

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

April 17, 2016

## This Week

Sun., Apr. 17	<b>Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.</b> 11:30 “Waking Up White” Group A 11:30 Sunday Forum
Mon., Apr. 18	7:00 “Waking Up White” Group B 7:00 Denominational Affairs Committee
Tue., Apr. 19	7:00 Amnesty International Meeting 7:00 “Waking Up White” Group C 7:30 Environmental Leadership Meeting
Wed., Apr. 20	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., Apr. 21	7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Apr. 22	8:30 “Waking Up White” Group E 7:30 Rise Up Singing
Sun., Apr. 24	<b>Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.</b> 11:30 Sunday Forum 7:00 “Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord”

**Meeting House News deadline: this Tuesday, April 19. Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to Wendy Wolfberg at [wfwolfberg@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://www.firstparish.org).**

## Parish Notes

### Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life”  
The April Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Dana Snyder-Grant. Dana can be reached at [danasg@newview.org](mailto:danasg@newview.org) or 978-266-9409 or 978-760-1129 (cell).

### Sunday Forums

*Today, April 17—Nasir Rana, “About Islam.”* Come hear practicing Muslim Nasir Rana address questions about his faith and its role in the modern world. Host: Jack Nevison  
*April 24—Parishioners Gib Metcalf and Fred Van Deusen, “First Parish Finances.”* Gib and Fred will present information from the First Parish benchmark study to see how our finances compare to those of other churches. They will highlight major findings and answer questions about the study. Host: Woody Vandever

### Auction Tickets for Sale Now, plus Online Auction Starts Wednesday, April 20!

Close to 150 exciting items are being offered! Join us on Saturday, April 30, for cocktails, dinner, and music. Doors open at 6:00. Dinner at 7:00. Live auction at 8:00. \$40/person. Adults only. Tickets are available every coffee hour in April and in the church office during regular office hours. Cash or check only. Buy your

tickets today! For ticket questions, contact Leanne Baxter at [leanne\\_gauthier@yahoo.com](mailto:leanne_gauthier@yahoo.com). A sneak peek at all the items is available now. **Nearly 100 of these will be offered online—for just one week—Wednesday, April 20, to Thursday, April 28.** Don't miss out on your chance to win! Go to [www.biddingforgood.com/fpconcord/mayday](http://www.biddingforgood.com/fpconcord/mayday) today!

### It's Not Too Late to Pledge!

The baseball season is just beginning, but here at First Parish, we are in our own homestretch! Our Annual Pledge Campaign ends on Sunday, May 8. While we are grateful for the generosity of those who have already pledged, we still have far to go. It's easy to pledge! Just click the “Pledge Now” button at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org), or call 978-369-9602. Thank you for your support of First Parish.

### Denominational Affairs Committee Meeting Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Attend a Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) meeting to hear and share your ideas about our greater denomination. This year, the UUA General Assembly theme is “Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect.” UU's will explore multifaith, multiracial community organizing—fusion partnerships, civil disobedience, voting rights campaigns, and more.

### Environmental Leadership Meeting Tuesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.

The Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) helps First Parish become more environmentally sustainable and eco-conscious. If you have a green project that you would like to work on or an idea for a green educational event at First Parish, come join the ELT meeting this month.

### Rise Up Singing—Friday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

First Parish's monthly song circle. Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are welcome at this fun and informal evening of shared music making. Bring copies of Rise Up Singing and *Rise Again* if you have them. Copies will be available for those who don't. We will pass the hat for a free-will donation to cover the cost of the room and a sexton.

### Douglas Baker Presents “Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord” Sunday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m.

Please join us in the Parish Hall on 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](mailto:sbeck345@comcast.net).

### First Tuesdays Meeting—May 3, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Adapting to Change While Continuing to Do What You Love

Some changes in life are both hard to avoid and hard to accommodate.

What changes in your life are challenging you?

What adjustments do you need to make?

What's keeping you from responding?

What actions can you take right now?

This session will feature facilitated small groups of six to eight people to enhance participation and learning. Come explore others' challenges and find some solutions to your own.

## Social Action Community

### Amnesty International Group 15

**Tuesday, April 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room**

The main focus this month is to begin planning a community event to bring home the human side of the death penalty in the United States. The issue has been on Amnesty's agenda since the 1970's, and we're encouraged by the increasing support for its abolition. Our ongoing projects include work against solitary confinement, violence against women, and requesting medical help for our two Azerbaijanian human rights advocates under house arrest. For information, contact Kathy Taylor, [Kly.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:Kly.taylor@gmail.com) or 781-275-0791.

### Carl Williams, ACLU Attorney to Speak at Sunday Forum May 1, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Are we beginning a new civil rights movements? Black Lives Matter: Join the Conversation. Today, millions are rising up to denounce racism and what many feel is an institutionalized system of white supremacy. Carl Williams, and ACLU attorney, will describe how we have arrived at the current movement in the struggle for racial justice, the Ferguson Rebellion, the #BlackLivesMatter movement, and efforts at police reform. He will also discuss some of the cases that the ACLU is working on to further the struggles for racial justice, and share ways to support Black and Brown people in their pursuit of racial justice. Join us!

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

Come walk with the thousands from Boston and with parishioners from many UU congregations. The Peace Walk is the major fundraiser that supports the vital work of the Louis D Brown Peace Institute. On Sundays, April 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](mailto:mksaphier@comcast.net) or 781-424-2179.

## Religious Education News

### This Week, April 17, RE Workshop (K-6)

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 the Chapel with their teachers. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children on the Lower level and in Emerson Room. 4th-6th graders will be dismissed to coffee hour.*

10:15- 11:15 a.m. – RE Workshop – "Making Positive Difference," (K-6) – Emerson Room

CARING CONNECTION with Rev. Marion Visel and Pastoral Care team

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EARTH DAY with Dawn Van Patten

### Youth Program Café

**Sunday, May 1, 8:45-9:45 a.m.**

This gathering will be held before the service during our usual First Parish Café. This will be a time to review and plan youth programming with Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education, and Rev. Howard Dana. There will be coffee, tea, muffins, and sweet treats! As youth and parents of teens who have participated in youth programming, your voice is very important to this discussion. Please plan to attend if you can. Questions? Contact Amy: [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org)

### May Day Celebration

**Sunday, May 1, 10:15-11:15 a.m.**

Join us for a celebration of spring! Kindergarten through 4th graders participate in a traditional May Pole Dance, and make flower wreaths and festive May Baskets. 5th graders and up will attend the Youth Service.

### First Parish Parent Circles

Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education, is offering a series of Sunday Parent Circles. This is a chance for parents to connect with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. Our theme this Sunday is "Beyond Pink and Blue." In what ways do genders stereotypes limit our families? How can we affirm our children in becoming their authentic selves?

Sundays, 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel:

May 1 – Parenting in a Diverse World

Register for the session: [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org). Child care will be provided in the Emerson Room. For planning, please let us know the names and ages of children using child care.

### RE Workshops —"Making a Positive Difference"

Children are welcome every Sunday at First Parish in Concord! During April vacation week, Kindergarten- 6th graders will focus on the last part of our mission: "First Parish seeks ways to make a positive difference in the world." **Today, Sunday, April 17,** Rev. Marion Visel and members of our Pastoral Care team will share how we care for our First Parish community. **On Sunday, April 24,** we will celebrate Earth Day and care for our planet home.

Rev. Howard Dana's email: [hdana@rstparish.org](mailto:hdana@rstparish.org)

Rev. Marion Visel's email: [mvisel@rstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@rstparish.org)

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org)

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)