

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

November 8, 2015

This Week

Sun., Nov. 8	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement 11:30 Congregational Conversation 11:30 Drop-In Small Group Ministry 11:30 SAC Listening Session 6:00 Standing Committee 7:00 Sarasa Concert
Mon., Nov. 9	7:00 Dream Work Group 7:00 Small Group Ministry
Tue., Nov. 10	9:30 WPA Board Meeting 2:00 Shawl Ministry 4:30 SAC Council
Wed., Nov. 11	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 6:00 Arts Council Meeting 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Nov. 12	6:30 Partner Church Meeting and Potluck 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Nov. 13	7:00 Friday Night with Friends
Sat., Nov. 14	9:00 Photography Club
Sun., Nov. 15	9:00 Congregational Conversations Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Sunday Forum 11:30 Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life.” The November Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Dana Snyder-Grant. Dana can be reached at danasg@newview.org or 978-760-1129.

New to First Parish?

If you are new to First Parish (or not so new) and would like to speak with someone, please look for the friendly person holding a red mug at the First Parish Cafe (each Sunday 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.) or at coffee hour after the service.

First Parish Directory: Limited Number of Photo Sessions Available in November; Just Added, December 2

Make your reservation today. Each family/individual who has their picture taken will get a free directory. A limited number of copies will be on sale for people who don't have their pictures taken by the directory publisher. To be guaranteed a directory, you must have your picture taken. You can sign up in the office at coffee hour or online at <http://tinyurl.com/FPphoto>. If you need a ride to a photo session for the First Parish Directory, please contact Rev. Marion Visel. She will help you coordinate a time to get your picture taken and a ride to First Parish.

Drop-In Small Group Ministry Session

This Sunday, November 8, and Sunday, November 22, there will be a Drop-In Small Group Ministry session from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room. Come and find out what Small Group Ministry is all about by participating in a session, and get to know a few folks better. No need to sign up just show up!

Worship Sharing Circle

Everyone is invited to gather in Rev. Howard Dana's study to take turns sharing what stood out for them about the service. This simple opportunity to share, listen and get to know others starts soon after the service ends, around 11:10 a.m., and is open to everyone. First Parish volunteers are present to help facilitate this event.

Sarasa Concert—Today, November 8, 7:00 p.m.

First Parish hosts the Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble for the first of four concerts this year. The first program, “Beethoven Up Close,” includes Cello Sonata in A Major, op. 69; Violin Sonata in A minor, Op. 23, No. 4; and Trio in C minor, op. 1, No. 3. Tickets are \$24 general admission, \$20 senior, and \$12 student, and are available online at www.sarasamusic.org. Come hear this delightful program of chamber music composed by Beethoven and played by these outstanding musicians. Visit www.firstparish.org/music/music-events for more information about the Sarasa 2015-2016 concert season at First Parish.

The Shawl Ministry at First Parish

The Shawl Ministry is part of our Pastoral Care program's “Caring Connection.” The shawls provide congregational comfort and care to those who are experiencing hard times and challenges. The shawls are created with the intention of kindness, fellowship, support and love. The shawls are created by members either on their own, or during monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to the group; lessons are available. Contact Regina Hugendubler at ode2joy@usa.net or 802-310-9507 with your questions or interest.

Friday Night with Friends, November 13

Join other First Parish folks on November 13, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. for a light supper, socializing, and learning to make something special. At this fall event, Rev. Howard Dana will demonstrate how to make a successful pie crust. (Just in time for the holidays!) Then you can practice making one for yourself to take home. Lots of hands-on advice and necessary ingredients will be available. Bring a favorite pie filling recipe to share if you wish, as well as your tips for success. Dinner: seasonal soup, bread, beverage and PIE! Cost: \$12. For reservations: Contact the office or Pekindc@comcast.net by November 10. All are welcome.

Congregational Conversations with the Finance Committee

Wondering how the church did financially last year? Have feedback, suggestions, or want to know more about how we generate income or use our dollars? The Finance Committee will host two Fall Congregational Conversations. Please join us in a discussion about these areas. There will be two sessions: Today from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Emerson Room; and Sunday, November 15, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. (before service), in the Chapel. We look forward to seeing you there. For questions, contact Tom Wilson, FP Treasurer, at twilson@wilsongroup.com.

Do you speak Spanish—or want to speak it better?

¿Hablas español, o quieres mejorar?

Please join *otros compañeros de First Parish* for *conversación, diversión, y comida*. Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 19, at 7 p.m., *jueves 19 de noviembre a las 7 en la casa de Martha Soper & Tom Wilson, 182 Holden Wood Road*. Don't be shy. *¡No tienes que hablar bien!* There will always be someone who can translate. *Marquen sus calendarios! Nos reuniremos el tercer jueves de cada mes*—We meet the third Thursday of each month. Please bring *comida y bebida* for a potluck supper. *Para más información:*

for more information, *llama a* call Laurie Van Loon, 978-369-8528. *O manda* or send email to Ivanloon@comcast.net.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

As usual, the Women's Book Group will discuss just one book for November and December. The selection is *Poems, New and Collected*, by Wislawa Szymborska. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a discussion. The evening session will be held on Monday, December 7, 7:30-9:00 p.m.; and the morning session, on Tuesday, December 8, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Both meet at First Parish in the Brooks Room. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

Social Action

Final SAC Listening Session—Today at 11:30 a.m.

How do you feel about the 7.5 percent allocation for social action? Do you want to see more (or less) social action in our RE programming? Due to some requests, there will be an additional SAC Listening Session to go over these questions and more on this morning at 11:30 a.m. Babysitting will be available—meet in the Ripley Room. Please plan to attend so we can hear from you!

SAC Survey

As part of the continuing SAC Conversations project this year, the SAC Council has published a survey for members and friends of First Parish. The aim of this survey is to collect information about our current social action programming so that we can make it better. If you want to contribute to this re-visioning of social action, please take the survey. Results will be combined with comments gathered from the SAC Listening Sessions and published publicly in December. The survey will take 15 to 20 minutes. Paper copies are available in the front office. The survey will be open until November 20. Find the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPSACSurvey>.

“Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement”:

A Course on Sundays in November

Do you have a desire to get more involved in the Black Lives Matter movement as a white ally? The Race Conversations group at First Parish is sponsoring a four-part series of courses on “Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement.” These are being held on consecutive Sundays in November (8, 15, 22), from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Enrollment is limited to 20 people. Sign up with Bethany Russell-Lowe (Blowe@firstparish.org) to reserve your space. This course is free and open to anyone hoping to be a white ally in the movement for racial justice.

Americans for Economic Fairness Group Collecting Signatures

Did you know? The richest households in Massachusetts (incomes over \$860,000) pay 6.5% of their income in state and local taxes, while the rest pay almost 10% (9.4%). Learn about a proposed amendment to the Massachusetts constitution that would raise taxes on incomes in excess of \$1 million to make these rates more equal and raise additional funds to be invested in education and infrastructure. Members of First Parish's Americans for Economic Fairness group will be at coffee hour for the next three weeks to gather the signatures needed to put this on the state ballot.

Religious Education News

This Week, November 8 – RE Classes*

*Please note new room assignments and welcome our new teachers!
9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 7 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for their classroom with their teachers. All RE classes are held until 11:15 a.m. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their

classrooms listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

Kindergarten – Lower Level
1st Grade – Lower Level
2nd Grade – Greeley Room
3rd Grade – Emerson Room
4th Grade – Brooks Room
5th Grade – Bulkeley Room
6th-7th Grades – Chapel
8th Grade – Parish Hall, 4:00 p.m.
9th Grade – No Coming of Age session
9th -12th Grades – Youth Group, 7:00 p.m.

Next Week, November 15 – RE Classes

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Kindergarten – 7th grade begin in service. All RE classes are held until 11:15 a.m.
Kindergarten – Lower Level
1st Grade – Lower Level
2nd Grade – Greeley Room
3rd Grade – Emerson Room
4th Grade – Brooks Room
5th Grade – Bulkeley Room
6th-7th Grades – Chapel
8th Grade – Parish Hall, 4:00 p.m.
9th Grade – Coming of Age, 4:30 p.m.
9th -12th Grades – Youth Group, 7:00 p.m.

Family Night

Wednesday, November 18, Parish Hall, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Come join us for a Potluck Supper and activities for all ages. This will be an opportunity for kids and adults to get to know one another beyond Sunday morning. We will play our Big Game as well as have other fun ways for families to play together. Please bring a dish to share and come on by! Questions? Contact Amy: afreedman@firstparish.org.

The Children's Holiday Craft Workshop

Saturday, December 5, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

The First Parish Elves are busy at work to make sure this holiday season is magical!

Three ways to participate:

- Be a child! Come and make holiday gifts for your family, teachers and friends. No need for advance sign-up.
- Be an adult or teen elf! Join the elf team at a craft table to help little hands with gift making.
- Volunteer to make the FP secret recipe gingerbread cookie dough, or help with setup, cleanup, or prep work for wood projects.

Cost is \$15 per child, maximum \$45 for a family. Snacks and drinks provided. To volunteer, sign up at coffee hour or contact Patty Popov by phone, 978-369-1990, or email, ppopov@wesleyan.edu. Your Holiday Head Elves are Jan Goddard-Taylor, Marilyn Lowitt, Dave Elwood, Patty Popov, Jeannie Williams and Kristin Moore.

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

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

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at firstparish.org