

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

## January 21, 2018

### This Week

Sun., Jan. 21	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	4:30	Listening Session
Tues., Jan. 23	11:30	Listening Session
	6:30	T'ai Chi
Wed., Jan. 24	9:30	Buddhist Group
	6:00	Interfaith Potluck
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Jan. 25	7:30	Listening Session
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Jan. 26	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sun., Jan. 28	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Mother/Daughter Book Group
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

### Parish Notes

#### Three More Chances!

There are still three more Standing Committee Listening Sessions this month, where you can share your thoughts about where First Parish should go in the next five years. Your input will help shape goals for both the Standing Committee and staff. Sign up online (link on our website site Home page), at coffee hour, or just show up. Join a session today at 4:30 p.m., or come Tuesday, January 23, at 11:30 a.m., or Thursday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m. Then look for a "Year for Reflection and Visioning" survey coming in February!

#### Interfaith Environmental Potluck Wednesday, January 24, 6:00 p.m.

Held at First Parish in Concord, come meet and share a meal with concerned environmentalists from different faith communities in the area. Bring a dish or drink to share, learn about current issues and activities, and discuss local environmental projects. This dinner may become a regularly repeating series, rotating among different congregations. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Brad Hubbard-Nelson at [bradhn@mindspring.com](mailto:bradhn@mindspring.com).

#### Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary Sunday, January 28, 11:30 a.m.

"Is Walden Pond Okay?" Could a toxic algae bloom, such as those that have occurred in recent years at White Pond, happen at Walden Pond? A 2001 U.S. Geological Survey collected and organized a huge amount of data about the chemistry of Walden Pond in the years 1995-1999. Among the data were details on the annual variation in concentrations of two elements, phosphorous and dissolved oxygen. The interaction of these two elements is the root cause of modern toxic algae blooms. Jack Nevison will explain a simple dynamic model that ties together the data on these elements and illustrates the level of the current threats to the well-being of Walden Pond. Also shown will be why, when modern high levels of phosphorous are removed, the dynamic model reveals the probable pattern of the pond's functioning in earlier times. Jack is president of New Leaf Project Management and lives within a half-mile of Walden Pond. Contact Pat Brinkman at [pabrinkman@comcast.net](mailto:pabrinkman@comcast.net) or Alan Whitney at [awhitney@alum.mit.edu](mailto:awhitney@alum.mit.edu) for more information.

#### WPA Assists at Open Table Thursday, February 1, 5:30 p.m.

Come join the WPA at Open Table's Community Dinner that will be held on Thursday, February 1, at 5:30 p.m. All WPA members and friends are welcome to participate. If you would like to volunteer to

help at this rewarding event, please contact the office or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net).

#### Call for Small Group Ministry Facilitators for Winter/Spring Groups

Small Groups offered so far have been very well received, and facilitators have found the experience to be meaningful and rewarding. Participants are enthusiastic about growing spiritually and deepening their relationships with each other. Small Group Ministry wouldn't exist without facilitators! Whether you are a trained facilitator or would like to be trained, be in touch with Rev. Marion Visel about starting a Small Group this winter or spring. Facilitating a Small Group requires commitment to a regular meeting schedule. A facilitator is responsible for helping manage group process, while modeling caring covenantal relationship. Facilitators will be trained and supported by the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee: Sarah Brandon Bemis, Merrill Comeau, Francie Nolde, Marian Stanley, and Rev. Marion Visel. We're happy to talk with you about facilitating a Small Group! Contact Marion at [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 203-931-5239.

#### Funderburg Scholars Fundraising Dinner Saturday, February 3, 6:30 to 9:15 p.m., Parish Hall

Help Roxbury youth attend and graduate from college—while you enjoy a delicious meal with great company! These engaging students will tell stories about their college experiences. No fixed "price"—donate what feels right to you at the dinner. Make your dinner reservation at coffee hour today, email Loretta Ho Sherblom at [Loretta@LHSBenefits.com](mailto:Loretta@LHSBenefits.com), or text or call Loretta's cell at 508-935-6750. Wine and cheese at 6:30 p.m.; dinner by Caroline McCloy at 7:15 p.m.

#### World Day of Prayer Service and Luncheon—March 2

The host church for Concord's commemoration of World Day of Prayer 2018 is the West Concord Union Church at 1317 Main Street. The women of Suriname wrote the service based on the creation story; and will explore issues of climate change, natural disasters, and human abuse of the environment, which are harming our planet and its inhabitants. If you have artwork, textiles, or decorative items from Suriname that you could lend for use at the service or luncheon, please contact Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net). All men, women, and youth are warmly invited to attend the service at 11:00 a.m. and luncheon at noon.

#### WPA Luncheon Program: The Art of Resistance

Don't miss a special luncheon program on March 21 at 11:30 a.m., organized by the Women's Parish Association. Fellow parishioner Prof. Shelley Hawks will give an illustrated presentation about her latest book, *The Art of Resistance, Painting by Candlelight in Mao's China*. Her findings present a compelling picture of what dedicated resisters against oppression can accomplish. Her book gives a very interesting understanding of Chinese art and culture and inspiration to resisters today, who know well that resistance against oppression is crucial to protecting a democracy. Book signings will follow. For reservations, contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net).

#### Flea Market Date Has Been Scheduled!

It's not too early to start setting aside items that you want to donate to this great fundraiser, which will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Household or gift items, collectibles, antiques, jewelry, toys, etc., all in good condition, are welcome. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) if you want to rent a table. The table rental fee is \$35. Tables go fast, so rent one soon!

#### First Parish Auction 2018

The Auction is back! Mark your calendars for this fall—Saturday, October 27, 2018! In the meantime, we need your creativity and inspiration. The 2018 Auction is going to be bigger and better than ever.

We have plenty of time to plan the event at a relaxed pace. Join us for an Auction kickoff meeting on Sunday, February 4, 8:30 a.m., in the Parlor. We will identify subcommittee leads, select a theme, and develop an action plan. Hope to see you there! Contact Jen Izzo at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com) or Val Vallancourt at [valvallancourt@gmail.com](mailto:valvallancourt@gmail.com) with questions.

## Social Action

### Social Action Grant Applications Due on January 31

Any pledging member of First Parish may sponsor a grant application for a worthy organization. See the SAC grants page on the First Parish website for our grant making policies and the application form.

### AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series Friday, February 2, 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

Join us to watch "Albert Nobbs," a story set in 19th-century Ireland about a painfully shy butler, Albert Nobbs (Glenn Close), who hides an incredible secret: he is really a she. Some 30 years after donning men's clothing in order to make a living, she finds herself trapped in a prison of her own making. Contact Lou Toussaint at [mloutoussaint@gmail.com](mailto:mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

### Community Building Dinner at First Parish

The First Parish Men's Group, the Women's Circle, and the Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) cordially invite you to attend an Italian dinner on February 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Join us for some warm companionship and yummy food. The cost is \$5 per adult; children are free. BYOB. Please RSVP by February 4 to Jen Izzo at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com). Participation is limited to 64 people, so don't delay!

### AWE Book Group

#### Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m., at First Parish

We'll read *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, by Jesmyn Ward. Goodreads writes: "An intimate portrait of a family and an epic tale of hope and struggle, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* examines the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power—and limitations—of family bonds." Contact Jen Izzo at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com). Our corresponding social action will be announced at a later point. AWE's meetings and events are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions who wish to advance women's rights and improve their lives.

### The White Card

Race Conversations Group is sponsoring a group outing on Sunday, March 25, at 2:00 p.m. to see the ArtsEmerson play, "The White Card." Written by Claudia Rankine, this play explores the question, "Can American society progress if whiteness stays invisible?" Stop by our table at coffee hour today to learn more and tell us if you're interested in joining us then or on another date. An interview with the playwright can be read online at [tinyurl.com/whitecardinterview](http://tinyurl.com/whitecardinterview). For further information, contact Leslie Fisher at [lesliefisher@treitman.com](mailto:lesliefisher@treitman.com) or 978-287-0456.

## Religious Exploration

### Today, January 21: Religious Exploration

9:15 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) meet in Parlor; visit Union Baptist Church in Cambridge for 10:30 a.m. service; return to First Parish around 12:30 p.m.

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

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.

Kindergarten & Grade 1– Lower Level

Grade 2– Greeley Room

Grade 3– Bulkeley Room

Grade 4– Ripley Room; Grade 5– Wright Tavern

Grade 6– Emerson Room

4:00-6:00 p.m. – 8th Grade OWL, Session 2 – Emerson Room

## Next Sunday, January 28: Religious Exploration

### Bake Sale during Coffee Hour

#### Today, 11:00 a.m., in the Parlor

Our Neighboring Activists (Grade 6) invite our First Parish community to a bake sale this Sunday, January 21, in the Parish Hall during coffee hour. Funds raised will help purchase items for care packages for children being treated at local hospitals: Emerson Hospital in Concord and Lowell General Hospital in Lowell. Come support our youth!

### Hospital Care Packages for Children

Our Neighboring Activists (Grade 6) invite our First Parish community to help them in supporting kids being treated at local hospitals: Emerson Hospital in Concord and Lowell General Hospital in Lowell. The Neighboring Activists will be delivering care packages of love to them. Items to donate include small toys, crafts, crayons, books, markers, and bubbles. All items must be new and in original packaging. Please no food, candy, stuffed animals, or used items. A collection box is in the First Parish coatroom. Your contributions will be delivered in early February.

### Youth Listening Session

#### Sunday, January 28, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., in the Loft

High School teens are invited to join the Youth Group on Sunday, January 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the Loft for pizza and check-in. A Youth Listening Session will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Throughout the month of January, the Standing Committee is hosting a series of listening sessions to reflect on the past five years at First Parish, to explore what's important to our community, and to create a shared vision for the next five years. Join us for pizza, tell us what matters to you, and help us to plan for the future of First Parish in Concord!

### Talk Saves Lives

#### Tuesday, January 30, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Talk Saves Lives is a community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide. Attendees will learn the risk factors and warning signs of suicide, and how together, we can help prevent it. Brought to us by funds raised by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, [afsp.org](http://afsp.org). This event is intended for parents and adults. The event is free and open to the public. Make reservations online at [tinyurl.com/talksaveslives](http://tinyurl.com/talksaveslives).

### Our Whole Lives (OWL)

First Parish is pleased to offer comprehensive sexuality education not only to adolescents but also to First and Fifth Graders! This program will be offered in the spring for eight Sundays and will begin a little earlier than our regular Religious Education time. These classes will meet from 10:00-11:15 a.m.

Little OWL (Grade 1) Parent Orientation: **Cancelled** due to low enrollment.

Middle OWL (Grade 5) Parent Orientation: Friday, February 9, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Emerson Room.

If you decide not to have your child participate, they will be included in another RE class during the eight-week program. For more information, contact Amy at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org) or Dawn at [dvanpatten@firstparish.org](mailto:dvanpatten@firstparish.org).

**The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.**

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to Sarah Burns at [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).

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

**March 2018 Meeting House News Deadline**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 12:00 Noon**

Keep article length to 100 words and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu).

The March 2018 edition will be published February 21.