

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 4, 2016

This Week

- Sun., Dec. 4
- 9:00 Chalice Choir
 - 9:00 Gospel Choir
 - Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.**
 - 11:30 Junior Choir
 - 11:30 Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
 - 11:30 Mother/Daughter Book Group
 - 12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
 - 4:00 OWL Orientation
 - 6:00 Youth Fellowship
 - 6:00 Farewell Party for Transylvania Visitors
- Mon., Dec. 5
- Tues., Dec. 6
- 9:30 Women's Book Group
 - 1:30 First Tuesday Group
 - 6:30 Tai Chi
 - 7:00 Documentary Screening "13th"
 - 7:30 Finance Committee Meeting
 - 7:30 RE Council Meeting
- Wed., Dec. 7
- 9:30 Buddhist Group
 - 6:00 Arts Council Meeting
 - 7:00 Concord Area Humanists
 - 7:30 The Legacy Giving Group
 - 7:45 Adult Choir
- Thu., Dec. 8
- 10:00 Jingle Jams Sing-Alongs
 - 7:30 Partner Church Committee
 - 7:30 Buddhist Group
- Fri., Dec. 9
- 9:00 Caring Connection Cooking
 - 10:00 Jingle Jams Sing-Alongs
 - 11:00 Christmas Decorating
 - 12:30 T'ai Chi
- Sat., Dec. 10
- 7:30 Moms' Night Out Cookie Swap
 - 9:00 Photo Club
 - 9:00 Meditation Retreat
 - 3:00 WPA Holiday Concert and Tea
- Sun., Dec. 11
- 9:00 Chalice Choir
 - 9:00 Gospel Choir
 - Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.**
 - 11:15 Youth Discussion Circle
 - 11:30 Junior Choir
 - 11:30 Nominating Committee Meeting
 - 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting

Sunday Forums

Today, December 4 – "Panel Discussion: Our Transylvania Partnership Perspectives and Directions." This year we have the privilege of hosting a delegation of eight leaders from our partner congregation, including their new minister, Rev. Csaba Tódor, who along with Rev. Howard N. Dana will lead a discussion about the current state of our historic partnership, and some emerging ideas about our next chapter together. A panel of members from our Partner Congregation Committee and the delegates from Székelykeresztúr will provide important perspectives.

Christmas Caroling

Calling carolers of all ages! Come help bring holiday cheer to those residing in area nursing facilities on December 11 and 18. We will meet to carpool at First Parish, leaving at 1:30 p.m., or you can meet us there. We will gather at First Parish on December 18 at 4:00 p.m. for cookies and hot chocolate. Please join us! Email Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net with questions.

December 11—2:00 p.m. at Carlton Willard Village

December 18—2:00 p.m. at Concord Park; 3:00 p.m. at CareOne in Concord

Holiday Memorial Wreath

The Holiday Memorial Wreath, located at the front of the Sanctuary, is a way to acknowledge the memory of a loved one who has died. Tie a colored ribbon to the wreath for those you wish to remember. You are invited to tie a black ribbon on the wreath in memory of black lives lost to injustice. The wreath will remain in the Sanctuary throughout the holidays.

Quilt and Art Print Raffle Tickets

At today's coffee hour, the Women's Parish Association will be selling raffle tickets for a spectacular quilt and a lovely art print of Leonard Weber's "Townscape of Concord."

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, December 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. If you are willing to help please RSVP to Judy Dembsey at dembsey@verizon.net or 978-263-3272. Email preferred.

Documentary Screening: "13TH"

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

This documentary by Ava DuVernay focuses on the 13th amendment, which declares that 'Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime where of the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.' Please come to see this riveting expose on how this exception enabled mass incarceration to lead to constitutionally protected slavery. Refreshments at 6:45 p.m.; film will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp in Parish Hall and will be followed by discussion, ending at 9:00 p.m. Contact Margie King Saphier, margie.king.saphier@gmail.com, for further information.

Keresztúr Scholarship Students' Handmade Crafts for Sale At Coffee Hour Today, 11:00 a.m. to Noon.

Kléo Sómo, a sophomore at the Berde Mózes High School, reached out to her Concord sponsors, the Neale-Paris Family, for help with her charitable fundraiser. Kleo wishes to raise money to help poor children in Africa by selling her beautiful handmade traditional Transylvanian crafts in Concord. Please consider purchasing one of these unique items or making a donation to Kléo's fund. Bridget Neale-Paris will have them on display at coffee hour.

"First Tuesday's Winter Holiday Celebration: Personal Shared Stories"—First Tuesday Group (65+) Winter Holiday Celebration December 6, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Come with a small item or photograph that is connected to a personal three-minute story you are willing to share. Gather around the fire in the Parlor fireplace, listen to others' stories, sing a few seasonal songs, and see a skit or two. Refreshments will include eggnog, a table of cookies, coffee, tea, and your favorite holiday snacks (if you bring a plate to share). So come celebrate the holidays with a shared story at our December meeting.

First Parish Moms' Night Out Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange Friday, December 9, from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

Come swap cookies and recipes with fellow members of the First Parish community. Please bring a dozen or more cookies (the amount you wish to exchange), a label listing the ingredients, and a snack or drink to share. Celebrate the season, enjoy a fire in the fireplace, and take home some delicious treats! Held in the First Parish Parlor. We hope you will join us. Kindly RSVP to Leah Russell at leahkrussell@gmail.com or 978-266-1216, or Jean Chandler at jeanjeanc2@aol.com.

Concord Prison Outreach Holiday Gift Bags

Although the deadline for receiving donated items has passed, it's not too late to send a check to buy items that are still needed. Put "Holiday Gift Bag Project" on the memo line and send to Concord Prison Outreach,

Holiday Gift Bag Project, P.O. Box 383, Concord, MA 01742.

Holiday Concert and Tea—December 10

The Women's Parish Association warmly invites everyone to its annual Holiday Concert and Tea, which will take place on Saturday afternoon, December 10. The Winiker Brothers Trio will bring holiday cheer to attendees beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by a traditional tea in the Parish Hall. There is no charge for this event, but attendees are asked to bring plates of sweets to share, if they wish. Contact the office or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by December 6 for reservations.

Guest at Your Table Boxes

To Be Returned to First Parish by Sunday, December 18

Over the holiday season, we invite a "Guest At Your Table," a traditional fundraising practice for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world. Boxes were distributed during our Thanksgiving service and are still available in the front office. A donation of \$40 or more makes you eligible for member benefits. Please return your box on Sunday, December 18 so our 5th graders who are learning about UUSC can count your contribution. Otherwise, please write a check for the amount payable to UUSC. For more information, visit uus.org. Questions? Email Amy: afreedman@firstparish.org.

Sunday Bouillon—Volunteers Needed

We are thinking that we might begin making bouillon January 3, the first Sunday in January, as we did last year. Remember how delicious the bouillon was on a cold winter Sunday? And the smell drifting upstairs? Can you help one Sunday a month by buying, preparing, serving, and/or cleaning up? Kel Keleher will be there most Sundays to help clean up. If you would like, you could team up with a friend: One does the buying and preparation, both serve (and schmooze with parishioners enjoying the bouillon), and the other cleans up. Or any other way you'd like. We have not had a response to the last appeal. Bouillon may not happen unless people step forward. Please email Kel Keleher at kel@rkeleher.com or call him at 978-944-2734 if you are interested in helping.

New Rides Coordinator and Need for Drivers

One of the important programs that Pastoral Care provides is Rides. Suzanne Hogan, who has been our Rides Coordinator for years has stepped down from this position. We thank her for her service! Pat Brinkman is our new Rides Coordinator. We find that we need more drivers who can be contacted when someone needs a ride to an appointment or to a First Parish service or event. Rides are arranged for by sending an email to a group of members who have volunteered to be contacted as potential Ride Providers. If there is a match, the Rides Coordinator connects the Ride Provider with the Ride Requestor. If you need a ride or are interested in volunteering, please contact Rides Coordinator Pat Brinkman at pabrinkman@comcast.net or 781-259-9639.

Social Action

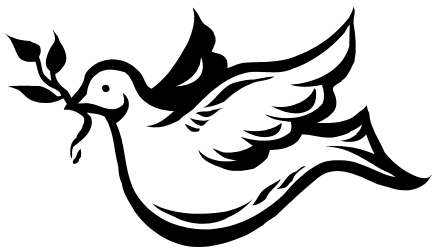
Black Lives Matter Items for Sale

Black Lives Matter signs (\$10.00) and buttons (50¢ each, 3 for \$1.00) are for sale at the Social Action table every Sunday during coffee hour.

Reproductive Justice Has a New Name—Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE)

December 17, 8:00 a.m. at Trails End Café.

Our meetings are on the third Saturday of each month. All are welcome! For questions, or to be added to our list, please contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.



Religious Education News

Bake Sale Makes a Big Difference

A big thanks to the congregation from the UU Explorers (8th graders) for a successful bake sale on Sunday, November 20! We raised \$401 to benefit the International Institute of New England (iine.org) in Lowell and Boston. IINE's overarching objective is to welcome, aid, educate, employ, and help naturalize New England's refugees and asylum seekers.

This Week, December 4

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

10:00 a.m.—Worship Service

10:15-11:15 a.m.—Kindergarten & Grade 1– Lower Level

Grades 2 & 3– Ripley & Greeley Rooms

Grade 4– Chapel

Grade 5– Bulkeley Room

Grades 6 & 7– Emerson Room

8th Grade OWL Parent Orientation

Sunday, December 4, 4:00-6:30 p.m., Emerson Room

The comprehensive sexuality program "Our Whole Lives" will be offered to First Parish 8th graders beginning in January. The goals of the program are to help young people learn about safe sexual relationships in the context of Unitarian Universalist principles, to help them make responsible decisions and to increase their understanding and respect for themselves and others. In order for your child to be enrolled in OWL, both parents are required to attend a Parent Orientation. Please let Amy know if you plan to enroll your 8th Grader in this important program: afreedman@firstparish.org.

Join Our Christmas Tableau

All are welcome to help bring the Christmas story to life during our 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve service. We will create a living tableau with adults and children wearing costumes during the traditional carols and readings. There will be one rehearsal, on Sunday, December 18, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Adults, youth, and children 6 years and older can play all parts except for the sheep, who must be 5 to 7 years old to fit in our adorable costumes. Please consider doing this as a family for an especially memorable experience. This year our Junior Choir (Grades 1-3) and Chalice Choir (Grades 4-6) members are welcome to sing and also be in the tableau. *Please email Amy if you would like to participate: afreedman@firstparish.org.

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns at sburns@firstparish.org.

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

Next Meeting House News deadline:

Tuesday, December 13

To save extra work, please send your final submissions (with images, if possible) as email attachments. Keep article length to 100 words, and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

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

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

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at firstparish.org.