

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 6, 2015

This Week

Sun., Dec. 6	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Black Lives Matter Banner Discussion
Mon., Dec. 7	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tue., Dec. 8	9:30 Women's Book Group 9:30 WPA Board Meeting 2:00 Shawl Ministry
Wed., Dec. 9	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., Dec. 10	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Dec. 11	7:30 Mom's Night Out—Cookie Exchange
Sat., Dec. 12	3:00 WPA Christmas Concert
Sun., Dec. 13	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 1:30 Eighth Grade Play 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life."
The December Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Sue Dobbie. Sue can be reached at Susandobbie@gmail.com or 978-456-8432 or cell phone: 978/501-6969.

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 the service.

Holiday Memorial Wreath

The Holiday Memorial Wreath, located at the front of the Sanctuary, is a way to acknowledge the memory of a loved one who has died. Tie a ribbon to the wreath for those you wish to remember. The wreath will remain in the Sanctuary through the holidays. "As we did last year, you are invited to tie a black ribbon on the wreath in memory of black lives lost to injustice."

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.

Secret Santa This Season

Become a Secret Santa in three easy steps: 1. Select an organization and person to sponsor. 2. Purchase the wish list item or items of your choice and budget. 3. Bring the unwrapped gifts with a name tag affixed, to coffee hour today, December 6 or December 13. Again this year, we are sponsoring the Eliot

Center (Lexington), Renewal House (Roxbury), and the Walden Street School (Concord). Volunteers still needed for coffee hour on December 13, and the week of December 14-18 to deliver gifts. Thank you for your goodwill to others during this holiday season! For questions contact Tricia Haut at triciahaut@gmail.com.

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.

First Parish Women's Retreats—2016—Registration "She Changes Everything She Touches and Everything She Touches Changes"

—1st Weekend Away: Friday evening, January 22 - Sunday afternoon, January 24, at Senexet House, Connecticut.

—2nd Weekend Away: Friday evening, January 29 - Sunday afternoon, January 31, at Senexet House, Connecticut.

—"At Home" Retreat: Friday evening, February 26 and morning through afternoon, Saturday, February 27, at First Parish.

This year's retreats will focus on "She changes everything she touches . . ." as we share our time together. Banish all cares as we relax, have fun, rejuvenate, get to know each other, and explore what these words mean to us and how we manifest and incorporate change into our lives. All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome! Registration at coffee hour on December 6 and 13. Registration forms will also be available in the church office starting December 6. Questions? Contact Bozena Smith at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

You're Invited to Come Cook

Friday, December 11, 9:00 to Noon

The Caring Connection provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition. It is time to fill the freezer again. We are going to cook on Friday, December 11, from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. If you are willing to help, please R.S.V.P. to Judy Dembsey at dembsey@verizon.net or 978-263-3272.

First Parish Moms' Night Out Cookie Exchange

The First Parish Moms' Night Out (MNO) group is hosting its annual Holiday Cookie Exchange on Friday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Please bring a dozen or more cookies (the amount you want to exchange), a label listing your cookies' ingredients, and a snack or drink to share. Join other FP moms to celebrate this special time of year and take home some wonderful treats. Moms' Night Out was created by FP moms as a way to get together from time to time to socialize, build a support network, and share resources and ideas about raising kids in today's world. All FP moms are welcome! For details on this and other upcoming MNO gatherings, please join the MNO listserv by sending an email to valvallancourt@gmail.com.

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 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.

Blue Holidays Vespers, "Dark of Winter"

Tuesday, December 15, 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel

For those who are less than joyous this holiday season, come, breathe, gather your thoughts in the quiet beauty of candles, music, and understanding. Rev. Marion Visel, Beth Norton and the By Your Side Singers will offer a holiday alternative, a quiet space to share reflective words of remembrance, solace and comfort. Though the winter holidays are not always merry, this time can be a time of loving kindness and gentle community. All are welcome.

Holiday Bells Are Ringing—Tuesday, December 22, 7:00 p.m.

Please join the Lincoln Ringers for their annual Candlelight Concert in the charming sanctuary of First Parish in Lincoln on Tuesday, December 22, at 7 p.m. You'll be treated to an evening of Christmas carols and holiday favorites, both sacred and secular. The concert is *free*—and all ages are welcome!

Sunday Bouillon

It is that time of year again. A few of us are thinking that we might begin making bouillon the first Sunday in January, like we did last year. Remember how delicious the bouillon was on a cold winter Sunday? And that smell drifting upstairs? We need volunteers. Can you help one Sunday a month by buying, preparing and serving during the First Parish Café, serving during social hour, or cleaning up after? Please email Kel at kel@rkeleher.com or call him at 978-944-2734 if you are interested.

Social Action

Black Lives Matter Banner Discussion and Feedback Session Today at 11:30 a.m.

After worship today, come discuss a proposal to hang a Black Lives Matter banner on the church. The Standing Committee will be reviewing this proposal at its December 13 meeting. Come hear how the proposal came to be, give your feedback, and reflect on what it would mean for our congregation to hang a Black Lives Matter banner. Many Unitarian Universalist and other congregations have hung banners and we have learned from their experiences. The 2015 General Assembly of the UUA (the annual gathering of UUs) approved an Action of Immediate Witness on Black Lives Matter this past summer, which charges UU congregations to consider the platform of the Black Lives Matter movement. Join us today at 11:30 a.m..

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, December 6 – RE Classes

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- 5th Grades – Brooks Room

6th-7th Grades – Bucket Brigade off-site

8th Grade Dress Rehearsal – Parish Hall, 4:00- 6:30 p.m.

9th Grade – CoA, 4:30 p.m.

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

Next Week, December 13 – RE Classes

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:15 a.m. – "Folktales on Stage", RE Classes attend 8th Grade play, Parish Hall

Folktales on Stage

Sunday, December 13, 10:15 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

First Parish 8th Grade players proudly present "Folktales on Stage" at 10:15 a.m. for the RE classes and 1:30 p.m. for family and friends. Directed by Katherine Akerley. "Folktales on Stage" presents a series of stories, poems and dances celebrating the variety of storytelling from around the globe. The stories come to us from South African, Japanese, and Caribbean origin. The cast illustrates humorous and heartwarming moments from each folktale as it were passed down originally and even make their own ties into modern day culture.

8th Grade OWL Parent Orientation

The comprehensive sexuality program *Our Whole Lives* will be offered to 8th graders here at First Parish beginning in January. In order for your child to be enrolled in OWL, **both parents are required to attend a Parent Orientation on Sunday, December 6, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.** Classes begin on January 10, and will be held on Sundays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. For more information or to enroll your child, please email Amy (afreedman@firstparish.org) as soon as possible.

Guest at Your Table Boxes

Guest at Your Table Boxes support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. If you missed our Thanksgiving service and would like to participate, boxes are still available in the main and RE offices. *Please count up your donations and write a check payable to the UUSC.* Return your donations to the basket in the RE Office anytime during the holiday season until Sunday, January 3. Contributions of \$40 or more earns you annual UUSC membership benefits. In addition, all contributions of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. For more information visit uus.org.