

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 20, 2019

This Week

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
Mon. Jan 21	7:00	Spiritual Audacity
Tues. Jan 22	7:00	RJAG Meeting
Wed. Jan 23	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	T'ai Chi Drop-In Class
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Jan 24	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Jan 25	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sun. Jan 27	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Parish Notes

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.

Conversation and Q/A with UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray Today, January 20, 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

The Forum Committee invites everyone to a conversation with Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. She was elected President of the UUA 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 the constitutional violations of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. Susan received a Masters 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 lives now in Cambridge, Mass., with her husband Brian and their son.

Art Exhibit by Kathy (Katalin) Spang

You are invited to view the exhibit of Kathy Spang's paintings in oil and watercolor displayed in the stairwell and the stage at First Parish. Kathy is a graduate of Art School, The Cooper Union in New York City, and she taught Fine Arts in public Elementary Schools for 31 years. Retirement has given her time to do what she loves—paint the landscape. If you are interested in buying one of the pieces on exhibit, please get in touch with her at 781-273-0032 or by email at katalinspang@yahoo.com. Kathy's website for her art is at katalinspang.com.

Stewards Needed: Join the Annual Pledge Campaign Team!

The Annual Pledge Campaign is coming in March and we'll need a large team of stewards that month to help contact parishioners who haven't pledged on Celebration Sunday, March 3. Most contacts are made by

email, and our Steward Captains are pros at helping stewards with information and suggestions for writing their messages! We have a great system to keep stewards informed of progress during the campaign and to record their feedback. Please consider taking a turn at this important but time-limited task this year. For questions or to join the team, please contact Irl Smith at opticsmith@mindspring.com.

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*.

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.

At-Home Women's Retreat: February 8 and 9

Registration is still open for the At-Home Women's Retreat that runs here at First Parish on Friday evening, February 8, and during the day on Saturday, February 9. The theme this year is "Our Voices, Our Peace, Our Power," and we invite all women of First Parish to attend. It's a great way to make new connections or deepen old friendships across the generations at First Parish, as well as to explore this year's theme. For questions or to sign up, please contact registrar Darien Smith directly at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

Concord Area Humanists

Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

"Paying for Pollution" incisively examines the very real cost of climate change and the challenges to reduce future damages from higher temperatures and more extreme weather. Gilbert Metcalf argues that a convergence of social, economic, and political forces provide an opening for a carbon tax solution appealing to politicians across the spectrum. Metcalf is John DiBiaggio Professor of Citizenship and Public Service and Professor of Economics at Tufts University. From 2011-2012, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Energy at U.S. Department of the Treasury. Questions? Contact Pat Everett at pne@aol.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 pekindc@comcast.net by February 1.

World Day of Prayer Service and Luncheon

Hosting Concord's commemoration of World Day of Prayer 2019 at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 1, is the Trinitarian Congregational Church of Concord. Women of Slovenia wrote this year's service, which will serve as a reminder that all people, regardless of social or economic status, are welcome to participate in life's feast. There is no

charge for the celebration luncheon. Reservations are not required. A free will offering will be accepted at the service. All are welcome. Contact Dian at pekindc@comcast.net if you have any souvenirs, artwork, crafts, folk costumes, etc., of Slovenia that you can let the committee use at this event.

Social Action

SAC Grants

The SAC Giving Team is accepting requests for the 2018-2019 church year annual SAC Grants nominations, now through March 1. The easy-to-complete Nomination Form is available online at surveymonkey.com/r/FPCSACForm. Please check out the SAC Grant webpage on the First Parish website for more information. If you are interested in participating in the SAC Grant review process, or would like more information, please contact Zach Roe (zroe@firstparish.org) or Liz Rust (liz@therusts.net).

Social Action “All-Church Read”

What book on a social action topic do you wish all First Parish people would read and discuss? Please submit your nomination of a book or books that have inspired you. Also, if you would like to help select the book and/or possibly be a small-group discussion leader, please let Wendy Holt know at wendyh@dmahealth.com.

Immigration Justice Task Force: Monthly Jericho Walk Tuesday, January 22, 1:00 p.m., ICE Office, 1000 District Ave., Burlington

All are welcome to this silent, peaceful, and prayerful walk to bring attention to and bring down the walls of our unjust immigration system. Please bring signs calling for justice for those caught in this broken system. Suggestions include: “Keep Families Together,” “Not One More/ Ni Una Mas,” and other supportive messages that do *not* call out specific individuals. We will gather in front of the ICE Office along District Ave. For information, contact Abby Abuhle at abuhle68@gmail.com.

Immigration Justice Task Force: Sanctuary Volunteer Potluck Saturday, January 26, 1:00 p.m., First Parish Bedford

Have you volunteered to support our Sanctuary guest over this past year? Please join us to celebrate the warmth, love, and community we’ve created. Our guest will join us for a delicious and relaxed time. Please RSVP to Abby Buhle at abuhle68@gmail.com.

AWE Feminist Book Group Meeting Wednesday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.

We’ll discuss *Persepolis*, a memoir by Marjane Satrapi. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her childhood in Iran, during which she witnessed the overthrow of the Shah’s regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war. Join the discussion even if you have not finished reading the book! Women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions are welcome. We’ll meet at 14 Pleasant Street, West Concord. RSVPs to Merrill Comeau at 14thebeesknees@gmail.com are appreciated.

AWE Friday Feminist Film Friday, February 1, 7:00 p.m.

We’ll show *RBG*, an intimate portrait of an unlikely rock star: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. With unprecedented access, the filmmakers explore how her early legal battles changed the world for women. Women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions are welcome. Contact Lou Toussaint at mloutoussaint@gmail.com.

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.

Immigration Justice Task Force: Cantata Encore Sunday, February 3, 10:00 a.m.

The world premiere of Composer John Kramer’s “Immigration Cantata” at FPUU last November was sung to a spellbound full house. It was truly amazing. If you missed it or want more, don’t miss this encore!

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, January 20: MLK Multiage Justice Art Program

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 the Emerson Room 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 the classroom listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

MLK Multiage Justice Art Program (K-8) – Emerson Room
8th Grade OWL – No session this Sunday
Coming of Age – No session this Sunday
6:00-8:00 p.m. – Youth Group – Wright Tavern

Next Sunday, January 27: Religious Exploration

MLK Multiage Justice Art Program

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

While the 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!

Kindness—All Ages Service

Sunday, February 10, 10:00, Sanctuary

Join us for a service celebrating kindness! Our children will help lead this service with Rev. Amy Freedman and Dawn Van Patten. On Sunday, February 3, during Religious Exploration time, each age group will prepare to lead the service. We will reflect on what kindness is and how we can bring more kindness into the world.

Come Celebrate the Lunar New Year!

Sunday, February 24, 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 Pig, 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!

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.

March 2019 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, February 19, 12:00 noon

Keep article length to 100 words and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.
The March 2019 edition will be published on February 27, 2019.