

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 8, 2019

## This Week

Sun. Dec 8	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:00	“Write Here, Write Now!”
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
Mon. Dec 9	3:00	WPA Holiday Concert and Tea
	6:00	RJAG Meeting
	7:30	Nominating Committee Meeting
Tues. Dec 10	7:30	Women’s Book Group
	9:30	Women’s Book Group
	1:30	First Tuesday Group
	2:00	Shawl Ministry
Wed. Dec 11	7:00	Standing Committee Meeting
	7:30	Blue Holiday Vespers
	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:15	Reclaim Our Democracy Meeting
Thu. Dec 12	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Dec 13	7:30	Copley Singers Concert
Sat. Dec 14	9:00	Adult Choir Rehearsal
	9:30	Photo Club
Sun. Dec 15	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	6:00	Community Dinners

## Parish Notes

### December’s Share the Plate

#### MARE—Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange

In Massachusetts, over 3,400 children currently in foster care have the goal of adoption, and more than 1,200 of those children have no relative or other potential adopter. Older, school-aged children, sibling groups, children of color and/or children with special needs tend to wait the longest for families. MARE is a private, non-profit organization, founded in 1957 to find adoptive homes for children and teens in foster care, including sibling groups and children who are traditionally harder to place. Your support contributes to helping children can find permanent and loving homes. For more information, please visit [mareinc.org](http://mareinc.org) or call 617-964-6273.

### Sunday Bouillon Volunteers Are Needed

We might begin making bouillon in early January, again, if we have enough volunteers. 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. Kel can be of help cleaning up on many Sundays. Please contact Kel Keleher at [kel@rkeleher.com](mailto:kel@rkeleher.com) or 978-944-2734 if you are interested.

### You are Invited to Sunday Supper!

#### Make Your Own Crepes for Dessert with Kimberly Brainerd Sunday, December 15, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Please join us every third Sunday for a casual community meal in the Parish Hall. Feel free to bring a beverage of your choosing,

and/or your favorite topping/s for freshly-made crêpes: berries, bananas, whipped cream, lemon curd, fudge, caramel, Nutella, or chocolate chips. The suggested donation is \$5 per person, with a maximum of \$20 per family. Youth Group members eat free. All ages are welcome! Please RSVP to help us know how much food we need. If you haven’t RSVP’d you are still welcome to just show up. <https://forms.gle/OgBUhuCDPpfNwNgi9>. Questions? Contact Sue Ryan ([susanryan101@comcast.net](mailto:susanryan101@comcast.net)), Lora Venesy ([venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net)) or Kate Svrcek ([katesvrcek@hotmail.com](mailto:katesvrcek@hotmail.com)). Save the dates: Third Sunday Suppers is part of a new year-long pilot program intended to build community and deepen connections among First Parish members and friends.

### Coffee and Conversation Group December 18, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Come to First Parish and join the first meeting of the new Coffee and Conversation Group. This is an outgrowth of the First Tuesday Group. We all need a chance to share and listen to each other. There is no formal program. You are the program. Mary Clark and Berni Jenkins will help to get us started. For more information, call Berni Jenkins at 978-369-2876, or just show up.

### Conflagration: Transcendentalists and the Struggle for Justice

#### Rev. John Buehrens, Sunday, January 5, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

In his new book, Rev. Buehrens examines the Transcendentalists as religious reformers. The center of their movement was not Concord, but Elizabeth Peabody’s bookstore in Boston. Their lasting impact was not only literary, but also ethical and political—activist dimensions often overlooked. Rev. Buehrens is a past president of the UUA. His latest book is “Conflagration: How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender and Social Justice.” (Beacon Press, 2020). Questions? Contact [shelley\\_hawks@msn.com](mailto:shelley_hawks@msn.com). Free admission. Presented by the Transcendentalism Council.

## Social Action

### Write Here Write Now! Help Reduce Carbon Emissions Today, December 8, 11:00 a.m., in the Parlor

Today at coffee hour, please come by our UUSJ *Write Here! Write Now!* table and write to our members of Congress. We will focus on one of the most important legislative tools available at this time in Congress to reduce carbon emissions and create green jobs—tax incentives and tax credits. Background and writing materials will be available. Your letters will be hand-delivered to their congressional offices in Washington, D.C. on December 10. Questions? Contact: [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com).

### Volunteers Needed for Prison Gift Bags.

Adults are needed this week to sort gift items and prepare 850 Holiday Gift Bags for the men in Concord’s two prisons. Come to Trinity Episcopal Church from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, or possibly somewhat later, on these four days: Monday, December 9 through Thursday, December 12. It’s fun—like working in Santa’s Workshop. For more information, go to [ConcordPrisonOutreach.org](http://ConcordPrisonOutreach.org), or contact Don Miller, [DonaldBMiller@comcast.net](mailto:DonaldBMiller@comcast.net) or 978-610-6298. Sponsored by SAC.

## Goods for Jamaica

Have items you don't want? They are needed in the rural community of Carawina: clothing, tools, toiletries, dictionaries, canned foods, and more. Don't have anything? Funds are also needed for transport. We'll pack barrels in early January, and Jennifer Burgess will take them to Jamaica. Drop off items at church on Sundays or at CC King's home (for drop off, contact: [ccking.interplay@gmail.com](mailto:ccking.interplay@gmail.com)). Learn more at coffee hour or [jamaicad49@gmail.com](mailto:jamaicad49@gmail.com). Sponsored by RJAG and SAC.

## Last Calls to Action for 2019: Two Jericho Walks Thursday, December 5, at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 17, at 1:00 p.m.

Join the Immigration Justice Taskforce to once again protest the administration's cruel policies on the treatment of immigrants, especially immigrant children. These are silent, peaceful walks of protest and all are needed. If you can, please bring a sign with non-partisan words of support or protest, e.g. "I Walk for Maria and Her Children." We will gather in front of the ICE Office, 10 District Avenue, Burlington, Mass., snow or shine!

## The Huddle is Coming, the Huddle is Coming!

Join with others from First Parish and beyond on Sunday, December 15, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., to write to legislators and neighbors about the critical, time-sensitive issues you believe in. Postcards, scripts, and materials (and seasonal snacks!) will be provided for concerns including immigration rights, reproductive freedom, and voter rights. IJTF is sponsoring this event with Concord Indivisible at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main St. Concord. Please come and bring some light to the darkness! For questions, [reginacorraoconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:reginacorraoconsulting@gmail.com).

## A Thread of Hope

Enjoy a unique shopping experience from A Thread of Hope Guatemalan Fair that will include handmade crafts such as scarves handwoven using bamboo and chenille yarns, beaded jewelry, worry dolls, and ornaments. A portion of the proceeds will be used to support the Sanctuary Fund for "Maria" who has been living alone in Sanctuary for almost two years. The Immigration Justice Taskforce members will be shopping for their own special gifts on two Sundays, December 15 and 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at First Parish in Bedford, Mass. Cosponsored by IJTF.

## IJTF Recommendation

What do U.S. asylum officers believe about the work they do, when it includes sending desperate migrants back to Mexico? For first-hand accounts, listen to NPR's "This American Life" podcast, episode 688, from November 15, 2019, "The Out Crowd, Act One, Goodbye Stranger." Members of IJTF found it an informative, emotional and powerful piece.

## Amnesty International, Group 15

**Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room**  
This evening we'll combine our holiday gathering with Amnesty International's annual Write For Rights campaign. Along with tens of thousands of people around the globe, we'll be writing in support of ten activists who are suffering human rights abuses in their home countries. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, [njlyons22@gmail.com](mailto:njlyons22@gmail.com), or 978-505-1936.

## Thank You from IJTF

The Immigration Justice Taskforce would like to thank all of you who contributed to the November Share the Plate for the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network to help pay bond

and legal fees to detained immigrants. Your generosity is so helpful and we are grateful.

## Religious Exploration

This Sunday, December 8: Religious Exploration

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

9:50 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths – Meet in the Parlor, Visit Fo Guang Buddhist Temple in Cambridge, Return to FPC~ 12:30 p.m.

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

UU Explorers, Grade 8– Chapel

*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 classroom 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.*

Spirit Play, Kindergarten and Grades 1– Lower Level

Celebrating Our 6 Sources, Grade 2– Greeley Room

Celebrating Our 6 Sources, Grade 3– Ripley Room

Bibleodeon, Grades 4 & 5– Wright Tavern

Neighboring Activists, Grade 6– Emerson Room

4:00- 6:00 p.m., Coming of Age–Emerson Room

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

## Next Sunday, December 15: Religious Exploration

### Holiday Tea Party

**Sunday, December 22, 10:15-11:00 a.m.**

Children are invited to a Holiday Tea Party during regular RE time. Children who play an instrument are welcome to bring it to accompany singing of "Jingle Bells" and/or "Deck the Halls". We will prepare for Christmas Caroling (see below) by singing holiday favorites and making holiday crafts to help spread cheer. Tea and cookies will be served. For families with allergies—the cookies will be nut-free.

### Christmas Caroling

**Sunday, December 22, 1:00 p.m.**

Come help bring holiday cheer to our parishioners and others who can't get out this season. Singers of all ages welcome! Carolers may join us for lunch and then carpool to area nursing facilities to sing. Afterward, we'll enjoy cookies and hot chocolate together. Feel free to wear festive attire. Please sign up by calling the church office at 978-369-9602, or by emailing Rev. Amy Freedman at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org). Drop-ins are also welcome!

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Rev. Howard Dana's email: [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

Rev. Liz Weber's email: [lweber@firstparish.org](mailto:lweber@firstparish.org)

Church office: 978-369-9602

Visit our website: [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).  
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**The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.**

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns, [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).

The Sunday News can be read online at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).