

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 22, 2019

This Week

- Sun. Dec 22 9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
9:00 Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal
10:00 Sunday Service
11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
1:00 Christmas Caroling
Tues. Dec 24 4:00 Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
6:00 Contemporary Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
9:00 Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Wed. Dec 25 Church Offices Closed for Christmas Day
Sun. Dec 29 10:00 Sunday Service

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 or call 617-964-6273.

Parish Notes

Winter Solstice Special Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 22, 11:00 a.m., in the Parish Hall

There will be a special coffee hour on Sunday, December 22, to mark the Winter Solstice, including special food and crafts for children! Join the festivities as we celebrate the return of the sun. Hosted by the Women's Goddess Covenant Circle.

Please Return Guest at Your Table Boxes

Over the holiday season, we invite a "Guest at Your Table," a traditional fundraising practice for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC's grassroots partners make a big difference in their communities, and so does your participation in GAYT. Please return your box in the front office so our 8th graders can count your contributions.



Adult Drum Fusion Circle

Sunday, January 5, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Our first drum fusion circle on December 1 was attended by 8 weather-hardy drummers from First Parish. We warmed up with a variety of drums and percussion instruments and enjoyed several rounds of improvisational drumming that sounded pretty good. Then we lowered the volume and played small instruments along with the didgeridoo (even some whale songs were heard). No experience is necessary to join us; beginners and experienced drummers are welcomed. For additional information or questions, contact facilitator Daniel Shea at 781-439-8891, or CC King at cking.interplay@gmail.com.

First Tuesday Group (65+): "Haiku Festival"

Tuesday, January 7, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Join the First Tuesday Group for a Haiku Festival co-led by Pamela Katz Ressler and Susan Page. Hear tips about writing haiku, write your own, and, if you wish, share it with the group. Pam Ressler is the founder of Stress Resources in Concord. She recently presented "Creating Haiku for Health, Healing, and Change" at Stanford University. Susan Page has studied and practiced poetry for 40 years—at Lesley University, Harvard University, and numerous workshops. Come begin the New Year with an exercise in creativity! Also, if you are interested in an additional opportunity to gather with friends for coffee and conversation one morning a month, contact Berni Jenkins at bernijenkins2@gmail.com. (While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.)

Join the Intergenerational "Family Choir" for MLK Weekend Sunday, January 19, 9:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary

Singers of all ages are invited to join with the First Parish choirs on Sunday, January 19, to form an intergenerational Family Choir. This one-rehearsal choir is open to all congregants of our church. If interested, come to the Sanctuary promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 19. We'll sing songs that are easy to learn and enjoyable to sing, and we will lead the music for the 10:00 a.m. service that day. For more information, or to sign up, contact Beth Norton at bnorton@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602 x420.

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.

The Sunday News can be read online at

www.firstparish.org.

Social Action

Goods for Jamaica

Have useful items you don't want? They are needed in the rural community of Carawina. We're also in need of funds to help defray the cost of shipping and distribution in January. Financial donations may be matched by RJAG and SAC. Drop off items (clothing, tools, toiletries, dictionaries, canned food, etc.) at church on Sundays, or at CC King's home (contact: cking.interplay@gmail.com). Stop by our table at coffee hour to learn more (and enjoy some Jamaican delicacies), or go to jamaicad49@gmail.com. Sponsored by RJAG and SAC.

A Thread of Hope

Enjoy a unique shopping experience from A Thread of Hope Guatemalan Fair. 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 Sunday, December 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at First Parish in Bedford, Mass. Cosponsored by IJTF.

Thank You to Huddle Participants

The Immigration Justice Taskforce and Concord Indivisible would like to thank everyone who participated in the Huddle on December 15. So many people came to help that a third table had to be added just for our activity! Your passion and energy translated into over 70 letters to legislators urging support of the Safe Communities Act and the Work and Family Mobility Act. You brought light to the darkness and we truly thank you.

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, January 3, at 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

AWE (Advocates for Women's Empowerment) will be featuring "On the Basis of Sex" for the First Friday Film in January. "On the Basis of Sex" is inspired by the powerful true story of a young Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The film depicts a then-struggling attorney and new mother facing adversity in her fight for equal rights and professional advancement.

IJTF Meeting

Mark your calendars now. Start the new year with a resolution to learn more and take action for immigration justice. The Immigration Justice Taskforce is a friendly, action-oriented group that would love to welcome you to our next meeting, Monday, January 6, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Brooks Room. Our monthly meetings are on the first Monday of the month. Come to one, come to all!

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Rev. Howard Dana's email: hdana@firstparish.org

Rev. Liz Weber's email: lweber@firstparish.org

Church office: 978-369-9602

Visit our website: www.firstparish.org.
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Religious Exploration

This Sunday, December 22: Religious Exploration

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

UU Explorers, Grade 8– Chapel

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 7 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 11:15a.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. – Holiday Tea, Kindergarten- 7th Grade – Emerson Room

Next Sunday, December 29: All Ages Service, No RE or Little RE

Timothy Ellis, Harvard Divinity student: "Take Your Brother"

Music: The Conchords

Holiday Tea Party

Sunday, December 22, 10:15 to 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: afreedman@firstparish.org. Drop-ins are also welcome!

Family Game Night

Friday, January 10, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

All are welcome to a Potluck Dinner & Game Night! This will be an opportunity for kids and adults to get to know one another beyond Sunday morning at First Parish in Concord. Please bring a dish to share and your favorite game(s) to play. As a part of our Green Sanctuary efforts, you may also wish to bring a table setting (plates and utensils) for your family. Questions? Contact Amy: afreedman@firstparish.org.