

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 20, 2016

This Week

Sun., Mar. 20	Palm Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Forum 11:30 “Waking Up White” Group A 11:30 Kathleen McTigue Workshop
Mon., Mar. 21	7:00 “Waking up White” Group B
Tue., Mar. 22	7:00 Diversity Committee 7:00 “Waking up White” Group C
Wed., Mar. 23	9:30 Buddhist Group 12:00 “Waking up White” Group D 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Mar. 24	11:00 Maundy Thursday Service and Lunch 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Mar. 25	8:30 “Waking up White” Group E 7:00 Tenebrae Service
Sun., Mar. 27	Easter Sunday Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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.

Sunday Forums

Sunday, March 20—Rev. Jim Sherblom, parishioner, on “How I Became a 21st Century Transcendentalist.” Host: Patrick Everett
Easter Sunday, March 27—No Forum

The First Parish Auction is Saturday, April 30!

If you’ve been thinking about a donation idea, now is the time to send in your form. Here are popular items we’re looking for—airline miles or tickets, rides to the airport, tickets to the Patriots, a concert or other performance; offers for coaching, tutoring, music lessons, a wardrobe consultation, or nutrition counseling; yard cleanup or handyman services. Parishioners also enjoy hosted parties and wine tastings. To donate, simply download the form at www.firstparish.org/auction, visit us at coffee hour any Sunday, or contact Jeanne Williams at courteje@bc.edu. Forms are due April 1.

Prayer Bead Workshop —Saturday, April 2

A Prayer Bead Workshop, led by Sue Dobbie, Dana Snyder-Grant and Rev. Marion Visel, will be held at First Parish on Saturday, April 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If you are looking for a prayer practice that is authentic to you and your sense of the holy, this workshop may be for you. We’ll learn about the four major forms of prayer shared by all major religions, but will also offer a practical new form of prayer based

on a modern use of prayer beads—a practice that you can make your own. During the workshop you’ll make your own prayer beads and learn a variety of meditation and prayer practices. Bring \$10.00, cash or check, to cover the supplies you’ll use in making your own prayer beads. Sign up with Sue Dobbie at Susandobbie@gmail.com or (978-501-6969) or in the front office. Workshop is limited to 15 so sign up soon.

Concert by Oriana Consort—Sunday, April 3, at 5:00 p.m.

Cambridge’s Oriana Consort (orianaconsort.org) returns to First Parish on Sunday, April 3, at 5:00 p.m. Walter Chapin and Caroline Harvey will direct “Choral Reincarnations: Old Latin Lives Anew,” in which the Mass, an antiphon, and a medieval poem reawaken in Ralph Vaughan Williams’s *Mass in G Minor* and four choral works by Ola Gjeilo. These are preceded by earlier settings by Palestrina, Duruflé, Byrd and “Anonymous, 14th century.” Boston Musical Intelligencer’s review last December said, “The chorus sang with warmth and unity,” mentioning “Oriana’s . . . inviting sound” and “the audience’s warm reception.” A reception in the Parish Hall will follow.

First Tuesdays Meeting—Technology for Communicating: Getting More Out of Your Computer and Smart Phone Tuesday, April 5, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

E-mail is everywhere, but what are some of the other options? Bob Bratzler, who conducts programs in computer technology for the Concord Council on Aging, will discuss other ways to stay in touch using your computer and your smartphone. He will review Skype, FaceTime, 23 Snaps, and smartphone messaging. The presentation will include live demonstrations as well as references to other community opportunities to further your individual skills. Come with your charged up laptop, cell phone and a healthy curiosity!

Douglas Baker Presents “Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord”

Please join us in the Parish Hall on Friday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. for showings of Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord, a video written and presented by Douglas Baker and made possible by donations from members of the congregation last year. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Sue Beck at sbeck345@comcast.net.

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 to 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.

First Parish Cooperative Seder

Saturday, April 16, 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The Passover Seder is an ancient celebration of freedom. Our Minister of Religious Education, Rev. Amy Freedman, is leading our service this year. The Parish Hall becomes our family dining

room. Get tickets and sign up to help at coffee hours starting Sunday, March 20. Suggested donation for dinner: \$20 for adults. "free over 80 or under 6," and \$5 between 6 and 12. All profits to First Parish. Whether you have a Jewish background or never attended a Seder before, you are welcome! Questions: fpseeder@googlegroups.com or Jim Snyder-Grant, 508-572-2985.

Social Action Community

Last Day to Vote on Your Favorite Design for a First Parish Social Action Tee Shirt

We can be more visible as a group during events like the Crop Walk, Boston Gay Pride Parade, and Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Designs created by First Parishioners of all ages are displayed in the Parlor during coffee hour. Put a sticker on your favorite. "Just don't vote twice!"

Social Action Community Listening Sessions—Congregational Proposal Feedback

After a congregation-wide evaluation of our current social action this fall and a winter of analyzing that data, the Social Action Community Board has drafted a proposal for how we will do social action going forward. This proposal includes a plan to Prioritize our social action efforts; hire a new SAC staff person; fund social action; and Communicate social action activities. Please come to a listening session on one of the following dates to help us firm up this proposal with your input: April 3 at 11:30 a.m., April 10 at 11:30 a.m., April 12 at 7:00 p.m., April 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Reverence for Life Supper and Movie Screening Monday, March 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Please join us for supper (chili, homemade bread and dessert) and screening of the movie "PlantPure Nation." Supper will begin at 6:00 p.m., movie starts at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28. Free (but donations welcome!). Hosted by Reverence for Life.

Mother's Day Walk for Peace 20th Anniversary—Sunday, May 8

Come walk with the thousands from Boston and with many UU congregations. The Peace Walk is the major fundraiser that supports the vital work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. On Sunday, March 20 and 27, April 3, 10, 19, 17 and 24, you can visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour to make a donation and/or sign up to participate in the Peace Walk. If you have questions, please talk with Bethany Russell-Lowe or contact Margie at mksaphier@comcast.net or 781-424-2179.

Seeking SAC Board Members

The Social Action Community (SAC) board is seeking new members to join the board in September 2016. The SAC board is a body that facilitates social action activities and helps people interested in planning activities or starting groups understand how to best plan and publicize their activities. This is a new, exciting time for the Social Action Community, as the board is considering a few changes in how we do social action that could increase participation in and visibility of social action activities. If you want to learn more, contact Bethany Russell-Lowe (Blowe@firstparish.org, 978-369-9602, x450) or any member of the SAC board.

Religious Education News

This Week, March 20, RE Classes

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (7th Grade) – Brooks Room
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 and 5th Grade – Chapel
Neighboring Activists (6th Grade) – Loft
8th Grade OWL – 4:00 p.m. – Emerson Room
Youth Group (9th-12th Grade) – Loft – 7:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Decorating

Wednesday, March 23, 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Families are invited to gather in the First Parish kitchen to decorate eggs for our Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. *Donations of one dozen hard-boiled eggs are appreciated.* Kimberly Brainerd and Amy Freedman will have a rainbow of colors and other supplies ready for you to join in the fun. Choir kids can drop by before or after your rehearsal. All ages are welcome to come by to join in our festive preparations for Easter.

Next Week, March 27—Easter Sunday!

On Easter Sunday, First Parish will offer two services: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Child care will be available for children up to 4 years old. Older children will worship with their families. Featuring music by the First Parish Choir and Festival Brass. celebrate the story of Jesus' resurrection. Rejoice with his friends that love is stronger than death. Feel the places in your life where you can come alive again. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds between the two services.

8:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years) – Lower Level
9:00 a.m. – Easter Service
10:00 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt, Church Grounds
10:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years) – Lower Level
11:00 a.m. – Easter Service

First Parish Parent Circles

What does it mean to be a UU parent? How can we be spiritually resilient in the face of life's challenges? Rev. Amy Freedman will offer three sessions on Sundays following these services: April 3, April 10 and May 1, 11:30 a.m. Child care will be provided. This will be a chance for parents to connect with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. Please register for all three sessions by emailing Amy: afreedman@firstparish.org.

Would You Volunteer One Sunday?

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

Please Give Magazines and Calendars to RE

Our Religious Education Program would love magazines, calendars, catalogs, and greeting cards to use in collages and other art projects. So, as you tackle your spring cleaning, please consider any colorful and family-friendly images that you could donate to our children and youth. Drop them off in the new RE office (main floor near restrooms) Thanks!

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