

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 3, 2016

## This Week

Sun., Jan. 3	<b>Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.</b> 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle
Tue., Jan. 5	1:30 First Tuesday Group
Wed., Jan. 6	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 6:00 Arts Council Meeting 7:00 Concord Area Humanist 7:30 Environmental Leadership Meeting 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Jan. 7	7:00 Forum Committee 7:00 Race Conversations 7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Sat., Jan. 9	9:00 Photography Club 7:00 Transylvania Movie " <i>Beneath the Surface</i> "
Sun., Jan. 3	<b>Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.</b> 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Transcendentalist Council 11:30 Forum 6:30 Standing Committee Meeting

## Parish Notes

### Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life." The January Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Virginia Taylor. Virginia can be reached at 978-263-9777, or by cell phone: 978-727-3619 or [virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net](mailto:virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net).

### 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.

### Last Call for Pages to Include In Jozsef's Retirement "Memory Book"

When Jozsef Szambotfalvi, the former minister of our partner church in Székeleykeresztúr, Transylvania retired at the end of September, we sent him several gifts to show our deep affection and appreciation; among them was a "memory book" with pages made by his many friends here at First Parish. There is still time to add yours, if you missed out the first time, but the final deadline is January 15. You may make a 5x7 page on card stock with pictures and/or a note that will be put in a plastic sleeve to be added to the 3-ring-binder book that he was given. You can leave it in the church office to be included with the others that will be sent to him.

### Concord Area Humanists

**Wednesday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

On January 6, Maria Greene will speak on "Lifelong Learning for Free Using the Internet." Maria is Development Director at National UU Humanists. Our meetings bring in outside speakers to share interesting Humanistic topics. We socialize and enjoy refreshments, and continue with the presentation followed by discussion. Refreshments follow, with socializing until 9:00 p.m., when all are invited to our open Steering Committee meeting. For more information visit [www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org](http://www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org) and click on "Events" or contact Pat Everett, [pnc@aol.com](mailto:pnc@aol.com) or 978-369-1589.

### Transylvania Movie "*Beneath the Surface*"

**Saturday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m.**

The award-winning, full-length documentary "*Beneath the Surface*" is the moving story of the 1989 flooding of our partner minister József Szombathfalvi's home village by the communists, and how the remaining former inhabitants, now sprawled across different countries and social classes, meet annually by the side of the lake in an attempt to pass on their special values to the younger generations. Please join us for desserts, popcorn, the movie and a discussion period. For a synopsis, visit <http://www.flandersimage.com/browse-titles/detail/beneath-the-surface>; and for a trailer, visit <https://vimeo.com/105786921>.

### 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 on Thursday, January 21, at 7 p.m., *en la casa de Alec y Caitlin, 264 Musketaquid Rd, Concord*. Don't be shy. *¡No tienes que hablar bien!* There will always be someone who can translate. *Marquen sus calendarios! Nos reunimos 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* o call Laurie Van Loon (978-369-8528) o Tony Rodriguez (617-877-9542) *O manda correo electronico* or send email to [ivanloon@comcast.net](mailto:ivanloon@comcast.net) or [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com).

### 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).

### Are You Interested in Women's Issues?

The Reproductive Justice group at First Parish is hosting a retreat & you are invited- whether you've been involved, or are looking for a cause. *We will meet on Saturday, January 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.* to build community and goals around Reproductive Justice, and discuss topics such as, What issues are important to us? How would we like to raise issues of inequality and injustice to women? All are welcome. R.S.V.P. or questions—please contact Lora Venesy: 978-254-5433 or [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).

## 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.

### 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.

### 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!

## Religious Education News

### This 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.

### Next Week, January 10—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 Grade – Ripley Room

5th Grade – Bulkeley Room

6th Grade – Loft

7th Grade, Neighboring Faiths— Brooks Room, extended

Sunday, 9 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Neighboring Faiths Parent Information Session, Brooks Room, 11:15 a.m.

8th Grade OWL – Emerson, 4:00 p.m.

9th Grade – CoA, 4:30 p.m.

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

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)