

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 27, 2015

## This Week

Sun., Dec. 27 **Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.**  
11:15 Worship Sharing Circle  
Wed., Dec. 23 9:30 Buddhist Group  
Fri., Jan. 1 First Parish Closed  
Sun., Jan. 3 **Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.**  
11:15 Worship Sharing Circle

## Parish Notes

### First Parish Office Hours December 29-31

Tuesday, December 29, office open 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 30, office open 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Thursday, December 31, office open 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

### 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 978-456-8432, or by cell  
cell phone: 978-501-6969 or [susandobbie@gmail.com](mailto:susandobbie@gmail.com).

### 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.

### 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.

### The First Tuesday Group (65+)

**Tuesday, January 5, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**

#### “Wisdom: Sources and Expressions”

To kick off the New Year, we will discuss how we acquired the wisdom we live by and what has helped us navigate challenging times. We’ll also consider how to communicate what we have learned about life to loved ones, and especially, to the next generation. You are welcome to bring a poem, prayer, saying, or short reading that has made a difference in your life. *Tuesday Group Steering Committee:* Berni Jenkins (contact person), [berni.jenkins@verizon.net](mailto:berni.jenkins@verizon.net); Bob Andrews, Mary Clarke, Susan Dobbie, Patricia Ellis, Anne Fortier, Jack Nevison, Margie King Saphier, and Virginia Taylor.

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.firstparish.org/forms) to pick up in the church office. Contact Darien Smith with any questions at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Waking Up White Reading Group Starting in February**

This fall, members of the Race Conversations group has been reading Debby Irving's *Waking Up White* together. All members are encouraged to read this book this winter! To provide space for members to discuss the issues brought up in the book together, we are hosting small group discussions of this book. Groups will meet six times, every other week starting the week of February 7. There are currently leaders for groups to meet for the following times: Sundays at 11:30 a.m., Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays at noon, and Fridays at 8:30 a.m. We will read a few chapters before each session and come together to discuss what we read. The discussion will focus on exploring our own racial identities, and what we learn from Debby Irving's experience. If you are interested in being part of a small group, contact Bethany Russell-Lowe ([Blowe@firstparish.org](mailto:Blowe@firstparish.org)) and let her know which time(s) work for you. If you cannot make a session or two, do not let that deter you from signing up.

**Benefit Concert Coffeehouse for Black Lives Matter on Saturday, January 16, 7:30 p.m.**

Brought to you by the Diversity Committee, a First Parish Coffeehouse with talented performers singer/songwriters and First Parish members Anna Huckabee Tull and Eric Kilburn. They will sing mostly original songs of struggle, loss, growth, freedom and celebration. This will be a benefit for the Cambridge chapter of Black Lives Matter to help fund their organizing and outreach efforts. A donation of \$20 is suggested. Wine and beer will be for sale, and other beverages and snacks available. Please come, your presence makes it special!

**SAC Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 12, at 4:30 p.m.**

The Social Action Community (SAC) Board meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room. All meetings are open to the congregation. Come listen and learn about upcoming social action activities and what the SAC Board is working on this year.

**Religious Education News**

**This 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.

**Next Week, January 3—Special Program**

(No RE Classes)

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:15 a.m. – **Sunday Workshop—Sock Puppets**

led by Rev. Amy Freedman and Peter Bowden  
Come join in the fun! Kindergarteners through 7th Graders are invited to make sock puppets with Amy and Peter. We will create silly characters and build community through puppet play.

**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 [uusoc.org](http://uusoc.org).

Rev. Howard Dana's email: [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

Rev. Marion Visel's email: [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org)

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org)