

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 18, 2016

## This Week

Sun., Dec. 18	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
		<b>Music Service at 10:00 a.m.</b>
	11:15	Youth Discussion Circle
	11:30	Ministerial Intern Committee Meeting
Tues., Dec. 20	10:00	Jingle-Jams Sing-Alongs
	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:30	Diversity Committee
Wed., Dec. 21	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir
Thu., Dec. 22	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Dec. 23	7:30	Rise Up Caroling
Sat., Dec. 24	3:00	Christmas Eve "Carols and a Crèche" Service
	5:00	Family Christmas Eve Service
	7:00	Traditional Christmas Eve Service
	9:00	Traditional Christmas Eve Service
Sun., Dec. 25	10:00	Christmas Morning Potluck
		No Service

## Quilt and Art Print Raffle Tickets at Coffee Hour

Today is the last day 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 today's coffee hour, after which the drawings will take place.

## 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.

## Christmas Caroling Today

**2:00 p.m. at Concord Park**

**3:00 p.m. at CareOne at Concord**

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

## An Evening with Cosy Sheridan

**Saturday, January 14, 2017, 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

First Parish Music Events presents an evening with award-winning singer/songwriter Cosy Sheridan. Cosy has been called "one of the era's finest and most thoughtful singer/songwriters," and "a Buddhist monk in a 12-step program trapped in the body of a singer/songwriter." Admission is \$15. For information and tickets, visit [firstparish.org/musicevents](http://firstparish.org/musicevents).

## Women's Retreats—Date Change

We've changed one of the retreat weekend dates due to the conflict with Women's March events in Washington, D.C. and Boston on January 21. Now the dates are: Away weekends at Senexet House on January 27-29 and February 3-5 (new), and the At-Home retreat at First Parish on Feb 10 and 11. All women of First Parish are welcome to attend one of these weekends. The theme for this year is "To Thine Own Self Be True: Knowing Your Authentic Self." Registration continues at coffee hour today and January 8—see us with your questions! Forms are also available during the week in the church office and online at [firstparish.org/forms](http://firstparish.org/forms). For general questions, contact Bozena Smith at [bozenasmith@mindspring.com](mailto:bozenasmith@mindspring.com) or 978-371-1060. For registration questions or to inquire about financial assistance, contact registrar Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or 978-369-1471.

## "The Robbins House, Historical Black Lives That Mattered, and Concord's Abolitionists"

**First Tuesday Group (65+)**

**January 3, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

The First Tuesday Group will meet for a talk on an important part of our Concord history. Maria Madison, chair of the Board of Directors of the Robbins House, will speak on the history of African Americans and Abolitionists in early Concord. The Robbins House is an early 19th century house originally inhabited by the First generation of descendants of a formerly enslaved African-American Revolutionary War veteran, Caesar Robbins, and by a fugitive slave, Jack Garrison. Come participate in a stimulating dialogue about race and how we can today foster a spirit of reconciliation and healing!

## 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](mailto:kel@rkeleher.com) or call him at 978-944-2734 if you are interested in helping.

## 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.

### Women's March on Washington

**January 21, 2017**

Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) has organized two charter buses to take participants to the Women's March on Washington on January 2, 2017. Join us to celebrate solidarity, unity, and optimism in response to this election season. Our mission is to unite across social, cultural, religious, political, and economic identities to demand justice and equity for all women. Act fast before the seats sell out! Contact Jennifer Izzo to purchase tickets at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com) or 617-869-5563.

## Religious Education News

### This Week, December 18

9:15 a.m.—Neighboring Activists (Grades 6 & 7), Bucket Brigade, delivering sand to Concord seniors, returning to First Parish by 11:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.—Little Angels (preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade), Lower Level

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

### Next Sunday, December 25—Merry Christmas!

No RE program. All are welcome to attend Christmas Brunch in the Parish Hall.

### RE Workshop on New Year's Day

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

Children and youth are invited to join Rev. Amy Freedman, Peter Bowden, and Dawn Van Patten for a special multiage workshop on New Year's Day! We will explore the many traditions at the turning of the year and have a special ritual to let go of the old and welcome the new. This will be a fun way to bring in 2017 together!

### Little Angels This Sunday

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. 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 alright to choose not to participate. Contact Dawn Van Patten with any questions: [dvanpatten@firstparish.org](mailto:dvanpatten@firstparish.org).

### Christmas Tableau Rehearsal

**Today, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sanctuary**

Adults and children who are participating in the tableau during our 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve service will practice following the service today. We will try on costumes and run through the traditional Christmas story. Please email Amy with any questions: [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

### Return Guest at Your Table Box

Over the holiday season, we invite a "Guest at Your Table." This is a traditional fundraising practice for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world. A donation of \$40 or more makes you eligible for member benefits. Boxes will be collected as children depart for their classes. Please return your box today so our 5th graders can count your contribution. Otherwise, please write a check for the amount payable to UUSC. Questions? Email Amy: [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

Next *Meeting House News* deadline:

Tuesday, January 17

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](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu). The February edition will be published on January 25.

***The Sunday News* deadline is Wednesday at noon.**

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to Sarah Burns at [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).

*The Sunday News* can be read online at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).

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

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

**Church Office—978-369-9602**

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

