

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

February 26, 2017

This Week

Sun., Feb. 26	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.	
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	4:00	<i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
	7:15	Diversity Committee Film
Mon., Feb. 27	6:00	"Forks Over Knives" Supper and Film
Tues., Feb. 28	7:30	Women's Book Group
	9:30	Women's Book Group
Wed., Mar. 1	6:30	T'ai Chi
	9:30	Buddhist Group
Thu., Mar. 2	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
	7:00	Race Conversations Meeting
Fri., Mar. 3	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:30	Buddhist Group
	11:00	World Day of Prayer
	5:30	<i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
Sat., Mar. 4	9:00	Men's Spirituality Retreat
	6:00	LunaFest Fundraising and Film
Sun., Mar. 5	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.	
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Across the Kitchen Table
	4:00	<i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
	5:00	"Be the Change" Small Group Ministry

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary Today

"Restorative Justice," with Margot Fleischman, Di Clymer, and John Cratsley. Three members of the Board of Directors of Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ) will discuss the work of this local nonprofit partnership of community members and police departments involving victims and offenders in the wake of crime. C4RJ provides a circle process run by volunteer facilitators, by which victims are heard and understood, offenders take responsibility for harm, and family and community members offer support—all in an effort to prevent the matter from ever being presented in court.

Reverence for Life, Supper and Film

Monday, February 27, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Please join us for the film *Forks Over Knives*, which examines the profound claim that many degenerative diseases that afflict us can be controlled or reversed by rejecting a menu of animal-based and processed foods. The film traces the personal journeys of a pair of pioneering researchers, Dr. T. Colin Campbell and Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn. Supper starts at 6:00 p.m., and the film starts at 7:00 p.m., both of which are free. For more information, please contact Lyell Slade, llsrdv@netscape.net or 978-369-0636.

Toiletry and Feminine Hygiene Collection Drive for Women

Starting March 1, we are collecting full- and travel-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, and hygiene items (pads, tampons) for Rosie's Place and the Period Project. Leave items in the marked box in the coatroom starting March 1, or bring them to LunaFest on March 4. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment and RE. Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com or 978-369-5352.

World Day of Prayer Service—Friday, March 3, at 11:00 a.m.

First Parish will host Concord's 2017 World Day of Prayer Service. Women of the Philippines wrote this year's prayer service, which reminds all of social and economic justice needs in their country and elsewhere. Continuing this annual event, which has taken place since the 1800's, will be Concord's faith communities and hundreds of thousands of women in over 170 countries engaging in informed prayers and prayerful actions to diminish injustices suffered by women and children around the world. Skyloom will add thematic sacred dance elements to the service. A festive

lunch celebrating the people and food of the Philippines will follow the service at noon. There is no charge and reservations are not required.

LunaFest Is Coming Again!

Saturday, March 4, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Join us at LunaFest—a fundraising film festival by, for, and about women—to benefit the Breast Cancer Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Women's Rights projects. The evening will include a cash bar and 50/50 raffle. Purchase tickets for \$15 online at <http://www.lunafest.org/concord0304> or at the door. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Celebration Sunday Is Almost Here—Sunday, March 5

Join us to ignite the Fire of Our Commitment as we kick-off our Annual Pledge Campaign. On Celebration Sunday, we come together during the service to pledge financial support to our very special community. Your generosity will help sustain the warmth and momentum of this vibrant congregation, so we hope you will increase your pledge over last year's amount. Help us keep our flame burning bright!

"Across the Kitchen Table"—Families Divided by Politics

Sunday, March 5, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Loft

The deep divisions in our world challenge us, especially when loved ones disagree on politics. If you are struggling with how to understand, accept, or make peace with loved ones with different political views, you are not alone. Please join as we share our struggles, support one another, and decide how best we might help each other move forward. Please contact Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 414, or Trena Minudri at ab1712@yahoo.com or 617-686-8235 if you plan to attend, or are interested in this topic but unavailable March 5. Drop-ins are welcome.

Nominations for the First Parish Nominating Committee

The Standing Committee is looking for people who would like to serve on the First Parish Nominating Committee, the primary function of which is to solicit and nominate candidates for any open positions on the Standing Committee, as well as those of Treasurer, Clerk, and Moderator. We are looking for people who are "connectors" and like to participate in many aspects of church life. The term is three years, with an option to serve two consecutive terms. The Nominating Committee meets monthly on Sunday mornings, and the time commitment is two to three hours a month. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Patty Popov at ppopov@nichols-pratt.com or 978-369-1990 by Sunday, March 5.

What Moves Us

"What Moves Us" is an adult faith journey for Unitarian Universalists who want to explore the spiritual power of our faith through our stories and those of well-known UU's. Ministerial Intern Jan Hutsler will offer three sessions of this UU Curriculum for Adults, starting Monday, March 6 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., and focusing on Sophia Lyon Fahs. All are welcome!

Find Your Flame That Burns Within by Becoming a Steward

Please help First Parish's "Fire Our Commitment" by becoming a Steward in our Annual Pledge Campaign. It's a great way to get to know others and learn about what fuels their passion at First Parish. You will be providing an important service to the church and hopefully finding fulfillment in the process, with a minimal commitment of time! Kickoff and training sessions are on Tuesday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m. or Thursday, March 9, at 11:30 a.m. at First Parish. For more information, contact Tom Wilson at twilson@wilsongroup.com.

North Bridge American Promise Association

Tuesday, March 7, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

If you are interested in working with local members of a national group focused on amending the Constitution so that people, not money, govern in America, please come to this event. We will learn how we can help move the "We the People" Act now in our state legislature, volunteer on an upcoming 28th Amendment ballot initiative, and take action as part of the national Citizens Uprising. State Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Carmine Gentile, the lead sponsors of the "We the People" Act, will speak at the meeting. All are welcome.

Reclaiming Our Democracy—Sponsored by Americans for Economic Fairness on Monday, March 13, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Following up on our very successful January event, “Reclaiming Our Democracy,” we will watch and then discuss a TED Talk by Larry Lessig titled “Our Democracy No Longer Represents the People. Here’s How We Fix It.” Participants will then work in small groups on tasks such as event planning, designing a logo, creating a website, writing a song, researching related groups, developing written materials, and getting our message out. Come and enjoy homemade refreshments. All are welcome. Contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeusen@gmail.com.

WPA Luncheon Program about Thoreau and Money

Celebrate the Thoreau Bicentennial by attending the Women’s Parish Association’s luncheon and talk by Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom about Thoreau and Money on Wednesday, March 15, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Bring your own sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be provided. There is no charge for this event. Donations will be gladly accepted to benefit Robbins House, Concord’s African-American and Antislavery Interpretive Center. Reservations are required by March 12. Sign up at coffee hour, contact the office, or reach Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net. All are welcome!

Congregational Stewardship Survey—Please Take This Survey

The Finance Committee with Rev. Dana and Standing Committee is conducting a special survey of your thoughts and ideas on stewardship. It is more than money. It is how each of us feels about First Parish, how we are engaged in and contribute, and our plans for the future and ideas for improvement. We need your voice. Please complete this survey now. Go to this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FirstParishStewardship>. Or pick up a hard copy survey at the church office. Please tell a friend. The findings will be provided in April or May. The deadline is Sunday, March 19.

“Grub’s Place”—Tickets on Sale Now

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

Grub’s Place is a musical starring Terry Rothermel 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, and a reclusive spider. Turf battles, jealous hearts, and prejudice threaten 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 March 12, 19, and 26, the church office, or online at www.mktix.com/fpuuc.

Social Action

“The New Jim Crow” Discussions

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 is wreaking. Obtain the book at coffee hour; then sign up for one of the discussion series. The final sessions are this Sunday, March 5, at 11:30 a.m.; Monday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Don Miller at donaldBmiller@comcast.net or 978-610-6298.

Jobs, Justice, and Climate March

Get on the bus with First Parish to the big “Jobs, Justice and Climate” march in Washington, D.C. on April 29. This march is led by a broad coalition of 300 labor, racial justice and environmental groups (same coalition that organized the big climate march in NYC in 2014). First Parish has booked two buses open to all. If you’d like a seat (\$110 per person), you can sign up at coffee hour or send an email to Kate Crosby at cfcrosby@gmail.com or Berni Jenkins at bernijenkins2@gmail.com. More information to follow about art-making together before the march.

“Race, the Power of an Illusion,” Part 2 Today, Sunday, February 26, 7:15 p.m.

The Diversity Committee will show part two of this documentary, “The Story We Tell.” This episode explains that ancient peoples stigmatized others based on language, custom, class, and religion, but modern racial stigma traces back to European conquest of the Americas. Please join us for socializing and refreshments at 7:15 p.m.; the hour-long film will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org.



Religious Education News

This Week, February 26, 2017

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Children in Kindergarten and up begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children’s Message, the children leave the Sanctuary with their teachers. All RE classes are held until 11:15am. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in the Emerson Room. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.—“Hey, let’s put on a show!” **Multitape Workshop with Jane Blumberg, Claudia Nimar, and Terry Rothermel**
Grub’s Place is a new musical, written and composed by Jane Blumberg, directed by Francene Amari and produced by Claudia Nimar at First Parish in Concord. In this intergenerational musical, set in an ant colony, Grub creates a spot for everyone by commanding compassion rather than conformity. Following the Children’s Message, all ages will meet with Jane, Claudia and Terry (who plays the main character Grub). Come discover what it takes to create a show!

Next Week, Sunday, March 5—Celebration Sunday!

All ages will begin and end in worship together next week. During the service, children and youth will go to the Parish Hall to learn a song with Gail Carey and Anderson Manuel and make a surprise! We will return to the Sanctuary for the end of the service. Little RE will also be available.

Youth Drop-In “Office Hours”

Have something on your mind? A burning question about our youth programs? Or a cool idea for a youth activity? Come find Christa in the Parish Hall at coffee hour and let’s talk about it. Christa Champion, our Youth Programs Director can be reached at cchampion@firstparish.org.

Coming of Age Service

Sunday, March 12, 10:00 a.m.

Our Coming of Age Service will be the culmination of our 9th grade program. The youth will present their credos, personal statements of belief, to our congregation. This is always a moving rite of passage. We encourage children who are in the 5th grade and older to attend that service. All ages are welcome!

Yoga with Laura Grundstrom

Sunday, March 12, 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Following the Children’s Message, there will be a special Yoga session in the Emerson Room for children in Kindergarten through 4th grade who do not wish to stay for the Coming of Age service. We are delighted to welcome back Laura Grundstrom, who is a certified YogaKids teacher. Some yoga mats will be available. If your family has any yoga mats, please bring them to First Parish that morning. Laura is looking forward to teaching our children and sharing with them her passion for yoga and fun.



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.

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to Sarah Burns at sburns@firstparish.org.

Next monthly Meeting House News deadline is Tuesday, March 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 April 2017 edition will be published on March 22.