

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 13, 2019

This Week

Sun. Jan 13	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Racial Justice Action Group
Mon. Jan 14	7:00	Spiritual Audacity
	7:30	Environmental Leadership Meeting
Tues. Jan 15	7:00	Amnesty International Meeting
	1:30	SAC Board Meeting
Wed. Jan 16	8:00	Trustees' Meeting
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	T'ai Chi Drop-In Class
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Jan 17	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri. Jan 18	7:00	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sun. Jan 20	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Parish Notes

February Meeting House News Deadline

January's Share-the-Plate Recipient:

Meet City Mission – our January Share-the-Plate recipient. For 200 years, City Mission has focused on rooting out poverty in Boston neighborhoods, with a strategic focus on preventing family homelessness. City Mission's programs include homeless prevention programs, such as Lift Up, for low-income single mothers and the Emergency Needs Network for unemployed, elderly, and/or disabled Boston residents; coordinating donations to low income children and families, through Coat Boston and the Christmas Shop; and teaching program participants and Greater Boston high school students about the systemic causes of family homelessness and advocacy skills, and recruiting them to advocate with the state legislature for measures to prevent and ameliorate homelessness.

Tuesday, January 15, at Noon; Published January 23

Please send your final form entry and images *as attachments* by January 15 or earlier to Wendy Wolfberg at 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 upcoming dates and previous *MHN* issues for examples.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

Reverberations of the Holocaust, Beyond Its Victims

Friday, January 18, 7:00 p.m., in the Brooks Room

We will always be shaken by the appalling inhumanity of the Holocaust. Descendants of the perpetrators—highly placed and ordinary—struggle with the deeds of their forebears. Join a lively and wide-ranging discussion of this issue! We'll share challah, wine, blessings, and conversation. All are welcome. For more information, contact Laura (Nixdorf) Bernstein at lnrb1943@gmail.com or 781 430-6115.

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.

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

UUA President to Visit First Parish in Concord

Sunday, January 20, 10:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

Sermon: "Called to Beloved Community"

Unitarian Universalists are being called in this moment to live more powerfully and boldly into Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of Beloved Community. What does this look like and how do we answer "Yes" to this calling in our lives and in our congregations? *Please note that the service will be videotaped and photographed, including some shots of the congregation *after* the children have left the Sanctuary. Please sit in the balcony or toward the back of the Sanctuary if you do not want to be photographed.

Sunday Forum

January 20, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Conversation and Q&A with

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the UUA

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray was elected President of the Unitarian Universalist Association on June 24, 2017. Prior to her election, she served as Lead Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, Arizona. Susan played a critical role in the long-term campaign to end constitutional violations by Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. Susan received a Master's of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School and a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She is a lifelong UU who grew up in the St. Louis area. She now lives in Cambridge, Mass., with her husband Brian and their son.

Friday Night with Friends Event Cancelled

Due to a busy weekend of various activities, the Women's Parish Association has cancelled its Friday Night with Friends event that was scheduled to be held on January 25. See notices about the February Community Supper event in *The Sunday News* and in the *FP Weekly*.

Margaret Fuller and #Metoo

Tuesday, January 29, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Emerson Room

Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council

Margaret Fuller [1810-1850] fought for women's equality and facilitated "conversations" encouraging women to develop their intellect. In 1845, she published *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, a feminist classic. Men and women are invited to join Mary-Wren vanderWilden as she facilitates a "conversation" about Fuller and feminism today. We will discuss a short excerpt from Fuller's writings. To register, visit the First Parish office Tuesday to Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., or call 978-369-9602. Preregistration and prepayment of \$10 fee is required. A reading will be emailed. Contact: Shelley_Hawks@msn.com.

Time for Action: An Invitation from the Standing Committee

Saturday, February 2, 9:30 a.m., in the Emerson Room

Over the last year and a half, we as a congregation have discussed, surveyed, analyzed and identified what makes First Parish wonderful and what gives us challenges. We invite First Parish members to a meeting to begin implementing those things that will strengthen First Parish for the future. We are looking for leadership, ideas, and commitment to make desired changes in these areas: Strengthening our Bonds within our community; Increasing Our Growth and Diversity; Expanding Our Connections with Other Communities; Deepening Our Spiritual Selves. Please RSVP or send questions to Dave Elwood, daveelwood@hotmail.com.

WPA's Participation in Open Table's Community Dinner

On Thursday, February 7, at 5:30 p.m., the Women's Parish Association will participate in Open Table's Community Dinner.

There are several rewarding volunteer opportunities where your assistance will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to help prepare for this event or attend its community building dinner, please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net by February 1.

Social Action

Interested in Providing Sanctuary?

First Parish is in its second year as a Level II Sanctuary Congregation. We are always looking for more volunteers to support our guest. The January trainings will be January 22, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and January 23, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., at First Parish in Bedford. Anyone interested in becoming a sanctuary volunteer, please stop at the Immigration Justice table after the service, or email Abby Buhle at abuhle68@gmail.com.

Poster Making for Women's March

Sunday, January 13, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., First Parish

Join us to prep for the Boston Women's March (Saturday January 19 – see separate listing). Bring ideas and materials to make signs, T-shirts, pink hats, banners. Or just come to help out, regardless of whether you are going to the March. Women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions are welcome. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment. Contact Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net) or Kate Kavanagh (katekav@gmail.com).

Lobby Day 101 Orientation

Sunday, January 13, 4:30 p.m., First Parish

What happens on Lobby Day? What makes an effective activist and advocate? Join us to discuss the important issues that will be highlighted at Lobby Day on January 17 (see separate listing—attend one or both events). These issues include access to safe, legal abortion; legislation that expands access to comprehensive sex education; and funding for Massachusetts family planning, teen pregnancy prevention, and HIV/AIDS prevention programs. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, January 15, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room

Immigration reform tops the action agenda: brainstorming how to collaborate with like-minded groups; creating publicity to dispel the myths that surround the issue. Ongoing letter-writing includes supporting individuals whose dire situations require urgent action and the release of two Azerbaijanian students imprisoned for peaceful protests. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, njlyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.

Sexual Health Lobby Day

Thursday, January 17, 8:45 a.m., State House in Boston

Be an activist at the State House in Boston! We'll meet with advocates from across the state to declare that access to sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right. We'll carpool from First Parish at 8:45 a.m. (See also the listing for "Lobby Day 101" orientation—attend one or both events.) Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Boston Women's March – Until All Voices Are Heard

Saturday, January 19, 8:00 a.m., Meet at First Parish

In 2017, millions took to the streets around the world to send a message. It was not a moment, but a *movement* that launched the Blue Wave, #MeToo, and changed lives. Come together again in solidarity on Boston Common! The program starts at 11:00 a.m. and features Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (marchforwardmassaction.org). If you would like take the free SAC-funded bus with the AWE, register online at EventBrite (search for "Bus from Concord to Boston Women's March" or www.eventbrite.com/e/bus-from-concord-to-boston-womens-march-2019-tickets-54667095755). First Parish member priority sign-up is through noon on Tuesday, January 15; first come/first serve thereafter. Bus departs First Parish at 8:30 a.m., leaves Boston at 2:30 p.m.

Funderburg Scholars Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, February 2, 6:30 to 9:15 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Help Roxbury youth attend and graduate from college—while you enjoy

a delicious meal with great company! These engaging students will tell stories about their college experiences. No fixed "price"—donate what feels right to you at the dinner. Reserve your place at dinner at coffee hour today by emailing Loretta Ho Sherblom at Loretta@LHSBenefits.com, or by texting or calling Loretta's cell at (508) 935-6750. Wine and cheese at 6:30 p.m., dinner by Caroline McCloy at 7:15 p.m., then dessert by Kristine Wiggins.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, January 13: Religious Exploration

9:15 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) meet in Parlor; visit Union Baptist Church in Cambridge for 10:30 a.m. service
9:45 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 classrooms 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 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 – Lower Level

Grade 3– Ripley and Greeley Rooms – Upper Level

UU Tweens Spirituality, Grades 4 & 5 – Wright Tavern

Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Emerson Room

4:00-6:00 p.m. – 8th Grade OWL, Session 2: "Sexuality and Body Awareness" – Emerson Room

6:00-8:00 p.m. – Youth Group – Wright Tavern

Next Sunday, January 20: Multiage MLK Justice Art Program

Little and Middle OWL Parent Orientation

Sunday, January 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Emerson Room

First Parish is pleased to offer comprehensive sexuality education not only to adolescents but also to First, Second and Fifth graders! Our Whole Lives (OWL) is designed to be developmentally appropriate. Little OWL will be offered for children in Grades 1 and 2. Middle OWL is for tweens in Grade 5. This program will be offered in the spring for eight Sundays and will begin a little earlier than our regular Religious Education time. These classes will meet from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. Parents or guardians are required to attend an orientation session. If you decide not to have your child participate, they will be included in another RE class during the 8-week program. For questions or to attend the Parent Orientation, please contact Dawn Van Patten at dvanpatten@firstparish.org

What Would YOU Ask Our President?

On Sunday, January 20, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, the current UUA President, will be our guest minister. Children and teens are invited to ask her questions about being UUA President or her perspective about life. In order for your questions to be considered, please give them in advance to Amy or email Amy at afreedman@firstparish.org. Thanks!

MLK Multiage Justice Art Program

Sunday, January 20, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., Emerson Room

While Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray speaks on "Beloved Community" in the Sanctuary, we will reflect and create with these profound words in Religious Education. Community Artist, Educator, and Activist Laura Evonne Steinman will be with us for a creative hands-on program. We will make heart pillows and whisper our prayers into them before sewing them up. These pillows will go out into our larger beloved community: those in Sanctuary, seeking pastoral care and more. We will also collaboratively collage a large banner that reads, "Let us live together in peace and love in BELOVED COMMUNITY"—MLK Jr. Feel free to bring stuffing for the pillows and any little paper or fabric scraps to add to the banner. Let these creative actions remind us that we are each an important part of creating a beloved community!