

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

April 19, 2015

This Week

Sun., Apr. 19	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 12:00 Shout Heard Around the World
Mon., Apr. 20	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tue., Apr. 21	9:30 Women's Book Group 7:00 Environmental Film Series 7:00 Amnesty International Meeting 7:30 Denominational Affairs Meeting
Wed., Apr. 22	9:30 Buddhist Group 7:45 - 9:30 First Parish Choir
Thu., Apr. 23	1:00 Finding Meaning in Later Life 7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 Reverence for Life Meeting
Fri., Apr. 24	7:30 Rise Up Singing
Sun., Apr. 26	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 The Conversation Project

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.

Defibrillator at First Parish

First Parish is pleased to announce the purchase and installation of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). The unit can be used on adults as well as children, per its instructions. It is centrally located in the lower hall, next to the double doors that open into the Parish Hall. Many of the ushers have been trained in its use, as well as the staff who have had an instruction on how to use it.

Annual Pledge Campaign Progress

Thank you to the 344 households who have contributed the \$813,430 in pledges we have received to date. We are happy to report that 30 percent of households who have pledged this year have increased their pledge over last year. We are optimistic that we can reach our first goal of \$998,000 if everyone who pledged last year pledges again this year, and accepts the challenge of increasing their pledge by 7 percent. The amount pledged as of the end of the campaign on May 3 will form the foundation for budget planning for the coming church year. Let's provide First Parish with the financial support it needs to fulfill its mission and make a difference in our community and the world.

—The Annual Pledge Campaign Team

Ferry Beach Retreat—Registration Today

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, 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.

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 call the church office. You can also sign up to carpool and/or to join others for an early dinner together following the tour.

Rise Up Singing—Friday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome to join First Parish's monthly song circle

Worship—Sunday, April 26, 10:00 a.m.

"Resiliency in the Face of Disappointment"

Rev. Rachel Baker, and Lauren Evans, vocal soloist

The Conversation Project—Important Talk Sunday, April 26, 11:30 a.m.

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 to 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. The first meeting was held on Sunday, March 29. We reviewed the CP Starter Kit and talked about what holds us back from having the conversation. The second meeting will be held on Sunday, April 26, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room. We will talk about our successes and stumbling blocks. No need to sign up—just show up!

Concord Area Humanists—Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.

Rick Heller of the Humanist Mindfulness Group in Cambridge will speak on "Secular Meditation." See his video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1JB9Qu3hI>; and his articles in "The New Humanism," which he edits: <http://thenewhumanism.org/authors/rick-heller>. Learn about Concord Area Humanists and the program on www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org.

Lunafest Film Series Returns!—Saturday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.

Lunafest is an evening of short films by women filmmakers. First Parish Mother/Daughter book group will make popcorn. Films are entertaining and thought-provoking. This is a fund-raiser for the Breast Cancer Fund and Jhamtse Gatsal. Tickets are \$15.

First Parish in Concord—Photo Club Exhibit and Reception

Please join us Sunday, May 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. for fantastic photos, a 3D demonstration, a 30-minute slide show with seating, and more. Members will be glad to discuss their images and techniques, and to help you with your photographic questions. We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends. Yummy refreshments will be available as well as some items for sale. The First Parish Photography Club is a noncompetitive group for adults, from novice to professional. We meet to learn and socialize. For more information, please see our brochure.

The Wright Tavern's Future—Monday, May 18

A forum on the future of the Wright Tavern will be held by the American Revolution Round Table on May 18, 7 p.m., at the Minute Man National Historical Park Visitor Center (off Rte. 2A). Among the questions to be addressed: why the Tavern is so important to Concord; how and why First Parish in Concord became the owner of this celebrated historic site. A panel presentation will feature Concord historian Jayne Gordon, noted professor of early American history and author Robert Gross, as well as a written historical commentary by the Curator of Special Collections Leslie Wilson of the Concord Public Library. Audience questions and comments will follow the panel. Those interested in attending should reserve a place with the moderator Mel Bernstein: mbern9@gmail.com or 781- 259-9926.

FREE Brochures about Unitarian Universalism and First Parish

Free Brochures are located in brochure racks located to the left and right of the church office downstairs, and to the left of the front door as you exit the Sanctuary. Please feel free to take these home or give them to friends.

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

Environmental Film Series—Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.

Thirsty for Justice, explores the lack of access to clean water in poorer communities and the power of grassroots action. Bethany Lowe will facilitate a discussion afterward.

Amnesty International Group 15 Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.

Want to know more about Amnesty's local, national and international human rights work? Please join us on Tuesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. in the Ripley Room to hear our guest speaker, Terry Rockefeller. Rockefeller, a U.S. Amnesty board member, is chair of the board's Planning and Priority Committee. Her experience also includes working on documentary films (*NOVA, Eyes on the Prize* and *The Great Depression*), with *Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation*, and with *September 11th Families for a Peaceful Tomorrow*. AI Group 15 meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. 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.

Earth Day 2015—The 25th Year—Celebrating the Confluence of Art and Nature; April 25, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Come honor the "place where your sneakers get wet," our Musketaquid River and home. Gather at the Old Manse (new location!) in Concord for the 10 a.m. River Ceremony, then Parade through Concord Center to the Umbrella, 40 Stow Street. Events leading up to Earth Day—on Sunday, April 19 (after the Shout!), and on Thursday, April 23, from 1 to 5 p.m., build an Earth Float, puppet or make a banner. On Thursday, April 22, at 5:30 a.m. the Earth Day Sunrise Gathering at the Lowell Road Boat Landing. For more information: <http://theumbrellaarts.org/arts-environment/earth-day-2015> or contact CC King at 978-369-1543.

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 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.

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 focuses on conflict resolution through peaceful means. On Sunday, April 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 19 — April Vacation – No Regular RE

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

Next Week, April 26 — April Vacation – No Regular RE

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

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

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 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