

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

February 18, 2018

This Week

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
Tues., Feb. 20	5:00	SAC Board Meeting
	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:00	Amnesty International
Wed., Feb. 21	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Feb. 22	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Feb. 23	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sat., Feb. 24	4:00	Mother/Daughter Book Group
	7:30	Silent Movie Night
Sun., Feb. 25	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

Parish Notes

Survey Deadline Extended!

To make sure we hear from as many people as possible, the Standing Committee has extended the deadline for completing the all-congregation survey to Wednesday, February 21, at noon. Your responses will help us arrange an engaging all-congregation retreat March 9-10 and lay the foundation for Staff and Standing Committee goals for the next five years. Look for a direct survey link on the First Parish website homepage at www.firstparish.org, where you can also register for the retreat. Paper copies of the survey are available in the church office.

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 those of Treasurer, Clerk and Moderator. 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 serve 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 or 978-369-1990, or Kate Svrcek at katesvrcek@hotmail.com or 781 472-0714, by Sunday, March 4.

Become an Annual Pledge Campaign Steward

Help First Parish by becoming a Steward for our Annual Pledge Campaign. It's a great way to get to know others and learn what they love about our community. You will be providing an important service to the church and will likely find fulfillment in the process. It's a minimal commitment of time, and you may contact your fellow parishioners by whatever method you find most comfortable. Our kickoff and training session is Tuesday, March 13, at First Parish. For more information, please contact Jane Barnes at janebarnes@gmail.com.

World Day of Prayer Service and Luncheon—March 2

Hosting Concord's commemoration of World Day of Prayer 2018 is the West Concord Union Church. Women of Suriname wrote the service. 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 pekindc@comcast.net. All are welcome! Service at 11:00 a.m., followed by a free luncheon at noon. Local environmental group representatives will be on hand to inform you of their work.

Celebration Sunday 2018–March 4

Service, Pledge Cards Available: 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Coffee Hour, Including Cake: 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall and Kitchen
"Give love . . . and people will find a way" is the theme for this year's Annual Pledge Campaign. We give love to each other at First Parish through our participation and our gifts. Celebration Sunday is a special service to honor all we accomplish by giving generously to First Parish. On March 4, you can pledge toward the 2018-2019 Annual Pledge Campaign. For more information, contact Jane Barnes, janebarnes@gmail.com, project manager for the 2018-2019 Annual Pledge Campaign.

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!

Auction Brainstorming Meeting—Dinner in Exchange for Your Ideas

We need your ideas! Join us in the Parlor on Wednesday, February 28, 6:00-7:30 p.m., for an Auction brainstorming meeting. Dinner and child care will be provided. We are considering new formats for the event and would love to get your thoughts and insights from past Auctions. We also want to brainstorm ideas for donations. Help us think outside the box. RSVP to Val Vallancourt at valvallancourt@gmail.com, or Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com.

Film and Silent Auction to Benefit PCC Pilgrimage Assistance Fund

Come to our table at coffee hour today to get a preview of Hungarian items we will be offering for silent auction and raffle at the event on March 3 at 7:00 p.m., when we will show "Beneath the Surface." It is a moving film that tells the story of the diverse and tolerant village of Bözödújfalú, intentionally flooded and destroyed in 1989 under Ceausescu.

Small Group Ministry Group: "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 or 203-931-5239.

Small Group Ministry Group: "Life's Pasages" (4 sessions)

Sundays: March 6, March 20, April 3, April 17; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

People are taking longer to grow up and much longer to die. The old demarcations and descriptions of adulthood are out-of-date. How are we to make sense of and integrate life's passages as we move from transition to transition? This group will explore our past, present, and future: who we were as children, young adults, in mid-life, and as seniors. Facilitated by Mary-Wren vanderWilden. Sign up in the front office, or contact Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239.

Flea Market Update

Don't forget—set aside items that you want to donate to this fundraiser, which will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Household goods, children's items, toys, collectibles, antiques, jewelry, etc., are most welcome. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to rent a table. Table rental fee is \$35, and they are going fast. Rent one now!

Social Action

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 Azerbaijani student activists. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons at njlyons22@gmail.com, or 978-369-6109.

Social Action Community Board—Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

SAC Board meetings are always open to any who are interested in Social Action at First Parish. All are welcome to attend!

Organizing Your Community for Justice

Thursday, February 22, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Led by Evan Seitz of UU Mass Action, this is a two-hour, interactive workshop that will change the way you think about doing justice work. We’ll discuss strategies for developing affective partnerships, ways to effectively mobilize people and retain members, and simple guidelines for developing or supporting campaigns. The focus will be on the unique ways that we are called as Unitarian Universalists to support frontline social justice movements.

Daring Democracy Book Discussion

In December the Reclaim Our Democracy group sponsored a talk by legendary *Diet for a Small Planet* author, Frances Moore Lappé, and organizer, Adam Eichen. They shared highlights of their empowering new book *Daring Democracy*. On Tuesday, February 27, at 7:30 p.m., a small group will be getting together at First Parish in Concord to discuss *Daring Democracy* and how we can put some of the author’s ideas to work. Please join us. For questions or to sign-up to attend, please contact Nancy Cronin at nrcronin@verizon.net.

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 20 years of experience serving families impacted by murder, the Peace Institute remains committed to transforming society’s response to homicide so every family impacted by murder is treated with dignity and compassion regardless of the circumstances.

Nominate a Worthy Organization for Share-the-Plate

Nominations are being accepted for the April Share-the-Plate, due 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 from the First Parish Share-the-Plate Pilot Page, <http://firstparish.org/share-the-plate>. Submit nominations or comments to Zach Roe at zroe@firstparish.org.

Collection Drive Postponed

The Advocates for Women’s Empowerment (AWE) collection drive for Gifts of Hope Unlimited (a nonprofit supporting those impacted by relationship violence) is postponed until further notice. Please do *not* bring any items to the Parlor on Sundays, as previously publicized. We will send out a notice if the drive takes place at a later date. We apologize for any confusion. Questions? Contact Leah Russell at leahkrussell@gmail.com.

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. 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.

IJTF Community Dinner/Party

Celebrate Immigration and Diversity! Join the IJTF (Immigration Justice Task Force) on Friday, March 9, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., for a Community dinner and party for the whole family! This will be a potluck event with a twist: Please check your family archives for your immigration stories. Where did your folks come from? Or, where do you wish your family had come from? We ask you to bring finger food (tapas) rooted in either your real or your fantasy culinary history. Watch for further announcements of what to expect on this special First Parish evening. (Hint: we won’t just be sitting around . . .) Contact Laurie Van Loon at lvanloon@comcast.net, or Tony Rodriguez at trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

Religious Exploration

This 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. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.—Multiage Program (K-7)—Emerson, Greeley and Ripley Rooms (Upper Level)

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.—Multiage Program (K-7)—Parish Hall

Returning Light: Recharging from the Outside-In, Multiage Program Sunday, February 18, 10:15-11:00 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, and 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, 10:00-11:00 a.m., 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!

Cradles to Crayons Clothing and Toy Collection

Bring your gently used children’s clothing, toys, and books to First Parish in Concord through Sunday, March 4! The Alcott/Nashoba 2nd grade Girl Scout troop have a box in the coat room and will be staffing a table at coffee hour on February 25 and March 4. They will deliver them to Cradles to Crayons, a Boston-based nonprofit that provides children from birth through age 12 living in homeless or low-income situations with the essential items they need to thrive. They supply these items free of charge by engaging and connecting communities that have with those that need.

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. City Reach is an opportunity to connect with people experiencing homelessness and to serve that community. Cost is \$70. Spots are filling up, so please be in touch with Jo VonRue soon if this is something you are interested in doing, at jvonue@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.

The Sunday News can be read online at www.firstparish.org.

April 2018 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 12:00 Noon

Keep the article length to 100 words and send to the Editor,

Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The April 2018 edition will be published March 22.