

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 11, 2016

This Week

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
Mon., Dec. 12	10:00 Candle Preparation for Christmas Eve Services
Tues., Dec. 13	9:30 WPA Board Meeting
	12:00 Newsletter Deadline
	2:00 Shawl Ministry
	7:00 Vegan Cooking Class
	7:00 Amnesty International Meeting
	7:30 Women's Circle
	7:30 Blue Holiday Vespers
Wed., Dec. 14	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:30 Environmental Leadership Team Meeting
	7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Dec. 15	7:00 Membership Committee Meeting
	7:30 By Your Side Singers
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Sun., Dec. 18	9:00 Chalice Choir
	9:00 Gospel Choir
	Music Service at 10:00 a.m.
	11:15 Youth Discussion Circle
	11:30 Ministerial Intern Committee Meeting

Red Mug

Have you ever wondered what the red mug at Coffee Hour means? It means the person holding the red mug is eager and willing to engage in conversation, answer any questions or provide information pertaining to First Parish, etc. Most times it will be a member of the Membership Committee (but not necessarily), as the goal is to invite interactions amongst the members of our congregational community. So, if you see a red mug, now you know!

Quilt and Art Print Raffle Tickets at Coffee Hour

Time is running out to buy raffle tickets for an outstanding hand-pieced quilt and a lovely print of Leonard Weber's "Townscape of Concord." The quilt was made by a Vermont quilter, and the print's original was created by a highly regarded artist from Massachusetts. Raffle tickets will be sold at coffee hours from now until December 18.

Christmas Caroling

Calling carolers of all ages! Come help bring holiday cheer to those residing in area nursing facilities, 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 Carleton-Willard Village
December 18—2:00 p.m. at Concord Park; 3:00 p.m. at CareOne at 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.

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 with you 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 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.

Blue Holiday Vespers

Tuesday December 13, 7:30 p.m.

'The Gift of a Quiet Hour.' For those who desire a contemplative space this holiday season, come breathe and gather your thoughts in the quiet beauty of candles, music, and understanding. Rev. Marion Visel, Jan Hutsler, Beth Norton, and the By Your Side Singers will offer a holiday alternative—a quiet space to share reflective words of remembrance, solace, and comfort. Though the winter holidays are not always merry, this time can be a time of loving kindness and gentle community. All are welcome.

Women's Retreats—Registration Begins Today!

The theme for this year's Women's Retreats is "To Thine Own Self Be True: Knowing Your Authentic Self." Registration begins today at coffee hour, and continues on December 18 and January 8. Forms are also available during the week in the church office and online at firstparish.org/forms. All women of First Parish are welcome to attend one of the Away weekends at Senexet House (January 20-22 and January 27-29) or the At-Home retreat at First Parish (February 10 and 11). Details at coffee hour or contact Bozena Smith at bozenasmith@mindspring.com or 978-371-1060.

Vegan Bowls and Sauces—Free Cooking Class

Tuesday December 13, 7:00 - 9 p.m., Emerson Room

One way to eat whole-food, plant-based meals is by making bowl meals: combining a mix of healthy foods then pouring on a delicious sauce. Then you'll have healthy dishes where everyone will be asking for seconds! In this class, we will demonstrate and talk about the bowl-building basics, with four great oil-free sauces that make healthy food addicting! (For anyone with nut allergies, please know that nuts are used in these sauces.) Hosted by Reverence for Life and Vegan Metro West Network. Space is limited. Please contact Lyell Slade at llsrvd@netscape.net or 978-369-0636 to sign up.

Meeting House News Deadline Tuesday, December 13, at Noon

We ask your help in reducing the rework of the over 100 monthly submissions received collectively for the *Meeting House News*, *Sunday News*, and *FP Announce*. Please review guidelines in the June 2016 *Meeting House News* issue. 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. When you submit, you will receive a confirmation email that your submission has been received. Please contact the editor if you do not receive a confirmation email. If you submit regularly, please request a template file of your copy from the Editor that you can edit and submit to reduce rework for you and the editor. Please note: the publication dates for the *Meeting House News* have been changed. For details, you can check the last *Meeting House News*, Editor's Notes section.

Social Action

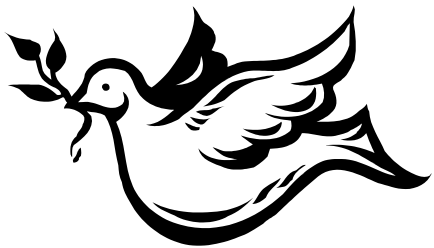
Concord Prison Outreach Holiday Gift Bags

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.

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

Guest at Your Table Box Due Next Sunday

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 is eligible for member benefits. Please return your box by Sunday, December 18 so our 5th graders can count your contribution. Otherwise, please write a check for the amount payable to UUSC. For more information, visit uuscs.org. Questions? Email Amy: afreedman@firstparish.org.

This Week, December 11

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– Brooks Room

Grade 5– Bulkeley Room

Grades 6 & 7– Emerson Room

Little Angels Rehearsal for Sunday, December 18

Next Sunday our youngest children are invited to dress as "Little Angels" and process into the Sanctuary and sing "This Little Light of Mine" for the congregation. RE classes on the Lower Level (preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade) will rehearse together during RE classes today. Sue Beck is leading the group, and Chris Randall will accompany the group on guitar. Next week, all children who wish to be "Little Angels" should arrive at their classrooms by 9:30 a.m.. We will assist them in donning simple robes and halos, and then we will head upstairs to practice their procession and song in the Sanctuary. Please have your child wear a white or other light-colored shirt. The two front pews will be reserved for parents of angels. Our hope is that this will be fun for everyone, kids and adults. Please reassure your child that it's really okay to choose not to participate. Contact Dawn Van Patten with any questions: dvanpatten@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 5-7 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.

Youth Discussion Circle

The Youth Discussion Circle is meeting at 11:15 a.m. in the Loft today after the service. The topic will be endings and beginnings.

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.

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.