

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 22, 2015

This Week

- Sun., Mar. 22 **Sunday Service at 10:00**
11:30 Sunday Forum
2:00 Advocacy Skills Workshop
3:30 "The Future of Water" Discussion
- Wed., Mar. 25
9:30 Buddhist Group
11:30 WPA Luncheon
4:30 - 9:30 First Parish Choirs
- Thu., Mar. 26
1:00 Finding Meaning through Reflection in Later Life
7:30 Buddhist Group
7:30 Dr. Rev. Sándor Kovács
- Fri., Mar. 27
7:30 Rise Up Singing
- Sat., Mar. 28
10:00 Spring Flower Arranging Workshop
1:00 Coping with the Challenges of Caregiving
- Sun., Mar. 29 **Palm Sunday Service at 10:00**
11:30 Special Presentation Stephanie Leighton
11:30 The Conversation Project
- Sun., Apr. 5 **ONE Service Easter Sunday at 10:00**

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.

"Finding Meaning through Reflection in Later Life"

This 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.

Coping with the Challenges of Caregiving

Saturdays, March 28 and April 11, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Lou Fackert will be facilitating these workshops to help those who are caring for an aging parent, a disabled spouse, or a child with a physical, mental or addiction disorder. You'll learn how to disarm that part of the personality that triggers anger, frustration, resentment or any other health-threatening response to stressful events, and how to reframe our view of events so that they become objective challenges rather than destructive distractions. To sign-up, contact Fred Van Deusen, fredvandeu@gmail.com, or use the sign-up sheet in the office.

The Conversation Project—Important Talk (Two sessions)

Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, will help us explore the Conversation Project Starter Kit. The Conversation Project (CP) emphasizes having a conversation about values; what matters to you, not what's the matter with you. Copies of the Conversation Starter Kit will be provided to help you think about and talk about your wishes for care at the end of life, and how to talk with family members about their wishes at the end of their life. This isn't about filling out forms; it's about talking about what you and they want for end-of-life care, based on values. We will meet **Sunday, March 29, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** to review the CP Starter Kit and to talk about what holds us back from

having the conversation (Emerson Room). We will meet again on **Sunday, April 26, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** (Emerson Room) to talk about our successes and stumbling blocks. No need to sign up; just show up!

Cooperative Seder Ticket Sales Today

Come on down to the Seder table at coffee hour in the Parish Hall, get your questions answered, sign up for a task, and get yourself a ticket for this April 11, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. event. Tickets are \$18 for everyone 13 to 80. Over 80 or under 7 are free; 7-12, \$5. New this year: two or more young people, half price. Join a celebration of freedom that's thousands of years old. No experience necessary. Price includes all-you-can-eat food, wine or grape juice for all, and the very popular "leftovers for sale" right after the meal. For more information, contact Jim Snyder-Grant at 508 572-2985 or write to the team at fpseeder@googlegroups.com.

WPA Luncheon Meeting—Wednesday, March 25, 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a delicious meal and an interesting program at the Women's Parish Association's luncheon meeting this Wednesday, March 25. Social time: 11:30 a.m. Lunch: Noon, followed by the program. The program will feature violinist Sarah Whitney, who will perform and give an informative talk. Cost of the luncheon is ten dollars. Contact the office or Dian Pekin at Pekinde@comcast.net by today, to make reservations and to communicate food requirements. All women and men are cordially invited!

"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.

Spring Flower Arranging Workshop

Saturday, March 28, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Please join Flower Committee members Val Vallancourt and Ellen Whitney for this hands-on workshop. We'll show you how to get started, select and process flowers, design and add structure to arrangements. Spring flowers and vases will be provided. Cost is \$30 per person. Sign up by tomorrow, limited to 12 participants. Contact Ellen Whitney at ellewhitney@verizon.net or Val Vallancourt at valvallancourt@gmail.com—or use the clip board sign-up on the wall beside the volunteer desk. If the cost is a hardship for you and you would like to participate, please reach out to Ellen or Val at the emails above.

Social Action

"The Future of Water: Too Little and Too Much"

Panel Discussion—Today 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 followed by a live panel discussion with Drs. Paul Kirshen and Patricia Jones. Paul Kirshen is a Civil Engineer and Research Professor at University of New Hampshire. Patricia Jones is the Senior Program Leader for The Human Right to Water with the UU Service Committee. A half-hour reception will follow the panel discussion. This event is free and open to everyone. This event is cosponsored by the Social Action Community Council as part of its Commit2Respond campaign between World Water Day and Earth Day.

Environmental Film Series—Tuesday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. at St-Anne's-in-the-Fields, Lincoln

As part of our Commit2Respond initiative, First Parish members and friends are invited to St. Anne's-in-the-Fields in Lincoln on March 24 to watch *Last Call at the Oasis*. In the film, filmmaker Jessica Yu examines the looming global water crisis and what can be done to avoid it. Following each film, we'll have discussion as time allows, and light refreshments will be served.

Advocacy Skills Workshop Today at 2:00 p.m.

Seize this opportunity to educate yourself and do something about policies that contribute to homelessness, and legislation that addresses it. Miriam Stein, MSW, author of *Make Your Voice Matter with Lawmakers*, will facilitate this "no experience necessary" interactive workshop. The focus of our training will be on developing skills and comfort around communicating with legislators over phone, email and in person. The free workshop will also demonstrate how to use the media to raise awareness about the crisis in family homelessness and solutions to it. Go to our website to learn more:

<http://www.endfamilyhomelessness.net/advocacy/>. Email Jane Blumberg at jane_blumberg@me.com to sign up or if you have any questions.

Special Presentation from Stephanie Leighton of Trillium Asset Management, on Sunday, March 29, at 11:30 a.m.

Please join us on Sunday, March 29, at 11:30 a.m. for a special presentation by Stephanie Leighton of Trillium Asset Management. Ms. Leighton is a partner, portfolio manager and research analyst at Trillium, the oldest investment management firm focused exclusively on sustainable and responsible investing (SRI). Trillium is headquartered in Boston and was founded in 1982; the firm is a leader in shareholder advocacy and public policy work. Ms. Leighton is a Unitarian Universalist and served on the UUA's Committee on Socially Responsible Investing. She will be discussing opportunities in First Parish investments and also personal investing. Her visit is part of a congregational dialogue about SRI and fossil fuel divestment, and is sponsored by the Divestment subgroup of the Environmental Leadership Team. Questions? Please speak with Bruce Blumberg (ELT), Laura Bernstein (Trustees), Bob Andrews (ELT), Kate Crosby (Standing Committee liaison), or Bethany Lowe.

Environmental Film Series—Tuesday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m.

Have you considered reducing your intake of animal products? Perhaps you're concerned about your health, or the environment, or the way animals are treated. Please join us on March 31 at 7 p.m. for a showing of *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret*. While some object to the title, the film itself is an excellent exploration of the impacts of large-scale animal agriculture on our environment. Sponsored by the SAC Council and Reverence For Life as part of our Commit2Respond initiative.

"Putting Social Action into Practice," with Sandy Wood Wednesday, April 1, at 9:30 a.m.

Sandy Wood, who grew up in this church, will tell us about the year she has just spent teaching at a children's community in northeastern India. She has truly gone out into the world. To learn more about the children's community where Sandy is teaching, see <http://jhamtseinternational.org/our-work/jhamtse-gatsal/>. This talk is part of the Wednesday morning Buddhist group that meets each Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

Children's and Youth News

March 20-21 – Youth Group CityReach Retreat

This Week, March 22 — 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 and 5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the Emerson 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 11:45 a.m. for visit to Islamic Center of Boston

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

9th-12th Grades, Youth Group – CityReach Retreat – No Youth Group

Saturday, March 28

9:00-10:30 a.m. – Spring Term RE teacher orientation

2:00-4:00 p.m. – Little OWL Orientation

Next Week, March 29 — Palm Sunday Intergenerational Service. No Regular RE

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

10:00 a.m. – Intergenerational Service

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

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

Mark Your Calendars—Tuesday, April 7, 5:30 -7:30 p.m.

The RE Council is hosting a Community Potluck Dinner followed by vespers in the chapel.

Volunteers Needed to Supervise Teens Providing Child Care

We would like to compile a list of adults who are willing to be contacted to supervise our teens while they provide child care during church events. Adding your name to the list will not commit you to any specific event; rather, you will be contacted on a case-by-case basis and can volunteer when it fits in your schedule. Ideally the list of potential volunteers will be long, so that each individual's time commitment will be minimal. If you are willing to add your name to this list of adult supervisors, please email Bridget Neale Paris, bridgetnealeparis@gmail.com. Thank you!

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