

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 26, 2017

This Week

Sun., Mar. 26	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.	
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
Mon., Mar. 27	4:00	<i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
	7:00	Sarasa Concert
	5:00	<i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
	7:30	Women's Book Group
	9:30	Women's Book Group
Tues., Mar. 28	6:30	T'ai Chi
Wed., Mar. 29	9:30	Buddhist Group
	5:00	<i>Grub's Place</i> Dress Rehearsal
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Mar. 30	7:30	<i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Mar. 31	7:30	<i>Grub's Place</i> Opening Performance
Sat., Apr. 1	8:30	Healthy Board Development
	7:30	<i>Grub's Place</i> Performance
Sun., Apr. 2	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.	
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	11:30	Mother/Daughter Book Group
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
	5:00	"Be the Change" Small Group Ministry

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

"LGBT Asylum Task Force," with Speaker Stephanie O'Donnell. Immigrant asylum seekers helped by the LGBT Asylum Task Force will speak at today's Sunday Forum starting at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. In nearly 80 countries, it is illegal to be gay, and those who are face persecution, imprisonment, and even death for their sexual orientation or gender identity. We'll hear from three asylum seekers—two from Uganda, and one from Jamaica. Please come hear their stories and learn more about the complicated topic of immigration. Today's Forum is sponsored by the Diversity Committee.

Congregational Stewardship Survey —Last Call to Take This Survey

Approximately 150 parishioners have completed the survey. If you haven't, now is your final chance. The Finance Committee, Rev. Howard Dana and the Standing Committee need to know how you feel about First Parish, how you are engaged in and contribute, and your plans for the future. This will help us develop long-term programs and priorities. Please complete this survey now. The deadline has been extended to March 26. Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FirstParishStewardship> or pick up a hard copy survey at the church office.

The Music Events Committee Presents Another Concert in This Year's Sarasa Chamber Music Series: Trainspotting

Today, March 26, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

All aboard for Sarasa's special tour of train-inspired music in our March concert set, including works by 19th-century train enthusiast Antonín Dvořák and Steve Reich's very personal account of train travel in the 20th century. Biber's wonderfully exuberant violin sonata No. 3 from the 1660's, composed some 100 years before trains were even invented, anticipates those very sounds we imagine when a locomotive chugs along its route. Works by Biber, Reich, and Antonín Dvořák. Tickets are available online or at the door. For information, contacts, and tickets, visit sarasamusic.org.

Toiletry and Feminine Hygiene Collection Drive for Women

Our collection drive is off to a great start! Please leave full- and travel-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, and hygiene items (pads, tampons) in the marked box in the coatroom through March 31. The drive will benefit Rosie's Place and the Period Project/Open Table. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment and RE. Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com or 978-369-5352.

Healthy Board Development

Saturday, April 1, 8:30 a.m.

Meet your mission by helping a nonprofit meet theirs! Are you a strategic thinker? A skilled facilitator? Interested in sharing your board experience with another nonprofit? This is for you! Fpcu Social Action Committee and the Jericho Road Project have teamed up to provide this free orientation series over the next month. Bring a friend to the last remaining meetings: April 1—Strategic Revenue Generation, April 8—Healthy Board facilitation skills. See the flyer in the lower level for details or contact Daniel Bush at Dbush@jerichoroadproject.org.

Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group

The March selection for the Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group is *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family*, by Amy Ellis Nutt. The evening discussion will be Monday, March 27, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room; and the morning discussion will be Tuesday, March 28, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Brooks Room. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join a discussion—there's no need to sign up! If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

General Assembly 2017—"Resist and Rejoice"

General Assembly is the Unitarian Universalist annual meeting where business is accomplished, workshops are held, and UU's from all over the world gather together to worship, learn, take action on important social justice issues, and this year, to vote on the denomination's next president. "G.A. Resist and Rejoice" is in New Orleans, Louisiana, from June 21-25, and registration and housing reservations are now open. First Parish sends delegates each year. If you are interested in attending or being a delegate, please contact Lillian Anderson at Lillianand@comcast.net.

New Caregiver Support Group

Providing care for a family member in need is an age-old act of love and loyalty. You may care for an aging parent (while also caring for your own children), disabled spouse, or a young or adult child with a physical, mental, or addiction issue. Whether you provide direct care or oversee care at a distance, with support, you can be a good caregiver without sacrificing yourself in the process. The group will determine a future meeting schedule on Monday, April 3, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room. Facilitated by Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, and Diane Clapp, Pastoral Care Lay Minister. If you are unable to attend this meeting but are interested, contact Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239.

New England Regional UU Assembly

The New England Regional UU Assembly will be held in Woburn, Massachusetts, April 21-22. Friday evening, April 21, is an opportunity to see and hear the candidates for president of the UUA (election to be held in June at General Assembly). The Candidates Forum is free of charge, but you must pre-register by April 10. Saturday sessions include worship, singing, and workshops with outstanding UU leaders, preregistration and fee required. For more information, see new-england.eventbrite.com and contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

Panel Discussion on Women's Health Access Issues

Hold the date of Friday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m. for a special panel discussion on women's health and access to it. We will focus on what's at stake and what we can do about it. This timely and informative program and discussion is cosponsored by AWE (Advocates for Women's Empowerment, formerly Reproductive Justice) and the WPA (Women's Parish Association). There is no charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted at the door. Stay tuned for further details and contact Lora Venesy with any questions at venesy@comcast.net.

WPA Craft and Flea Market

Have you started thinking about spring cleaning yet? Remember that the Women's Parish Association will be holding its Craft and Flea Market on Saturday, June 3, and will be collecting items to sell at its table. So start collecting high-quality items to donate, such as jewelry, household items, gift items, children's items, collectibles, antiques, etc. You may also want to rent a table yourself so you can sell your treasures. To rent a table or to arrange for donations of high-quality gift items to the WPA table, contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net.

“Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings”

March 7, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

The First Tuesday Group (65+) will meet to learn about Pastoral Care at First Parish. When should we reach out to Pastoral Care? What services can they provide? How, exactly, do we reach out? Get answers to these questions, see a demonstration of a pastoral conversation, meet members of the Pastoral Care Council and the Pastoral Care Lay Ministers, and share your experiences with them. Together we'll reflect on how we are there for one another, and ways we might expand our caring presence. (While our heading says “65+,” please come if you are interested, whatever your age.)

April History Hikes with Rev. Howard N. Dana

A series of walks in and around historic Unitarian and Universalist sites. No sign-up needed. Suitable for adults and children. Participants must be able to walk at a reasonable pace for one to two miles on flat ground. For each outing, we will carpool from First Parish in Concord at 9:30 a.m. All hikes will end by 2:00 p.m. for our return to Concord. If you wish to meet us at the hike, you are welcome to do so. All are welcome.

Saturday, April 1—Concord Center

A walking tour of Concord Center will end with a visit to the Concord Museum. \$8 entrance fee required. Picnic lunch at First Parish—bring your own bag lunch.

Saturday, April 8—Boston Common

Starting at the Park Street Church Corner, we will walk to historically significant places near Boston Common, visiting churches and statues. Free. Lunch purchased on your own—or bring your own bag lunch.

Saturday, April 15—Mount Auburn Cemetery—Cambridge

Visit the graves of many famous Unitarians and Universalists in this lovely cemetery. Free. Picnic lunch nearby—bring your own bag lunch.

Saturday, April 29—Fruitlands

Travel to the 19th Century Unitarian utopian community just west of Concord. \$10 entrance fee required. Picnic lunch there—bring your own bag lunch.

“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 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, 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 today, or in the church office or online at www.mktix.com/fpuuc during the week.

Peace Campaign Alert

Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Filmmaker Jenny Phillips screens her new documentary, *Beyond the Wall*, with discussion to follow. Her work lays out the desperate situation of the flood of prisoners returning to our communities without guidance and support for transition to society. Set largely in Lowell and Lawrence, where once thriving textile mills have been replaced by poverty, crime, and drug addiction, the film bears witness to personal stories of reentry, relapse, recovery, and redemption. Filmmakers put a human face on the social, economic, and emotional barriers encountered by former prisoners who are among our most discriminated citizens. Contact Pat Simon at psimon4peace@gmail.com or 781-373-1410.

Social Action

“Black Lives Matter” Signs Available

“Black Lives Matter” signs for will be sold at coffee hour today and April 2, or until they are sold out. They are \$10 each, or three for \$20.

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

Immigration Justice Task Force (IJTF)

Monday, April 3, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room

This will be the second meeting of our First Parish Immigration Justice Task Force. Come and join us to share information, connect with other concerned

parishioners, and brainstorm action steps related to supporting immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the time of President Trump. If you can’t make the meeting, but are interested in staying informed about our group or the issues, consider being added to our IJTF Google group. You can contact Laurie Van Loon at lvnloon@comcast.net or Tony Rodriguez at trod.rodriguez@gmail.com

Religious Education News

This Week, Sunday, March 26

9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs)– Lower Level

10:00-11:15 a.m.

Little OWL– Lower Level

Middle OWL– Wright Tavern

Neighboring Faiths– Brooks Room

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Little OWL, Middle OWL, and Neighboring Faiths start in their classrooms listed above. 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 & 5– Emerson Room

Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)– Chapel

Next Week, Sunday, April 2: Religious Education Classes

Glass Jars Needed for Easter Egg Dyeing

Do you have any small glass jars that you could donate? We will be dyeing Easter eggs on Sunday, April 9th during RE classes. Please bring your donations to the RE Office by April 4th. Thanks!

Youth Planning Meeting

All high-school-aged youth who would like to help choose and plan for upcoming youth activities, this spring and beyond, are welcome to a Youth Planning Meeting being held today at 2:30 p.m. in the Emerson Room! For more information, email Christa: cchampion@firstparish.org.

Summertime Fun at First Parish!

We will continue to have programs for children this summer. Do you have a fun idea or a special talent to share one Sunday morning? Ideas include: outdoor games, art activities, nature exploration, big bubble-making, etc. Contact Amy at afreedman@firstparish.org or Dawn at dvanpatten@firstparish.org. Thanks!



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, April 18.

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 May 2017 edition will be published on April 26.