

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

February 5, 2017

This Week

Sun., Feb. 5	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 Discussion of "The New Jim Crow"
	11:30 Mother/Daughter Book Group
	11:30 Native Americans, Then and Now
	11:30 Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	4:00 <i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
Mon., Feb. 6	7:00 Discussion of "The New Jim Crow"
Tues., Feb. 7	3:00 First Tuesday Group
	6:00 Partner Church Potluck and Dessert
	6:30 T'ai Chi
Wed., Feb. 8	9:30 Buddhist Group
	10:00 Small Group Ministry
	7:00 Discussion of "The New Jim Crow"
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Feb. 9	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Feb. 10	6:30 <i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
	7:00 At-Home Women's Retreat
Sat., Feb. 11	8:30 At-Home Women's Retreat
	9:30 Photography Club
Sun., Feb. 12	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 Mother/Daughter Book Group
	11:30 Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	3:30 <i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
	7:15 Diversity Committee Film

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary Today

"Faith, Trembling, and Reimagining Justice," with Kaia Stern of Concord Prison Outreach. After sharing some thoughts on faith and trembling, this Forum will focus on reimagining justice. Drawing on 23 years of work in and about prisons across our nation, Kaia Stern will invite us to consider how specific religious and racial ideologies— notions of sin, evil, and otherness—continue to shape our relationship with crime and punishment. In conversation, we will explore a cultural hunger to punish and a vision of justice that inspires and transforms. It is time to challenge the current narrative about justice in the United States and help create a more equitable and effective justice system.

Legacy Giving Forum

Sunday, February 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

The Trustees of Parish Donations and the Finance Committee have developed a new program to encourage and recognize bequests and other types of planned gifts to First Parish called the Legacy Giving program. The typical person who makes a legacy gift isn't independently wealthy. Rather, most legacy givers are simply members who want to make a commitment to the future of First Parish. At the Forum you will learn about the variety of legacy gift approaches that are available and how making a legacy gift will help both you and First Parish. For more information, email Tom Wilson at twilson@wilsongroup.com.

Open Table

Open Table is changing! Come by our table and learn about our new service delivery model, new facility, and how First Parish continues to be a major supporter.

Small Group Ministry Group Starts Soon

"Topics of Meaning in Everyday Life" is an in-depth exploration of our

experiences and beliefs that underlie topics of meaning in everyday life. The six sessions will be on 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22, 4/5, and 4/19, facilitated by Marian Stanley and Francie Nolde on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon. The group is limited to 10 participants, so sign up ASAP! Use the clipboard in the front office, or contact Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239. Please provide your name, phone, and email address.

Native Americans, Then and Now: Confronting Our Past Sunday, February 5, 11:30 a.m., in the Loft

Have you ever wondered about how the early members of First Parish related to the indigenous people around them? Come gather next Sunday after the service to discuss the 2016 General Assembly Business Resolution, Thanksgiving Day Reconsidered. Brainstorm how First Parish might reflect on Native American concerns, past and present. For more information, contact Dana Snyder-Grant at dana.snydergrant@gmail.com or 978-760-1129.

"Conscious Aging: An Introductory Workshop"

First Tuesday Group (65+)

February 7, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm.

Join the First Tuesday Group for a workshop with discussion and exercises on living consciously, embracing the journey of aging, and exploring the potential of life's advanced years. Annie Gray will lead an exploration of these important themes that emerge as we age. Gray has led a highly acclaimed eight-session version of this workshop through Concord-Carlisle Adult and Community Education. Come participate in a stimulating mix of discussion and exercises that explore the potential of life's later chapters.

"Transylvania Happenings: Reflections from Kolozsvár"— Discussion and Dessert, Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. In the Parish Hall

Please join us for dessert and help us welcome Rev. Júlia Jobbágy, Assistant Minister at the First Unitarian Church in Kolozsvár, who will give us her perspectives on the Unitarian community in Transylvania. She will visit us during her break from studies at Meadville-Lombard seminary in Chicago. Júlia has been a frequent guide and translator for U.S. partner congregation pilgrimages in Transylvania, and a leader of their youth organization, organizing and leading youth events and summer camps. For more information, contact Lillian Anderson, lillianand@comcast.net.

First Parish in Concord Photography Club

Saturday, February 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Emerson Room

The Photography Club welcomes new members, eighteen years and older, of all skill levels. We meet on the second Saturday of each month, except in July and August, to share pictures and learn more about photography. We take field trips to interesting locations near and far, and are planning a trip to Martha's Vineyard in the spring. Our Annual Photo Show this year is on April 30 at 3:00 p.m. at First Parish. We will have a table at coffee hour once a month. Stop by and we'll be happy to answer your questions, or email Susan Page at srpage13@gmail.com.

Preparing for End-of-Life Decision Making

Sunday, February 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room

An overview of end-of-life decision making focusing on the Conversation Project Starter Kit that emphasizes having a conversation about values: what matters to you, not what's the matter with you. Copies of the Conversation Starter Kit will be provided to help you think and talk about your wishes for care at the end of life. We'll also explore how best to talk with family members about their wishes at the end of their life. This isn't about filling out forms (though the paperwork is important), rather about talking about end-of-life care based on values. Hosted by Rev. Marion Visel, minister for Pastoral Care. No need to sign up.

Denominational Affairs Committee

Monthly Meeting, Monday, February 13, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. In the Brooks Room

The agenda for this meeting will include preparation for the New England Regional Assembly in April and the General Assembly (New Orleans!) in June. Please join us as we plan for these two exciting gatherings and develop a leadership plan for the committee. For additional information, please contact Alice Van Deusen, alicevandeusen@gmail.com (much preferred) or 978-369-0435.

Downton Abbey Event—February 18

Don't miss the WPA's fascinating program by fashion historian—Karen Antonowicz, who will illustrate major changes in the lives and fashions of the residents of Downton Abbey throughout its intriguing history. Feel free to dress in period costumes. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m., followed by dessert and beverages. Charge is eight dollars. For reservations, sign up at coffee hour; or contact the office at 978-369-9602 or pekindc@comcast.net by February 15. All are warmly welcome. Invite family members and friends for a fun night out!

Mom's Night Out—Ladies Night at the Theater

Thursday, February 23; Reception 6:00 p.m.

Performance 7:30 p.m.

Join us at Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) in Lowell to see the comedy *Women in Jeopardy!* The complimentary dessert and wine reception begins at 6:00 p.m.; then enjoy the 7:30 p.m. performance and stay for "Ask the Artists" after the show. All are welcome. To read more about the play, visit <http://www.mrt.org/>. Discounted price of \$31/ ticket. By February 1, contact Jeanne Williams at courteje@bc.edu or 978-578-7515. To learn about MNO events, join the listerv by emailing valvallancourt@gmail.com. Registration and payment due February 1.

Mom's Night Out Game Night

Friday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m.

We'll end the week together with a fun and relaxing evening of games, food, and drinks. Feel free to bring your favorite game, snack, or beverage—or just bring yourself! Sponsored by the First Parish Mom's Night Out (MNO) group. RSVP to Leanne Baxter at leanne_gauthier@yahoo.com or 978.799.9536.

"Grub's Place"—A New Musical at First Parish

March 31 and April 1, 7, and 8 at 7:30 p.m.

"Grub's Place" is a musical starring Terry Roethermel as Grub and Simone Tricca as Mirabel. It is written and composed by Jane Blumberg, directed by Francene Amari, and produced by Claudia Nimar. This delightful musical, set in an ant colony, explores community life and is enlivened by a praying mantis, irreverent fireflies, a past-her-prime reclusive spider, turf battles, jealous hearts, and prejudice that threatens the colony's survival. Musical numbers "Dear, Dear, Friend" and "Community Hymn" will be memorable. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, and can be purchased at coffee hour, the church office, or online at MKTix.com.

Social Action

"The New Jim Crow"

Read and discuss *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander, a devastating account of how the U.S. prison population grew from 300,000 in the 1970's to 2,300,000 in just 40 years—and the havoc that mass incarceration is wreaking on our people and our country. Obtain the book at coffee hour. Then sign up for one of the discussion group meetings on alternate weeks, each for three sessions: Sundays at 11:30 a.m., starting February 5; Mondays at 7:00 p.m., starting February 6; and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., starting February 8. Questions? Contact Don Miller at donaldbmiller@comcast.net or 978-610-6298.

Social Grant Applications Are Posted for Review

Application materials are listed on the SAC Grants page, with links to each proposal. In addition, a notebook with a hard copy of each application is available in the church office for review. The Grant

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at noon.
Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to
Sarah Burns at sburns@firstparish.org.

Applications group will consider your comments when making grant awards. The group makes awards consistent with the criteria for SAC grant policies, posted on the SAC Grant web page. Comments are due by Thursday, February 9, to wendyh@dmahealth.com.

Criminal Justice In Massachusetts: How It's Broken and Ways to Fix It

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Join State Senator Mike Barrett, Clarence Bevins, and Louellyn Lambrose for a panel discussion on the need for criminal justice reform in Massachusetts. Panelists will share personal experiences, explain legislative initiatives, and provide concrete suggestions on how attendees can help establish a more just system. Sponsored by the Race Conversations Group. For more information, contact Leslie Fisher at leslifisher@treitman.com.

Religious Education News

This Week, February 5, 2017

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

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Visit Grace Chapel in Lexington, return 1:00 p.m.

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 classrooms with their teachers. All RE classes are held until 11:15 a.m. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their classrooms listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15-11:15 a.m.—Religious Education Classes

Kindergarten & Grade 1– Lower Level

Grades 2– Greeley Room

Grade 3– Ripley Room

Grade 4– Emerson Room

Grade 5– Bulkeley Room

Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)– Chapel, 10:30 a.m. Visit

Buddy Dog in Sudbury and Sorrento's Pizzeria;

Return 1:00 p.m.

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Parent Circle – Wright Tavern

3:00-5:00 p.m., 8th Grade OWL – Emerson Room

3:00-5:00 p.m., Coming of Age (9th Grade) – Brooks Room & Chapel

Next Week, February 12, 2017—Religious Education Classes

First Parish Parent Circle

"Sandwich Generation: Caring for Aging Parents and Children"
From 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Revs. Amy Freedman and Marion Visel

Caring for your aging parents and your own children can be challenging. Join Marion, our Minister of Pastoral Care, and Amy, our Minister of Religious Education, for resources and spiritual tools for caregiving. Parent Circles are an opportunity for parents to connect with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. Parent Circles are held in the Wright Tavern. Child care is available in the Emerson Room, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome!

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.

Next monthly Meeting House News deadline is Tuesday, February 14
To prevent 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, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. The March 2017 edition will be published on February 22.