

THE SUNDAY NEWS

February 8, 2015

This Week

Sun., Feb. 8	Sunday Service at 10:00 11:30 Nominating Committee 6:00 Standing Committee
Mon., Feb. 9	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tue., Feb. 10	9:30 Women's Book Group 9:30 WPA Board Meeting 2:00 Shawl Ministry 6:00 Vegan Potluck
Wed., Feb. 11	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 - 9:00 First Parish Choirs
Thu., Feb. 12	7:00 Partner Congregation Meeting 7:30 Buddhist Group
Sat., Feb. 14	9:00 Photography Club
Sun., Feb. 15	Sunday Service at 10:00 11:30 Reproductive Justice Meeting 11:30 Membership Team Meeting

Next Meeting House News deadline: Tuesday, February 17.

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

Today's Coming of Age Service

The worship service this morning will be 90 minutes long. We have 20 thoughtful credos from our Coming of Age youth.

Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life." The February Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Diane Clapp. Diane can be reached at d.clapp@comcast.net or 781-257-5025.

Adult Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Today at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel

Our contemporary vocal ensemble resumes again today. Do you have a passion for singing? Do you love gospel, jazz, folk? Do you long to share your voice in the music ministry here at First Parish in Concord? If so, the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble may be just what you are seeking. Unless otherwise noted, we will be rehearsing on Sundays in the chapel from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. We will next be singing in the March 8 Sunday service. For more information, contact Gail Carey, Music Ministry Associate, improvgail@gmail.com.

Bill Claybrook Photography Exhibit

Please take a moment to enjoy Bill Claybrook's photography exhibit hanging in the Suzanne Altshuler Gallery.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The morning discussion of the January book (*My Beloved World*, by Sonia Sotomayor) has been again rescheduled due to this past week's snowstorm. The two sessions are now:
Evening—Monday, February 9, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Morning—Tuesday, February 10, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

The regular February discussions of *Main Street*, by Sinclair Lewis remain scheduled (so far) for:

Evening—Monday, February 23, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Morning—Tuesday, February 24, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Finding Meaning through Reflection in Later Life

This six-week program sponsored by First Parish's "First Tuesday Group (65+)" is based on the book *Lasting Words*, by Claire Willis, who led a Sunday Forum at First Parish this fall. The book focuses on spiritual issues of common concern, suggesting questions for reflection through discussion and writing. The group will take the form of guided conversations, using the book chapters as springboards for reflection. Discussion will be facilitated by Sue Dobbie and Virginia Taylor. We will meet on six consecutive Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. beginning February 26 and continuing through April 2. Sign up for this program on the clipboard in the front office next to the volunteers' desk, or by contacting Sue Dobbie at 978-501-6969 or susandobbie@gmail.com.

The Standing Committee Needs Your Input!

Please fill out this brief anonymous survey (link below). Your answers will help us evaluate ourselves. If you'd like to discuss anything further, feel free to add your contact information at the end. Please submit your feedback by February 20. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W3ZXRBO>.

Nominations for the First Parish Nominating Committee

The Standing Committee is looking for people who would like to be considered for nomination to the Nominating Committee (NomCom). There are two upcoming openings. We are looking for people who are "connectors" and like to participate in many aspects of church life. This year we have a specific need to have people with a strong sense of the workings of the current Standing Committee. The primary function of the Nominating Committee is to solicit and nominate candidates for any open positions on the Standing Committee and openings for the Treasurer, Clerk and Moderator positions. The term is three years, with an option to serve two consecutive terms. The NomCom meets monthly on Sunday mornings, and the time commitment is two to three hours a month. Please let us know by Sunday, February 22, about people who might be interested in and qualified for these positions by contacting Patty Popov at ppopov@nichols-pratt.com or 978-369-1990.

Partner Congregation Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.

The Partner Church Committee will hold its next meeting at First Parish on Thursday, February 12, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. We invite all who are interested in our partnership to attend. Dessert will be served.

Membership Team—Sunday, February 15, 11:30 a.m.

The new and revitalized Membership Team has come together! All are welcome to meet on the third Sunday of every month through June. We will be thinking creatively about how to be the most welcoming congregation we can be. We will step up to do the actual work of welcoming new people on the path toward

membership. Would you like to be present at the Welcome Table during coffee hour to answer questions about the congregation? Would you like to learn how to lead a visitors reflection circle? Curious about how to get involved? Come join us on February 15, 11:30-12:30 a.m.

New to Unitarian Universalism Orientation Sunday, February 22, 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.

Participants will learn about the rich history of our Unitarian Universalist faith, gain an understanding of congregational polity, and better understand the role of the UU principles and sources in our values-driven religious movement. Child care is available. R.S.V.P. to rbaker@firstparish.org by Wednesday, February 18.

New to First Parish in Concord Orientation Sunday, March 8, 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Participants will hear from the ministerial team, staff and lay leaders, find out how to become engaged in congregational life at First Parish, and have the option to sign the membership book. Childcare available. R.S.V.P. to rbaker@firstparish.org by Wednesday, March 4.

Social Action

Presentation by Trustees and the Environmental Leadership Team, today at 11:30 a.m.

Join the Divestment subgroup of the Environmental Leadership Team for a presentation by the First Parish Trustees of Parish Donations. Learn who they are, what they do, and their perspective on the challenges of being responsible stewards of parish donations within the larger context of our UU values. Learn about their current Socially Responsible Investing guidelines and how they came to be. Join in a thoughtful conversation about the 2014 UUA resolution on fossil fuel divestment and its possible implications with respect to future investment decisions by the Trustees. The Socially Responsible Investing issues to be discussed may also be of interest to you for your own personal Investments. The presentation and discussion will be held today, at 11:30 a.m. in the Emerson Room.

Chocolate Tasting and Vegan Potluck Dinner Tuesday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy *fair-trade chocolate tasting* and a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, Tuesday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team. Please bring your own beverage and a dish to share (4-6 servings) 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 welcome! Creative fun at the children's craft table provided. Need a recipe? Contact Lyell Slade at 978-369-0636 or llsrvd@netscape.net.

Showing of *Tapped*

Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 p.m. at the Little Theatre, CCHS

In anticipation of World Water Day on March 22, please join a free community showing of *Tapped*, an award-winning documentary that looks at the bottled water industry and explores the concern that continued privatization will threaten universal access to clean water.

Reproductive Justice

Are you interested in learning more, or becoming more actively involved in Reproductive Justice? Our next meeting is on Sunday, February 15, at 11:30 a.m.—all are welcome! We will be discussing our spring events to help raise awareness about inequalities still faced by women. For questions or more information, please contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Amnesty International Group 15 Meeting Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.

AI Group 15 meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Ripley Room at First Parish in Concord. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 17. In addition to signing letters and petitions in support of human rights activists and prisoners of conscience worldwide each month, we also focus on several other issues, including solitary confinement in Massachusetts, the death penalty in the United States, and global violence against women. We welcome all to join us in February and beyond. If you'd like more information about Group 15, please contact Kathy Taylor, the group's coordinator, at Kly.taylor@gmail.com or 781-718-7640.

Investing Your Values Discussion

Wednesday, March 8, from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

Come to this discussion on how we invest with our values. Bethany Lowe, Director of Social Action, will lead us in a discussion of how we balance our desires to see a return on our investments and invest in companies that promote our personal values. We will not seek to inform how you invest, but ask you to examine how your current investment philosophy does or does not reflect your values. We will not provide investment advice, though resources on how to invest with your values will be provided. All are welcome. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be available.

Children's and Youth News

This Week, February 8—Regular RE Week

9:50 a.m. – Regular Classes, Babies-Preschool

10:00 a.m. – COA 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 Ripley Room

3rd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Greeley Room, pickup in the Greeley Room

4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Bulkeley Room

5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Brooks Room

6th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Wright Tavern

7th Grade - Neighboring Faiths – 9:00-9:55 a.m.
Classroom Sunday

8th Grade – OWL – 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room
Parents and Youth Attend Service Trip Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

9th-12th Grades, Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

Next Week, February 15 — February Vacation -

No Regular RE

9:50 a.m. – Regular Class, Babies-Preschool

10:00 a.m. – Service

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

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

Brian Chenowith's email: bchenowith@firstparish.org

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Visit our website at firstparish.org