

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 31, 2017

This Week

Sun., Dec. 31	10:00	Sunday Worship
Mon., Jan. 1	All Day	New Year's Day Holiday
Tues., Jan. 2	7:00	AWE Book Group
Wed., Jan. 3	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Jan. 4	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Jan. 5	7:00	AWE Movie Night
Sat., Jan. 6	10:30	Congregational Conversation
	4:30	Congregational Conversation
	5:00	Mother/Daughter Book Group
	7:00	Balázs Scholar Reception/Discussion
Sun., Jan. 7	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	11:30	Congregational Conversation
	11:30	Transylvania Pilgrimage Meeting
	11:30	Small Group Ministry
	6:00	Standing Committee Meeting
	6:00	Three Kings Day, Santuriano Luteran

Parish Notes

Sunday, December 31, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Jo VonRue: "How High is This Mountain?"
Nancy Ackerman, clarinet; Eric Huenneke, organ/piano

Sunday, January 7, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Rev Marion Visel: "Threshold: A Place in Between"
The Conchords vocal ensemble

Women's Retreats Registration, December 31–January 7

The theme for this year's Women's Retreats is "Connections and Connecting." Registration continues at coffee hour today 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, 2018) or the at-home retreat at First Parish (February 9 and 10, 2018). Information available at coffee hour or contact Bozena Smith at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

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.

Listening Sessions—Please Sign Up Today

The Standing Committee respectfully asks you to attend one of the dozen Congregational Conversations scheduled during January 2018. Your input will help set goals for the Standing Committee, Senior Minister, and staff. Sign up at coffee hour today. Your voice is important! Listening session dates are:
Saturday, January 6, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. AND
Saturday, January 6, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 7, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 10, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 11, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 14, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 17, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 21, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 23, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 25, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

WPA's Light in Winter

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

The Women's Parish Association invites you to add light and beauty to your winter months! Join other First Parish folks on January 12, 6:30 p.m., for a delicious soup prepared by Howard, socializing, and decorating candles. Program: Howard, demonstrating his soup creation; Richard Fortier playing his guitar; Barbara Forman talking about the history of lighting; and a fun candle decorating workshop with Merrill Comeau giving artistic advice. No prior experience necessary. Hands-on advice and all necessary supplies will be available. Cost: \$7.00, which includes food, beverages, and supplies. For reservations, contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by January 9.

Silent Auction for Thoreau Book until January 14, 2018

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 not be available at coffee hour today, but you can contact pekindc@comcast.net to enter a bid. Bidding will close January 14. Proceeds will be used for First Parish maintenance. Helen will match the highest bid, up to five thousand dollars.

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 the 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, 978-944-2734, if interested.



Come View the Completed Banner Book

The Banner Book Project Committee has completed a book of pulpit and celebration Sunday banners in photos and stories. Come to coffee hour and see Barbara Wheeler for a view of this book, and perhaps order one of your own.

WPA Assists at Open Table

Thursday, February 1, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

The Women's Parish Association is sponsoring Open Table's First Thursday Dinner to be held Thursday, February 1, 5:30 p.m. WPA members are encouraged to join us at this enjoyable community meal. If you would like to volunteer to help at this rewarding event, please contact the office or Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net.

Social Action

AWE Book Group

Tuesday, January 2, 7:00 p.m.

We'll read "Surviving Domestic Violence: Voices of Women Who Broke Free," by Elaine Weiss. This book tells the stories of 12 women from all walks of life throughout the United States, who were victims of domestic violence and who escaped their abusers to reclaim their dignity and reconstruct their lives. Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com. Our corresponding social action will be a collection drive for Gifts of Hope Unlimited, a Sudbury-based organization that supports and assists individuals affected by relationship violence. Stay tuned for details!

Nominate Charitable Organizations by January 4, 2018

The Social Action Community, with Howard and Zach, will pilot *Share the Plate Collections* January through 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 will be accepted until January 4, 2018.

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, January 5, 2018, 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

Based on a true story, "Made in Dagenham" explores the movement that caused a significant law reform. Rita O'Grady (a fictional character) leads the 1968 Ford sewing machinists strike at the Ford Dagenham (London) plant, where female workers walk out in protest against sexual discrimination, demanding equal pay. This strike causes a lot of public attention around the world and was seen as out of the ordinary to many because it was not in a woman's nature to do anything else other than the traditional family roles. The strike is successful and leads to the Equal Pay Act 1970. Contact Lou Toussaint at mloutoussaint@gmail.com.



Religious Exploration

Today, Sunday, December 31, 2017

Little RE – Lower Level

All ages worship together in the Sanctuary today. Our youngest children (0-4 years) will play in a caring environment with time for making friends, reading stories, playing outdoors, eating snack, and doing craft projects. Parents are invited to bring their children to the Lower Level fifteen minutes before worship service begins (at 9:45 a.m.). This Sunday is designed for all ages to worship together.

Three Kings Day with Santuario Luterano

Sunday, January 7, 2018, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

6 Eddy Street, Waltham

Join Zach Roe and members of First Parish as we visit Santuario Luterano in Waltham for the celebration of Día de los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day). Día de los Tres Reyes celebrates the arrival of the three kings from the biblical story of the nativity. There will be homemade Puerto Rican food, decorating of boxes for the youth, passing out gifts and sweets, and the Three Kings will make an appearance. Santuario Luterano is a Spanish-speaking Lutheran congregation led by the Rev. Ángel Marrero, who is Zach's husband. Space is limited, so please reserve a spot by RSVPing on the First Parish in Concord—Social Action Community Facebook page ([facebook.com/fpcsac](https://www.facebook.com/fpcsac)) or by contacting Zach at zroe@firstparish.org.

Talk Saves Lives

Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Talk Saves Lives is a community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide. Attendees will learn the risk factors and warning signs of suicide and how together we can help prevent it. This event is intended for parents and adults and is open to the public. This event is brought to us using funds raised by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, afsp.org. With questions, email Dawn at dvanpatten@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.

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

February 2018 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, January 16, 2018, 12:00 Noon

Keep article length to 100 words and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. The February 2018 edition will be published January 24.

