

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 6, 2016

This Week

Sun., Mar. 6	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Forum 11:30 “Waking Up White” Book Group A
Mon., Mar. 7	7:00 “Waking Up White” Book Group B
Tue., Mar. 8	9:30 WPA Board Meeting 2:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 “Waking Up White” Book Group C 7:00 “Tricked: The Documentary”
Wed., Mar. 9	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., Mar. 10	6:30 Partner Congregation Committee (PCC) 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Mar. 11	8:30 “Waking Up White” Book Group E
Sat., Mar. 12	9:00 Photography Club
Sun., Mar. 13	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time Spring Ahead One Hour) 11:30 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Forum 11:30 Nominating Committee Meeting 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Cassy Bosworth at cbosworth@firstparish.org.

The Sunday News can be read online at www.firstparish.org.

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life”
The March Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Diane Clapp. Diane can be reached at 781-257-5025, or at dianeclamclapp@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

Today, March 6—Dr. Mike Hecht on “Paving the Human 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. For more information on Dr. Hecht, visit <http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/hechtMichael.php>.
March 13 — Rick Frese, parishioner and historian on “Concordians and the Civil War.” Host: Richard Vargas-Vila

Seeking Nominees for Trustees of Parish Donations

After ten years of exemplary service, Dick Waters’ second and final term as a Trustee of Parish Donations ends this June. Accordingly, the Trustees are seeking a new Trustee. The Trustees are responsible for managing an investment portfolio as well as for oversight of the Wright Tavern and the three cottages on church property, all in order to support the annual operations of the

church. If interested in serving as a Trustee, or if you’d like to propose someone for consideration, please contact the Trustees chair, Tim Jacoby (tjacoby295@gmail.com or 617-285-0765).

Next PCC Meeting

Thursday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m., Emerson Room

The next Partner Congregation Committee (PCC) meeting will include a supper provided by the committee. We welcome anyone interested in the partnership with our friends in Transylvania to join us. Please visit the partnership page on the First Parish website to find out more about our programs at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partnercongregation>. Contact: Rodger Matlage, rmatlage@mac.com or 781-259-9639.

“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 also providing an important service to our church. All with a minimal commitment of time. Kickoff 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.

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.

WPA Luncheon and Video

“Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord” Wednesday, March 16, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall

The Women’s Parish Association (WPA) is pleased to host the premier of Doug Baker’s 50-minute historical video entitled *Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord*. Socializing begins at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:00 p.m., followed by the premier. For premier only, please arrive before 12:30 p.m. See video details later in the newsletter. Luncheon cost: \$10. Please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net by March 13 to make reservations and to communicate food requirements.

Come to Cook

The Caring Connection provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition. It is time to fill the freezer again. We are going to cook on Friday, March 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you are willing to help, please R.S.V.P. to Judy Dembsey at dembsey@verizon.net or 978-263-3272. Email preferred.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

Friday, March 18, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at First Parish

WWII was a turning point in Jewish history. The Jewish Awareness Affinity Group will view the PBS documentary “Fortress Berlin.” Come view this gripping account of part of the war’s end. All are welcome: Jews, non-Jews, friends of Jews, and those that just want a warm place to sit and be together. Contact Dana Snyder-Grant, danags@newview.org or 978-760-1129.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The March selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *Me Before You*, by Jojo Moyes. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a discussion. The evening session will be held on Monday, March 28, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., and the morning session on Tuesday, March 29, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., both 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.

Small Group Ministry—Topics of Meaning in Everyday Life

Small Group Ministry provides an opportunity to listen and share our experiences and beliefs in a committed group of 8 – 10. We'll explore our UU beliefs while living in a challenging world including standing on the side of love, practicing compassion, living with gratitude and experiencing humility. *Participants agree to regular attendance and to guidelines on how the group will be together.*

Facilitator: Merrill Comeau

When: Mondays, 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. Starts: April 11 Ends: June 20
(6 Sessions: 4/11, 4/25, 5/9, 5/23, 6/6, 6/20)

Who: 10 participants, sign-up on the clipboard in the Front Office or contact Rev. Marion Visel, mvisel@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602 x414.

Social Action

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

This film documents the human trafficking issue in the United States from all perspectives. It's not only meant to raise awareness about trafficking, but to help understand and spot scouting and manipulation tactics commonly used by traffickers. Invited panelists include Concord Chief of Police Joseph O'Connor, RIA House, and Peter DiMarzio from Homeland Security. This is a free event hosted by Reproductive Justice. Donations to RIA House will be gladly accepted. Toiletry and hygiene items for Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for homeless women in Boston, will also be collected. Contacts: Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net; and Suzie Weaver at 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 percent 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.

Amnesty International Group 15

Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

Our guest will be Terry Rockefeller, an Amnesty/USA board member, who will bring us up-to-date on the board's agenda and that of the international secretariat. Group 15 members are particularly interested in the reasoning behind Amnesty's advocacy for the decriminalization of sex workers. Our ongoing projects include work against solitary confinement, the death penalty, and violence against women; and supporting our two Azerbaijanian human rights advocates under house arrest. For information, contact Kathy Taylor: 781-275-0791; Kly.taylor@gmail.com.

Social Justice Workshop

Sunday, March 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Rev. Kathleen McTigue, Director of the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, who preached on January 24, will be

returning to lead a social justice workshop. During the workshop, participants will explore ways that can help us say “yes” to the place where their gifts meet the world's need, and “no” to many other areas of need, in order to sustain our commitments and channel our best resources. Contact Bethany Russell-Lowe (BLowe@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602 x450) to sign up. This workshop is free and lunch will be provided for a minimal donation.

Religious Education News

This Week, March 6—Celebration Sunday!

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

10:15a.m.-10:45 a.m. – Special RE Program, K-6, Parish Hall

Children begin in the service with their families. Following the Children's Message, Kindergarten-6th Grade will depart for the Parish Hall with their teachers. Gail Carey, our Children's Choir Director, and Anderson Manuel, our Gospel Choir Director will teach our children and youth a song. All ages will be reunited for the end of the service.

11:10a.m. – Neighboring Faiths Class meet to go to Sri Lakshmi

Temple (Hindu), Ashland, Return to First Parish ~ 1:45 p.m.

4:00pm – 8th Grade OWL, Emerson Room

7:00pm – Youth Group, Loft

Neighboring Faiths

On Friday, March 11 we will visit Congregation of Beth El (Reform Judaism), our previously scheduled trip was postponed due to a snowstorm. Please meet at First Parish at 5:00 p.m. for a 5:30 p.m. introductory meeting at Congregation of Beth El in Sudbury. We will attend a 6:00 p.m. service followed by a potluck dinner. We will return to First Parish around 8:15 p.m.

Next Week, March 13, RE Classes

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 6 begin in the

Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's

Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for their classes with

their teachers. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick

up their children in their classrooms listed below. 4th-6th

graders will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15-11:15 a.m. – RE Classes

Spirit Play (Kindergarten – 1st Grade) – Lower Level

Little OWL (1st Grade) – Lower Level

2nd Grade – Greeley Room

3rd Grade – Emerson Room

4th & 5th Grade – Brooks Room

Neighboring Activists (6th Grade) – Loft

Neighboring Faiths (7th Grade) – 11:45 a.m. meet at First Parish

for 12:30 p.m. meeting at Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland,

return to First Parish ~ 2:15 p.m.

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

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

Volunteers to help with Little RE

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 at dvanpatten@firstparish.org for more information.

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