

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

April 12, 2015

This Week

Sun., Apr. 12	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 3:00 Remembering Lincoln 6:00 Standing Committee 7:00 Reflective RE Conversations
Tue., Apr. 14	2:00 Shawl Ministry 6:00 Vegan Potluck
Wed., Apr. 15	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 - 9:30 First Parish Choirs 7:00 Unveiling Rev. Jenny Rankin's Portrait
Thu., Apr. 16	1:00 Finding Meaning in Later Life 7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers 7:30 Reverence for Life Meeting
Fri., Apr. 17	7:30 Music Events Meeting
Sun., Apr. 19	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 12:00 Shout Heard Around the World

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

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

Searching for Extraterrestrial Life

Today's Forum is presented by Harvard astrophysicist Dr. Eric Chaisson, titled "Searching for ET—and What It Tells Us about Ourselves on Earth," at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. So far we have absolutely no evidence that life exists beyond Earth. But lack of contact with alien beings might actually comprise a null "signal," telling us something profound: Only solar energy (including wind, water and waves) can power our civilization going forward without soiling the environment with increased heat as global energy usage continues to increase. Survival of intelligent life on Earth, or anywhere else in the Universe, seems all about energy and timing.

Remembering Lincoln on the 150th Anniversary of His Death

Today, at 3 p.m., there will be a tribute to Abraham Lincoln at First Parish in memory of the 150th anniversary of his death. Rick Frese will deliver excerpts from Emerson's powerful eulogy. Polly Peterson and Richard Smith will share citizens' reactions to the loss of their President. Jacqueline Schwab will play selections of Civil War music, Brian Chenowith will officiate. Frese is the author of *Concord and the Civil War: From Walden Pond to the Gettysburg Front*. Peterson is a researcher, speaker and author of *Stirring the Nation's Heart: Eighteen Stories of Prophetic Unitarians and Universalists of the Nineteenth Century*. Smith is a historian and interpreter of Henry David Thoreau. Schwab is a pianist who has performed on Ken Burns' documentaries, including the Grammy award-winning *Civil War*. She performed at the White House for President Clinton, and on *A Prairie Home Companion* and *David Letterman*. www.fptranscendentalism.org

Hope Out Loud, 4—UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury Today at 3:00 p.m.

There is still room on the bus to attend Hope Out Loud, a multifaith, multigenerational community praise celebration at the

UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury this afternoon. The bus leaves at 12:30 and will return to Concord by 6 p.m. A donation of \$5.00/person, \$20/family will be gratefully accepted for bus costs. See Beth Norton, Music Director, if you'd like a seat.

Annual Pledge Campaign Progress 50:50:50

So far in the campaign, 50% of First Parish households have pledged and—good news—50% of those have answered the call to increase their pledge. We need the *50% of households that have not yet pledged* to do so before the campaign ends on May 3. We have received \$742,280 in pledges to date, which is just over 70% of the way to our middle target. We need your help to reach our goal and enable First Parish to sustain the Pastoral Care program and strengthen the RE program. Pledge cards have been mailed to all who have not yet pledged. Please support First Parish and its mission by joining those who have increased their pledge by 11% or more. —The Annual Pledge Campaign Team

Ferry Beach Retreat—Registration: April 12 and 19

The First Parish Ferry Beach Retreat is May 22 – 25 (Memorial Day weekend). Join families, couples and singles from our own congregation and First Parish in Lexington for a relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Registrations for the retreat will be taken at the Ferry Beach table at coffee hours today and April 19, or in the church office during the week. For questions or to inquire about scholarship assistance, contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471. The Registration Packet can be downloaded from www.firstparish.org/forms. Also, check out the excellent summer camps and conferences for all ages at Ferry Beach at www.ferrybeach.org.

A Reception to Unveil the Portrait of Rev. Jenny Rankin Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.

All First Parish members and friends are invited to attend a reception to unveil the portrait of Rev. Jenny Rankin on Wednesday, April 15, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will have light food and drink available. Jenny will be on hand to greet those who attend. Part way through the reception, we will pause to unveil the portrait. Please put this event on your calendar and plan to attend.

—Rev. Howard N. Dana and Tim Blodgett,
for the Portrait Committee

Music Events Sharing Session—Friday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.

Come join representatives of the congregation's Music Events and Music Ministry Committee to help forge a Music Events program for the coming year. We are very much interested in what you might like to see and hear that would be in harmony with the mission of First Parish. It will be a fun evening of discussion, music and refreshments. We'd love to see you there.

—Rob Hamilton, chair, Music Events Committee

Join the Tour of 24 Farnsworth—New UUA Headquarters

On Sunday, April 26, at 3:30 p.m., join our minister, Rev. Howard Dana, and fellow parishioners for a special tour of the new UUA Headquarters at 24 Farnsworth Street in Boston. Come and see how the space has been beautifully designed to honor our history as well as meet the needs of our denomination in the 21st century. For

more information or to sign up, see the Denominational Affairs table at coffee hour today or on April 19, or call the church office. You can also sign up to carpool and/or to join others for an early dinner together following the tour.

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>.

Social Action

Congregational Discussion on Divestment Today at 11:30 a.m.

Please join us to consider proposed language for a potential warrant article on fossil fuel divestment for this year’s Annual Meeting in June. This meeting is part of an ongoing First Parish dialogue about social and responsible investing and fossil fuel divestment, and we are interested in your feedback! Please come to ask any questions you have, and give your input. This dialogue is spurred by the fossil fuel divestment commitment adopted at the UUA General Assembly last June and other divestment discussions under way around the world. We’ll also gather for a discussion on Sunday, May 17, at 11:30 a.m. Questions and comments can go to Bruce Blumberg or Bethany Lowe.

Vegan Potluck Dinner, Chocolate Fountain and Raffle

Tuesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, hosted by Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team. Please bring a dish (4-6 servings) to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey and dairy, and attach a card with the ingredients to help out those with allergies or special diets. Highlights this month are the return of the chocolate fountain and a raffle with your \$2.00 donation for one of two books: *Becoming Vegan* (Davis/Melina) and *How to Be a Vegan* (Castoria). Children are free, and creative fun at a craft table is provided. Need a recipe? Contact Lyell Slade at 978-369-0636 or llsrdv@netscape.net.

Rain Barrel Program 2015—Conserve Water and Save Money

This spring, the Social Action Community is selling rain barrels to help our community conserve water and save money. The barrel comes complete with overflow fittings, drain plug, screw-on cover, and a threaded spigot with a choice of two ports to use with either a watering can or a garden hose. Each barrel, \$75, comes in forest green, earth brown and Nantucket gray. Barrels will be available for pickup on Saturday, May 2, from 9 to 11 a.m. at First Parish. As part of our congregation’s Blue Bucket Campaign, \$10 from the sale of each barrel will go to the UUSC’s partner in Kenya to help get access to clean water. Orders must be received by April 25, 5:00 p.m. Rain barrel order forms will be available at coffee hour today and next Sunday, April 19.

Mother’s Day Walk for Peace is Sunday, May 10

The Mother’s Day Walk is the major fundraiser that supports the work of the Louis D Brown Peace Institute (LDBPI). This work supports families that are victims of violence, as well as providing and teaching the PeaceZone curriculum in the public schools, which teaches conflict resolution through peaceful means. On Sunday’s, April 12, 19 and 26 and May 3, you can visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour to make a donation and/or sign up to participate in the Peace Walk, which will let families of homicide know that “All lives matter.” If you have any questions, please talk with Bethany

Lowe, or contact Margie at mksaphier@comcast.net or 789- 424-2179.

Children’s and Youth News

This Week, April 12 — Regular RE Week

First Week of Spring Term

9:50 a.m. – Regular Class, 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 Chapel

3rd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Chapel

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

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

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – Classroom
Sunday – 10:00 -11:15 a.m.

8th Grade – OWL – Potluck with parents
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Emerson Room

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

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

Next Week, April 19 — April Vacation – No Regular RE

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

Tonight! Reflective RE Congregational Conversation

from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room

This is similar to our previous Congregational Conversation offerings; however, the intention is for this discussion to be a place for reflection about where RE has been over the past six months, in addition to where we want to go in the future. Justine Sullivan, President of the UU Clara Barton District, will facilitate the discussion. Your input will be used to inform decisions about RE at First Parish and our next DRE. No need to R.S.V.P., but please feel free to contact Leslie Pelton Nichol, lpelton@ljpcconsult.com or 781-929-1147, if you have any questions.

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