

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 5, 2017

This Week

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
Mon., Mar. 6	7:30 “What Moves Us”
Tues., Mar. 7	1:30 First Tuesday Group
	6:30 T’ai Chi
	7:00 North Bridge Promise Association
Wed., Mar. 8	9:30 Buddhist Group
	10:00 Small Group Ministry
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Mar. 9	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Mar. 10	12:30 T’ai Chi
	5:30 <i>Grub’s Place</i> Rehearsal
Sat., Mar. 11	9:30 Photo Club
Sun., Mar. 12	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	4:00 <i>Grub’s Place</i> Rehearsal
	6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
	7:15 Diversity Committee Film

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary Today

“The Future of Nuclear Energy,” with Prof. Anne White of MIT. Is nuclear fusion a solution to our energy needs? Is there an environmentally sound way to tap an enormous source of power? What are the recent advances that may make it feasible?

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. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women’s Empowerment and RE. Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com or 978-369-5352.

Art Without Borders Refugee Children’s Art Sale

Today, March 5; Before and After the Service at Coffee Hour
Artwork created by children living in the Nea Kavala refugee camp in northern Greece as part of the project “Art Without Borders” will be sold during coffee hour on March 5. There are over 60,000 displaced refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq, among other countries. One hundred percent of all donations or artwork purchases will be used to procure art supplies for the children, or personally donated to the children and their families. The project was featured on NBC’s “Nightly News with Lester Holt.” If you have any questions, please contact at Jeanne Williams, 978-578-7515 or jeannie4of7@hotmail.com.

“Across the Kitchen Table”—Families Divided by Politics Today, 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 who have different political views, you are not alone. Please join us as we share our struggles, support one another, and decide how best we might help each other move forward. 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 today, March 5.

“Be the Change” Small Group Ministry—Starting Today Four Sessions: March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4

We will gather to share our experiences and explore how to “be the change” in the world. This group is a response to the need for empowerment in the current socio-political climate. Regardless of where you stand on the issues, the need to stand up and be heard has never been so important. These sessions include meditations that help us create safe space and prepare us for the challenge of moving beyond it. Roselyn Romberg and Chuck McDonald will facilitate on the first Sundays of each month, from March to June, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Groups are limited to ten participants, so sign up ASAP via the clipboard in the front office, or by contacting Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239. Provide your name, phone, and email address.

“What Moves Us”

“What Moves Us” is an adult faith journey for Unitarian Universalists who want to explore the spiritual power of their faith through their stories and those of well-known UU’s. Ministerial Intern Jan Hutslar 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!

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.

General Assembly 2017—Resist and Rejoice

Our denomination’s annual gathering, “General Assembly 2017—Resist and Rejoice,” will be held this year in New Orleans, Louisiana, from June 21 to 25. Registration and housing reservations are now open on-line, <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration>. First Parish has many delegate slots to fill and this year, including the election of the next President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. For more information, contact Lillian Anderson at Lillianand@comcast.net.

Reclaiming Our Democracy—Sponsored by Americans for Economic Fairness; 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. In honor of Thoreau's antislavery stance, donations will be gladly accepted to benefit Robbins House, Concord's African American and Antislavery Interpretive Center. Reservations are required by March 12. For reservations: sign up at coffee hours or contact the office or pekindc@comcast.net. All are welcome!

Preparing for End of Life Decision Making Sunday, March 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care

An overview of end of life decision making, focusing on the Conversation Project Starter Kit and emphasizes having a conversation about values and 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); it's about talking about what you and they want for end of life care based on values. No need to sign up.

Interested in Serving on the Standing Committee?

If you would someday like to serve on the Standing Committee, the Nominating Committee would like to get to know you! Standing Committee members serve one or two three-year terms on the governing board of First Parish. In partnership with the minister, staff, and volunteers, the Standing Committee establishes policy by which the church operates. The Clerk and Treasurer are also Standing Committee members. They serve one or more one-year terms. Candidates must be members of First Parish and should have an interest and experience in such matters as governance, operations, finance, religious education, social justice, or other parts of church life. You can find out more about the Standing Committee <http://firstparish.org/wp/about/governance/>. If interested, write to doughardy@gmail.com or eric.aaron.moore@gmail.com.

Congregational Stewardship Survey—Please Take This Survey

The Finance Committee with Rev. Dana and the 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

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 kcrosby@gmail.com or Berni Jenkins at bernijenkins2@gmail.com. More information to follow about art making together before the march.

Religious Education News

This Week, Sunday, March 5

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (7th Grade): meet in First Parish Parlor to visit Sri Lakshmi Hindu Temple, return to First Parish at 1:45 p.m.
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Children in Kindergarten and up begin and end in the Sanctuary with their families.
4:00- 6:00 p.m. – 8th Grade OWL: Session 7
4:00- 6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age (9th Grade): Worship Planning, Brooks Room and Chapel

Celebration Sunday!

All ages will begin and end in worship together today. During the service, children and youth will go to the Parish Hall to learn a song with Gail Carey and Anderson Manuel. They will return to the Sanctuary for the end of the service.

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 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.

2018 Pilgrimage to Transylvania

We are pleased to announce that plans are underway for a multigenerational trip to our partner church in Székelykeresztúr. The planning team is considering two possible times:
(1) Spring Pilgrimage: Saturday, April 12, to Saturday, April 22, 2018 (public school vacation)
(2) Summer Pilgrimage: July 26 to August 6 or 7, 2018
More details about the timing and price will be announced this spring. There will be a 2018 Transylvania Pilgrimage Interest Meeting on Sunday, April 30, after the service. Please let Amy know if your family might be interested in joining us, and especially if you prefer Spring or Summer, afreedman@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.

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.