

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

February 14, 2016

This Week

Sun., Feb. 14	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Forum
Mon., Feb 15	7:30 Denominational Affairs Committee 7:30 Waking Up White Book Group
Tue., Feb 16	Meeting House Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Annual Pledge Campaign Meeting 7:00 Amnesty International Meeting 7:00 Diversity Committee Meeting
Wed., Feb. 17	9:30 Buddhist Group 11:30 WPA Luncheon 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 7:30 Environmental Leadership Meeting 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Feb. 18	7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Feb. 19	7:00 Jewish Awareness Group
Sun., Feb. 21	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Forum

Meeting House News deadline: This Tuesday, February 16.
Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to
Wendy Wolfberg at wfwolfberg@comcast.net.
Be aware that all items (including contact information)
posted to the *Sunday News* or *Meeting House News*,
or on First Parish–related email lists, may be published
online at www.firstparish.org.

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life”
The February Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Lori Gill-Pazaris. Lori can be reached at 978-369-6305, by cell phone at 978-505-2720, or at lpazaris@gmail.com.

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 end of service, and is open to everyone.

Sunday Forums

February 14—Csilla Tambor on “Language Skills.” Csilla is from English-at-Large. They provide free English language and cultural instruction to refugee and immigrant adults, which is sorely needed.

February 21—Lou Fackert on “Addiction: the Disease of Shame.” Lou is a longtime parishioner and Director of Corporate Training at Bay Cove Social Services in Boston. Her topic will include the soaring cases of opioid addiction and overdoses.

WPA Luncheon—Wednesday, February 17

Today is the last day to sign up for the Women’s Parish Association’s luncheon and program! Actor/history interpreter Judith Kalora will give a dramatic portrayal of “Hedy Lamarr: Hollywood Starlet,” dedicated activist against the Nazis and co-

creator of a widely used communications system. Don’t miss this fun event! Social time: 11:30 a.m. Lunch: 12:00 noon, followed by the program. Luncheon cost: ten dollars. Sign up at coffee hour today. Or contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net to make reservations and to communicate food restrictions.

Denominational Affairs Committee Meeting Monday, February 15, 7:30 p.m.

You are invited to attend a Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) meeting to discover, explore, or share your concerns about issues being addressed within our greater denomination. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month. Learn about what is happening to reduce the problem of escalating inequality in our nation. Provide your opinion about the changes being discussed in the structure of the UUA. For more information, please contact Paula Vandever at VandeverP@aol.com or 978-369-9268.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group Friday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.

Join us when Mel and Laura Bernstein will lead us with the following questions about the state of anti-Semitism in Europe today: Do Jews feel safe in France? If not, why not? Are many Jews departing France and its neighbors for a new life in Israel? What are the trends and what do they mean? What are European leaders doing about the latest developments? Come share snacks, join the discussion, and relate it to anything that moves you. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dana Snyder-Grant at danasg@newview.org or 978-266-9409.

Sow Everyday Miracles by Becoming a Steward!

You can grow your involvement in First Parish and help us “Sow Everyday Miracles” by becoming a Steward in our Annual Pledge Campaign. It’s a great way to get to know others who share your appreciation for First Parish while providing an important service to our church. All with a minimal commitment of time! Kick-off and training session is Tuesday, March 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at First Parish. For more information, contact Tom Wilson at twilson@wilsongroup.com.

2016 First Parish Auction—Saturday, April 30

The auction is a wonderful opportunity to bring parishioners together for an exciting evening of fun and entertainment. It’s also the church’s biggest fundraiser. The creativity and generosity of our vibrant community are what help make this event a success. Donations are a perfect way to showcase your skills and imagination, as well as to channel the spirit of giving that makes this UU congregation special. Contact Jeanne Williams at courteje@bc.edu for more information about how you can donate, or stop by the Auction table at coffee hour. **We need your help!**

Save the Date: Celebration Sunday Is March 6

Please join us on Sunday, March 6, for Celebration Sunday—a special service celebrating our accomplishments of the past year and looking forward to the year ahead. Your annual pledge will be welcome. Further details will be available soon.

Nominations for the 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 during coffee hour. Contact Alane Wallis at

alanewallis@icloud.com or 978-505-7363 with questions.

Moms' Night Out Event—Paint and Sip Night Friday, March 4, 7:00 p.m.

Emily Piper, owner of the Maker Farm in Westford, will help us create our own spring-themed canvas masterpiece in easy-to-follow steps—no experience needed! Please bring a snack or drink to share. First Parish Hall, \$30 per person. Pay at the door, but R.S.V.P. is required to Jeanne Williams, courteje@bc.edu.

The Moms' Night Out (MNO) group at First Parish was created by moms as a way to socialize, build a support network, and share resources and ideas about raising kids in today's world. All First Parish moms are welcome! Any mom can organize an event; if you have an idea and would like to host an event, contact courteje@bc.edu. For details on these and other upcoming MNO gatherings, please join the MNO listserv by sending an email to valvallancourt@gmail.com.

Social Action

“Waking Up White” (WUW) books have arrived. During the week, you may pick up your copy at the First Parish office. If you have not paid for your copy, the cost is \$12. Please make checks payable to First Parish in Concord with WUW on the memo line. If you pay by cash, please bring the correct amount. You may also pick up your copy during coffee hour.

Amnesty International Group 15 Meeting Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 p.m. in the Greeley Room

Group 15's advocacy focuses on regional, national, and global issues. Regionally, how can we get proposed state legislation on solitary confinement to a vote this session. Nationally, the mood is shifting on the death penalty. What are our most effective targets for actions? Internationally, we continue our letter-writing campaigns against violence toward women, injustice in a variety of countries, and support for our two Azerbaijani human rights defenders. Contact Kathy Taylor by email, kly.taylor@gmail.com, or 781-275-0791.

Reproductive Justice Planning Meeting Saturday, February 20, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

“We envision a world where all genders work to optimize women's quality of life by removing social, economic, political and institutional barriers and to promote choices, access and agency.” If this sounds like you, then come to our meeting on Saturday, February 20, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. We'll brainstorm a new name for our group and prepare for two upcoming events: “Tricked,” a documentary about sex trafficking in this country (March 8), and Lunafest, a traveling film festival of award-winning short films by, for and about women (later this spring). For information, contact Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net) or Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com).

“Growing Up Trans” Film and Panel Discussion Tuesday, February 23, at 6:45 p.m.

The Diversity Committee will show the documentary “Growing Up Trans,” an intimate eye-opening journey inside the struggles and choices facing transgender kids and their families. This will be followed by a question and answer period with several panelists who have direct experience with this topic. We'll gather at 6:45 p.m. for socializing and refreshments; the film will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. Contact Sara Ballard, 978-371-0723, with any questions.

Religious Education News

This Week, February 14—RE Workshop

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. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their classroom listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour. PLEASE

NOTE: All RE classes are held until 11:15 a.m.

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. – Deepening Spiritually Workshops-
LOVE

Kindergarten -7th Grade, Emerson Room

Next Week, February 21—RE Classes

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. – Deepening Spiritually Workshops -
HOPE

Kindergarten - 7th Grade, Emerson Room

4:00 p.m. – 8th Grade OWL, Emerson Room

4:30 p.m. – Coming of Age, 9th Grade, Loft

Do You Miss Being with Little Ones?

Little RE/preschool teachers are needed on Sunday mornings from March through June. Adult volunteers work alongside our fabulous paid teen assistants and help care for our littlest First Parish congregants. This is a rewarding way to make a difference in our community. Please contact Dawn Van Patten, dvanpatten@firstparish.org, for more information.

Coming of Age Service

Sunday, February 28, 10:00 a.m.

Our Coming of Age Service will be the culmination of our 9th grade program. Thirteen youth will present their credos, personal statements of belief, to our congregation. This is always a moving rite of passage. We encourage children who are in the 5th grade and older to attend this service.

Yoga for Kids

Sunday, February 28, 10:15 a.m.

Our younger children will attend the first part of the Coming of Age service. Following the Children's Message, there will be a special Yoga session in the Emerson Room for K-4. Our yoga instructor will be Laura Grundstrom, who is a certified YogaKids teacher. Some yoga mats will be available. If your family has any yoga mats, please bring them to First Parish that morning. Laura is looking forward to teaching our children and sharing with them her passion for yoga and fun!

Questions or concerns about **domestic violence** or **suicide**?

Call . . .

Domestic Violence Services Help Line: 888-399-6111

Suicide Prevention Life Line: 800-273-TALK (8255)

Rev. Howard Dana's email: hdana@rstparish.org

Rev. Marion Visel's email: mvisel@rstparish.org

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at fi.stparish.org