

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

April 7, 2019

This Week

Sun. Apr. 7	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Tues. Apr. 9	8:30	Finance Committee Meeting
	6:00	Shawl Ministry
	7:00	Standing Committee Meeting
Wed. Apr. 10	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Apr. 11	7:30	Buddhist Group
Sat. Apr. 13	9:30	Photo Club
Sun. Apr. 14	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Palm Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Parish Notes

Share The Plate: April's Recipient: The LGBT Asylum Task Force

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Asylum Task Force is dedicated to supporting and empowering LGBTQI individuals who are fleeing persecution and seeking asylum in the United States. Those who file for asylum in the U.S. are not permitted to work until they are granted a work permit and social security number, a process which can take more than a year. During that time, the Task Force strives to provide housing, legal assistance, financial support, and community for asylum seekers.

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.

Coffee Hour Bargains Today!

Come to the Sale on the Parish Hall Stage! Many bargains from yesterday's flea market are available at today's coffee hour! See you there!

An Elf Workshop Chat

Today, April 7, at Coffee Hour

Stop by our coffee hour table after the service to brainstorm ideas for the 2019 Children's Holiday Craft Workshop. All are welcome! Provide feedback, suggest a new craft, vote for past favorites, or just hang out with your fellow merry elves. You can also email us all year at craftsworkshop@firstparish.org. (And save the date for the workshop on Saturday, December 7, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.) Hosted by Kimberly Brainerd, Kristin Moore, and Jeanne Williams.

Meeting House News Deadline

May Issue Deadline: Tuesday, April 9, Noon; Published April 17

Due to the Passover and Easter holidays, the May *MHN* deadline is very early in April this year—April 9. Please be sure to plan ahead, especially with your committees. Send final form entry and images as attachments to the Editor at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. Word limit is 100; content can be Word or Text files (not PDFs); and images can be

JPEG or PNG. Please review the formatting guidelines available in the "Publicizing Events at First Parish in Concord" brochure. You can download it from the church website on the News Submission Guidelines page.

Spring Circle Supper—Cancelled

Saturday, May 4 (rescheduled from April 27)

We're short on planning help to make this fun casual potluck dinner evening happen. The program is on hold. If you'd like to organize this or be a part of reshaping the program, please get in touch with Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu, or cell 978-578-1077.

Annual Meeting—Sunday, June 9, 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

At our all-congregation Annual Meeting, we will hear reports, vote for officers and Standing Committee members, approve UUA General Assembly delegates, approve our budget, etc. Those who have signed the membership book at least 30 days prior to meeting may vote. If you are considering joining our community and would like to participate, please sign the book by Friday, May 10. One opportunity for this is April 14. Warrant articles (agenda items) must be submitted to the Standing Committee by April 9 so we may approve them in advance. A presentation of the proposed 2019-2020 budget is planned for June 2 at 11:30 a.m.; come see the budget and ask questions in advance of the Annual Meeting. Contact is Dave Elwood, chair, Standing Committee, at daveelwood@hotmail.com.

Social Action

Greeley Scholar Event for April 7 Forum Cancelled:

We have received word that Dr. Fania Davis has had to cancel her Canadian and Greeley Scholar engagements due to illness. We wish her well and look forward to a reschedule in October, 2019. Greeley Scholar planning group at FP.

All Parish Social Action Book Read:

Climate Church, Climate World

Thanks for the all-Parish read submissions. The Social Action Council has selected *Climate Church, Climate World* by Jim Antal, with an intro from Bill McKibben. [The author protested the West Roxbury gas-line extension alongside Tim DeChristopher and John Gibbons (FP Bedford).] It is timely for us as a congregation to consider how we are called to take action for the earth. This book is a moral argument addressed foremost to Christians. Our discussion leaders will explore this book through UU principles. We will be ready for a speech by Jim Antal in June. The book is available for purchase at coffee hour. Watch for discussion group announcements.

Recap From Vigil at Boston House of Corrections

For the entire hour of our vigil, detainees pressed against their barred windows, tapped on the glass, and waved at us; some made signs with hearts and held them up for us to see. Over 100 people from faith communities, including many from First Parish, participated in the March 31 Vigil at the Boston House of Corrections. It was a powerful and moving experience. If you want to know more, just ask a member of the Immigration Justice Taskforce. Please also consider joining us for the April Vigil. Details to be announced.

Join UU Mass Action and IJTF for UU Advocacy Day!

Tuesday, April 9, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Arlington Street Church 351 Boylston Street, Boston, and The State House

We will begin our day in celebration with song and worship, a chance to honor our outstanding volunteers and to hear from author, educator and inspirational keynote speaker Chris Crass! Attendees will be grouped by Senate constituency at lunch. Everyone heads to

the State House at 1:00 p.m. to meet with their legislators. Registration, \$40, required via Eventbrite, <http://bit.ly/2HPx3o8>, or FP Facebook page. Questions? Contact Tony Rodriguez, trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

Participate in the Patriot's Day Parade, Monday, April 15

The First Parish Reclaim Our Democracy group and its supporters will be walking in this year's Patriot's Day Parade in Concord. We will be gathering at 8:30 a.m., April 15, on Stow Street between the Hunt Gym and the armory. Wear comfortable shoes and be ready to sing as we walk through the streets of Concord to celebrate Patriot's Day and democracy. This is a fun family friendly event. Please join us and help support this very important effort. If you are interested or have questions, please email Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Immigration Justice Taskforce, Monthly Jericho Walk Tuesday, April 16, 1:00 p.m., ICE Office, 1000 District Ave., Burlington, Massachusetts

Immigration injustice continues: In the last weeks, hundreds of migrant families seeking asylum were released from detention without warning, and without food, water, money or a means to travel to their court hearings or reunite with any relatives in the U.S. If you're eager to bring attention to our broken immigration system, please join this peaceful protest. Gather in front of the ICE Office along District Ave. For info contact Pamela Chester, pgchester@gmail.com.

Amnesty International, Group 15 Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room

Our advocacy on behalf of two Azerbaïjani students, in prison since 2016, is over at last. They were released on March 16. We continue to work on immigration issues, including joining local efforts; the abolition of the death penalty; and Massachusetts prison reform. Our monthly letter writing supports individuals worldwide whose lives are in jeopardy because of their human-rights work. Please join us. For more information: Nancy Lyons, nilyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.

AWE Monthly Meeting Saturday, April 20, 8:00 a.m.; New Location—West Concord

We'll have a quick business meeting, but much of the meeting will involve a creative process that will culminate in identifying themes for a banner for AWE. Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month and are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions. New Location: Art Gym, 152 Commonwealth Avenue in West Concord (above Nashoba Brook Bakery). Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Roxbury Youth Program Tour of Eliot Square Saturday, April 20, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., First Church, 10 Putnam Street, Boston

Carpool with us into Roxbury to learn about the rich history of the Highland Park neighborhood and support the Roxbury Youth Program at the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. Cost is \$10. Sponsored by the Racial Justice Action Group. To register stop by our coffee hour table or contact Leslie Fisher, lesliefisher@treitman.com. (Note: If you cannot make April 20, there is another tour scheduled on April 27; contact Marcia Butman, mbutman@gmail.com.)

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, March 31: Religious Exploration

9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room
10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Little OWL – Lower Level
Middle OWL – Wright Tavern
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- 11:15 a.m.

“Connecting with Nature,” Multiage (K-5) – Upper Level
Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Chapel

4:00-6:00 p.m. – 8th Grade OWL: Session 9: Pregnancy and
Unintended Pregnancy Options – Emerson Room

4:00-6:00 p.m. Coming of Age: Spirituality and Worship – Parish Hall

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

Next Sunday, April 7: Religious Exploration

Would you like to join an RE Team?

Sunday, March 31, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Emerson Room

This year we have working groups focusing on certain areas of our Religious Education program. We have openings on the following teams:

Social Action Team—Helping all ages make a difference in the world through education and service.

Teacher Resource Team—Supporting our volunteer teaching teams by providing resources.

Welcome Team—Creating a welcoming and warm environment for all families, including guests and newcomers.

Youth Team—Full!

If you'd like to join a team or learn more, please contact Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education, at

afreedman@firstparish.org.

Easter Egg Decorating Sunday, April 14, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

During our regular RE time, children in Kindergarten, 3, and 4 will decorate Easter Eggs. Families are asked to bring one dozen hard-boiled eggs (if you can). Everyone will be able to take four eggs home. We will decorate eggs for our First Parish Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 21, at 10:00 a.m. (between the two services). We will have a rainbow of colors and other supplies ready for you to join in the fun!

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.