

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 4, 2018

This Week

Sun. Mar. 4	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
Mon. Mar. 5	1:30	Caregiver Support Group
	7:00	Immigration Justice Task Force
Tue. Mar. 6	9:00	WPA Board Meeting
	1:30	First Tuesday Group
	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:00	Annual Campaign Meeting
	7:00	AWE Book Group
Wed. Mar. 7	7:30	True Islam
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thur. Mar. 8	7:00	Race Conversations Group
	7:00	Buddhist Group
Fri. Mar. 9	12:30	T'ai Chi
	6:00	Immigration Task Force Dinner/Dance
Sat. Mar. 10	8:00	All-Parish Retreat
Sun. Mar. 11	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Nominating Committee Meeting
	11:30	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	6:00	Standing Committee Meeting

Parish Notes

Our Annual Pledge Campaign is Under Way!

If you pledged today, *thank you!* If not, please consider that by pledging annually, you show your commitment to First Parish and the love we give to each other and our wider community. First Parish needs your help; no matter what your level of participation, your pledge makes a big difference. Please bring home a pledge card and consider what you can give for next year (July 2018-June 2019). If you prefer, you may pledge online using the Pledge Now button at the "Giving" section of our website at www.FirstParish.org.

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 nominate candidates for any open positions on the Standing Committee, as well as those of Treasurer, Clerk, and Moderator. 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 Svrccek at katesvrccek@hotmail.com or 781 472-0714, by today, March 4.

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. Today, 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.

"From Bloom to Bouquet: the Art and Science of Flower Arrangement"

First Tuesday Group—March 6, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Ellen Whitney, Faxon Green, and Jan Goddard-Taylor will present a talk about the Flower Committee, a slide show, and live demonstrations on the art and science of flower arrangement. The demonstrations will be followed by small group discussions about flowers' many roles in life's memorable moments. The program will feature "Tips and Tricks for Home Arrangements" to help each participant prepare for the arrival of spring. One lucky participant will go home with a fresh spring flower arrangement!

Concord Area Humanists—Alan Lightman: "Fact and Faith" Wednesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Alan Lightman will discuss differences between scientific and religious beliefs, how they are formed, and their different evidentiary bases. Central to spiritual beliefs is personal "transcendent experience," which supports subsequent belief. Most scientific beliefs are founded upon objective data from the external world. Science and religion differ profoundly in the process of revision: all scientific knowledge is considered provisional. Lightman is a writer and physicist who has taught at Harvard and MIT. This event is sponsored by the First Parish Humanist Council.

Community Dinner and Party

Friday, March 9, 6:00-9:00 p.m., at First Parish

Roots . . . What are yours? Come celebrate our diverse histories! We will jump-start the First Parish Visioning Retreat with a party for everyone, sponsored by the Immigration Justice Task Force. The dinner is potluck, so please bring food to share—a dish or appetizer from family history, or a favorite cuisine you've made. (Finger food preferred.) Wear your dancing shoes! To RSVP for both the Friday night party and the Saturday, March 10, daytime retreat, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y7wujo7x>. Contact Laurie Van Loon at ivanloon@comcast.net.

Join the All-Congregation Retreat!

On March 9-10, we will gather at First Parish to begin shaping the church we want to be in 2023. We will focus on several of the big themes that emerged from the listening sessions and survey—community building, social justice, and diversity. Parishioners Jim Tull and Rev. Jim Sherblom will lead us in a workshop on problem solving, conflict resolution, and compassionate communication. Friday night begins at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck dinner and community-building activities. Saturday (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) begins with a light breakfast. Lunch will be stone soup, salad, and bread. Please bring some cut vegetables, beans, or pasta that's ready to add. Children 13 and older are encouraged to participate. We'll also have child care and activities for younger children. Please sign up, using the link on the First Parish website at www.firstparish.org.

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, 6:00-8:00 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.

WPA Luncheon—Sign Up at Coffee Hour Today

Don't forget to sign up for the WPA Luncheon on March 21, at which 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*. Call the office, sign up at coffee hour, or email Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net for reservations.

Photography as Meditation

Rev. Marion Visel will lead this four-session program, Monday afternoons in April, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., on April 2, 9, 16, and 23. Explore photography as a form of meditation practice through accessible contemplative photography and centering/meditation exercises. No experience is required, except knowing how to use your camera or smartphone. Sign up in the front office, or contact Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239. This group is limited to 14 participants, and preference is given to those who can attend all four sessions.

Flea Market Update

Don't forget to set aside good quality items that you want to donate to this important fundraiser, which will be held on Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Household goods, children's items, toys, collectibles, antiques, jewelry, etc., all in good condition, 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.

Social Action

March Is Share-the-Plate Month for Centro Arte para La Paz (Sponsored by IJTF)

Today, March 4, is the first Sunday to Share the Plate with Centro de Arte Para La Paz. El Centro is a local nonprofit recognized for its work with children, youth, and adults in the town of Suchitoto, El Salvador. It is a healing space, providing classes and workshops in art, music, photography, dance, and conflict mediation, all in a setting where the Civil War dominated the lives of families for more than 15 years. The center includes a museum within its walls for the preservation of historical memory, currently containing seven exhibits and visited by 7,000 per year. CAP's vision is the prevention of violence and creation of a culture of peace, serving over 1,350 students with classes and touching over 85 women/families every semester. For more information, contact Tony Rodriguez at trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

AWE's 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.

Toiletry and Feminine Hygiene Collection Drive for Women

Starting April 1, we are collecting unopened full- and travel-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, lotion, lip balm, combs/brushes, and hygiene items (pads, tampons) for Rosie's Place and Open Table. Please bring only items on the list (no makeup, razors, mouthwash, etc.). Leave items in the marked box in the coatroom starting April 1, or bring them to LunaFest on April 6 at Concord Academy. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment. Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com or 978-369-5352.

LunaFest Is Coming Again!

Friday, April 6, 7:00 p.m. at Concord Academy

Join us at LunaFest—a fundraising film festival by, for, and about women, to benefit reproductive health access. The evening will include refreshments for purchase and a 50/50 raffle. Online ticket sales will begin soon, and tickets can also be purchased at the door (\$15 for general seating). Hosted by Advocates for Women's Empowerment, along with Concord Academy's student groups—Women of Color Alliance and Women's Org. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, March 4: Celebration Sunday

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room
10:00 a.m. – Celebration Sunday, Worship Service
10:15 – 11:30 a.m. – Middle OWL (Grade 5) – Wright Tavern
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. – OWL (Grade 8), Session 7 – Emerson Room
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Coming of Age – Parish Hall

Next Sunday, March 11: Religious Exploration

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Meet in the Parlor to visit Grace Chapel in Lexington
10:00 – 11:15 a.m. – Middle OWL (Grade 5) – Wright Tavern
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
10:15 – 11:15 a.m. – Creature Teachers (K-4) – Emerson Room
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – High School Youth Group – Loft

Celebration Sunday

Today, March 4, 10:00 a.m.

"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 together. Children will begin in the service with their families, then go to the Parish Hall for a special activity. Then all ages will be reunited for the end of the service. Pledge forms will be available. We will have cake as a part of our celebration following the service!

Next Sunday: "Animals Around the World" with Creature Teachers

Come take a trip around the world with us and find out where Creature Teachers live animals come from. This program explores the diverse habitats of our planet and the animals that live within them. See why some animals are well suited for certain areas and why some are not. We are thrilled to welcome back this fun and engaging program to First Parish.

Cradles to Crayons Clothing and Toy Collection

The Alcott/Nashoba 2nd grade Girl Scout troop is staffing a table at Coffee Hour this Sunday, March 4. They are collecting gently used children's clothing, toys, and books for Cradles to Crayons. Thank you for your help!

Youth Group in March

Sundays, March 11 and 25, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If you are a teen in grades 9 to 12, join Youth Group on Sunday evenings in March. We are currently working on some social justice projects and will be looking ahead to our trip to CityReach, April 27 and 28. Pizza dinner is provided. Questions? Contact our Youth Coordinator Rev. Jo VonRue at jvonrue@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 412.

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, 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.