

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

February 25, 2018

This Week

Sun., Feb. 25	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Race Conversations Group
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
Mon., Feb. 26	7:30	Women's Book Group
Tues., Feb. 27	9:30	Women's Book Group
	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:30	<i>Daring Democracy</i> Book Discussion
Wed., Feb. 28	9:30	Buddhist Group
	6:00	Auction Meeting
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., Mar. 1	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Mar. 2	6:30	AWE Movie Night
Sat., Mar. 3	9:30	Photo Club Meetig
	7:00	"Beneath the Surface" Film Screening
Sun. Mar. 4	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary Sunday, February 25, at 11:30 a.m.

"The Nagog Pond Controversy." Out West they say, "Whiskey's for drinkin', water's for fightin'". Here in Massachusetts, we've been blessed with abundant rainfall and plenty of water to go around, but that is now changing. The ongoing controversy over Concord's proposal to increase water treatment capacity at Acton's Nagog Pond may be a harbinger of the future. In this forum, Acton resident and geoscientist Dr. Kim Kastens will share her view of the Nagog Pond situation and lead a discussion on what lessons we can learn about water in a time of scarcity.

Film, Auction, and Raffle to Benefit PCC Pilgrimage Assistance Fund

Come to our table at coffee hour today to get a chance to bid on a Hungarian dinner or dessert; or see Hungarian items we will be offering at a silent auction on March 3 at 7:00 p.m., when we will show "Beneath the Surface." It is a moving film that tells the story of the diverse and tolerant village of Bözödújfalú, intentionally flooded and destroyed in 1989 under Ceausescu.

Become an Annual Pledge Campaign Steward

Help First Parish by becoming a Steward for our Annual Pledge Campaign. It's a great way to get to know others and learn what they love about our community. You will be providing an important service to the church and will likely find fulfillment in the process. It's a minimal commitment of time, and you may contact your fellow parishioners by whatever method you find most comfortable. Our kickoff and training session is Tuesday, March 13, at First Parish. For more information, please contact Jane Barnes at janebarnes@gmail.com.

World Day of Prayer Service and Luncheon—March 2

Hosting Concord's commemoration of World Day of Prayer 2018 is the West Concord Union Church. Women of Suriname wrote the service. It explores issues of climate change, natural disasters, and human abuse of the environment, which are harming our planet and its inhabitants. If you have artwork, textiles, or decorative items from Suriname that you could lend for use at the service or luncheon, please contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net. All are welcome! Service at 11:00 a.m., followed by a free luncheon at noon. Local environmental group representatives will be on hand to inform you of their work.

Celebration Sunday 2018—March 4

Service, Pledge Cards Available: 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Coffee Hour, Including Cake: 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall and Kitchen
"Give love . . . and people will find a way" is the theme for this year's Annual Pledge Campaign. We give love to each other at First Parish through our participation and our gifts. Celebration Sunday is a special service to honor all we accomplish by giving generously to First Parish. On March 4, next Sunday, you can pledge toward the 2018-2019 Annual Pledge Campaign. For more information, contact Jane Barnes, janebarnes@gmail.com, project manager for the 2018-2019 Annual Pledge Campaign.

Auction Brainstorming Meeting—Dinner in Exchange for Your Ideas

We need your ideas! Join us in the Parlor on Wednesday, February 28, 6:00-7:30 p.m., for an Auction brainstorming meeting. Dinner and child care will be provided. We are considering new formats for the event and would love to get your thoughts and insights from past Auctions. We also want to brainstorm ideas for donations. Help us think outside the box. RSVP to Val Vallancourt at valvallancourt@gmail.com, or Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com.

Small Group Ministry Group: "Mindful Matters" (4 sessions)

Wednesdays: March 7, March 21, April 11, April 25

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, in the Brooks Room

Have you wondered what mindfulness really means? Does your mind feel too busy like the rest of your life? Have you ever noticed that your mind judges or can be harsh, and wondered if you could benefit from some simple meditation? Are you curious to explore how mindfulness, loving kindness, acceptance, and letting go might be related? Come explore these mindful matters and how they might relate to your daily life. There will be a short meditation at the beginning of each session. Facilitated by Francie Nolde and Dana Snyder-Grant. Sign up on the clipboard in the front office, or contact Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239.

Small Group Ministry Group: "Life's Pasages" (4 sessions)

Tuesdays: March 6, March 20, April 3, April 17; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

People are taking longer to grow up and much longer to die. The old demarcations and descriptions of adulthood are out-of-date. How are we to make sense of and integrate life's passages as we move from transition to transition? This group will explore our past, present, and future: who we were as children, young adults, in mid-life, and as seniors. Facilitated by Mary-Wren vanderWilden. Sign up in the front office, or contact Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239.

"From Bloom to Bouquet: the Art and Science of Flower Arrangement" First Tuesday Group—March 6, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Ellen Whitney, Faxon Green, and Jan Goddard-Taylor will present a talk about the Flower Committee, a slide show, and live demonstrations on the art and science of flower arrangement. The demonstrations will be followed by small group discussions about flowers' many roles in life's memorable moments. The program will feature "Tips and Tricks for Home Arrangements" to help each participant prepare for the arrival of spring. One lucky participant will go home with a fresh spring flower arrangement! While our focus is senior affairs, please come if you are interested, whatever your age.

Join the All-Congregation Retreat!

On March 9-10, we will gather at First Parish to begin shaping the church we want to be in 2023. We will focus on several of the big themes that emerged from the listening sessions and survey—community building, social justice, and diversity. Plus, parishioners Jim Tull and Rev. Jim Sherblom will lead us in an engaging workshop on problem solving, conflict resolution, and compassionate communications. Friday night begins at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck dinner and community building activities. Saturday (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) begins with a light breakfast. Lunch Saturday will be stone soup, salad, and bread. Please bring some cut up vegetables, beans, or pasta that's ready to add. Children 13 and older are encouraged to participate. We'll also have child care and activities for younger children. Please sign up, using the link on the First Parish website at www.firstparish.org.

WPA Luncheon—Sign Up at Coffee Hour Today

Don't forget to sign up for the WPA Luncheon on March 21, at which fellow parishioner Prof. Shelley Hawks will give an illustrated presentation about her latest book, *The Art of Resistance, Painting by Candlelight in Mao's China*. Call the office, sign up at coffee hour, or email Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net for reservations.

Flea Market Update

Don't forget to set aside good quality items that you want to donate to this important fundraiser, which will be held on Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to rent a table. Table rental fee is \$35.

Social Action

Learn More About the Louis D Brown Peace Institute Today, February 25, 11:30 a.m., in the Brooks Room

This Sunday is the last Sunday to Share the Plate with the Louis D Brown Peace Institute, a Dorchester center of healing, learning, and activism for families, communities, and professionals impacted by murder. Because of their effectiveness, the Institute is planning to start programs in Lawrence, Brockton, and Salem. Please join us to learn more about the many facets of the Institute from Rachel Rodrigues, Director of Education and Programs. For more information, contact Margie King Saphier at margie.king.saphier@gmail.com or 978-369-4467.

Daring Democracy Book Discussion

In December the Reclaim Our Democracy group sponsored a talk by legendary *Diet for a Small Planet* author, Frances Moore Lappé and organizer Adam Eichen. They shared highlights of their empowering new book *Daring Democracy*. On Tuesday, February 27, at 7:30 p.m., a small group will be getting together at First Parish in Concord to discuss *Daring Democracy* and how we can put some of the author's ideas to work. Please join us. For questions or to sign up to attend, please contact Nancy Cronin at nrcronin@verizon.net.

AWE's Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, March 2, 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

After the Taliban tries to kill her for speaking out for girls' education, Pakistani teenager Malala Yousafzai emerges as a leading advocate for children's rights and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. AWE's meetings and events are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions who wish to advance women's rights and improve their lives. Contact Lou Toussaint at mloutoussaint@gmail.com.

AWE's Book Group

Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m., at First Parish

We'll read *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, by Jesmyn Ward. Goodreads writes: "An intimate portrait of a family and an epic tale of hope and struggle, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* examines the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power—and limitations—of family bonds." Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com. Our corresponding social action will be announced at a later point. AWE's meetings and events are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions who wish to advance women's rights and improve their lives.

Immigration Justice Task Force—Community Dinner and Party

Friday, March 9, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Colors, textures, styles . . . which are part of your immigration story? Come to the First Parish Community Dinner and Party wearing some of those special clothes from your own family's history or someone else's, perhaps a recent arrival, perhaps from generations in the United States. Please bring finger food from a favorite culture and your own beverage, and wear your dancing shoes! For more information, contact Laurie Van Loon at vanloon@comcast.net, or Tony Rodriguez at trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

Toiletry and Feminine Hygiene Collection Drive for Women

Starting April 1, we are collecting unopened full- and travel-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, lotion, lip balm, combs/brushes, and hygiene items (pads, tampons) for Rosie's Place and Open Table. Please bring only items on the list (no makeup, razors, mouthwash, etc.). Leave items in the marked box in the coatroom starting April 1, or bring them to LunaFest on April 6 at Concord Academy. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment. Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com, 978-369-5352.

LunaFest Is Coming Again!

Friday, April 6, 7:00 p.m. at Concord Academy

Join us at LunaFest—a fundraising film festival by, for, and about women, to benefit reproductive health access. The evening will include refreshments for purchase and a 50/50 raffle. Online ticket sales will begin soon, and tickets can also be purchased at the door (\$15 for general seating). Hosted by Advocates for Women's Empowerment, along with Concord Academy's student groups—Women of Color Alliance and Women's Org. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, February 25: Multiage Program

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:15 – 11:00 a.m. – Multiage Program (K-7) – Parish Hall

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. – OWL (Grade 8), Session 6 – Emerson Room

Next Sunday, March 4: Celebration Sunday

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

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:15 – 11:30 a.m. – Middle OWL (Grade 5) – Wright Tavern

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. – OWL (Grade 8), Session 7 – Emerson Room

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Coming of Age – Parish Hall

Celebrate the Lunar New Year!

Sunday, February 25, 10:00- 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and Parish Hall

We are delighted to welcome back Wah Lum Kung Fu and Sifu Evan Hughes to First Parish. As a way of blessing our Meeting House and welcoming the Year of the Dog, they will offer a Lion Dance during our service. Following the dance, children and youth are invited to a Kung Fu lesson in the Parish Hall. This is an energizing experience for all ages!

Cradles to Crayons Clothing and Toy Collection

Bring your gently used children's clothing, toys, and books to First Parish in Concord through Sunday, March 4! The Alcott/Nashoba 2nd grade Girl Scout troop have a box in the coat room and will be staffing a table at coffee hour on February 25 and March 4. They will deliver items to Cradles to Crayons, a Boston-based nonprofit that provides children from birth through age twelve, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive. They supply these items free of charge by engaging and connecting communities that have with communities that need.

City Reach Boston

High School teens are invited to join us for a learning service trip to Boston on April 27 and 28. You may remember City Reach as a part of Coming of Age. City Reach is an opportunity to connect with people experiencing homelessness and to serve that community. Cost is \$70. Spots are filling fast, so please be in touch with Jo soon if this is something you are interested in doing! Email Jo VonRue at jvonue@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.

April 2018 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, March 13, 12:00 Noon

Keep the article length to 100 words and send to the Editor,

Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The April 2018 edition will be published March 22.