

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 3, 2017

This Week

Sun., Dec. 3	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 Sunday Worship
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	3:00 WPA Holiday Concert and Tea
	4:30 Small Group Ministry
Mon., Dec. 4	1:30 Caregiver Support Group
	7:00 Immigration Justice Task Force
	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tues., Dec. 5	9:30 Women's Book Group
	1:30 First Tuesday Group
	4:30 All-Parish Gathering
	7:00 NAMI Family-to-Family
Wed., Dec. 6	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Dec. 7	7:30 Daring Democracy Lecture
	7:30 By Your Side Singers
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Dec. 8	9:00 Caring Connection Cooking
	7:30 Moms' Night Out Cookie Swap
Sat., Dec. 9	9:30 Photo Club Meeting
Sun., Dec. 10	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 Sunday Worship
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	4:00 The Copley Singers Performance
	6:00 Standing Committee Meeting

Parish Notes

Sunday Service, Today, 10:00 a.m.

William Grant Still's "Christmas in the Western World,"
First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra

Silent Auction for Thoreau Book

The Women's Parish Association is holding a silent auction for a delightful illustrated book by Helen Stoddard entitled *H.D. Thoreau, Scenario of His Early Life*. The bidding sheet will be available at coffee hour today. Proceeds will be used for First Parish maintenance. Helen will match the highest bid, up to \$5,000.

Come View the Completed Banner Book

The Banner Book Project Committee has completed a document of the pulpit and Celebration Sunday banners in photo and storybook form. Come to coffee hour and see Barbara Wheeler to view this book and perhaps order one of your own.

Join the Ushers and Sound Team

Are you friendly and helpful? Join us Sundays for an easy, once-a-month commitment to welcome fellow parishioners, hand out orders of service, and pass the collection plate. We're seeking ushers/greeters and sound operators for the 3rd, 4th, and, rarer, 5th Sundays of the month (sound training provided). The schedule is flexible, as ushers switch among themselves to fit the role into their lives. This is a great way to learn faces and make friends! Contact volunteer head usher Maile Hulihan at mailehulihan@earthlink.net or 978-443-7020 if you are interested.

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns at sburns@firstparish.org.

The Sunday News can be read online at www.firstparish.org.

Holiday Concert and Tea

Today, 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

This year's Holiday Concert and Tea, sponsored by the Women's Parish Association, will add special sparkle to your holiday season. Award-winning classical pianist Julia Zhou, a runner-up in a recent Concord Orchestra's Young Artist Competition, will be featured. Following the concert, enjoy a festive tea. There is no charge for this event. Attendees, please bring a plate of sweets to share, if you can. Bring family and friends for a joyful afternoon. All are warmly invited.

First Tuesday Group's (65+) Winter Holiday Celebration

Tuesday, December 5, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Parlor

Come share one of your favorite holiday traditions. Gather around the fireplace, listen to others' stories, and sing seasonal songs. Refreshments will include eggnog, cookies, coffee, tea, and your favorite holiday treat if you bring a plate to share (welcome, but not required). *While our heading says 65+, please come if you are interested, whatever your age.*

Caring Connection Cooking

Friday, December 8, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon, Kitchen

Calling all First Parish cooks! It's time to restock the First Parish Caring Connection freezer. We will make delicious meals for those in our community who have a need. No experience or skills are necessary. Recipes and provisions provided. Breakfast snacks will be served. Contact Enid Boasberg, harpplayer@comcast.net or 978-371-0465, to let us know you'll be there for this fun way to help others.

Moms' Night Out Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange

Friday, December 8, 7:30-10:00 p.m., Parlor

Bake a batch or two and come swap cookies and recipes with other moms. Please bring a dozen or more cookies (the number you wish to exchange), a list of ingredients, and a snack or drink to share. Celebrate the season, enjoy a fire in the fireplace, and take home some delicious treats! RSVP to Leah Russell at leahkrussell@gmail.com (preferred) or 978-266-1216.

Holiday Concert by The Copley Singers

Sunday, December 10, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

The Copley Singers are a long-standing Boston tradition during the holiday season. Led by renowned conductor Brian Jones (former music director at Trinity Church in Copley Square, Boston) and featuring prodigy organist Katelyn Emerson, this beautiful and powerful chorus has been heralded as "sensuous, nuanced, expansive, and full of goodwill." Come usher in the holiday season with brilliant holiday music performed with flare, excitement, and beauty. Tickets are \$20; advanced tickets may be purchased from Brown Paper Tickets at CopleySingers.org; tickets may also be purchased at the door. Sponsored by the Music Ministry.

Women's Retreats Registration, December 10-January 7

The theme for this year's Women's Retreats is "Connections and Connecting." Registration begins at coffee hour next Sunday, December 10, and continues December 17 and January 7. Forms are also available during the week in the church office and online at firstparish.org/forms. All women of First Parish are welcome to attend one of the Away weekends at Senexet House (January 19-21 and January 26-28) or the At-Home retreat at First Parish (February 9 and 10). Details will be available next week at coffee hour or contact Bozena Smith at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

AWE Monthly Meeting

Saturday, December 16, 8:00 a.m., at Serendipity

Calling activists and feminists interested in women's empowerment social justice initiatives! Join us at our monthly meeting to discuss and plan upcoming events. This month we'll meet on Saturday, December 16, at 8:00 a.m. at Serendipity in Maynard. All are welcome to our meetings and events (men, women, people of all gender identities and expressions). Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net with questions or to join our mailing list.

Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 16, 1:00 p.m., Parlor

Help bring holiday cheer to our parishioners and others who can't get out this season. Singers of all ages wanted! We'll meet in the Parlor at 1:00 p.m., and carpool to area nursing facilities to sing. Afterward, we'll head back to First Parish to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate together. Feel free to wear festive attire and bring cookies to share. For more information, contact Lora Venesy at 978-254-5433 or venesy@comcast.net.

Author Talk: "Transcendentalism and the Cultivation of the Soul" by Rev. Dr. Barry Andrews, UU Minister Emeritus Sunday, December 17, 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Transcendentalists developed spiritual practices to nurture their souls and discover the divine: keeping journals, contemplation, walking, reading, simple living, and conversation. Rev. Andrews demonstrates how Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller, and others, pursued rewarding spiritual lives that inspired them to fight for abolition, women's rights, and education reform. He reveals how these practices are valuable to spiritual seekers and religious liberals today. Books will be available for sale and signing. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council and the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond, there is no charge for this event. Contact Dianne Weiss at diannemcweiss@comcast.net.

Social Action

Secret Santa Update

You can still contribute! Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com to make a difference this holiday season. AWE will collect unwrapped, marked gifts and gift cards during coffee hour today and next Sunday, December 10.

Immigration Justice Task Force

Distressed at current immigration policies and wishing you could help? We are looking for volunteers to join our Sanctuary 2 team to support First Parish of Bedford, a Sanctuary 1 church. Visit our table during coffee hour for more information.

"Daring Democracy" Concert, Book Discussion, Reception Thursday, December 7, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Sanctuary, Parish Hall

Starting in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m., this Reclaim Our Democracy-sponsored evening will kick off with music by the Maynard group Workingman's Duo. At 7:30, legendary *Diet for a Small Planet* author Frances Moore Lappé and organizer Adam Eichen will share highlights of their new UU Common Read *Daring Democracy*. "Without democracy, there's almost no chance of tackling distinct environmental, racial justice, labor, poverty, or food justice problems." We will discuss ways to engage in the movement to save our democracy. The presentation will be followed by a book signing reception in the Parish Hall. "This book, perhaps better than any other, shows Americans that the democracy they want is possible," Lawrence Lessig. Contact fredvandeu@gmail.com with questions.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, December 3: Religious Exploration

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

10:00 a.m. UU Explorers (Grade 8), Chapel

10:00 a.m. Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7), Meet in the Parlor, then

visit Holy Family Parish, 12 Monument Square, Concord; return to First Parish between 11:45 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

10:00 a.m. Service, Sanctuary

Children in Kindergarten-Grade 6 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for their classroom with their teachers. All RE sessions are held until 11:15 a.m. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their classrooms as listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten & Grade 1, Lower Level; Grade 2, Greeley Room; Grade 3, Bulkeley Room; Grade 4, Ripley Room; Grade 5, Wright Tavern; Grade 6, Emerson Room

11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Grade 8 OWL Parent Orientation, Emerson Room

6:00-8:00 p.m., Coming of Age (Grade 9), "Our UU Story," with Rev. Howard Dana, Parish Hall

Next Sunday, December 10: Religious Exploration, including Little Angels Sunday

"Little Angels" is a long-standing tradition at First Parish. Our youngest children are invited to dress as "Little Angels" and process into the Sanctuary singing "This Little Light of Mine" for the congregation. Preschool, Kindergarten, and First Grade will learn the song together during RE time today. All children who wish to be "Little Angels" should arrive at their classrooms by 9:30 a.m., Sunday, December 10, and wear a white or light-colored shirt. Please contact Dawn Van Patten with any questions at dvanpatten@firstparish.org.

Grade 8 OWL Parent Orientation

Today, December 3, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Emerson Room

"Our Whole Lives" (OWL), the comprehensive sexuality program, will be offered to eighth graders at First Parish in Concord beginning in January 2018. The goals of the program are to help young people learn about safe sexual relationships in the context of Unitarian Universalist principles, to help them make responsible decisions, and to increase their understanding and respect for themselves and others. For your teen to be enrolled in OWL, both parents are required to attend a First Parish Parent Orientation. Sign-up link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4faaac29a5fe3-owlorientation>.

Help Our Coming of Age Group Collect Winter Clothing

As they prepare for their upcoming participation in CityReach, our Coming of Age group is collecting warm winter clothing to distribute to Boston's homeless. Please check your closets and storage areas to find items you no longer use! We are collecting warm coats and jackets, sweatpants and hoodies, boots and shoes of all sizes, and gloves, hats, and mittens. L, XL, and XXL sizes are especially needed. Used sleeping bags, blankets, backpacks, gym bags, and wheeled luggage are also needed. Please drop your donations in the First Parish coat closet by Sunday, December 10.

Guest at Your Table Box

Over the holiday season, we invite a "Guest at Your Table" (GAYT), traditional fundraising for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). UUSC's grassroots partners make a big difference in their communities, and so does your participation in GAYT. That is why this year's program theme is "Small Change Is Big Change." Please return your box on Sunday, December 17, so our 5th graders can count your contribution. Or write a check for the amount, payable to UUSC. For more information, visit uus.org. Questions? Email Amy Freedman at afreedman@firstparish.org.

January 2018 Meeting House News Deadline Tuesday, December 12, 12:00 Noon

Keep article length to 100 words and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.