

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

November 15, 2015

This Week

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
Mon., Nov. 16	6:00 Partner Church Meeting and Potluck 7:30 Denominational Affairs Committee
Tue., Nov. 17	7:00 Amnesty International Meeting
Wed., Nov. 18	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Nov. 19	7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Nov. 20	7:00 Jewish Awareness Affinity Group 7:30 Rise Up Singing
Sun., Nov. 22	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Drop-In Small Group Ministry 11:30 Sunday Forum 11:30 Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement

MEETING HOUSE NEWS DEADLINE

This Tuesday, November 17

The Meeting House News deadline is Tuesday, November 17. Please help our MHN editor, Wendy Wolfberg, by getting contributions for the December newsletter to her A.S.A.P.

News items can be emailed to Wendy at wfwolfberg@comcast.net. Thank you!

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 9-10 a.m.) or at coffee hour after service.

Thanks for Another Great Fair!

The Women's Parish Association extends heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful volunteers and attendees who helped make this year's Holiday Artisans Fair another great success! This was a communal effort executed with much skill and joyful spirit on everyone's part. Our fair is a favorite among the artists, artisans and customers. Great job all around. As of this writing, there are a few catnip balls still available for sale. Contact the office if you wish to purchase one.

Sunday Forum Today, November 15, 11:30 a.m.

"Ever Wondered What You Can Do to Help Refugees?"

Did you know that there is a little known yet considerable group of asylum seekers right here in the Boston area at risk of who are homelessness or are being detained in prison whom you can help today? While waiting for asylum, these people are often alone, traumatized or homeless and are sometimes even jailed simply because there is no other place for them to go. This morning at 11:30 a.m. the Dignity in Asylum group will lead a forum on this silent crisis and what we can do.

First Parish Directory: Limited Number of Photo Sessions Available in November and 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 the front office. They will help you coordinate a time to get your picture taken and a ride to First Parish.

Drop-In Small Group Ministry Session

On 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 11:15 a.m., and is open to everyone. First Parish volunteers are present to help facilitate this event.

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.

Denominational Affairs Committee Meeting Monday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Vail Weller, UUA Congregational Giving Director, joined our First Parish Sunday service on October 18, where she expressed gratitude for our contributions to the UUA Annual Program Fund. The excellent UUA resources have enriched First Parish for decades, and we are attempting to get closer to our "fair share" support. Upcoming First Parish listening sessions for the budget will be an opportunity for all of us to speak up on returning to our full fair share support of the UUA. For more information, please attend our November 16 DAC meeting, 7:30 p.m. at First Parish; or contact Paula Vandever at VandeverP@aol.com.

Rise Up Singing—Friday, November 20, 7:30 p.m.

At our monthly Rise Up Singing song circle on November 20 at 7:30 p.m., we plan to introduce the new Rise Again songbook, which was released in August. *Rise Again* features 1200 new songs in genres including “Motown and R&B” and “Millennial Songs.” Copies of *Rise Again* and *Rise Up Singing* will be available to borrow, or you can order your own copy at <https://www.riseupandsing.org/productdisplay/rise-again>.

Social Action

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. Also find the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPSACSURVEY>.

Caroling at Northeastern Correctional Center Friday, December 4—R.S.V.P. Required

Join Concord Prison Outreach for a Caroling Night at the Northeastern Correctional Center (976 Barrett’s Mill Road) from 6:45 to 9:00 p.m. Celebrate the joy of the holiday season at this annual event where incarcerated men, adult community members, and prison staff gather together. R.S.V.P. by Friday, November 27. Email your full legal name, driver’s license/state issued ID number, date of birth, and phone number to events@concordprisonoutreach.org or call 617-286-6728. This event is sponsored by Concord Prison Outreach at the prison chaplain’s.

Black Lives Matter Banner Discussion

The Standing Committee will be discussing the possibility of hanging a Black Lives Matter banner on the church property at its next meeting on Sunday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. They need to hear from us before they make a decision to hang a banner. Between now and then, members of the congregation will be offering multiple opportunities to learn more about what it would mean for our congregation to hang a Black Lives Matter banner. Your questions are welcome at those meetings and activities. There will be more information at the table distributing Black Lives Matter yard signs at coffee hour.



Questions or concerns about **domestic violence** or **suicide**?
Call...

Domestic Violence Services Help Line: 888-399-6111
Suicide Prevention Life Line: 800-273-TALK (8255)

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

Religious Education News

This Week, November 15 – RE Classes*

*Please note new room assignments for 2nd Term!

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 – CoA, Meeting with Rev. Howard Dana, 4:30 p.m.

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

Next Week, November 22 – Thanksgiving Service— Intergenerational; 10:00 a.m.

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years) – Lower Level

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 at afreedman@firstparish.org.

Giving Thanks by Giving Back—Sunday, November 29

If you are in town over the holiday weekend, there will be a special program for K-12. The Youth Group will lead our Children’s Chapel on November 29. They will have different “stations” set up to help kids work on holiday-themed social action activities. We will write cards to inmates, make gifts for Open Table guests, and more! Little RE will also be available for preschoolers downstairs.

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.