

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

February 11, 2018

## This Week

Sun., Feb. 11	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Nominating Committee
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	6:15	Standing Committee Meeting
Tues., Feb. 13	8:00	Financial Committee Meeting
	2:00	Shawl Ministry
	6:30	T'ai Chi
Wed., Feb. 14	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Feb. 15	7:00	Membership Committee Meeting
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:30	Denominational Affairs Committee
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Feb. 16	12:30	Ta'i Chi
	7:00	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sat., Feb. 17	9:30	Photography Club Meeting
Sun., Feb. 18	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

## Parish Notes

### Meeting House News Deadline

The March issue deadline is Tuesday, February 13, at noon, and will be published on February 21. The April issue deadline is March 13, and will be published on March 22. Please send your submission and images in final form as attachments to Wendy Wolfberg at [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu), and contact her if you do not receive a receipt confirmation email. Word limit is 100, and images can be either JPEG or PNG. Please review the brochure "Publicizing Events at First Parish of Concord" for details and previous *MHN* issues for examples.

### Silent Movie Night: "The Cameraman," starring Buster Keaton With Rob Humphreville, organist

**Saturday, February 24, 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

"The Cameraman" is a 1928 American silent comedy film starring Buster Keaton and Marceline Day. This classic romantic comedy was a box office hit, and the MGM writing department used it as an example of a "perfectly constructed comedy" in screen writer trainings. Robert Humphreville is active as a freelance accompanist and organist throughout greater Boston. He accompanies silent movies all over New England and has been singled out several times by the *Boston Globe* for his inventive improvisations. Admission is free!

### One More Week to Add Your Voice

One week remains to help us plan for the next five years. The Standing Committee asks all members to provide survey input, part of our *Year for Reflection and Visioning*. The survey takes about 20 minutes and will be used to plan an all-parish, all-ages retreat on March 9 and 10. Just click the "Complete Survey" link on the First Parish website homepage, enter <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPSurvey2018> in any browser, or fill in a paper copy, available in the office. Please complete the all-congregation survey by February 18.

### 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, 1317 Main Street. Women of Suriname wrote the service based on the creation story. It explores 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 [pekincd@comcast.net](mailto:pekincd@comcast.net). All men, women, and youth are welcome! Service is at 11:00 a.m., followed by a free luncheon at noon. Local environmental group representatives will be present.

### Call for SGM 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 trained or would like to be trained, be in touch with 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 to help 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! Contact Marion at [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 203-931-5239.

### Film and Silent Auction to Benefit the PCC Pilgrimage Assistance Fund, March 3 at 7:00 p.m.

This April, 27 pilgrims from First Parish will travel to Transylvania to visit our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr. On March 3, at 7:00 p.m., we will show the documentary "Beneath the Surface," a moving film that tells the story of the diverse and tolerant village, Bözödújfalú, which was intentionally flooded and destroyed during the reign of Ceausescu. Suggested donation: \$20. In addition, we will be offering Hungarian items for silent auction and raffle. Come to our table at coffee hour.

### Small Group Ministry Groups: "Mindful Matters" (4 sessions) Wednesdays: March 7, March 21, April 11, April 25 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, in the Brooks Room

Have you wondered what mindfulness really means? Does your mind feel too busy like the rest of your life? Have you ever noticed that your mind judges or can be harsh, and wondered if you could benefit from some simple meditation? Are you curious to explore how mindfulness, loving kindness, acceptance, and letting go might be related? Come explore these mindful matters and how they might relate to your daily life. There will be a short meditation at the beginning of each session. Facilitated by Francie Nolde and Dana Snyder-Grant. Sign up on the clipboard in the front office, or contact Marion Visel at [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 203-931-5239.

### Small Group Ministry Groups: "Simple Gifts" (4 sessions) Sundays: March 4, April 8, May 6, and June 10; 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

This group will explore deepening spiritually through practices and topics often thought of as "small" or "simple." Topics will include gratitude as a spiritual practice, simplifying busy lives to make space for spirituality, exploring meaningfulness and fulfillments, acts of kindness as spiritual practices, and cultivating experiences of grace. Facilitated by Roselyn Romberg and Chuck McDonald. Sign up in the front office, or contact Marion Visel at [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 203-931-5239.

### Pot o' Gold Potluck—Saturday, March 17, 6:00 p.m.

Everyone in the First Parish community is cordially invited to a "Pot o' Gold Potluck" dinner on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., sponsored by the Annual Pledge Campaign Team. This will be a family-friendly and true potluck—just come and bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Soft drinks will be provided, but feel free to bring your own wine or beer.

## Flea Market Update

Don't forget to set aside items for donation to this important fundraiser, which will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Household goods, 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 rental fee is \$35. Tables are going fast, so grab one soon!

## Social Action

### AWE Monthly Meeting

#### Saturday, February 17, 8:00 a.m., at First Parish

Calling activists and feminists interested in women's empowerment social justice initiatives! Join us at our monthly meeting to discuss and plan upcoming events. All are welcome to our meetings and events (men, women, people of all gender identities and expressions). Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Contact Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net) with questions, or to join our mailing list.

### Collection Drive to Support Survivors of Relationship Violence

As part of our action-oriented book club, the Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) is helping Gifts of Hope Unlimited, a nonprofit supporting those impacted by relationship violence. Clear out your closets, counters, and drawers . . . we raise money for every pound donated! Acceptable items include clothing, shoes, linens, purses, socks, wallets, all types of accessories, kitchen and electrical items, toys, knick-knacks, sporting goods, books, CD's, and DVD's. We will have donation tables in the Parlor before and after church on Sundays through March 4. This is an easy way to make a difference and get a head start on spring cleaning. For questions, email Leah Russell at [leahkrussell@gmail.com](mailto:leahkrussell@gmail.com). Visit [giftsofhopeunlimited.org](http://giftsofhopeunlimited.org) for more information on the organization.

### Amnesty International, Group 15

#### Tuesday, February 20, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

First on the agenda is signing letters to support human rights activists determined by Amnesty/USA to be "urgent" cases. We'll have progress reports on our plans for April 26, when Sister Helen Prejean will speak in Concord. Ongoing projects include Massachusetts prison reform, death penalty abolition, the prevention of violence against women worldwide, and the freeing of two Azerbaijanian student activists. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons at [njlyons22@gmail.com](mailto:njlyons22@gmail.com), or 978-369-6109.

### SAC Grant Applications for Review until February 24

SAC Grant applications are available for review on the First Parish Social Action Grant website and in a notebook in the church office until Saturday, February 24. Comments regarding how they meet our SAC grant policies and criteria (also in the notebook and posted on the website) are welcome. Send these to [wendyh@dmahealth.com](mailto:wendyh@dmahealth.com), or put them in the First Parish SAC mailbox, attention Wendy Holt.

### Share the Plate Check Guidelines

The following are the guidelines for checks placed in the offering plate. Please fill in the memo line of your check in one of the following manners: "Share the Plate" or "STP"—50% to Charity and 50% to FP (as pledge or gift), 100% "Charity Name"—100% to Charity, "Pledge" or "Annual Fund"—100% to FP Annual Fund. If there is nothing written on the memo line, 50% will go to Charity and 50% to FP as a pledge or gift.

### IJTF Community Dinner/Party

Save the date! On Friday, March 9, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., you are invited to a community dinner, dance party, and more at First Parish. The Immigration Justice Task Force will host an upbeat and fun event for the whole family. Mark your calendars and join us! Watch for more information in the coming weeks. Contact Laurie VanLoon at [ivanloon@comcast.net](mailto:ivanloon@comcast.net) or Tony Rodriguez at [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Religious Exploration

### This Sunday, February 11

9:50 a.m.—Little RE (0-4yrs)—Lower Level  
10:00—LOVE: All Ages Service—Sanctuary  
4:00-6:00 p.m.—8th Grade OWL, Session 5—Emerson Room  
6:00-8:00 p.m.—Coming of Age with mentors—Parish Hall

### Next Sunday, February 18: Multiage Program

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 the Emerson Room with their teachers. 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 – 11:00 a.m.—Multiage Program (K-6)—Emerson Room

### Returning Light: Recharging from the Outside-In, Multiage Program (K-6)

#### Sunday, February 18, 10:15 to 11:00 a.m., Emerson, Greeley, and Ripley Rooms (Upper Level)

Following the Children's Message, join us for a multiarts activity facilitated by Julianne and Brian Corey. Through expressive movement and artmaking, you will create your own set of symbols and reminders for sustaining your "inner glow" through the rest of the winter. Julianne Corey is a Somatic Movement educator and writer; she teaches Expressive Arts Therapy courses at Lesley University. Brian Corey is a visual artist and high school art teacher at Wellesley High School.

### Come Celebrate the Lunar New Year!

#### Sunday, February 25, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall

We are delighted to welcome back Wah Lum Kung Fu and Sifu Evan Hughes to First Parish. As a way of blessing our Meeting House and welcoming the Year of the Dog, they will offer a Lion Dance in our service. Following the dance, children and youth are invited to a Kung Fu lesson in the Parish Hall. This is an energizing experience for all ages!

### Youth Group Leadership Training

On Friday, February 16, through Sunday, February 18, there is a Youth Group Retreat with other Unitarian Universalists to learn how to build an awesome Youth Group program! Cost is \$60. If you (adults or teens) are interested in going with Rev. Jo VonRue and other First Parish teens, please let her know as soon as possible at [jvonrue@firstparish.org](mailto:jvonrue@firstparish.org).

### City Reach, Boston

High School teens are invited to join us for a learning service trip to Boston on April 27 and 28. You may remember City Reach as a part of Coming of Age. We decided to take another trip as a Youth Group because as lives change and we grow, our understanding and perspective shifts. City Reach is a powerful opportunity to connect with people experiencing homelessness and to serve that community. Cost is \$70. Spots are filling fast, so please be in touch with Rev. Jo VonRue soon if this is something you are interested in doing! She can be reached at [jvonne@firstparish.org](mailto:jvonne@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).