

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 8, 2015

This Week

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| Sun., Mar. 8 | Sunday Service at 10:00 9:00 “Investing Your Values” Discussion 11:30 New to First Parish Orientation 11:30 Sunday Forum 11:30 Nominating Committee 11:30 RE Conversation 6:00 Standing Committee |
| Mon., Mar. 9 | 7:30 Denominational Affairs Meeting |
| Tue., Mar. 10 | 9:30 WPA Board Meeting 2:00 Shawl Ministry 6:00 Vegan Potluck |
| Wed., Mar. 11 | 9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 - 9:30 First Parish Choirs |
| Thu., Mar. 12 | 7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 Reverence for Life Meeting |
| Sat., Mar. 14 | 9:00 Photography Club |
| Sun., Mar. 15 | Sunday Service at 10:00 11:30 Congregational Discussion on Divestment 11:30 Membership Team Meeting 11:30 Sunday Forum 5:00 Oriana Consort |

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life.” The March Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Dana Snyder-Grant. Dana can be reached at danag@newview.org or 978-266-9409.

“Coping with the Challenges of Caregiving”

The two-session workshop is scheduled for Saturdays, March 28 and April 11. 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, is scheduled for 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.

“New to First Parish” Orientation—Today

Orientation for those who are new to First Parish in Concord meets today at 11:30 a.m. in the Brooks Room.

Sound Operator Needed

The third Sunday team is looking for a new Sound Operator. This is a two-hour, once a month time commitment on each third Sunday from 9:00 a.m. through the end of worship. Training is provided. Interested? Contact Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org.

Covenant Group Looking for Additional Members

Covenant Groups are opportunities to reflect upon spiritual and other matters in a small group of members and friends of the congregation. Contact Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org. She will connect you with the group’s facilitator.

Today’s Forum at 11:30 a.m.

“The Search for Earth 2.0,” Professor Sara Seager, MIT

Exoplanets are planets that orbit stars other than the sun. Thousands of exoplanets are known to exist and motivate the prime goal to find and identify a planet like Earth—an “Earth 2.0.” Two recent factors make this goal achievable in the near term. First, astronomers have now ascertained, statistically speaking, that every star in our Milky Way Galaxy should have at least one planet, and that small rocky planets are extremely common. Second, engineers have matured the required technology for the sophisticated space telescopes capable of discovering Earth-like exoplanets. For the first time in human history we therefore say with certainty that we are on the verge of being able to search for signs of life beyond our solar system.

Congregational Discussion on Divestment Sunday, March 15, 11:30 a.m.

Over the last year, a small group of parishioners—Bruce Blumberg, Bob Andrews, and Laura Bernstein—has been working alongside the Standing Committee, Trustees and Environmental Leadership Team to research the current fossil fuel divestment movement and a possible action on the part of our congregation. This has been brought to the attention of these parishioners by recent votes at Concord Town Meeting, and the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association last year. The next step in this process is to hear from you! Come to a congregational discussion on Sunday, March 15, at 11:30 a.m. to learn about divestment, ask any questions you have, and give input on how you’d like First Parish to respond to this international movement. Standing Committee member Kate Crosby will be present at this discussion. Can’t make it on the 15th? Additional conversations will take place on Sundays April 12 and May 17, at 11:30 a.m.

Membership Team—Sunday, March 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 onto 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 visitor reflection circle? Curious about how to get involved? Come get involved on March 15, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ordination of Rachel Baker

Sunday, March 15, 4:00 p.m., Offsite

First Parish in Bedford cordially invites the members and friends of First Parish in Concord to witness and celebrate the Ordination of Rachel Allen Baker to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Clergy and seminarians are invited to robe and process at 3:30 p.m. Reception to follow. 75 The Great Road, Bedford, Massachusetts.

Oriana Consort at First Parish, Sunday, March 15, 5:00 p.m.

Director Walter Chapin and Assistant Director Caroline Harvey will lead the group in “Three Choral Visions: Musical responses to adversity.” Francis Poulenc’s “Un soir de neige” uses winter and snow as metaphors for the Nazi occupation of France. William Byrd’s “Mass for Five Voices” was written to be sung in secret at a time when Catholics were under oppression. And Leonard Bernstein’s “Chichester Psalms” cries out, “Why do the nations

rage?” as a boy soprano, in contrast, gently sings the Twenty-Third Psalm. Please visit OrianaConsort.org for tickets.

Community Dinner, Wednesday, March 18

Please join us in the Parish Hall for an intergenerational community dinner on Wednesday, March 18, 6-8 p.m. Hosted by members of the Standing and Nominating Committees, this simple church supper will include the following menu: appetizers, pasta with three options: marinara (vegetarian/vegan), meatball and pesto, bread, salad, cookies and brownies. Please feel free to bring your own beverages. \$5/person with a maximum of \$20/family. To reduce waste and cleanup time, we encourage you to bring your own plates, knives, forks, glasses, if possible. R.S.V.P.'s are greatly appreciated so that we know how many to cook for, but walk-ins are also welcome. R.S.V.P. to Kate Svrcek at katesvrcek@hotmail.com or sign up on the board outside the office. Kate is also taking requests for gluten-free pasta.

“20 Years Later”—Dr. Rev. Sándor Kovács

On Thursday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. the Partner Congregation Committee will present An Evening with Dr. Rev. Sándor Kovács: “20 Years Later.” Rev. Kovács is the current Balázs Scholar at Starr King School; he is an Associate Professor at the Protestant Theological Institute in Cluj (Kolozsvár), Transylvania, where he teaches church history and the history of religion. He will present a historical review leading up to modern Transylvanian reality, changes in culture, and the ramifications for Hungarian Unitarians in the region, as well as new initiatives in interfaith conversations there. Dessert and beverages will be served.

Social Action

Grant Review Period Open until Wednesday, March 11

The First Parish Social Action Committee Grants group has posted a list of the Grant Requests received for the 2014-15 grant cycle on the First Parish website, <http://bit.ly/1xJgxu2>. All are welcome to review and comment on these Grant Requests. A notebook with all Grant Requests is available in the First Parish office. All comments are due by Wednesday, March 11. Comments can be mailed to Bethany Lowe, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742 or emailed to BLowe@firsparish.org. When commenting, please reference the Grant Request number and applicant name and keep comments brief. Be aware that these comments are just one factor used to evaluate SAC grant requests. The SAC grants group makes decisions by applying policies that are available on the SAC website.

Concord Area Group 15 of Amnesty International Meeting Tuesday, March 17, at 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. Our next meeting is March 17. We will be signing letters and petitions in support of human rights activists worldwide, and against the death penalty in the U.S. At this meeting we will also brainstorm about our next actions to support legislation against solitary confinement in Massachusetts, to campaign against global violence against women, and to advocate for the release of two journalists currently imprisoned in Swaziland. We welcome all to join us in March 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.

Taizé-Style Vespers Service on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Join Beth Norton, Bethany Lowe and others for a contemplative, candle-lit worship service of songs, poetry, scripture and silence in the Taizé tradition. This Taizé-style service is inspired by water, a sacred resource that we all depend on.

“The Future of Water: Too Little and Too Much”

Panel Discussion—Sunday, March 22, at 3:30 p.m.

In recognition of World Water Day, the next event in the Climate Solutions Speaker Series will be about the future of water and how we can act now to make that future a more positive and sustainable one for all life on this beautiful planet. The event will begin with a short video by water expert Sandra Postel, and then a live panel discussion with Drs. Paul Kirshen and Patricia Jones. This event is free and open to everyone and is cosponsored by the Social Action Community Council as part of its Commit2Respond campaign between World Water Day and Earth Day.

Children's and Youth News

This Week, March 8 — Regular RE Week

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

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

2nd and 3rd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to the Emerson Room

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

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

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

Today— RE Congregational Conversation

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room

Please join us to mine our history and envision our future. Broadly speaking, this is an opportunity to engage in an open discussion of learning at First Parish. Each conversation also includes time to discuss Adult Religious Education.

Next Week, March 15 — Regular RE Week

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

Kindergarten and 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 Bulkeley Room, released to coffee hour

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

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – meet at First Parish at 11:10 a.m. for visit to Sri Lakshmi Temple

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

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

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