

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 17, 2019

This Week

Sun. Mar 17	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Mon. Mar. 18	7:30	Environmental Action Team Meeting
Tues. Mar 19	7:00	Amnesty International Meeting
	7:00	Social Action Council Meeting
Wed. Mar 20	8:00	Trustees' Meeting
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	T'ai Chi Drop-In Class
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Mar 21	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri. Mar 22	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sat. Mar 23	8:00	Pancake Breakfast and Raffle
	7:00	Transylvanian Extravaganza
Sun. Mar 24	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	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.

Have You Pledged for the 2019-2020 Annual Campaign?

It costs more than \$2,000 per family annually to keep the doors open. We are about halfway to our pledge goal. Please make your commitment to financially support First Parish by pledging with an increase of 5% or more, if possible, during our Reach High, Reach Wide Pledge Campaign. If you've already pledged, thank you! You can find more information at firstparish.org/wp/giving or contact pledge project manager Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

April Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, March 19, Noon; Published March 27

The April issue deadline is March 19 and it will be published March 27. Thank you for adhering to guidelines available in the "Publicizing Events at First Parish of Concord" brochure, which can be downloaded from the church website News tab, News Submission Guidelines page. Also note that due to Passover and Easter in April, the May Issue MHN deadline is early in April this year—April 9. Please be sure to plan ahead.

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 Vadrózsák (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.

"No Remedy for Love:" Flirtation, Romance, and Scandal in 19th-Century Concord

Thursday, March 28, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room

This fascinating lecture by historian Richard Smith will explore the loves, rejections, entanglements, and scandals of some of Concord's most famous residents. Presented by the Transcendentalism Council. \$5.00 at the door. Questions? Contact Dianne Weiss at 978-505-3417 or diannemcweiss@comcast.net.

Concord Area Humanists

Peter Alden: "Creating Local Naturalists"

Wednesday, April 3, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Many are concerned about our planet's future, worry about climate change and pollutants, and try to be green, but few have identified and consciously observed 100 vertebrates and 100 plants in their own towns. Our speaker will review local flora and fauna and discuss initiatives to create local naturalists. Peter, naturalist and Concord native, has led wildlife tours to over 100 countries. He has published 15 field guides, including *Audubon's Field Guide to New England*. He also organized the world's first Biodiversity Days, (Bioblitzes) which now occur worldwide.

Get Ready for the Flea Market!

This year's Flea Market will be held on Saturday, April 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Contact Melita Teichert at mmtconcord1@gmail.com to volunteer to help, to donate items, or to rent a table. Donations should be brought to the Bulkeley Room the Wednesday and Thursday (April 3 and 4) before the Flea Market itself, not any sooner. The table rental fee is \$35. Bring family and friends to this event where crafters and plant and general vendors will be selling interesting items at great prices. Food sold throughout the day. Entrance fee: \$1 for adults.



Social Action

Immigration Justice Task Force, Monthly Jericho Walk
Tuesday, March 19, 1:00 p.m.

ICE Office, 1000 District Avenue, Burlington, Mass.

If you're asking, "What can I do to stand with migrants in need?" please consider joining this silent, peaceful, and prayerful walk to bring attention to, and bring down the walls of, our unjust immigration system. Please bring signs calling for justice for those caught in this broken system. Suggestions include: "Keep Families Together," "Not One More/Ni Una Mas," and other supportive messages (that do not call out specific individuals). Gather in front of the ICE Office along District Avenue. For information, contact Pamela Chester at pgachester@gmail.com.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room

We'll continue to plan actions on immigration issues, including joining local efforts. Our monthly letter writing supports individuals worldwide whose lives are in jeopardy because of their human rights work. We've made new, and we hope fruitful, contacts to aid two Azerbaijanian students imprisoned for peaceful protests. The abolition of the U.S. death penalty and tracking Massachusetts prison reform round out our agenda. All are welcome to join us. For more information: Nancy Lyons, njlyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.

Caught in Family Homelessness: Parents Tell Their Stories
Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness 14th Annual Forum—Sunday, March 24, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street, Concord
In Massachusetts, 200,000 families spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing. One event can propel them toward eviction. Come hear stories of three mothers who experienced homelessness with their families. Hear from housing advocates about the programs that work and the importance of advocacy. Rev. June Cooper from City Mission-Boston and Kelly Turley, Associate Director of Mass Coalition for the Homeless, will lead the charge. Our legislators will be there to hear us. All are welcome to this free forum. A reception will follow. www.endfamilyhomelessness.net.

LunaFest Film Festival

Saturday, March 30, 7:00 p.m. (doors open), 7:30 p.m. (film)
Concord Academy Performing Arts Center

Join us at LunaFest, a fundraising film festival by, for, and about women. Proceeds will benefit Dignity in Asylum (www.dignityinasyllum.org), a woman-founded nonprofit that supports asylum seekers, refugees, people who have been granted asylum, and unaccompanied minors at risk of homelessness in our local area. The evening will include refreshments for purchase and a raffle. Tickets are available online (\$15) at www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-concord-ma-tickets-55641583474 or at the door (\$20). Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Join the Vigil: Mark Your Calendars to Stand in Solidarity for Immigrants Detained at the House of Corrections.

Sunday, March 31, 2:00 p.m.

Suffolk County House of Corrections, 20 Bradston Street, Boston
Gather with the Immigration Justice Task Force and neighbors from other congregations to let those detained while awaiting court dates related to immigration know they are not forgotten. More information in the coming weeks!

Rev. Howard Dana's email: hdana@firstparish.org
Rev. Marion Visel's email: mvisel@firstparish.org
Church office: 978-369-9602
Visit our website: www.firstparish.org

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, March 17: Religious Exploration

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

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

10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Little OWL – Lower Level

Middle OWL – Wright Tavern

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 listed below.

Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15- 11:15 a.m.

"Connecting with Nature," Multiage (K-5)– Upper Level

Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Chapel

4:00-6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age with Rev. Howard Dana – Parish Hall

6:00-8:00 p.m. – High School Youth Group – Wright Tavern

Next Sunday, March 24: Religious Exploration

Healthy Reflections Workshop for Parents

Sunday, March 24, 11:30 a.m. – 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, and strategizing how we can constructively deal with these limiting patterns of thinking. Parents or caregivers of children and teens who are interested and/or concerned about their child's mental health and development are invited. Please contact Rev. Amy Freedman with any questions or to request child care at afreedman@firstparish.org.

Would you like to join an RE Team?

Sunday, March 31, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Emerson Room

This year we have working groups focusing on certain areas of our Religious Education program. We have openings on the following teams:

Social Action Team—Helping all ages make a difference in the world through education and service.

Teacher Resource Team—Supporting our volunteer teaching teams by providing resources.

Welcome Team—Creating a welcoming and warm environment for all families, including guests and newcomers.

Youth Team—Full!

If you'd like to join a team or learn more, please contact Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education, at afreedman@firstparish.org.



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.