

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 2, 2018

## This Week

Sun. Dec 2	9:00 Chalice Choir
	9:00 Gospel Choir
	10:00 Sunday Service
	11:30 Junior Choir
	11:30 Legacy Giving Conversation
Mon. Dec 3	1:30 Caregiver Support Group
	7:00 Racial Justice Awareness Group
	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tues. Dec 4	9:30 Women's Book Group
	1:30 First Tuesday Group
	7:30 Blue Holiday Vespers
Wed. Dec 5	9:15 Cancer Support Group
	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:00 Concord Area Humanists
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Dec 6	7:30 Buddhist Group
	7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri. Dec 7	9:00 Pastoral Care Cooking
	7:00 AWE Film Series
	7:00 Holiday Cookie Swap
Sat. Dec 8	9:00 Photo Club
	3:00 Photo Club
Sun. Dec 9	9:00 Chalice Choir
	9:00 Gospel Choir
	10:00 Sunday Service
	11:30 Junior Choir
	11:30 AWE Discussion
	11:30 Conversation about Finances

### December's Share The Plate Recipient:

#### The International Rescue Committee

The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic well-being, and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster. Founded in 1933 at the call of Albert Einstein, the IRC is at work in over 40 countries and 28 offices across the U.S. helping people to survive, reclaim control of their future, and strengthen their communities. They have won top marks by charity watchdog groups for efficiency and effectiveness. Learn more at [www.rescue.org](http://www.rescue.org).

## Parish Notes

### "A Congregational Conversation: Financing Our Future, and Expanding Our Horizons"

Sunday, December 2, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

The Legacy Giving Committee is hosting a panel discussion on our Legacy Giving program. Three First Parish members who've made legacy gifts will share how and why they gave to the Legacy Investment Fund (First Parish's "endowment"). We hope to, over time, meaningfully increase the LIF so that it can finance more of First Parish's annual operations, sustain our properties, provide a safety net, and expand our reach. Hear about alternative ways of making this commitment, and how you can generate current income, make a gift now and see it at work, and more. Questions? Contact Tom Wilson, Chair of the Legacy Giving Committee, at [twilson@wilsongroup.com](mailto:twilson@wilsongroup.com) or 617-281-1198.

### Women's Retreats—Registration December 2 to January 6

The theme for this year's Women's Retreats is "Our Voices, Our Peace, Our Power." Registration begins at coffee hour today and continues on December 9, 16, and January 6. Forms are also available during the week in the church office and online at [firstparish.org/forms](http://firstparish.org/forms). All women of First Parish are welcome to attend one of the Away weekends at Senexet House (January 11-13 and January 25-27) or the At-Home retreat at First Parish (February 8 and 9). Details at coffee hour or contact registrar Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).

### "Winter Holiday Photos and Song"

Tuesday, December 4, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

The First Tuesday Group (65+) will meet for a Winter Holiday Celebration that begins with winter photographs from three First Parish Photo Club members, followed by small groups sharing personal photos of the winter season. The afternoon concludes with everyone joining Gerry Hurley at the piano for holiday songs and refreshments. Please come with a winter holiday photo that you are willing to share. Refreshments will include eggnog, cookies, coffee, tea, and your favorite holiday treat if you bring a plate to share (welcome, but not required). Come celebrate the winter holidays and share a photograph at our December meeting! (*While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.*)

### Concord Area Humanists

Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

"The Humanist Creation Story" is a fascinating one that is still evolving. It started 13.5 billion years ago with the Big Bang, and each year we learn a little more. Pat Everett will walk us through how we, the world, and modern Humanism, have developed to the present day. We will be guided by author Yuval Noah Harari's two books, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* and *Homo Deus, A Brief History of Tomorrow*, along with other sources. There will be opportunity for discussion. Could Artificial Intelligence replace us as the dominant species?

### Come to Cook

The Caring Connection provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition. It is time to fill the freezer again. We are going to cook on Friday, December 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the First Parish kitchen. If you are willing to help, please RSVP to Judy Dembsey at [judydembsey@gmail.com](mailto:judydembsey@gmail.com) or 978-263-3272. Email preferred.

### Congregational Conversation Re: FY20 Budget Sunday, December 9, 11:30 a.m., in the Brooks Room

Please join members of the Finance Committee and Fifi Ball, Director of Operations, for a Congregational Conversation about finances at First Parish. Bring your ideas and questions regarding the annual budget process.

### Men's Winter Clothing Drive

As they prepare for their upcoming participation in the CityReach program, our Coming of Age group is collecting warm winter clothing to distribute to Boston's homeless population. L, XL, and XXL sizes are especially needed. We are collecting: men's warm coats, jackets, sweatpants, hoodies, boots, and shoes, as well as gloves and hats, *new* women's bras and underwear in all sizes, and *new* men's underwear, undershirts, and socks. Please note: We are

**not** collecting women's clothing! City Reach has an overabundance of women's clothing. We are collecting new women's bras and underwear in all sizes, as well as men's underwear and undershirts. These are very much needed. Please drop your donations off in the coatroom by Wednesday, December 12.

**Don't Miss the Copley Singers Holiday Concert!  
Friday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

Come to the Copley Singers Holiday Concert! Tickets are available at [CopleySingers.org](http://CopleySingers.org). Tickets can also be purchased at the door on the day of the concert. This event is sponsored by the Arts Council.

**Sunday Bouillon Volunteers Are Needed**

We might begin making bouillon in early January again if we have enough volunteers. Remember how delicious the bouillon was on a cold winter Sunday? Can you help one Sunday a month by buying, preparing, serving, and/or cleaning up? Kel Keleher will be there most Sundays to help clean up. You could team up with a friend—one does the buying and preparation, both serve (and schmooze with parishioners enjoying the bouillon), and the other cleans up; or any other way you'd like. Please contact Kel Keleher at [kel@rkeleher.com](mailto:kel@rkeleher.com) or 978-944-2734 if you are interested.

**Spiritual Audacity: Six Disciplines of Human Flourishing  
Mondays, January 14 to February 25, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
(No Class February 18), in the Chapel**

Jim Sherblom will lead a six-session program based on his new book exploring these spiritual disciplines: Resilience, Ego Surrender, Gratitude, Generosity, The Unknowable Nature of Divine Mystery, and Spiritual Awakening. We will be doing and discussing exercises for self-realization from the book. The class is limited in size so preregister at [jimsherblom@gmail.com](mailto:jimsherblom@gmail.com) or in the front office.

## Social Action

**AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series  
Friday, December 7, 7:00 p.m., Chapel**

We'll show "The Hunting Ground," a documentary that focuses on the epidemic of sexual assaults at U.S. colleges. This documentary combines the recollections of victims with disturbing statistics demonstrating the depth of the problem, while officials continue to downplay the issue. There will be an opportunity for informal discussion following the film, including a short meditation, sharing our reactions, and hotline resources. Men, women, and people of all gender identities and expressions are welcome. Contact Lou Toussaint at [mloutoussaint@gmail.com](mailto:mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

**AWE Informal Discussion**

**Sunday, December 9, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**In the Emerson Room**

What are your reactions to the #MeToo movement, to the Brett Kavanaugh nomination, and to the epidemic of sexual assaults on college campuses, in the workplace, and beyond? Join the Advocates for Women's Empowerment for an informal discussion, and for sharing and listening to each other's reactions and thoughts. Ideas for action and advocacy may arise from the discussion. We welcome the viewpoints of men, women, and people of all gender identities and expressions. Contact Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).

**AWE Monthly Meeting**

**Saturday, December 15, 8:00 a.m., in the Parlor**

Join us for our monthly business/planning meeting, where we'll discuss the status of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities at those events. Ideas for new initiatives may bubble up as well! If you are thinking about a specific initiative to advocate for women,

please come so we can explore making it happen! Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month and are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions. Contact Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).

**Amnesty International, Group 15**

**Tuesday, December 18, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room**

December is our annual Write For Rights meeting. This year, along with tens of thousands of people around the globe, we'll be writing in support of selected women activists suffering human rights abuses in their home countries. You can become a part of this, the biggest human rights event in the world, by stopping by our table during coffee hour on January 6. Hope to see you there. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, [njlyons22@gmail.com](mailto:njlyons22@gmail.com) or 978-369-6109.

## Religious Exploration

**This Sunday, December 2: Religious Exploration**

9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:00 a.m. – UU Explorers, Grade 8 – Chapel

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths, Grade 7 – Brooks Room: visit Holy Family Parish for 10:30 a.m. Mass, returning to First Parish around 11:45 a.m.

*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 their 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 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 – Lower Level

Grade 3– Ripley and Greeley Rooms – Upper Level

Grades 4 & 5 – Wright Tavern

Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Emerson Room

4:00- 6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age: "What do I stand for?" in the Parish Hall

**Next Sunday, December 9: Religious Exploration**

**Join the Little Angels Choir**

**Sunday, December 9, 10:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary**

The world needs more angels! On Sunday, December 9, our yearly tradition of joy, the Little Angels Choir, will be transformed to include the whole congregation. In the service, during the Message to Children, all those who feel angelic are invited to don a halo and join the choir. Halos provided.

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

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns, [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).

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

**January 2019 Meeting House News Deadline**

**Tuesday, December 11, 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 January 2019 edition will be published December 19.