

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 7, 2018

This Week

Sun., Jan. 7	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal 9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Sunday Worship 11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Listening Session 11:30 Transylvania Pilgrimage Meeting 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting 6:00 Three Kings Day, Santuario Luterano
Mon., Jan. 8	1:30 Caregiver Support Group 7:00 Immigration Justice Task Force
Tues., Jan. 9	9:00 Finance Committee Meeting 1:30 First Tuesday Group 2:00 Shawl Ministry 6:30 T'ai Chi 7:30 Reclaim Our Democracy
Wed., Jan. 10	9:30 Buddhist Group 9:30 Listening Session 7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Jan. 11	7:00 Race Conversations 7:30 Listening Session 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Jan. 12	12:30 Ta'i Chi
Sat., Jan. 13	9:30 Photo Club Meeting 4:30 All-Parish Gathering
Sun., Jan. 14	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 Listening Session

Parish Notes

Women's Retreats Registration

The theme for this year's Women's Retreats is "Connections and Connecting." Registration continues at coffee hour today. 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.

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 Friday, 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.

This is Your Month to Speak Up!

Throughout January, the Standing Committee is hosting a series of listening sessions, part of our *Year for Reflection and Visioning*. Your thoughts and ideas will be used to build a congregation-wide survey and help set goals for the Senior Minister, staff, and Standing Committee for the next five years. Sign up online at <https://preview.tinyurl.com/y85ncueb> or at coffee hour.

"The Subtle Art of Haiku"

First Tuesday Group (65+)

Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Haiku Festival

Seniors writing poetry

Learn the ancient art!

(While our heading says 65+, please come if you are interested, whatever your age.)

Silent Auction for Thoreau Book ends January 14

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, 2018. Proceeds will be used for First Parish maintenance. Helen will match the highest bid, up to \$5,000.

Shawl Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? Come to a meeting of the Shawl Ministry, a Caring Connection group, Tuesday, January 9, 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the Brooks Room. Join the new coordinators, Ingrid Wheeler and Lois Whitney, for lively conversation while creating your shawl for a parishioner experiencing difficulties in their life. New members are always welcome.

WPA Assists at Open Table

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

The Women's Parish Association is sponsoring Open Table's First Thursday Dinner to be held February 1, 2018, 5:30 p.m. WPA members are encouraged to participate in this enjoyable community meal. If you would like to volunteer to help at this rewarding event, please contact the office or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net.

Social Action

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, January 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

It's not too soon to put the evening of April 26 on your calendar. Sister Helen Prejean ("Dead Man Walking") is coming to town at our invitation, and our planning for that event begins tonight. Also on the agenda are updates on criminal justice reform in Massachusetts and our continuing advocacy for two students in Azerbaijan imprisoned for nonviolent political actions. We welcome all to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons at nilyons22@gmail.com or 978-369-6109.



Religious Exploration

This Sunday, January 7: Religious Exploration

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

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

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 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 Sunroom

Grade 6 – Emerson Room

4:00-6:00 p.m. – 8th Grade OWL, Session 1 – Emerson Room

6:00-8:00 p.m. – Coming of Age (9th Grade) "My Spiritual Autobiography," with Mentors – Parish Hall

Three Kings Day with Santuario Luterano

Sunday, January 7, 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 boxes for the youth, passing out gifts and sweets, and the Three Kings will make an appearance as well! Santuario Luterano is a Spanish-speaking Lutheran congregation led by the Rev. Angel 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 page on Facebook ([facebook.com/fpcsac](https://www.facebook.com/fpcsac)), or contact Zach at zroe@firstparish.org.

Hey Teens!

Sundays, January 14 and 28, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Loft

In January we will be meeting at First Parish in the Loft on Sunday, January 14, and Sunday, January 28, both 6:00-7:30 p.m. This month we will focus on social justice—talk about what is going on in the world and ways we can promote peace and equality! Pizza will be provided! Contact Jo Von Rue, Youth Coordinator, at jvonrue@firstparish.org.

Talk Saves Lives

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

Talk Saves Lives is a community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, 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. Brought to us by funds raised by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, afsp.org. With questions, please email Dawn Van Patten at dvanpatten@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.

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.