

THE SUNDAY NEWS

November 23, 2014

This Week

Sun., Nov. 23 Sunday Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Tue., Nov. 25 7:45 Adult Choir
Wed., Nov. 26 12:00 First Parish Office Closes
Thu., Nov. 27 Thanksgiving
Fri., Nov. 21 First Parish Closed
Sun., Nov. 30 9:00 First Parish Café
One Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting House News deadline: Tuesday, December 16.
Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org.
Be aware that all items (including contact information) posted to the *Sunday News* or *Meeting House News*, or on First Parish–related email lists, may be published.

Parish Notes

First Parish Office Closed for the Holiday

The First Parish Office will be closing at noon on Wednesday, November 26, and will remain closed through Friday, November 28. Open Table will be serving a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 27.

Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life.” The November Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Bev Bringle. Bev can be contacted at 978-369-4793 or bevbringle@yahoo.com.

Pastoral Care Needs You

Our wonderful Pastoral Care Program needs more volunteers to help reach out to those who are going through a time of illness, injury, bereavement or difficult transition, and those who aren't able to come to First Parish (FP) any longer. Please help support and keep them connected to FP! There are so many ways you can help. The Pastoral Care Volunteer form will be included in the order of service on November 23 and December 7, but you can always find copies on the Pastoral Care bulletin board located in the hallway on the lower level. Thank you for helping to make FP a caring congregation!

—Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care

Tuesday Group (65+) Meeting—December 2, 1:30 p.m.

“Winter Holidays: Now and Then”

Each meeting includes a time of focused sharing and a topic for facilitated discussion. This month's meeting will focus on remembering holiday traditions from our own past (bring an old photo or object), and new holiday traditions that you've created as times and families have changed. Also bring a snack to share, as we'll have our own holiday celebration. The Tuesday Group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Don't worry about your age. All are welcome; you determine whether the topic is for you. Hope to see you there! Tuesday Group Steering Committee: Berni Jenkins (contact person), berni.jenkins@verizon.net or 978-369-2876, Bob Andrews, Mary Clark, Dave Dawson, Susan Dobbie, Patricia Ellis, Bill Maxwell, Jack Nevison and Virginia Taylor.

Nominations for First Parish Standing Committee

The Nominating Committee, charged with identifying nominees to serve on the First Parish Standing Committee, is accepting nominations now through the end of the year. Nomination forms are available at the Welcome Table during coffee hour. Contact Alane Wallis, 978-505-7363 or alanewallis@gmail.com, with any questions. Thank you.

Help Wanted for Sunday Forum Setup

The Sunday Forum Committee needs help. Forums on every imaginable subject are presented in the Sanctuary after the service at 11:30 a.m. They're fun to produce and very educational. Come learn how to set up sound systems, mikes, projectors and screens and how to host a world-class event. Young people are most welcome. We particularly need people to help us with setup from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Sundays; but once you've helped us assemble everything, you might just want to stick around and watch the show. Inquiries may be addressed to vice-chair Sally Schloemann, sallysmail@verizon.net, or by calling 978-369-3416.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 2, 9:30 a.m.

***The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, by Elisabeth Tova Bailey**

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both discussions. Please note that we are always open for drop-in, and you never need to sign-up to attend. The morning session is facilitated by Darien Smith, and the evening by Siri Smedvig.

All-Parish Art Exhibit

Don't miss seeing the new art exhibit in the Suzanne Altshuler Gallery, on the Parish Hall stage. It is an annual exhibit to celebrate the work of many First Parishioners.

Candle Elves Needed

First Parish is looking for three elves to help prepare candles for the Christmas Eve services. We will meet on Monday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m., for about an hour. Fresh hot tea and goodies will be served. If interested in helping, please call Doug Baker at the church, 978-369-9602, ext. 419.

The Children's Holiday Craft Workshop

Saturday, December 6, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

The First Parish Elves are busy at work to make sure this holiday season is magical. There are three ways to participate:

- * Be a child! Come and make holiday gifts for your family, teachers and friends. No need for advance sign-up.
- * Be an adult or teen elf! Join the elf team at a craft table to help little hands with gift making.
- * Volunteer to make the First Parish secret recipe gingerbread cookie dough, or help with setup, cleanup or prep work for wood projects.

Cost is \$15 per child, maximum \$45 for a family, snacks and drinks provided. To volunteer, sign up at coffee hour or contact Patty Popov by phone, 978-369-1990, or email, ppopov@wesleyan.edu. Your Holiday Head Elves: Jan Goddard-Taylor, Dave Elwood, Sarah Napier, Marilyn Lowitt, and Patty Popov

Communications

Sign up for the monthly emailed newsletter and regularly emailed announcements here: <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/e-mail-lists>. "Like" the First Parish Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Parish-in-Concord-Unitarian-Universalist/343822177494>.

Parking

The staff would like to make it easier for people to park at First Parish. On Sunday morning we are parking our cars farther away to make room for those who may need to be close. Please feel free to use the spaces in the small circle and enjoy being a little closer when you need to. Ample parking is available behind the Concord Visitors Center on Keyes Road.

Accessibility

Handicapped parking spaces are located in the small circle and by the small white houses. The elevator is located behind the Sanctuary to the left and is accessible on all floors and the balcony. There are two spaces for people using wheelchairs in the balcony near the doors to the Religious Education wing and two spaces on the main floor of the Sanctuary, one on each side near the front row.

Social Action Community

Vegan Potluck Dinner and Holiday Songs

Tuesday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, Tuesday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m., hosted by Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team. Chris Randall will lead us in a sing-along of holiday songs. Please bring your own beverage and a dish (4 to 6 servings) to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey and dairy. Please also bring your own place setting to reduce paper waste and cleanup. Also, attach a card with the ingredients of your dish, to help out those with allergies or special diets. Children are welcome! Creative fun at the children's craft table provided. Need a recipe? Contact Lyell Slade at 978-369-0636 or llsrvd@netscape.net.

Children's and Youth News

This Week, November 23 – Two Services

Special Child Dedication Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

- 8:50 a.m. – Regular Classes, Babies-Preschool
- 10:50 a.m. – Regular Classes, Babies-Preschool
- 4:30 p.m. – 9th Grade COA – Meet in the Emerson Room
- 7:00 p.m. – 9th-12th Grades, Youth Group

Next Week, November 30—One Service at 10 a.m.

- No RE, Children K and up in the Sanctuary
- 9:50 a.m. – Regular Class, Babies-Preschool
- 4:00 p.m. – 8th Grade Drama – Meet on the Wright Tavern Sunporch.

The Following Week, December 7 – Regular RE Week

- 9:50 a.m. – Regular Classes, Babies-Preschool
- 10:00 a.m. – Service
 - Kindergarten – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms
 - 1st Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms
 - 2nd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Ripley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room
 - 3rd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Greeley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room
 - 4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Bulkeley Room, pickup on the Parish Hall Stage
 - 5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Brooks Room, pickup on the Parish Hall Stage
 - 6th & 7th Grades – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Wright Tavern Sunporch
 - 8th Grade Drama – Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.
 - YAC – Wright Tavern Sunporch – 6:00 p.m.
 - 9th-12th Grades, Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

Youth Service Trip—Deadline to Commit Is December 1

Last year the youth group had a wonderful service trip to West Virginia. This year we'll be exploring urban poverty and doing service through the Youth Service Opportunity Project in New York City. If you or your high-school-aged youth are interested in going on the service trip to New York City between February 15 and 21, the deadline to register for this trip and give a \$400 nonrefundable deposit is December 1. We are also looking for adult chaperones; contact Bethany (BLowe@firstparish.org) to learn more.

Save the Date: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

This winter, the First Parish 8th Grade Players will be presenting the musical production *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Based on the beloved Peanuts characters, it appeals to all ages and will make a great holiday outing for all First Parish families. Performances will be December 12, at 7 p.m.; and December 13, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Questions or concerns about **domestic violence** or **suicide**?

Call...

Domestic Violence Services Help Line: 888-399-6111

Suicide Prevention Life Line: 800-273-TALK (8255)

Rev. Howard Dana's email: hdana@firstparish.org

Rev. Marion Visel's email: mvisel@firstparish.org

Brian Chenowith's email: bchenowith@firstparish.org

Visit our website at firstparish.org