

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

February 10, 2019

## This Week

Sun. Feb 10	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Tues. Feb 12	8:30	Finance Committee
	2:00	Shawl Ministry
	7:00	Standing Committee Meeting
Wed. Feb 13	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	T'ai Chi Drop-In Class
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Feb 14	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Feb 15	12:30	T'ai Chi
	7:00	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sun. Feb 17	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir

## Parish Notes

### February's Share-the-Plate Recipient

The South Sudanese Enrichment for Families (SSEF), a nonprofit in Lincoln, serves the South Sudanese in Massachusetts. We have over 50 volunteers and welcome more! SSEF offers scholarships to a sleepaway camp, a preschool scholarship program, and a Saturday Bridges Program—an educational program for the whole family. We have volunteers who do everything from helping families with forms, becoming a friend of the family, or working alongside the once-refugees in our Saturday Program. Rachel Ater, a South Sudanese woman, will be at coffee hour. Please come by and learn about SSEF and meet Rachel, [SSEFBoston.org](mailto:SSEFBoston.org).

Donations for Share-the-Plate will be collected at Sunday services each month. Fifty percent of every non-pledge dollar will be given to the monthly Share-the-Plate organization, and fifty percent will go to supporting the work of First Parish. To make a separate donation to this month's organization, please contact them directly.

### March Meeting House News Deadline

**Tuesday, February 19, Noon; Published February 27**

Please send your final-form entry and images as attachments by February 19 or earlier to Wendy at [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto: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 in Concord" for details and upcoming dates, and previous *MHN* issues for examples. Thank you. The April issue deadline is March 19.

### Join the Ghosts of Wright Tavern for an Enchanted Evening

**Friday, March 1, 6:30 p.m., Sunroom, Wright Tavern**

A few tickets remain for the Colonial Dinner at the Wright Tavern! Enjoy an authentic four-course meal and colonial beverages in the sunroom at the Wright Tavern. The meal will be followed by tales of the Tavern's resident ghosts, based on Holly Cratsley's 25 years of working there. This will be one of the first times a full meal has been served in the Tavern since the 1800's. Tickets are \$100 each. Proceeds benefit First Parish. RSVP to Holly Cratsley at [holly@nasharch.com](mailto:holly@nasharch.com).

### Join the Bucket Brigade

Our Neighboring Activists (Grade 6) and their families delivered 41 buckets of sand to Concord seniors before the holidays. The Concord Council on Aging was grateful for our help in guarding against icy paths. Five additional seniors have requested buckets of sand. If you or your family is willing to pick up a bucket from the RE Office, fill it with sand, and deliver it to a Concord home, please contact Amy at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org). The sand is available at two locations: Rideout Field in West Concord and Sewer Pump Station on Keyes Road, across from Millbrook Tarry. Thank you for helping us be kind neighbors!

### Celebration Sunday Is Coming!

Keep a lookout for a letter about our 2019-2020 Annual Pledge campaign, which should hit your mailbox mid-February. Please mark your calendar for March 3, Celebration Sunday, when you'll be able to make your pledge. Thank you for your generosity.

### Evening Contemporary Worship

**Every first Tuesday of the Month, Beginning March 5 6:00 p.m., in the Chapel**

Come gather with us for vibrant evening worship and real connection! Please join us the first Tuesday of each month, starting March 5, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel. Services will be led by Gail Carey, Assistant Director of Music Ministry, and Laurel Gray, FP Ministerial Intern. Musicians from the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble will help lead congregational singing. Lay leaders will share reflections on their call to social justice work. Learn what inspires us forward together in kindness. Come as you are.

**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).

## Social Action

### South Sudanese Enrichment for Families

In 1985, villages were burning! People running! Genocide was happening in South Sudan. Sixteen thousand children ran for months to the relative safety of a refugee camp in Kenya. Those who did not survive died of starvation, animal predation, disease, and murder from the Northern Sudanese army. In 2000, 150 “Lost Boys” from Sudan came to the Boston area. The South Sudanese Enrichment was established to support these orphans as they acclimated to life in America. Some have done well and others struggle. At coffee hour today, come meet Rachel Ater and Moses Ajou and find out how you can help.

### AWE Monthly Meeting

**Saturday, February 16, 8:00 a.m.**

#### New Location: West Concord

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 on the third Saturday of each month and are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions. New location: Art Gym, 152 Commonwealth Avenue, West Concord (above Nashoba Brook Bakery). Contact: Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).

### Immigration Justice Task Force Update

The FPUU members' November 2018 trip to the Arizona/Mexico border has been highlighted in two recent articles: the *Concord Journal* on January 24, 2019, “Journey to the Southern Border” and the *Lexington Colonial Times*, January/February, 2019, “A Trip to the Wall.” To discuss or learn more, contact Laurie Van Loon at [lvanloon@comcast.net](mailto:lvanloon@comcast.net).

### Immigration Justice Task Force: Monthly Jericho Walk

**Tuesdays, February 19 and March 19, 1:00 p.m.**

#### ICE Office, 1000 District Ave., Burlington, Mass.

If you're asking, “What can I do to stand with migrants in need?” please consider joining 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). Gather in front of the ICE Office along District Ave. For information, contact Pamela Chester at [pgchester@gmail.com](mailto:pgchester@gmail.com).

### Amnesty International, Group 15

**Tuesday, February 19, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room**

Globally, our ongoing letter writing supports individuals worldwide whose dire situations require urgent action. We continue to work on behalf of two Azerbaijanian students imprisoned for peaceful protests. Nationally, we are focused on the abolition of the death penalty and immigration issues. Tracking prison reform in Massachusetts is also on our agenda. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, [njlyons22@gmail.com](mailto:njlyons22@gmail.com) or 978-505-1936.

## LunaFest Film Festival

**Saturday, March 30, 7:00 p.m., Concord Academy**

Join us at LunaFest—a fundraising film festival by, for, and about women. Proceeds will benefit Dignity in Asylum, a woman-founded organization that supports asylum seekers, refugees, people who have been granted asylum, and unaccompanied minors at risk of homelessness in our local area (<https://www.dignityinasyllum.org/>). The evening will include refreshments for purchase and a 50/50 raffle. Online ticket sales will begin soon, or tickets can be purchased at the door (\$15). Contact Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).

## Religious Exploration

**This Sunday, February 10: Religious Exploration**

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

10:00 a.m. – KINDNESS – All Ages Service

4:00-6:00 p.m. – 8th Grade OWL, Session 5: Relationships, Communication, and Consent – Emerson Room

4:00-6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age (Grade 9): Reverse Masks with Rev. Amy Freedman – Parish Hall

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

**Next Sunday, February 17: PEACE: Multiage Program**

**PEACE: Multiage Program (K-8th grade)**

**Sunday, February 17, 10:15-11:15 a.m., Emerson Room**

Following the Children's Message, we will begin planning for our participation in the Mother's Day March for Peace on Sunday, May 12. The walk is a beloved tradition and celebration of our potential to create more peaceful communities.

### Youth Group

**Sunday, February 10, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wright Tavern**

High School teens are invited to Youth Group this Sunday in the Wright Tavern next door to First Parish. Join us for pizza and planning our March 1-2 Youth Group Lock-in at First Parish! We want your ideas for food, movies, games, and shenanigans. Questions? Contact Lead Youth Advisor Madzie Burnham at [mfburnham@comcast.net](mailto:mfburnham@comcast.net).

### Looking for a Way to Lend a Hand? Be an RE Greeter!

Would you help us welcome families both old and new as they walk into church? Sign up to be an RE Greeter! You can be an RE Greeter on your own or with your family. This is an easy way to make a difference! Please consider volunteering for one 25-minute slot (or as many as you like) on Sunday morning from 9:45-10:10 a.m. For more information and to sign up online, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4CA5AD2CA5FC1-25minute>. Please contact Jean Chandler if you have questions at [jeanjeanc2@aol.com](mailto:jeanjeanc2@aol.com). We would be grateful for your help!

### Come Celebrate the Lunar New Year!

**Sunday, February 24, 10:00 to 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!