

THE SUNDAY NEWS

First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

February 22, 2015

This Week

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| Sun., Feb. 22 | Sunday Service at 10:00 11:30 New to UU Orientation 11:30 Reproductive Justice 4:00 Social Action Reflection Group |
| Mon., Feb. 23 | 7:30 Women's Book Group |
| Tue., Feb. 24 | 9:30 Women's Book Group |
| Wed., Feb. 25 | 9:30 Buddhist Group 11:30 WPA Luncheon 4:30 - 9:30 First Parish Choirs |
| Thu., Feb. 26 | 1:00 Finding Meaning in Life 7:30 Buddhist Group |
| Fri., Feb. 27 | 7:00 "Escalating Inequality" Meeting 7:30 Rise Up Singing |
| Sun., Mar. 1 | Celebration Sunday Service at 10:00 11:30 New to UU Orientation 11:30 Sunday Forum 11:30 First Parish Friendly Visitor Orientation |

Invitation: Ordination of Rachel Baker
Sunday, March 15, 4:00 p.m., Offsite
First Parish in Bedford, 75 The Great Road,
Bedford, Massachusetts

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life." The February Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Carolyn Shohet. Carolyn can be reached at careshohet@gmail.com or 978-369-6231.

Celebration Sunday—Sunday, March 1, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Howard Dana and the First Parish Choirs

"Coping with the Challenges of Caregiving"

The two-session workshop originally scheduled for Saturdays, February 21 and 28, has been postponed to *Saturdays, March 28 and April 11*, because the weather intruded on people's ability to attend. There is a sign-up sheet in the front office next to the volunteer desk, or contact Fred Van Deusen at FredVanDeu@gmail.com or 978-369-0435.

"Finding Meaning through Reflection in Later Life"

The six-session program based on "*Lasting Words*" by Claire Willis originally scheduled for Thursday afternoons, February 26 – April 2 has been postponed until *Thursday afternoons, March 26 – April 30*. To register for this program, contact Sue Dobbie at 978-501-6969 or susandobbie@gmail.com or sign-up on the clipboard in the front office next to the volunteers' desk.

Looking for Leaders—Terrific Tuesday

First Parish engages in a vast variety of terrific traditions. One of these traditions is the community Lenten meals. Terrific Tuesdays (or Marvelous Mondays or Fantastic Fridays) have been a wonderful community building opportunity for many years. Each

week during the time of Lent, the congregation has gathered together for a delicious meal cooked by members of a committee (or a potluck). The meal was followed by an evening worship service. After vespers there were a number of different programs, including religious education and theological discussion for adults, multiage projects, and other activities. This tradition is well attended and much loved. Would you like to help carry this tradition into the future? This year we are looking for leaders to plan, facilitate and lead these wonderful evening activities in March. If you are interested, send an email to Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org. She will connect you with others who also express interest.

First Parish Cooperative Seder Planning Meeting Monday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.

This year's Seder is going to be Saturday, April 11. All are welcome, and everyone that comes helps make it happen. We could also use your help in organizing the event. Please let Jim Snyder-Grant know if you can help with organizing, if you can come to the planning meeting, and what areas you could help organize. To get you thinking about how you might help, here's a partial list of areas that need organizing: ticket creation, ticket sales (coffee hours), money tracking, menu, shopping, cooking, service planning, setup and, communications and sharing information. For more information, or to R.S.V.P. for the planning meeting, please contact Jim Snyder-Grant, 508-572-2985 jimsg@newview.org.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

Our new plan is to discuss both the January and February books on February 23; 7:30 p.m. and 24, 9:30 a.m., the regular dates for February discussions.

The First Tuesday Group (65+)

"Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"

Tuesday, March 3, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Brian Chenoweth, Ministerial Intern, will lead us in a discussion about how our lives have been shaped by those whom we admire, especially our mentors. Who inspired us? How has that made us who we are today? And how have we stepped into the mentor role? The First Tuesday Group meets the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30 -3:00 p.m., and 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 Clarke, Dave Dawson, Susan Dobbie, Patricia Ellis, Bill Maxwell, Jack Nevison and Virginia Taylor.

Responding to Escalating Inequality—Talk and Discussion Led by Chuck Collins—March 6, 7:00 p.m. Parlor

Join our investigation of the UUA's study/action question on Escalating Inequality. Sponsored by the Denominational Affairs Committee, this is the second event in a multiyear learning and acting process. Chuck Collins is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies, where he directs the Program on Inequality and the Common Good (www.inequality.org). Chuck will discuss why our national conversation about how to address the challenge of inequality is stuck and polarized, and what we can do about it. He will also bring news from the UU National Conference on Income Inequality and lead a discussion following his talk.

**“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.

The Standing Committee Needs Your Input!

Please fill out this brief anonymous survey (see 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 28. <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 to serve on the First Parish Nominating Committee. The primary function of the Nominating Committee is to solicit and nominate candidates for any open positions on the Standing Committee as well as the Treasurer, Clerk and Moderator positions. As a result, we are looking for people who are “connectors” and like to participate in many aspects of church life. There are two upcoming openings on the Nominating Committee and we are especially interested in finding at least one person with an understanding of the workings of the current Standing Committee. The term is three years, with an option to serve two consecutive terms. The Nominating Committee meets monthly on Sunday mornings, and the time commitment is two to three hours a month. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact Patty Popov at ppopov@nichols-pratt.com or 978-369-1990, by Tuesday, March 31.

Women’s Parish Association WPA Luncheon Meeting

Enjoy a delicious meal and an interesting program at the Women’s Parish Association’s luncheon meeting on Wednesday, February 25. Social time: 11:30 a.m. Lunch: Noon, followed by the program— Cuba, a place so near and yet so far away has been a fascination for many people over the years. First Parish members who have travelled to Cuba will give a slide presentation of their various visits as general tourists and visitors to a music festival. Cost of the luncheon is ten dollars. Contact the office or Dian Pekin at Pekinde@comcast.net , to make reservations and to communicate food requirements. All women and men are cordially invited.

Tufts Humanist Chaplaincy—Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m.

Concord Area Humanists will present Walker Bristol, Tufts’ Humanist in Residence. He serves the chaplaincy needs of non-religious, Humanist, or otherwise nontraditional students. He offers spiritual caregiving, and works with other campus chaplains to meet needs of the student community whether part of organized religion or not. Join Walker to explore. Next month on Wednesday, April 1, author David Niöse, past president AHA, will discuss his book *“Fighting Back the Right: Reclaiming America from the Attack on Reason.”* For more, go to www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org and click on Events.

Children’s and Youth News

This Week, February 22 — February Vacation

No Regular RE

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

10:00 a.m. – Chinese New Year Service

Andrea Sheffield and her team from Wah Lum Kung Fu will perform a traditional Lion Dance in the Sanctuary at the beginning of service. In lieu of regular RE classes,

children will be invited to the Parish Hall, where Andrea and her team will offer an interactive program of drumming and martial arts.

4:00 p.m. – 8th Grade – OWL in the Emerson Room

Next Week, March 1 — Regular RE Week

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

Kindergarten – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

1st Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

2nd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to the Ripley Room

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

4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the Chapel; released to coffee hour

5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the Chapel; released to coffee hour

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – meet at First Parish at 10:00 a.m. for Grace Chapel service

8th Grade – OWL – 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

YAC – Wright Tavern Sunporch 6:00 p.m.

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

Social Action

Reproductive Justice—Today at 11:30 a.m.

Are you interested in learning more, or becoming more actively involved in Reproductive Justice? Today 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.

“Escalating Inequality” Meeting

Friday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.

The UU 2014 General Assembly selected “Escalating Inequality” as the 2014-2018 Congregational Study/Action Issue. The Denominational Affairs Committee and several other First Parish groups recently sponsored a showing of the film “Inequality for All,” which was attended by more than 40 people. We are holding a follow-up meeting on Friday, February 27, for those interested in learning more about the topic and potentially participating in one or more related social action projects. If you missed the film, you are still welcome to join us. Questions please contact fredvandeu@gmail.com.

“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.

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

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

Brian Chenowith’s email: bchenowith@firstparish.org

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at firstparish.org