

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 10, 2017

This Week

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
Tues., Dec. 12	10:30	Small Group Ministry
	12:00	Meeting House News deadline
	2:00	Shawl Ministry
Wed., Dec. 13	9:30	Buddhist Group
	5:30	SAC Giving Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Dec. 14	7:00	Race Conversations Group
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Sat., Dec. 16	8:00	AWE Meeting, Serendipity Cafe
	1:00	Christmas Caroling
Sun., Dec. 17	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	3:00	Author Talk: Transcendentalism

Parish Notes

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

Rev. Howard N. Dana, "Love's Incarnation"
Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Sunday Service, December 17, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Howard N. Dana, "Light One Candle—Hanukkah"
First Parish Choir

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.

Join the Ushers and Sound Team

Are you friendly and helpful? Join us Sundays for an easy, monthly commitment to welcome fellow parishioners, hand out orders of service, and pass collection plates. We need ushers, greeters, and sound operators for the 3rd, 4th, and the rarer 5th monthly Sundays (training provided). Schedules are flexible, as ushers swap dates. This is a great way to learn names and make friends! Contact head usher Maile Hulihan at mailehulihan@earthlink.net or 978-443-7020 if interested.

Holiday Concert by The Copley Singers

Today, 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." Usher in the holiday season with seasonal music performed with flare, excitement, and beauty. Tickets are \$20; purchase advanced tickets via 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 today 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 First Parish women 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 at coffee hour or from Bozena Smith, bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

Meeting House News (MHN) Deadline for January 2018 Issue Tuesday, December 12, 12:00 Noon

The January 2018 *MHN* will be published December 20. Send your submission and image in final form as an email attachment to the editor, Wendy Wolfberg, at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. Contact Wendy if you do not receive a receipt confirmation email. Word limit is 100; images can be either .jpg or .png. See previous *MHN* issues for examples.

Christmas Caroling

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

Help bring holiday cheer to parishioners and others who can't get out. Singers of all ages wanted! We'll meet at 1:00 p.m., then carpool to area nursing facilities. After singing, we'll head back to First Parish to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate together. Festive attire and cookies to share are optional. 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: journals, contemplation, walking, reading, simplicity, and conversation. Rev. Andrews demonstrates how Emerson, Thoreau, and Fuller, led rewarding spiritual lives that inspired them to fight for abolition, women's rights, and education reform. He reveals how these practices are valuable to today's spiritual seekers and religious liberals. Books will be available for sale and signing. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council and the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond. No charge. Contact Dianne Weiss at diannemcweiss@comcast.net.

Holiday Memorial Wreath

Throughout December, Sanctuary

Acknowledge the memory of a loved one who has died by tying a ribbon to the wreath for those you wish to remember. We invite you to tie a black ribbon in memory of people of color lost to injustice.

Blue Holiday Vespers: "Find a Stillness"

Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m., Chapel

Gather in community to find stillness in the midst of all that is going on in the world and in your life. Find comfort in the beauty of candles, music, and understanding. Rev. Marion Visel, Rev. Jo VonRue, Beth Norton, and the By Your Side Singers offer a holiday alternative—a quiet space to share reflective words of remembrance and solace. Though the winter holidays are not always merry, this time can be a time of gentle, loving kindness. All are welcome.

Merry Yule! Women's Circle Solstice Gathering

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 p.m., Parlor

Long before Christmas as we know it, pagan communities set the Winter Solstice as a time to pause and reflect. Winter is the season of darkness, coldness, and dormancy, but the light is returning. The Women's Circle invites the First Parish community and friends to join a festive Solstice gathering. All are welcome—men, women, and children. There will be stories, songs, a blazing yule log, a spiral dance, seasonal refreshments, and companionship. Contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com with questions.

Help Distribute Holiday Flowers

Tuesday, December 26, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Deliveries of Christmas poinsettias bring cheer to parishioners. Contact Caitlin Selle, selle.caitlin5@gmail.com, to let her know whether you can deliver a plant or two.

**PCC Hosts Balázs Scholar Rev. Emese Bodor
Saturday, January 6, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

Please join the Partner Congregation Committee and representatives from neighboring partner congregations to welcome this year's Balázs Scholar, Rev. Emese Bodor, a Unitarian minister from Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár, Romania. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m. We'll discuss the Transylvanian Unitarians' perspectives on partnership and pilgrimage, as well as that church's definition of marriage as only between a man and a woman. The Balázs Scholars Program has sponsored a Transylvanian Unitarian Minister at the Starr King School for the Ministry yearly since 1994.

Sunday Bouillon Volunteers Needed

We might begin making bouillon in early January, as we did last year. Remember how delicious the bouillon was on a cold winter Sunday? Can you help one Sunday a month by buying, preparing, serving, and/or cleaning up? I will be there most Sundays to help clean up. You could team up with a friend—one does buying and preparation, both serve (and schmooze with parishioners enjoying the bouillon), and the other cleans up; or any other way you'd like. Please contact Kel Keleher, kel@rkeleher.com or 978-944-2734, if you are interested.

WPA's Light in Winter

Friday, January 12, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Add light and beauty to your winter! Join other First Parish folks for soup prepared by Howard, socializing, and decorating candles. Howard will give a brief soup making demo; Richard Fortier will play guitar throughout the evening; and Barbara Forman will talk about the history of lighting and lead a candle-decorating workshop, complete with artistic advice from Merrill Comeau. No experience necessary. Cost: \$7.00, including food, beverages, and all supplies. For reservations and food requirements, contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net by January 9.

Social Action

Secret Santa Update

You can still contribute! Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com. AWE will collect unwrapped, marked gifts during coffee hour today.

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.

AWE Monthly Meeting

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

Calling activists and feminists interested in women's empowerment social justice initiatives! Attend our monthly meeting to discuss and plan upcoming events. This month we'll meet at Serendipity Café, 1 Nason Street, Maynard. All are welcome at AWE meetings and events (men, women, all gender identities and expressions). Meetings monthly on third Saturdays. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net with questions or to join AWE's mailing list.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, December 19, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

Attend our annual December Write4Rights meeting, when we, along with tens of thousands of others around the globe, write in support of human rights activists at risk in their home countries. This will give you a taste of the variety of actions individuals are engaged in worldwide—and of better-than-usual refreshments as we celebrate the holiday season. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, nilyons22@gmail.com, or 978-369-6109.

Nominate Your Favorite Charitable Organizations

The Social Action Community, with Howard and Zach, will pilot *Share the Plate collections* January-May 2018. We will share the collection plate 50%/50% between the church and one designated organization each month. That month we'll learn more about the organization and may meet its leadership. For more information, including how to nominate an organization or serve on the selection committee, visit the SAC coffee hour table, see the SAC Bulletin Board, or view the new

SAC Share the Plate page on the First Parish website. Nominations accepted until January 4, 2018.

Religious Exploration

Today: Religious Exploration

9:50 a.m., Little RE (0-4yrs), Lower Level; 10:00 a.m., UU Explorers (Grade 8), Chapel and Parlor; 10:00 a.m., Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7), Brooks Room; 10:00 a.m., Worship Service

Children in Kindergarten-Grade 6 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following the Children's Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for their classrooms with their teachers. All RE sessions are held until 11:15a.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., Kindergarten & Grade 1, Lower Level; Grade 2, 3, 4, Emerson Room; Grade 5, Wright Tavern; Grade 6, Ripley and Greeley Rooms

Next Sunday, December 17: Religious Exploration

Bake Sale at Coffee Hour Today

Our UU Explorers (First Parish 8th graders) will hold a bake sale today at coffee hour. All funds raised will go to Water for South Sudan (www.waterforsouthsudan.org), an organization that helps make safe, potable water available to communities in South Sudan. This improves health, increases economic opportunities, and contributes to community stability. Cash and checks welcome.

Help Coming of Age Group Collect Winter Clothing!

As they prepare for upcoming participation in the CityReach program, our Coming of Age group is collecting winter clothing to distribute to Boston's homeless. Needed are warm coats and jackets; sweatpants and hoodies; boots and shoes of all sizes; gloves, hats, mittens; new white socks, and new men's underwear. L, XL, and XXL sizes are especially needed. Used sleeping bags, blankets, backpacks, gym bags, and wheeled luggage are also needed. Drop your donations off in the First Parish coat room today.

Little Angels Sunday

Preschool, Kindergarten, and First Grade children are invited to dress as "Little Angels" today and process into the Sanctuary during the service, singing "This Little Light of Mine." Children will learn the song together during RE time. "Little Angels" should arrive at their classrooms by 9:30 a.m., wearing white or other light-colored shirts. With questions, email Dawn Van Patten, dvanpatten@firstparish.org.

Return "Guest at Your Table" Box Next Sunday

Over the holiday season, we invite a "Guest at Your Table" (GAYT), traditional fundraising for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC's grassroots partners make a big difference in their communities, and so does your participation in GAYT. This year's program theme is "Small Change Is Big Change." Return boxes next Sunday, December 17, so our 5th graders can count your contribution. Or write a check payable to UUSC. For more information, visit uusoc.org. For questions, email Amy at afreedman@firstparish.org.

**Three Kings Day with Santuario Luterano in Waltham
Sunday, January 7**

Join Zach Roe and First Parishioners visiting Santuario Luterano in Waltham to celebrate Día de los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day). Enjoy homemade Puerto Rican food, decorating boxes for youth, gifts and sweets, and an appearance by the three kings. Santuario Luterano is a Spanish-speaking Lutheran congregation led by Rev. Ángel Marrero, Zach's husband. Space is limited. Reserve your spot via the First Parish in Concord—Social Action Community Facebook page (facebook.com/fpcsac), or contact Zach at zroe@firstparish.org.

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.