

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 5, 2020

This Week

Sun. Jan 5	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:00	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
Mon. Jan 6	4:00	Adult Drum Fusion Circle
	7:00	Transcendentalism talk
	7:00	IJTF Meeting
Tues. Jan 7	7:30	Nominating Committee Meeting
	8:00	Finance Committee Meeting
Wed. Jan 8	1:30	First Tuesday Group
	6:00	Open Door Service
	9:30	Buddhist Group
Thur. Jan 9	6:00	Concord Areas Humanists
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Sat. Jan 11	7:30	Buddhist Group
Sun. Jan 12	9:30	Photography Club
	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Environmental Team Program
	12:00	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
	3:30	UU the Vote Program

Thank You from UU Explorers

Many thanks from the 8th grade UU Explorers class to all who supported their bake sale of on December 22. A total of \$468 was raised for Dignity in Asylum, a Concord-based nonprofit that provides housing and other support for asylum-seekers who are in the limbo of waiting for their applications for asylum in the U.S. to be heard.

Conflagration: Transcendentalists & Struggle for Justice Sunday, January 5, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

In his new book, "Conflagration: How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender, and Social Justice" (Beacon Press 2020), Rev. John Buehrens, a past president of the UUA, 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. This talk is free, open to the public, and sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council. For more information, contact Shelley Hawks, shelley_hawks@msn.com.

First Tuesday Group (65+): "Haiku Festival" Tuesday, January 7, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

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 them with the group. Pam Ressler, founder of Stress Resources in Concord, recently presented "Creating Haiku for Health, Healing, and Change" at Stanford University. Susan Page has studied and written poetry for 40 years—at Lesley University, Harvard University, and in numerous workshops. Also, if you'd like to gather with friends for coffee and conversation one morning a month, contact Berni Jenkins, bernijenkins2@gmail.com. (While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.)

Concord Area Humanists "Lightning Talks 2020" Wednesday, January 8, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Start off the New Year with a series of short presentations. Our speakers have chosen important topics of interest to us all. These include "The Importance of National Service" with Josh Elwood, "Escalating Inequality" with Patrick Everett, "Europeans Roam" with Paul Jameson, "Carbon Fee and Dividend to Save the World" with Pamela Dritt, and "Shrinking Ideological Chasms" with Ed Lowry. Each talk will be 5 minutes, followed by 7 minutes of discussion, and, finally, 30 minutes of general discussion. Please refer any questions to Pat Everett, pne@aol.com.

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 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.

Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group

The Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group begins the New Year with the classic novel *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier. The evening discussion will be Monday, January 27, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., and the morning discussion on Tuesday, September 28, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Parish Notes

January's Share the Plate: UU Mass Action

Initiated in 2005 by UUSC funding; it was the first of 12 UU State Advocacy Networks (today 22). 50 UU Parishes in MA support it financially. It seeks to inspire 20,000 UU's and their congregations in our state. Justice projects are picked according to congregation priorities. There are four core action-legislative campaigns: ending Mass Incarceration, Immigrant Rights, Economic Rights, and Climate Change. In the spring of 2014, Laura Wagner became Executive Director. She will be visiting First Parish January 12th. For more information, visit uumassaction.org or call 508-308-9261.

Adult Drum Fusion Circle Sunday, January 5, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Our first drum fusion circle on December 1 was attended by 8 weather-hardy drummers from First Parish. We warmed up using 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 welcome. For additional information or questions, contact facilitator Daniel Shea at 781-439-8891, or CC King at cking.interplay@gmail.com.

Introducing First Parish Connection Cards

In the pews you'll find a First Parish Connection Card, which you can use to inquire about getting support, getting involved, or getting information. The Belonging Team, one of the Time For Action taskforces commissioned by the Standing Committee, is piloting the use of Connection Cards starting in January. If you have questions about the pilot program, please feel free to contact us at belonging@firstparish.org for more information.

Both sessions will be held in the Brooks Room at First Parish. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join a discussion—there’s no need to sign up! If you would like to be added to the Women’s Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

Pilot Adult Neighboring Faiths Class

A pilot adult Neighboring Faiths class being offered this February and March. It will run for 7 weeks, with once-a-week weeknight classes, plus visits to other houses of worship. For more information, please contact Jan Power at jpowers6@gmail.com.

Social Action

Amnesty International, Group 15 Sunday, January 5, at Coffee Hour

Sign a letter! Change a life! Join the world’s largest human rights event, Amnesty International’s annual global Write for Rights campaign. We’ll have prepared letters directed to officials in South Sudan, Canada, and Iran along with cards of support to individuals ready for you to sign.

Immigration Justice Taskforce Meeting

Monday, January 6, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Brooks Room.

“In 2019, 69,550 children were wrenched from their migrant families at the southern border and held for days, week, and months; more than any other time in U.S. history and more than any country in the world . . . this practice continues and more than 4,000 children and young teens remain in custody and will inevitably suffer emotional trauma and physical harm,” reported the Associated Press in December. Start the new year with a plan to learn more and take action for immigration justice. IJTF is a committed, action-oriented group that would love to welcome you to our next meeting, which take place the first Monday of the month. Come to one, come to all. You are needed.

Environmental Team Program with Tali Smookler

Sunday, January 12, 11:30 a.m., in the Emerson Room

Please join the Environmental Team at First Parish to hear from Tali Smookler of UUA Mass Action, and to discuss our plans for the month of January. Be sure to also attend the talk at CCRHS on January 21, at 7:00 p.m., by Varshini Prakash, the founder of the Sunrise Movement and sponsored by our Concord Climate Solution Speakers Series. For more information, contact Bob Andrews at bob.andrews3@me.com.

“UU the Vote” Official Launch

Sunday, January 12, 3:30 p.m., Chapel

The stakes couldn’t be higher in the 2020 elections. All our values, our work for justice, the communities we love, and the beloved community we seek to create are under attack. We must speak and act with moral courage. This launch event will feature a live video from the UUA about the organizing plan for “UU the Vote” across the country, strategies to be deployed, available materials, and how congregations can get involved. After the broadcast we will discuss what we can do at First Parish, such as voter registration, education, persuasion, mobilization, and challenging voter suppression. Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen, fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Inside Beacon Hill: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Our state political system is more broken than we may realize. State Representatives Tami Gouveia and Jon Hecht will fill us in on life inside the Massachusetts State House, and let us know what’s working, what isn’t, and what’s needed to fix it. Sponsored by

Reclaim Our Democracy. Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen, fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Safe Communities Act Hearing

The Immigration Justice Taskforce has been working for months with other justice-minded organizations to support the Safe Communities Act. This legislation will help reduce the fear in immigrant communities, allowing our neighbors to reach out to and get support from their schools, clinics, and the police. The new date for the hearing is Friday, January 24, at 11:00 a.m., at the Gardner Auditorium of the State House, in Boston, MA. Many from the IJTF will be there—please join us! To attend, or if you would like some other ways to influence the hearing, please contact Tony Rodriguez at trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

Religious Exploration

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.

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.