

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

February 4, 2018

## This Week

Sun., Feb. 4	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
	4:00 Reception for Rosemary Bray McNatt
Mon., Feb. 5	1:30 Caregiver Support Group
	7:00 Immigration Justice Task Force
Tues., Feb. 6	9:00 WPA Board Meeting
	1:30 First Tuesday Group
	6:30 Community-Building Dinner
	6:30 Beloved Conversations
	6:30 T'ai Chi
Wed., Feb. 7	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Feb. 8	7:00 Race Conversations Group
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Sat. Feb. 10	9:30 Photography Club Meeting
Sun., Feb. 11	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 Sunday Worship
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	6:15 Standing Committee Meeting

## Parish Notes

### Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary Today, February 4, 11:30 a.m.

The President of Starr King School for the Ministry provides a lens into the seminary experience and the unique approach Starr King takes in the preparation of religious leaders. Starr King School for the Ministry, one of two UU seminaries, is a member of the Graduate Theological Union, affiliated with UC Berkeley. The mission of SKSM is to educate people for UU ministry and for progressive religious leadership in society. The school's approach is rooted in the UU values of countering oppressions, cultivating multi-religious life and learning, and creating just and sustainable communities. Revs. Howard Dana, Marion Visel and Amy Freedman are graduates. The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt became President of Starr King School in 2014. She was Senior Minister of The Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York. Raised in Chicago, she is a graduate of Yale University and Drew Theological Seminary, and was an editor and writer before answering the call to ministry.

### “Protecting against Elder Abuse”

The First Tuesday Group meets February 6, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. to hear Det. Scott Camilleri, the elder affairs officer of the Concord Police Department. Scott will review senior scams, family issues, driving concerns, personal safety, alcohol and drug abuse, the disposal of old medications, and the Council on Aging (COA) lockbox services. After Scott's brief talk, the floor will be opened for what should prove to be a lively and informative general discussion. Please plan to attend and participate! (Come if you are interested, whatever your age may be.)

## Nominations for the First Parish Nominating Committee

The Standing Committee is looking for people who would like to be considered to serve on the First Parish Nominating Committee. The primary function of the Nominating Committee is to solicit and nominate candidates for any open positions on the Standing Committee as well as the Treasurer, Clerk, and Moderator positions. As a result, we are looking for people who are "connectors" and like to participate in many aspects of church life. The term is three years, with an option to do two consecutive terms. The Nominating Committee meets monthly on Sunday mornings, and the time commitment is two to three hours a month. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact Patty Popov at [ppopov@nichols-pratt.com](mailto:ppopov@nichols-pratt.com) or 978-369-1990, or Kate Svrcek at [katesvrcek@hotmail.com](mailto:katesvrcek@hotmail.com) or 781 472-0714, by Sunday, March 4.

## 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.

## Your Survey is Ready!

Please add your voice to part two of our “Year for Reflection and Visioning.” This survey builds on what we heard during the Standing Committee's January listening sessions and the results will help us shape both the congregational retreat on March 9 and 10 and future goals for the Standing Committee and staff. One question asks for your opinion on whether to reaffirm, revise, or revoke our yearly 7.5% allocation to social action. The survey takes about 15 minutes and is available online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPSurvey2018](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPSurvey2018), or simply look for the link on the homepage of the First Parish website at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org). Paper copies are available in the office. We ask all members to complete the survey by February 18.

## WPA Luncheon Program: The Art of Resistance

Don't miss a special luncheon program on Wednesday, 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).

**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).

## Flea Market Date Has Been Scheduled!

It's not too early to start setting aside items that you want to donate to this important 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 [pekinde@comcast.net](mailto:pekinde@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! 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

### 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). Space is filling up, so sign up now to reserve your spot for an enjoyable evening!

### Nominate a Worthy Organization for Share the Plate

Nominations are still being accepted for the April Share the Plate, and are due by March 4. In Share the Plate collections, half of the funds raised for the entire month (other than those designated as fulfilling pledges) will go to the designated recipient organization and the other half will go to First Parish. Any First Parish program or pledging member may submit a nomination. Nominees should normally be a 501(c)(3) organization. Pick up a nomination form from our coffee hour table or download one from the First Parish Share the Plate Pilot Page at <http://firstparish.org/share-the-plate>. Submit nominations or comments, to Zach Roe at [zroe@firstparish.org](mailto:zroe@firstparish.org).

### 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.

### February Share the Plate Recipient—

#### The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute is a center of healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief, and loss. Their programs and services are grounded in the framework that interventions are needed at multiple levels in order to interrupt cycles of violence. Their impact extends to community and society through tools, training, and technical assistance. With more than twenty years of experience serving families impacted by murder, the Peace Institute remains committed to transforming society's response to homicide so every family impacted with murder is treated with dignity and compassion regardless of the circumstances.

## Religious Exploration

### This Sunday, February 4: Religious Exploration

9:10 a.m.—Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7)—Meet in the Parish Hall, attend Framingham Friends Meeting (Quaker), return to First Parish in Concord around 11:45 a.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 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.*

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten & Grade 1—Lower Level

Grade 2—Greeley Room

Grade 3—Bulkeley Room

Grade 4—Ripley Room

UU Tweens Spirituality (Grade 5)—Wright Tavern

Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)—Emerson Room

11:30 a.m.—Youth Group—Loft

3:00-5:00 p.m.—8th Grade OWL, Session 4—Emerson Room

### Next Sunday: "Love"—All-Ages Service

#### Sunday, February 11, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Join us for a service celebrating love! Our children will help lead this service with Rev. Amy Freedman and Dawn Van Patten. We will reflect on what love is and how we can bring more love into the world.

### Attention First Parish Teens!

#### Sundays, February 4 and 18, 11:30 a.m.

Our Youth Group is trying a new format this month! Today and Sunday, February 18, High School teens will meet following the service at 11:30 a.m. A pizza lunch will be provided. This month we will continue our work around identities, to really consider how we are in relationship with others and how that work impacts the social justice work that we do at First Parish in Concord. Please contact Jo VonRue with any questions at [jvonrue@firstparish.org](mailto:jvonrue@firstparish.org).

### 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. 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 coat closet.

### Middle OWL Parent Orientation

#### Friday, February 9, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Parents and guardians of 5th graders are invited to our Middle OWL Parent Orientation. Come learn more about our comprehensive sexuality program designed for this age group. This program will be offered for eight Sundays, beginning on Sunday, March 4. The sessions will be held from 10:00-11:15 a.m. in the Wright Tavern. For more information, contact Amy Freedman at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org), or Dawn Van Patten at [dvanpatten@firstparish.org](mailto:dvanpatten@firstparish.org).

### March 2018 Meeting House News Deadline

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

Keep the 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.