

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 20, 2015

This Week

Sun., Dec. 20	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 1:00 Caroling 3:00 Barbara Forman Art Reception
Mon., Dec. 21	7:30 Denominational Affairs Committee
Wed., Dec. 23	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Dec. 24	First Parish Office Closed Christmas Eve Services 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 25	First Parish Closed
Sat., Dec. 26	First Parish Closed
Sun., Dec. 27	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle

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 by 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 Café (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 out the holidays. As we did last year, we invite you 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.

Christmas Caroling Today, December 20, 1:00 p.m.

This is what the Christmas season is all about! Children and adults are invited to bring the gift of musical cheer to our parishioners and others who can’t get out this season. We

will meet at the church at 1:00 p.m., and carpool to area nursing homes to sing. Afterward, we’ll head back to First Parish to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate together. All are welcome! Please feel free to bring cookies to share. For more information, contact Lora Venesy at 978-254-5433 or venesy@comcast.net.

Art Reception—Today, December 20, 3:00 p.m.

The reception for Barbara L. Forman’s art exhibit will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday December 20, in the Parish Hall. Highlighting acrylics and watercolors, artwork will be displayed on the stage and in the Altshuler stairwell galleries. A 30-year Concord resident, the artist creates an exhibit with international and New England flavors. 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.

Christmas Eve Services

First Parish in Concord will offer four services on Thursday, December 24. Each service concludes with candlelighting and the singing of “Silent Night.” Detailed descriptions follow.

3:00 p.m.—This early service is perfect for families with young children and those who would like to be home before dark. The service will include a child dedication. Come celebrate with lots of Christmas carols and help retell the Christmas story using crèche figures to illustrate the Nativity scene.

5:00 p.m.—This family-oriented service will feature music by the Children’s Choirs and lots of Christmas carols. The Christmas story will be seen as a live tableau with adults and children in costume.

7:00 p.m.—Come welcome the realm of holy night with traditional lessons and carols. This will be a time of spiritual reflection, and the singing of Christmas carols, and will feature music from our Gospel Choir.

9:00 p.m.—Join us for a service of traditional lessons and carols. On a starry winter night, we will warm ourselves by singing together and spiritual reflection. The service will feature music by the First Parish Choir.

Sunday Bouillon

It is that time of year again. A few of us are thinking we might begin making bouillon the first Sunday in January. 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're are interested.

First Parish Women's Retreats 2016

"She Changes Everything She Touches and Everything She Touches Changes"

1st Weekend Away: January 22-24

2nd Weekend Away: January 29-31

"At Home" Retreat: February 26-27

Registration for the Women's Retreats continues throughout the holidays via the church office and at coffee hour on January 3. More information and forms are available to download at www.firstparish.org/forms to pick up in the church office. Contact Darien Smith with any questions at darien@smithquest.com. 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. Away retreats are at Senexet House in Connecticut from Friday evening through lunch on Sunday. The "At Home" one is at First Parish beginning Friday evening and continuing Saturday morning through the afternoon. All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome!

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The first book of the New Year for the Women's AM/PM Book Group will be *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a discussion. The evening session will be held on Monday, January 25, 7:30-9:00 p.m.; and the morning session, on Tuesday, January 26, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Both are 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

Looking for Youth (and Adult Chaperones!) for a Youth Service Trip

Over February break, members of our Youth Group will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to do service work to address issues related to homelessness and food insecurity. Like last year, we will be working with the Youth Service Opportunity Project. The cost of the trip will be \$850 per youth. Merit-based scholarships of up to 50 percent of the cost of the trip are available. Adult Chaperones will be asked to supply half the youth cost, if they are able. Contact Bethany by January 8 if you are interested in participating in the trip as a youth or a chaperone.

Climate Justice at ELT Meeting

Wednesday, January 6, 7:30 p.m.

This month, the Environmental Leadership Team will be inviting Evan Seitz, a climate organizer from First Parish in Bedford, and other members of that congregation to its meeting on Wednesday, January 6, at 7:30 p.m. They will be discussing the possibility of partnering with First Parish in Bedford to engage in climate justice work. If you are interested in attending this meeting and learning about what First Parish in Bedford is doing, contact Peter Lowitt.

Religious Education News

This Week, December 20—Winter Solstice

Intergenerational Service

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (No RE Classes)

11:15 a.m. – Christmas Tableau Rehearsal, Sanctuary

1:00 p.m. – Christmas Caroling

Next Week, December 27—Special Program (No 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 a special program.

10:15 a.m.—Looking Forward, a Special Holiday Program Led by Dawn Van Patten (K-7th grade)

Did you know . . . in Japan it is believed that beginning the new year with laughter will bring good luck in the year ahead? Come reflect on 2015, share hopes for 2016, and explore New Year's traditions around the world. Kindergarteners through 7th graders are invited to make a festive hat, make some noise and make some wishes for the new year.

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 total donations and write a check payable to the UUSC.* Return your checks to the basket in the RE Office anytime during the holiday season and until Sunday, January 3. Contributions of \$40 or more earn 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 uusuc.org.



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