

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 3, 2019

This Week

Sun. Mar 3	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	"Say Their Names"
Mon. Mar 4	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	1:30	Caregiver Support Group
	7:00	Immigration Justice Task Force
Tues. Mar 5	1:30	First Tuesday Group
	7:00	"The Open Door" Service
Wed. Mar 6	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists
	7:00	T'ai Chi Drop-In Class
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Mar 7	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri. Mar 8	12:30	T'ai Chi
	7:00	AWE Film Series
Sat. Mar 9	9:30	Photo Club
	1:00	RJAG Film
	7:00	WPA Victorian Event
Sun. Mar 10	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	3:30	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Parish Notes

March's Share-the-Plate Recipient: Open Table

Since 1989, 30 years ago, the Open Table has been providing a hot dinner, fellowship, and support every Thursday night in the Parish Hall. In 2017, the program expanded to include a permanent facility in Maynard with a grocery store-style food pantry. Open Table has also acquired a refrigerated truck and plans to establish a mobile pantry this year. Open Table is supported by over 600 dedicated volunteers, including many First Parish members. Questions? Contact Jeanine Calabria at executivedirector@opentable.org and visit www.opentable.org.

Donations for Share-the-Plate will be collected at Sunday services each month. Fifty percent of every non-pledge dollar will be given to the monthly Share-the-Plate organization, and fifty percent will go to supporting the work of First Parish. To make a separate donation to this month's organization, please contact them directly.

The Open Door: Evening Contemporary Worship

First Tuesday of the Month, Starting March 5, 6:00 p.m., in the Chapel
Come gather with us for vibrant evening worship and real connection! Please join us the first Tuesday of each month, starting March 5, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel. Services will be led by Gail Carey, Assistant Director of Music Ministry, and Laurel Gray, FP Ministerial Intern. Musicians from the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble will help lead congregational singing. Lay leaders will share reflections on their call to social justice work. Learn what inspires us forward together in kindness. Come as you are.

First Tuesday Group: "Keeping Concord Vibrant" Tuesday, March 5, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

What forces shape the vitality of today's New England small towns? In the face of changes in the economy, transportation, communication, and intergenerational relations, what makes sense? How can we balance necessary change with sustaining tradition to evolve sensibly? The First Tuesday Group will meet to hear small town expert Gary Kleiman talk and lead a discussion on ways seniors can benefit from and contribute to a vibrant Concord. Come prepared to discuss your list of concerns for Concord and our neighboring small towns. (While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.)

Concord Area Humanists

"Higher Ambition: How Great Leaders Create Economic and Social Value"

Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Capitalism has led to dramatic economic world growth, but Shareholder value creation has emerged as the only purpose of corporations. More CEO's are now pursuing "higher ambition," adopting a multi-stakeholder perspective as opposed to a shareholder-only perspective, leading their companies in a way that builds trust and commitment with employees, customers, business partners, community, and the larger society. Who are these CEO's and how are they organizing, managing, and leading differently? Harvard Business School Professor Emeritus Mike Beer will report on this development.

An Evening Celebrating Victoria

Saturday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.

Take a relaxing break from all your hard work for so many worthy causes! Don't miss this WPA program by Prof. Karen Antonowicz, who will discuss Victorian history, customs, and fashions. Whether or not you're following WGBH's *Victoria*, this event will provide an enjoyable time exploring a fascinating era. Feel free to dress in period costumes if you like. All women, men, and youth are warmly welcome. Invite family and friends for a fun night out! Refreshments will include Victorian desserts and beverages. Charge: \$10. Sign up at coffee hour, contact the office at 978-369-9602, or email Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net.

An Appearance by Mary Merrick Brooks

Wednesday, March 13, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Historical reenactor Diann Ralph Strausberg will perform as Mary Merrick Brooks [1801-1868], a leader of Concord's abolition movement and a member of the First Parish. Presented by the Transcendentalism Council and the Concord Historical Collaborative. \$10 at the door, or register through Concord-Carlisle Adult and Community Education at <https://ccace.asapconnected.com/?org=4701 - CourseID=182256>. Questions? Contact Dianne Weiss at diannemcweiss@comcast.net or 978-505-3417.

Intro to Cuban Circle Dance

Friday, March 15, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Join our circle to smile and laugh as we learn the basics of Salsa Rueda de Casino. No knowledge or partner needed. Please bring indoor shoes or slippers. We'll warm up your cold feet! Sponsored by FP Spanish Affinity Group. For questions, contact schivvis@comcast.net.

Pancakes and Prizes for Pledgers!

All-Church Free Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 23, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

First Parish Celebrity Chefs are flipping pancakes to feed parishioners on Saturday, March 23! All are welcome to the breakfast free of charge. As a bonus to those who've pledged and attend, a Reach High, Reach Wide Prize Raffle will award prizes like tickets to see the Red Sox play or a performance of "Miss Saigon." You can make your pledge to the 2019-2020 Annual Pledge Campaign that morning if you haven't done so already. Bring the whole family!

A Transylvanian Extravaganza!

An Evening of Hungarian Food, Dance, and Song

Saturday, March 23, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Enjoy an authentic Hungarian dinner, a performance of Hungarian dances featuring Dénes Takácsy, and meet Rev. Lehel Molnár, this year's Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry. This fundraiser will help us bring 25 people from Székelykeresztúr to Concord in the fall of 2019, including the Vadrózák (Wild Roses) student folk dance troupe and chaperones, and a partner congregation delegation that includes Rev. Csaba Tódor and family. This free event (donations solicited) will include video footage and greetings from the group. Please RSVP to Peggy Claybrook at pclaybrook@comcast.net, the church office, or at the PCC table at coffee hour.

Call for Ushers

Looking for a small service commitment? We need a friendly person to join our 5th Sunday Usher Team. You'll greet parishioners just four times in 2019: on March 30, June 30, September 29, and December 29. All training provided. If you are interested, please contact Bev Bringle at bevbringle@gmail.com.

Join the UU Conversation!

Unitarian Universalism is reimagining the purpose of our faith communities, or "The Power of We." First Parish has been invited to nominate fourteen delegates to represent our congregation in these discussions at General Assembly, June 19 to 23, in Spokane, Washington, either in person or over the internet. If you would like to be one of our delegates, or just learn more, contact Jim Sherblom at jimsherblom@gmail.com.

Social Action

"Write Here! Write Now!": Tell Your Senators and Other Senate Leaders What's on Your Mind!

Today, March 3, 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall at Coffee Hour
Sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) has a monthly letter writing program directed to members of Congress. We will collect your letters and send them to the UUSJ office in Washington, D.C. Then, on March 12, they will hand-deliver your letters directly to the offices of the appropriate Senators. The primary focus for this month's letters will be encouraging bipartisan support in the Senate for the voting rights portion of House Bill HR 1. At coffee hour we will provide all you need—paper, pen, information about HR 1, sample letter format—and you will provide your own personal handwritten message. Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeusen@gmail.com.

Social Justice "All-Church Read"

What book on a social justice topic do you wish all First Parish people would read and discuss? Please submit your nomination of a book or books that have inspired you by today, Sunday, March 3. Find nomination forms and a box to collect them outside of the church office, or email directly to wendyh@dmahealth.com. We are also recruiting folks to help select the book or be a small-group discussion leader.

IJTF: Crossing the Southern Border

Sunday, March 3, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Congregation Beth Elohim, 133 Prospect Street, Acton

Would you like to increase your understanding of the humanitarian impact of U.S. policies at the southern border? A panel of experts and eye witnesses, including Dr. Avi Chomsky and Rabbi Mike Rothbaum, will share their knowledge and recent experiences there. All are welcome. For additional information, contact sarahcoletti@verizon.net.

Immigration Justice Task Force Monthly Meeting

Monday, March 4, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Are you interested in learning more about the IJTF? We are the group that provides Sanctuary volunteers, silent Jericho Walks of prayer and solidarity at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office in Burlington, vigils at the South Bay Detention Center in Boston, and much more. Please join us on the first Monday of each month. Your thoughts, questions, and presence are welcome! For more information, contact Abby Buhle, abuhle68@gmail.com.

IJTF: Building Bridges, Vintage Music of Latin America

Sunday, March 10, 2:00 p.m., First Parish UU Bedford

Join us at a benefit concert (featuring Ken Burns' pianist Jacqueline Schwab) that celebrates the spirit, expressive melodies, and dance rhythms of vintage music from the Caribbean and Latin America. This event is sponsored by the Bedford Sanctuary Coalition to support our efforts protecting our dear friend in sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$20. Any questions can be asked of Abby Buhle, abuhle68@gmail.com.

Alexandra Chandler: "Taking Big Money Out of Politics"

Sunday, March 10, 4:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy

If we want better outcomes, we must have the courage to demand better from our leaders. Alexandra knows something about courage; in 2006, as a transgender woman, she was one of the first in the U.S. intelligence community to transition on the job. As a candidate for office in the 3rd Massachusetts Congressional District in 2018, she did not take PAC money and continues to lead the charge against big money in politics. Alexandra will speak about her experience as a candidate, pending election reform legislation and how "we the people" can take action. Seats are limited; for free tickets, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/alexandra-chandler-takes-on-big-money-in-politics-tickets-56128914093>. For more information, contact Kate Kavanagh, katekav@gmail.com, or 508-397-6507.

AWE Monthly Meeting

Saturday, March 16, 8:00 a.m.; New Location: West Concord

Join us for our monthly business/planning meeting, where we'll discuss the status of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities at those events. If you are thinking about a specific initiative to advocate for women, please come so we can explore making it happen! Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month and are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions. New Location: Art Gym, 152 Commonwealth Avenue, in West Concord (above Nashoba Brook Bakery).

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, March 3: Celebration Sunday

9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Children in Kindergarten and older begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for the Parish Hall to learn a song and will rejoin their families in the service.

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

4:00-6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age (Grade 9) Credo Workshop with Mentors – Parish Hall

Next Sunday, March 10: Religious Exploration

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Reminder

Little and Middle OWL begin on Sunday, March 10. If you attended orientation and would like your child to participate in the Little OWL (1st and 2nd grade) or Middle OWL (5th grade) program, please remember to return the permission form. Forms can be turned in at the RE office or scanned and emailed to Dawn Van Patten at dvanpatten@firstparish.org. Forms can be found on the First Parish RE web page at <https://firstparish.org/wp/learning/re/our-whole-lives/>. If you have decided that your child will not participate in OWL, please let Dawn know so she can add your child to the correct RE group for the spring term: dvanpatten@firstparish.org. Thanks!

Healthy Reflections Workshop for Parents

Sunday, March 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Wright Tavern

Building on a session with our UU Tweens, Neal Potash and Jeff Clanon will offer a workshop for parents and caregivers. In his book "Sometimes I Think I Must be Crazy," psychotherapist Neal Potash puts a humorous but direct finger on some of the negative self-talk that virtually all of us have experienced. Using the book as a tool, he will offer a workshop aimed at elevating, normalizing, sharing, and strategizing how we can constructively deal with these potentially limiting patterns of thinking. Parents or caregivers of children and teens who are interested and/or concerned about their child's mental health and psychological development are invited. Please contact Rev. Amy Freedman with any questions or to request child care at afreedman@firstparish.org.

April 2019 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, March 19, 12:00 noon

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

Wendy Wolfberg, at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The April 2019 edition will be published on March 27, 2019.

Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns, sburns@firstparish.org.

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