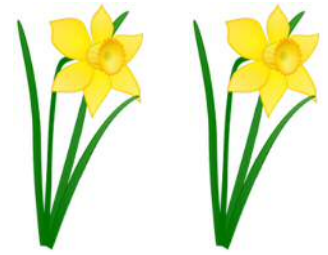
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April Pastoral Care Lay Minister

Lori Gill-Pazaris

Email: gillpazaris@gmail.com

Cell: 978-505-2720



Pastoral Care Programs

First Tuesday Group

“Finding Meaning in Retirement: Questions to Ask”

April 2, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Tom Wilson will discuss ways to deal with this transitional moment in our lives. He will talk about the book he’s writing and the questions it has raised for him, such as, “How can you identify what’s not working and figure out how to deal with it?”

Come prepared to discuss your retirement transition, as you experienced it, as you are experiencing it, or as you anticipate experiencing it!

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

Caregiver Support Group

New Members Welcome

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 month. Contact Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, mvisel@firstparish.org, or 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

New Members Welcome

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

All cancer patients and survivors (FP members 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 their 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, MA in Expressive Therapies, certified InterPlay® Leader and trainer, visual artist, teacher and workshop facilitator, ccking.interplay@gmail.com.

Music Ministry

MUUsings

March is the longest, hardest month of the year. Yes, there are six other months that extend a full 31 days. But for me, March is always a bit of a slog—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I know I am not alone in this—especially among New Englanders. Inevitably, while commiserating over the extended cold, the surprise snowstorms, or the mud, someone will mutter, “Why do they say, ‘April is the cruelest month?’ ”

Recently, I went back to those famous opening lines of T. S. Eliot’s poem “The Wasteland” for a little refresher:

*April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding
A little life with dried tubers.*

Reading that quote in context has given me perspective on why this time of year can be such a struggle. As we leap into spring celebrations of renewal, we want to embrace the joy of new life and rebirth. So much green and yellow and purple! Baby birds, bunnies, and flowers. We can forget the effort required: The chick must peck its way out of the egg; the green shoot must push through the leaves; a heavy stone must be rolled away from the tomb.

These weeks of early spring when we emerge from being covered in “forgetful snow” and feeding on “dried tubers” to flowing rivers and the scent of lilacs require real exertion. There’s a certain spiritual “stiffness” to overcome, like a body rising from deep sleep or hibernation.

I am a Unitarian Universalist whose native spiritual language is Christianity. The story of Jesus of Nazareth’s life, death, and resurrection is very much in my heart and mind as we thaw into April.

Resurrection is hard work. And I find that planning music for this season can be challenging as I tentatively stretch my physical and spiritual muscles. I believe that by Easter we will get to a place where we can sing “Hallelujah” with real joy. But there are other songs to sing along the way. Songs of love, betrayal, death and mourning. Songs of forgiveness and reconciliation. Songs that challenge us to grow and change and push up through the mulch of spiritual winter.



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We are so blessed to share these songs and stories as we do the hard work of coming back to life together. Hallelujah.

Blessings, Beth
Beth Norton, Director of Music
Contact: music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602

***Messiah* Sing** **Hallelujah Chorus**

Easter Sunday, April 21, both 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. (NOTE service times.)



Dust off those *Messiah* scores. Easter is coming! Singers from the congregation are invited to come to the choir loft during the final hymn on Easter Sunday, April 21, and join the choir, organ, and brass in our traditional Easter postlude, G. F. Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*. If you have a copy of the *Messiah*, you are welcome to bring it with you. If not, there will be some extra music available, and choir members are always willing to share.

We will sing at the end of both the 9:00 a.m. (with a special guest conductor) and 11:00 a.m. services.

Even if you don't wish to make the climb (or take the elevator) to the balcony, feel free to join in this joyous chorus on Easter morning.

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 kicked 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.

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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

Religious Education (RE) News



| Day, Date, Time | Theme | Description |
|--|---|---|
| Sunday, April 7 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | Fairy Houses | Religious Exploration |
| Sunday, April 14 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | Decorating Easter Eggs | Religious Exploration |
| Sunday, April 21 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Easter Sunday Services for all ages | Little RE available. Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds at 10:00 a.m. |
| Sunday, April 28 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | Web of Life— Naturalist & Animals visit from Drumlin Farm | Religious Exploration |

Discover more: <http://firstparish.org/wp/learning/re/>. If you have questions about our programs for children and youth, please contact Dawn Van Patten, Assistant Director of Religious Education: dvanpatten@firstparish.org or Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education: afreedman@firstparish.org.

Cooperative Passover Seder

Saturday, April 27, Parish Hall, 5:00 p.m.

Passover is both a meal and a retelling of the Exodus story with readings, songs, and the eating of symbolic foods. Whether you have a Jewish background or never attended a Seder before, you are welcome. Children are not only welcome—they make the Seder more special and fun.



Rev. Amy Freedman, Dana Snyder-Grant, and Laurel Gray are leading our service. The Parish Hall becomes our family dining room. This is a fun and meaningful ritual for all ages to reflect on our lives together!

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Our Cooperative Seder will include a potluck dinner. Each person is asked to choose a job (setup or serving or cleanup) and to bring one or two items. Please sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DA4A822A4F49-passover>. Questions? Contact Dana Snyder-Grant, dana.snydergrant@gmail.com or 978-760-1129, or visit the Passover table at coffee hour.

Mother's Day Walk for Peace

Sunday, May 12, 2019



All ages are invited to join the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace! A free bus from First Parish in Concord will leave at 8:30 a.m. to take walkers to Boston and return by 1:30 p.m. We will walk three miles from Madison Park High School to City Hall. Register online for the "First Parish Concord" team: <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/>.

All walkers are asked to register and contribute at least \$10.00. Visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour to sign up for the bus to the Peace Walk, or contact Margie Saphier King, margie.king.saphier@gmail.com or 781-424-2179.



Operations

Annual Pledge Campaign

Can you put a value on your spiritual life?

Of course, it's priceless. Yet the cost of running First Parish is more than \$1.3 million annually, and this is the time of year we raise the funds to keep the doors open, pay ministerial and lay staff, ensure our facilities are in good repair, and contribute to the UUA Annual Program Fund.



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We're heading down the final stretch of the Reach High, Reach Wide 2019-2020 Annual Pledge Campaign. If you haven't already, please make your annual pledge, increasing it by 5 percent or more if you are able. (Thank you—we appreciate every dollar you give!) It costs more than \$2,000 per household to pay our expenses.

For Campaign updates, go to <http://firstparish.org/wp/giving/>.

Doug Baker Retiring

September 1, 2020



Doug Baker—Sexton, Sacristan, Curator, Steward, Facilities Manager, Artist-in-Residence, Historian, Colleague, and Friend—will retire from his position at First Parish in Concord on September 1, 2020.

In a bit of historic symmetry, Doug has chosen his retirement date for precisely 40 years after the day he started work at First Parish—September 1, 1980.

Doug was hired by then-minister Rev. Dana McLean Greeley. Since then, Doug and his wife Diana, have lived on the First Parish campus, providing First Parish the luxury and good fortune of an on-site trouble shooter and nightly watch. Doug makes nightly rounds, checking the Meeting House and Wright Tavern for closed windows, locked doors, and all-quiet alarm systems.

Doug can typically be seen on Sunday mornings sporting a remarkable necktie and solving behind-the-scenes problems enabling worship services to proceed uninterrupted. Doug manages a staff of six part-time assistant sextons. Doug also schedules rooms, setup, and assistant sexton coverage for the 1,500+ events held at First Parish every year. Doug ensures that all the annual, semiannual, and quarterly inspections in the buildings happen every year.

In his spare time, Doug is an accomplished oil painter. Many First Parishioners have been the beneficiaries of Doug's time and talent and have an original "Doug Baker" hanging in their homes (appears unsigned, as Doug signs his paintings on the back). Doug's paintings, typically natural settings, are characterized by pure, realistic lighting and natural features.

For now, we have another 18 months to continue to enjoy Doug's good work and his company, and to celebrate his achievements and longevity.

MHN Editor Retiring

After June 2019 Issue

Volunteer Wendy Ford Wolfberg, Editor of the *Meeting House News* since September 2015, will retire with the June 2019 edition.

For the last four years, Wendy has applied capable and devoted hands, bringing her professional background as an instructional designer and



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course developer to standardizing the *Meeting House News* entries and layout, improving its look and feel as well as its readability. She also simplified and developed the Publications Guidelines brochure and helped improve parts of the First Parish website to help make procedures clearer to the many volunteers who publish events to parishioners.

Wendy, along with church administrator Sarah Burns, further developed the existing house style, worked diligently to simplify procedures across all three of First Parish's publications, and helped many who wrote entries clarify their message month after month. Wendy worked on the production schedule to provide readers with the time to plan their attendance at First Parish's myriad of fun and topical events.

Wendy has taken on other volunteer responsibilities and needs to move on. To reach her, please email wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. We thank Wendy for her years of care and attention to this important First Parish publication.

Standing Committee News

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m., Emerson Room

All-Congregation Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 9, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary



Meetings Summary

Recent meetings have included planning for and hearing updates related to our "Time for Action" meeting on February 2, which was attended by about 40 interested First Parish members. We felt the meeting was a great start, and now four task forces are working on plans to bring change to First Parish consistent with the four themes that emerged from our Year of Reflection and Visioning last year. More updates to come. Other recent meeting topics include a charter for the Nominating Committee and welcoming back Rev. Dana. Meeting minutes are posted at [Standing Committee Meeting Minutes](#).

Annual Meeting—June 9

Our all-congregation Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 9, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We will hear reports from staff and committees, vote for First Parish officers and Standing Committee members, approve delegates to the UUA General Assembly, approve our budget for next year, and conduct other business as required.



Our bylaws state that First Parish members who have signed the membership book at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting may vote at Annual Meeting. If you are considering joining our community and would like to participate and vote, please sign the book by Friday, May 9, 2019. One opportunity to do this is after the service April 14, as is the case every second Sunday of the month (the May 12 service will be too late for Annual Meeting).

The Standing Committee requests that any possible warrant articles (agenda items) be submitted prior to the April 9 meeting so the committee may consider and approve them in advance. Also note that a presentation of the proposed 2019-2020 budget is planned for

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June 2 at 11:30; this is your opportunity to see the budget and ask detailed questions in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Please submit warrant articles or send questions to Dave Elwood, chair, Standing Committee, at daveelwood@hotmail.com.

We Want to Hear from You!



Standing Committee members are always ready to listen to First Parishioners. As your board, one of our jobs is to represent the First Parish membership; please reach out to any of us to discuss your First Parish concerns and experiences. You can find contact information for Standing Committee members, as well as meeting agendas and minutes, governing policies, operating procedures, and reports at [First Parish Standing Committee](#).

Dave Elwood, chair, Standing Committee
daveelwood@hotmail.com

Looking for Peeps



Can You Serve?

Nominations Requested for Nominating Committee

The Standing Committee is looking for people to serve on the Nominating Committee, whose primary function is to solicit and nominate candidates for any open positions on the Standing Committee, as well as those of Treasurer, Clerk, and Moderator.



We are looking for “connectors,” people who like to participate in many aspects of church life. The term is for three years, with an option to serve two consecutive terms. The Nominating Committee typically meets for about two hours a month every other month in the fall, winter, and spring.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Kate Svrcek at katesvrcek@hotmail.com or 781 472-0714 by Friday, April 26.

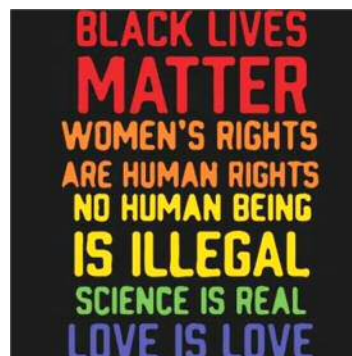
Social Action Community

Faith into Action

Social Action News

By the Social Action Council

Rev. Howard N. Dana, the staff at First Parish, and the Social Action Council, formerly known as the SAC Board, send their thanks to Zach Roe for the work he did with us over the past year and a half. We accomplished a lot together, including piloting and implementing a successful share-the-plate program, incorporating Social Action into the main First Parish budget,



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bringing active social justice teams together to discuss and plan intersectional events, and creating a strong and well-respected social justice program at First Parish. We miss Zach and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Howard and members of the Social Action Council have begun the process of hiring a new Social Action Coordinator. In the meantime, members of the council have volunteered to temporarily take on many of Zach's responsibilities. Liz Rust has agreed to coordinate the Social Action Candlelighting program at Sunday services. Kate Kavanagh is managing the Social Action Facebook page and answering Social Action email. Ted Bayne will pick up the Social Action mail in the church office. Fred Van Deusen is managing the Social Action website pages. Wendy Holt and Tammie Foote have started a Communications subcommittee. And Bob Brack has agreed to continue as chair of the council.

We have a busy program planned for this spring and encourage everyone to participate in one or more activities. Details are on the Social Action [website pages](#), [Facebook page](#), and [calendar](#). Come join us!

Amnesty International

Students Released March 16

Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room

Our advocacy on behalf of two Azerbaijanian students in prison since 2016 is over at last. They were released on March 16. We continue to work on immigration issues, including joining local efforts, the abolition of the death penalty, and Massachusetts prison reform. Our monthly letter writing supports individuals worldwide whose lives are in jeopardy because of their human-rights work. Please join us. For more information: Nancy Lyons, njlyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.



Exhibit—Portraits of Activists

Sunday, September 15, Opening Reception, First Parish Galleries

Wednesday, May 1, Deadline for Nominating People to Be Featured in Narratives



The Social Action Council is organizing an exhibit featuring the personal narratives of individuals in our community directly involved in social justice work. The exhibit will also feature original artwork addressing social justice issues. Narratives and artwork will be selected to showcase the diversity of engagement with social justice within the space available.

If you would like to share your story, know of someone whose story you would like to have included in the exhibit, or would like to submit original artwork related to social justice issues, please contact Tammie Foote, TamasinFoote@feete.com, or 978-505-3744.

Patriots' Day Parade

Fun, Family-Friendly Event

Monday, April 15, 8:30 a.m., Stow Street between the Hunt Gym and Armory

The First Parish [Reclaim Our Democracy](#) group and its supporters will be walking in this year's Patriots' Day Parade in Concord. We will be gathering on April 15, at Stow Street between the Hunt Gym and the Armory. Wear comfortable shoes and be ready to sing as we walk through the streets of Concord to celebrate Patriots' Day and democracy. This is a fun, family-friendly event.



Please join us and help support this very important effort. If you are interested or have questions, please email Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Roxbury Youth Program Tour

**Saturday, April 20, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., First Church,
10 Putnam Street, Roxbury**

Carpool with us into Roxbury to learn about the rich history of the Highland Park neighborhood and support the Roxbury Youth Program at the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry (UUUM). The youth-led tour lasts 45 minutes and will be followed by discussion. Sponsored by the Racial Justice Action Group.



Cost \$10. To register, contact Leslie Fisher, leslifisher@treitman.com. If you cannot make April 20, Follen Church in Lexington may be able to accommodate you April 27. For the April 27 date, contact Marcia Butman, mbutman@gmail.com.

Women's News

AWE Upcoming Events

Advocates for Women's Empowerment

- **LunaFest:** Saturday, March 30, 7:00 p.m. (doors open), 7:30 p.m. (film)
- **First Friday Film Series, "The Help":** Friday, April 5, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
- **April Meeting:** Saturday, April 20, 8:00 a.m., Art Gym, West Concord
- **Toiletry Drive for Women:** Begins Sunday, March 31, Coatroom

LunaFest

Join us at LunaFest—a fund-raising film festival by, for, and about women. Proceeds will benefit Dignity in Asylum (<https://www.dignityinasylum.org/>), a women-founded non-profit 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



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online (\$15) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-concord-ma-tickets-55641583474>) or at the door (\$20). Contact Lora Venesy, venesy@comcast.net.

Free Feminist Film Series

We'll show *The Help*, a story of a young white woman, "Skeeter," and her relationship with two black maids during the Civil Rights Movement in 1963 in Jackson, Mississippi. In an attempt to become a legitimate journalist and writer, Skeeter decides to write a book from the point of view of the maids, referred to as "the help," exposing the racism they are faced with as they work for white families. Contact: Lou Toussaint, mloutoussaint@gmail.com.



April Meeting

We'll have a quick business meeting, but much of the meeting will involve a creative process that will culminate in identifying themes for a banner for AWE. Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month and are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions.

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

Toiletry Drive for Women

Please leave your items for our toiletry drive in the marked box in the coatroom, 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.



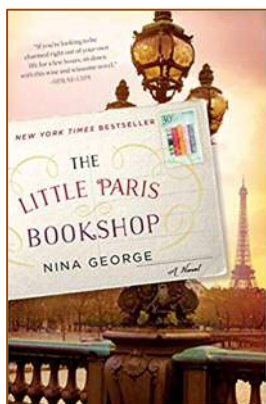
Mailing List

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

Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, April 29, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

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



Our April book is *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George. Discussions will be held on Monday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday, April 30, at 9:30 a.m. 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.

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Remaining Dates and Books

| Date | Book | Author |
|-------------|---|---------------|
| April 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 |
| June TBD | Annual Potluck and Book Choosing Evening | |



Women's Parish Association

Craft and Flea Market

April 6, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Donations: April 3 and April 4, Bulkeley Room

Don't forget to come to this important fundraiser and bring friends and family for a fun day of interesting browsing and shopping at great prices.

Crafters and flea marketers will be selling photography, spring plants, art objects, jewelry, household goods, children's items, interesting vintage and antique items and collectibles. Snacks and lunch available all day. Entrance fee: \$1.00 for adults.



Donations

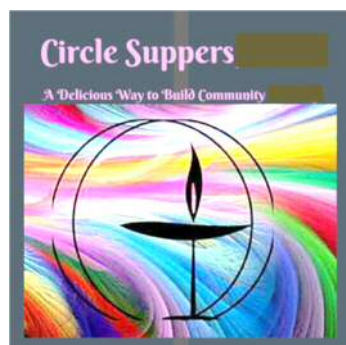
April 3 and April 4 only, Bulkeley Room

Collectibles, antiques, jewelry, children's items, household goods in good working condition—all are welcome. Volunteers, please contact Melita Teichert at mmtconcord1@gmail.com to offer to help.

Other Cool Stuff

Circle Supper Spring 2019—Cancelled

Saturday, May 4 (rescheduled from April 27)



We're short on planning help to make this fun casual potluck dinner evening happen. Seems like such a sweet way to get to know one another—breaking bread together with homemade or purchased contributions, meeting up at parishioners' homes, and open to all at First Parish. There's a lot of potential here but we need an easier way to make it all happen. Until we figure out what that is, the program's on hold. If you'd like to organize this or be a part of reshaping the program, please get in touch with Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu or cell 978-578-1077.

Concord Area Humanists

Peter Alden, "Creating Local Naturalists"

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., April 3, Parish Hall



Many are concerned about our planet's future, worry about climate change and pollutants, and try to be green. But few have identified and consciously observed 100 vertebrates and 100 plants in their own towns. Our speaker will review local flora and fauna and discuss initiatives to create local naturalists.

Peter, naturalist and Concord native, has led wildlife tours to over 100 countries. He has published 15 field guides, including *Audubon's Field Guide to New England*. He organized the world's first Biodiversity Days

(Bioblitzes), which now occur worldwide. For more information, visit

<http://peteraldenwildlife.com/> .

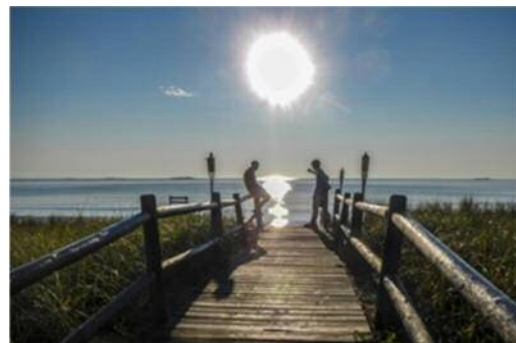
Ferry Beach Retreat

Memorial Day Weekend, Friday to Monday, May 24 – 27, in Saco, Maine

Registration: April 7 - 28

Join families, couples, and singles from our congregation and First Parish in Lexington for this relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine, over Memorial Day Weekend. Registrations will be taken during coffee hours and in the church office starting April 7 and ending April 28.

As of April 7, the Registration Packet can be downloaded from www.firstparish.org/forms. In addition to the usual information, the packet will outline some significant changes that Ferry Beach has made to some of its policies, lodging and meal choices, and fees. Your joint Concord-Lexington Planning Committee is working hard to find the best ways for our group to adjust to these changes. For questions or to inquire about scholarship assistance, contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.



Partner Congregation Committee News

Funds Still Needed

Important Cultural Exchange and Hosting Event

Thank you to those who have already generously made donations to help bring the Vadrózsák (Wild Roses) student folk dance troupe and a delegation from our partner congregation in Székeleykeresztúr to Concord next fall. This is an important cultural exchange, and hosting this group of youths and accompanying adults is vital to the future of our partnership. We need to raise close to \$34,000 to bring 25 Transylvanian visitors here and host them. For more information, or to learn how to make a donation, go to <http://firstparish.org/wp/connection/transylvanian-partnership/>.

Continued next page.



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.

Continued next page.

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: **April 9, 2019**

Next Publication Date: **April 17, 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.

Meeting House Newsletter Deadlines

| Issue | Deadline | Publication | Holiday* |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 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, April 2019. Add us to your address book.

