

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

April 21, 2019

## This Week

Sun. Apr. 21	9:00	Easter Sunday Service
	11:00	Easter Sunday Service
Tues. Apr. 23	6:00	RJAG Meeting
Wed. Apr. 24	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Apr. 25	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri. Apr. 26	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sat. Apr. 27	5:00	Passover Seder
Sun. Apr. 28	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	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 United States are not permitted to work until they are granted a work permit and social security number, a process that 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.

### First Parish Cooperative Passover Seder Saturday, April 27, Parish Hall, 5:00 p.m.

Passover is both a meal and a retelling of the Exodus story, with the readings, songs, and eating of symbolic foods. Whether you have a Jewish background or never attended a Seder before, you are welcome. Children are not only welcome—they make the Seder more special and fun. Our Cooperative Seder will include a potluck dinner. Each person is asked to choose a job (setup or serving or cleanup) and to bring one or two items. Please sign up online: [signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DA4A822A4F49-passover](http://signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DA4A822A4F49-passover). Questions? Contact Dana Snyder-Grant at 978-760-1129 or [dana.snydergrant@gmail.com](mailto:dana.snydergrant@gmail.com), or visit the Passover table at coffee hour.

### Nominations for the First Parish Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is looking for people who would like to be considered to serve on the First Parish Finance Committee. The purpose of the Finance Committee is to assist the Treasurer and Standing Committee in their efforts to support the Head of Staff and the Director of Operations. In the past several years, the Committee has conducted a Stewardship report, facilitated a review of the financials with an outside accountant, and worked on a variety of projects to help improve the financial condition of First Parish. The Committee typically meets once a month from September to June. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in serving on the Finance Committee, please contact Michelle Fortier at [mfortierhome@gmail.com](mailto:mfortierhome@gmail.com).

### IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions to First Parish

Certain donors to First Parish have the opportunity to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution—a nontaxable distribution made directly by the

administrator of an IRA to a qualified public charity. A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a great way for individuals that are over 70 & 1/2 years old with an IRA and a need to withdraw funds to meet a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to make a contribution to First Parish. The money you contribute to First Parish using a QCD is not included in your adjusted gross income on your tax return. In recent years over a dozen members are using QCDs to fulfill their pledge at First Parish in Concord. If you are interested in making a donation via a QCD, please contact Fifi Ball at [fball@firstparish.org](mailto:fball@firstparish.org).

### Are You Interested in Serving on the Standing Committee?

The Standing Committee is First Parish's board. Candidates must be Members of First Parish and should have an active interest in matters such as governance, budgets, finance, committee work, meetings, or other organization-wide perspectives on the life and policies of our congregation. Please contact Eric Moore at 978-254-5037 or [eric.aaron.moore@gmail.com](mailto:eric.aaron.moore@gmail.com), or any other member of the Nominating Committee.

### Ferry Beach Retreat—Register Now! Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27

Join families, couples, and singles from First Parish for this relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine over Memorial Day Weekend. Registration is open now through Sunday, April 28, and will be taken during coffee hour and in the church office during business hours. The Registration Packet can also be downloaded from [firstparish.org/forms](http://firstparish.org/forms). There is information in the packet about some changes to lodging choices, fees, and policies for our use of the campus this year. Contact Registrar Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) with questions or to enquire about scholarship assistance.

### Concord Area Humanists: "Strengthening Voter Rights" Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Presented by Iván Espinoza-Madriral, Executive Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR). Under his leadership, LCR has become a hub for litigation and advocacy, racial justice, immigrants' rights, and LGBT/HIV equality. LCR filed the first lawsuits in the country against the Trump Administration to protect sanctuary cities and to block immigration arrests in courthouses. Iván has filed and won dozens of cases on a wide range of civil rights issues. We will also discuss implications of Census 2020. Contact Patrick Everett at [pne@aol.com](mailto:pne@aol.com) if you have any questions.

### "Unlaunch'd Voices: An Evening with Walt Whitman" Saturday, May 4, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary \$10 at the door (scholarships upon request)

Shakespearean actor Stephen Collins portrays Walt Whitman in this award-winning one-man show, written by Michael Z. Keamy. Reception to follow. Come and celebrate Whitman's Bicentennial! Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council and The Thoreau Society.

### Adjusting to the "New Normal"

The First Tuesday Group will meet on Tuesday, May 7, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. to discuss life events that are so big they require adjusting to a "new normal." Examples include retirement (last month's topic) to the loss of a partner, a changed medical status, or the advent of a grandchild. A panel of Bill Fry, Berni Jenkins, Dick Shohet, and Dana Snyder-Grant will share some of their personal adjustments. Small group discussions will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss their own personal "new normal." Come learn more about how we all can successfully adjust to our "new normals"! (While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.

### **Lucy Stone—Fierce Abolitionist and Suffragist**

Don't miss this event on Friday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m., about Lucy Stone—ardent abolitionist, supporter of general human rights, and a fierce fighter for women's right to vote. She inspired thousands of women to work tirelessly to secure the right to attend college, to vote, and have their voices loudly heard in the public square. Critically acclaimed actor Judith Kalaora, founder and artistic director of History at Play, will educate and inspire you by her powerful portrayal of Lucy Stone. Men, women, and youth will thoroughly enjoy this event. Refreshments served. Entrance: \$10. Children under 12, no charge. Reservations appreciated: contact office of [pekincd@comcast.net](mailto:pekincd@comcast.net).

### **Love and Friendship**

**Saturday, May 11, 3:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room  
Free and Open to the Public**

Jim Sherblom will lead a conversation based on our reading of Emerson's essays, "Love" and "Friendship," and how they relate to our lives today. Contact Shelley Hawks at [shelley\\_hawks@msn.com](mailto:shelley_hawks@msn.com) to register and receive a digital copy of the essays. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council, as part of the "Hidden Treasures" program of Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.

## **Social Action**

### **Now Accepting Share the Plate Nominations**

The SAC Giving Team is now accepting requests for Share the Plate nominations. In Share the Plate collections, half of the funds raised (other than those designated as fulfilling pledges), will go to the designated recipient organization and the other half will go to First Parish. The congregation has an opportunity to learn about the organization, including ways of getting more involved. The Nomination Form is online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPCSACForm>. The team will be selecting nominations for September through December. Applications are due by May 13. Questions, please contact Liz Rust ([liz@therusts.net](mailto:liz@therusts.net)), Ted Bayne ([tedbayne@comcast.net](mailto:tedbayne@comcast.net)), Sue St.Croix ([sue@suestcroix.com](mailto:sue@suestcroix.com)), or Stephanie Liu ([liuhortonfamily@gmail.com](mailto:liuhortonfamily@gmail.com)).

### **All-Parish Social Action Book Read:**

#### ***Climate Church, Climate World***

Thanks to all who submitted nominations for an all Parish read. 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 care of the earth. This book is a moral argument addressed foremost to Christians. Our discussion leaders will help us explore this book through our UU principles. We will be ready for a Concord speech by Jim Antal in June. The book is available for purchase at coffee hour. Watch for discussion group announcements.

### **First Parish Environmental Team Monthly Meeting**

**Monday April 22, 7:30 p.m.**

Concerned about climate justice and how we can take action as a community? The Environmental Team works together on these issues, locally and globally, by organizing public events, promoting policy initiatives, and taking on projects at First Parish. If you might like to get involved, please come to the next ET monthly meeting or contact Brad Hubbard-Nelson ([bradhn@mindspring.com](mailto:bradhn@mindspring.com)).

### **Immigration Justice Taskforce, April Vigil Please Join Us, Even at the Last Minute!**

**Sunday, April 28, Suffolk County House of Corrections  
20 Bradston Street, Boston, Mass.**

We return this month to gather in solidarity for immigrants who are being detained in Boston at the House of Corrections. Gather with the IJTF and neighbors from other congregations to let those detained, while waiting court dates related to immigration, know they are not forgotten. The detainees will see us and hear us and hopefully take courage from our Vigil. On-street parking is available. Questions, contact Tony Rodriguez, [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com).

### **POTUS 1: The Next Fight for Democracy—Lawrence Lessig Monday, April 29, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

Can we make the 2020 election about something more than simply electing a new President? Can it become an election that unites America? Can we leverage what unifies America, and get an (unrigged) democracy that could work? Professor, Lawyer, and Political Activist Lawrence Lessig will be presenting his thoughts on what we need to do to unify America and reclaim our democracy. He is the author of several recent books, including *America Compromised* and *Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Our Congress—and a Plan to Stop It*. Sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy. Contact Fred at [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com) for additional information.

### **AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series Friday, May 3, 7:00 p.m., Chapel**

We'll show *Mary Queen of Scots*, nominee for Best Costume Design at the 2019 Academy Awards. The film explores the turbulent life of the charismatic Mary Stuart. Queen of France at 16, widowed at 18, she defies pressure to remarry and returns to her native Scotland to reclaim her throne. By birth, she also has a rival claim to the throne of Elizabeth I, who rules as the Queen of England. Mary asserts this claim to the English throne, threatening Elizabeth's sovereignty. Betrayal, rebellion and conspiracies imperil both Queens - driving them apart, as each experience the bitter cost of power. Contact: Lou Toussaint ([mloutoussaint@gmail.com](mailto:mloutoussaint@gmail.com)).

## **Religious Exploration**

**This Sunday, April 21: Easter**

8:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level  
9:00 a.m. – Easter Service for all ages  
10:00 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt, Meet on the Terrace  
10:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level  
11:00 a.m. – Easter Service for all ages

**Next Sunday, April 28: Religious Exploration**

9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level  
10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.  
Little OWL – Lower Level  
Middle OWL – Wright Tavern  
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
10:15- 11:15 a.m.  
"Connecting with Nature," Multiage (K-5)– Upper Level  
Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Chapel  
Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room  
4:00-6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age– Parish Hall

**Next Sunday, April 14: Religious Exploration**

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

**Sunday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.**

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children at 10:00 a.m. on the Church green. All are welcome!

### **Special Guests from Drumlin Farm**

**Sunday, April 28, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., in the Emerson Room**

We are excited to welcome special guests from Drumlin Farm! As part of our "Connecting with Nature" program (K-5), a naturalist will visit First Parish with live native wildlife. All living things are connected. We will observe native animals and learn about their adaptations, habitats, and interrelationships with each other, humans, and the environment. Come join 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](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).

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