

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 10, 2016

This Week

Sun., Jan. 10	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Transcendentalist Council 11:30 Forum 6:30 Standing Committee Meeting
Mon., Jan. 11	7:30 Finance Committee
Tue., Jan. 12	2:00 Shawl Ministry
Wed., Jan. 13	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Jan. 14	6:30 Partner Church Potluck and Meeting 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Jan. 15	7:00 Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sat., Jan. 16	7:30 Benefit Concert Coffeehouse for Black Lives Matter
Sun., Jan. 17	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Forum

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 cell phone: 978-727-3619 or 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.

Women’s Parish Association

Throughout this month, please visit our WPA table at Sunday coffee hour in Parish Hall. Learn about our history, charities, programs and membership. Sign up for our Friday Night with Friends event coming on February 4. Share your ideas for the future. Events are open to all.

Sunday Forums

Today, January 10: Dr Mike Hetch on “*Paving Man’s Path to Mars*.” Many obstacles remain, but work is progressing rapidly on new solutions and technologies. Dr. Hecht will bring us up-to-date and challenge our expectations.

Next Sunday, January 17: Heather Wightman on “Sex Trafficking . . . A Community Issue.” This happens globally, to all ages and genders, violating basic human rights. Heather founded RIA House, Inc., which helps support people who have been sexually exploited

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 created by his many friends here at First Parish. There is still time to add yours, if you missed out the first time; but the deadline is January 15. You may make a 5”x7” 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. Please leave it in the church office.

Nominations for First Parish Standing Committee

The Nominating Committee, charged with identifying nominees to serve on the First Parish Standing Committee, is currently accepting nominations. Members of the Nominating Committee will be available at the Welcome Table during coffee hours. Contact Alane Wallis at alanewallis@icloud.com or 978/505-7363 with questions. Thank you.

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 Road, 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 lvloon@comcast.net or trodriguez@gmail.com.

First Parish 2016 Auction

We are forming the Auction Committee to plan a night of fun and fundraising for First Parish. The Auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2016. We need your help! Here’s what you can do:

- *Join the Auction Committee.* The kickoff planning meeting is on **Monday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Emerson Room. We’ll toss around ideas for themes, entertainment, etc. Refreshments will be served. Please consider coming to help plan an event worth remembering! Or, if you can’t make it but would like to get involved, contact the Auction Chair, Jennifer Izzo, at jbizzo@hotmail.com or 617-869-5563.

- *Get involved.* We need lots of volunteers to make this event successful. There are many ways to get involved: gathering donations, party planning, decorations, ticket registration, cooking, hosting/serving, setting up and cleaning up, etc.

- *Make a donation.* Get creative! What do you love? Chances are other people will love it too. Some ideas to get your creative juices flowing: host a poker night or dinner party, offer a guided tour, donate season pass tickets or frequent flyer miles, share your babysitting, pet-sitting, handyman or organizing services, donate a vacation home or time share, make a meal. Donation options are limited only by your imagination.

- *And, of course, come to the Auction on Saturday, April 30.* If you have any questions, please contact Auction Chair, Jennifer Izzo, at jbizzo@hotmail.com, 617-869-5563. We hope to see you on Monday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room for the kickoff planning meeting.

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., for 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 is \$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.

“Waking Up White” Reading Group Starting in February

This fall, members of the Race Conversations group have 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) 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 second 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

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!

Social Action Grant Application Deadline—January 25

The Social Action Community’s Grant Application deadline is Monday, January 25. Each year, First Parish allocates 7.5 percent of annual pledge income to the Social Action Community Board. The SAC Board distributes this grant money to local, national and international organizations. Grant award priority is given to these new concepts and ventures. Please keep in mind that grant applications must be sponsored by a First Parish pledging member. Further details on the grant application process, policies and requirements can be found at <http://bit.ly/1xJgxu2> or by contacting Wendy Holt (wendyh@dmahealth.com) or Bethany Russell-Lowe (blowe@firstparish.org).

Religious Education News

This 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 Room, 4:00 p.m.

9th Grade – CoA, 4:30 p.m.

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

**Please note room changes.*

Next Week, January 17—“Black Lives Matter,”

Intergenerational Service, MLK Weekend

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

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

Join us for a service celebrating the ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All ages will reflect on the importance of racial justice work today and lift our voices in song with special music from the children’s choirs.

“Guest at Your Table Box”

Over the holiday season, we invited a “Guest At Your Table,” a traditional fundraising practice for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Please count up your contributions and write a check payable to UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee). Return your gift to the basket in the RE Office ASAP (deadline: today, January 10). UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world. For more information, visit uusc.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