

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

February 21, 2016

This Week

Sun., Feb. 21	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Forum 11:30 “Waking Up White” Group A
Mon., Feb 22	7:00 “Waking Up White” Group B 7:30 Denominational Affairs Committee
Tue., Feb 23	6:45 “Growing Up Trans” Film 7:00 Annual Pledge Campaign Meeting 7:00 “Waking Up White” Book Group C
Wed., Feb. 24	9:30 Buddhist Group 12:00 “Waking Up White” Book Group D 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Feb. 25	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Feb. 26	8:30 “Waking Up White” Book Group E 7:00 At-Home Women’s Retreat 7:30 Rise Up Singing
Sun., Feb. 28	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Forum 11:30 Drop-In Small Group Ministry 11:30 Transcendentalism Council 3:00 Film: “Slavery by Another Name”

expectations. For more information on Dr. Hecht, visit <http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/hechtMichael.php>. For more Information on Forums, contact the chair, Pat Everett, at pnc@aol.com or 978-369-1589.

Transcendentalism Council—Sunday, February 28

The next meeting of the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish will be Sunday, February 28, at 11:30 in the Emerson Room. We are planning an event at the church in 2017 to celebrate the birth of Henry David Thoreau. Come share your ideas. All are welcome. For more information, contact Bruce Blumberg at bruce_blumberg@mc.com.

First Parish 2016 Auction—May Day – Celebrate Spring! Saturday, April 30, 6:00 p.m.

Welcome spring with your fellow parishioners! The Auction is an exciting evening of fun and entertainment. It’s also the church’s biggest fundraiser. The creativity and generosity of our community are what make this event a success. Donations are a perfect way to showcase your skills and imagination, as well as to channel the UU spirit of giving. *We need your help!* For information about how to donate, contact Jeanne Williams at courteje@bc.edu, or stop by the Auction table at coffee hour. To learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com or 617-869-5563.

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.

Small Group Ministry Drop-in Session

There will be a drop-in Small Group Ministry session, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Sunday, February 28, in the Brooks Room. Find out about Small Group Ministry by experiencing a session and get to know a few folks better. No need to sign up, just show up!

Sunday Forums

Today, 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.

February 28—Evan Seitz on “Climate Justice Work.” Evan is a UU climate activist based at the Bedford UU Church, in which he grew up. He lives in a co-op in Somerville, is an avid cyclist, and is active in the fossil fuel divestment movement.

March 6—Dr. Mike Hecht on “Paving the Human Path to Mars,” canceled January 10 due to illness is rescheduled. Many obstacles remain, but work is progressing rapidly on new solutions and technologies. Dr. Hecht will bring us up-to-date and challenge our

Jeffrey Clements: Reclaiming Democracy from Big Money and Global Corporations—Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Concord’s own Jeffrey Clements is an author, lawyer and prominent national figure in the efforts to overturn the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. We have the great opportunity and honor to hear him speak about this topic and new efforts to engage communities around the country to stop corporations and the very rich from taking over our democracy. Please come. Sponsored by Americans for Economic Fairness, Concord Area Humanists and the First Parish Social Action Community. Contact: Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com, 978-369-0435.

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. 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.

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.

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.

“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.

Black Lives Matter: Join the Conversation

Sunday, February 28, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Please join us for a Robbins House fundraising event to view the PBS documentary *Slavery by Another Name*. Historian Robert Gross will make introductory remarks. John Hannigan, Scholar in Residence at the historic Robbins House, will introduce new research on the African American experience in Concord. Robbins House Director, Elon Cook, will also join our conversation. A \$10 suggested donation for the event will support future programming. R.S.V.P. to Bethany Russell-Lowe, Blowe@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, x450. Refreshments will be served.

Grant Review Period Open until Wednesday, March 2

Check out some valuable local and international organizations who have applied for Social Action grant funds. The Social Action Community Board has posted a list of the Grant Requests received for the 2015-16 grant cycle on the First Parish website at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/social-action-community/sacgrants>. Parishioners are welcome to review and comment on these Grant Requests, which are available online and in the First Parish office. Comments are due by Monday, February 29. Comments can be left in Bethany’s mailbox or emailed to Wendy Holt wendyh@dmahealth.com. When commenting, please reference the Grant Request number and applicant name. These comments are one factor used to evaluate Grant Requests. The SAC Board makes decision by applying policies that are available on the SAC website.

“Tricked: The Documentary”—Tuesday March 8, 7:00 p.m.

“Tricked: The Documentary” is a 2013 film that documents human sex trafficking and its presence within the United States, from the perspectives of the victims involved in sex trafficking, the “johns” who pay for the sex, and the pimps responsible for instigating the illegal business. The film is meant not only to educate people on trafficking, but to help them understand and spot the scouting and manipulating techniques commonly used by traffickers. Sponsored by the Reproductive Justice group. For questions, please contact Lora Venesy, venesy@comcast.net, or Suzie Weaver skatesuzie@aol.com.

Homes for Low-Income Families: Do We Care Enough?

Twelfth Annual Forum on Family Homelessness

Sunday, March 13, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church

Over 200,000 families in Massachusetts spend more than 50% of their income on housing. Come to this event to learn more about the issues. Speakers will include Chrystal Kornegay, Undersecretary,

Department of Housing and Community Development Deborah Goddard, noted authority on housing and community acceptance; and James Eldridge, State Senator and legislative leader on low-income housing. Recommendations for advocacy for the 2016 budget season will be provided. This free forum, organized by the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, is open to all. Refreshments! See www.endfamilyhomelessness.net. Contact: Jane Blumberg at jane_blumberg@me.com or 978-369-8520.

Religious Education News

This Week, February 21—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. 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. PLEASE NOTE: All RE classes are held until 11:15 a.m.

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

Next Week, February 28—RE Classes

9:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths, Brooks Room (attend service together)

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

10:00 a.m. – Coming of Age Service

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. – Yoga for Kids (K-4), Emerson Room

4:00pm – 8th Grade OWL, Emerson Room

7:00pm – Youth Group, Loft

Coming of Age Service

Sunday, February 28, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 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 which will last 90 minutes.

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 firstparish.org