Edgar Allan Poe and the Transcendentalists
Friday, January 24, 7:00 p.m.
Edgar Allan Poe had a bone to pick with literary Boston—especially Transcendentalism. Poe disapproved of their beliefs and attacked Emerson and his followers. His fiction included biting satires of the movement. Hear from Poe himself, portrayed by literary historian Rob Velella, as he takes aim at the Transcendentalists. Velella writes about 19th-century American literary figures. He dramatically brings to life authors Nathaniel Hawthorne and Edgar Allan Poe. Tickets $10. For reservations, email diannemeweiss@comcast.net, or call the First Parish office at 978-369-9602. Scholarships available on request.

Warm Winter Evening With Friends
Saturday, January 25, 7:00 p.m.
Don’t miss this interesting event offered by the Women’s Parish Association. Barbara Forman will talk about 19th-century winter family activities. John Althouse will discuss how he makes hard cider. There will be 19th-century snacks, desserts, and drinks; as well as craft-making, music, and yarn spinning demonstrations by Krysten Mangianti, which will all serve to transport you back in time to experience how our ancestors spent winter evenings. All in all, a cozy, fireside gathering! This is a family event. All women, men, youth, and children are warmly invited. Cost: $7 per person, with a maximum of $25 per family. For reservations, contact the office at 978-369-9602 or pekindl@comcast.net.

WPA’s Participation in Open Table’s Community Dinner—February 6
On Thursday, February 6, the Women’s Parish Association will participate in Open Table’s monthly Community Dinner. There are several very rewarding volunteer opportunities where your assistance will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to work on this event or attend this community building dinner, please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Melita Teichert at mmmtconcord1@gmail.com.

Pilot Adult Neighboring Faiths Class
A pilot adult Neighboring Faiths class being offered this February and March. It will run for 7 weeks, with once-a-week weeknight classes, plus visits to other houses of worship. For more information, please contact Jan Power at jpower6@gmail.com.

Social Action
Environmental Team Meeting with Laura Wagner of UU Mass Action
Don’t miss the Environmental Team meeting with Laura Wagner of UU Mass Action and our monthly meeting in the Emerson Room at 11:30 a.m., following the service today. Be sure to also attend the talk with Varshini Prakash on January 21 (more information on next page). Contact Bob Andrews at bob.andrews3@me.com.

“UU the Vote” Official Launch
Sunday, January 12, 3:30 p.m., Chapel
The stakes couldn’t be higher in the 2020 elections. All our values, our work for justice, the communities we love, and the beloved community we seek to create are under attack. We must speak and act with moral courage. This launch event will feature a live video from the UUA about the organizing plan for “UU the Vote” across the country, strategies to be deployed, available materials, and how congregations can get involved. After the broadcast we will discuss what we can do at First Parish, such as voter registration, education, persuasion, mobilization, and challenging voter suppression. Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen, fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Inside Beacon Hill: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Our state political system is more broken than we may realize. State Representatives Tami Gouveia and Jon Hecht will fill us in on life inside the Massachusetts State House, and let us know what’s working, what isn’t, and what’s needed to fix it. Sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy. Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen, fredvandeu@gmail.com.
MLK Celebration at UUUM
Sunday, January 19, 3:00 p.m.
First Church, 10 Putnam, Roxbury, MA
Carpool into Roxbury to attend Opera unMet’s The Ties That Bind. Through music, readings, and interactive participation, this celebration has drawn diverse audiences together for over 20 years to reflect on the works of Dr. Martin Luther King. It has been called “one of the brightest lights to shine on MLK Day.” Sponsored by the Racial Justice Action Group. To register, contact Leslie Fisher at lesliefisher@treitman.com and let her know if you’re interested in driving in early for lunch at a locally owned restaurant.

Use Your Feet to Let Your Voice Be Heard!
The first Jericho Walk of 2020 will be Tuesday, January 21, at 1:00 p.m. This silent, peaceful walk at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement building protests the administration’s ongoing cruel treatment of immigrants, including very young children and youth. If you can, please bring a sign with non-partisan words of support or protest, e.g. “No more forced family separations.” Please join the Immigration Justice Taskforce at 10 District Avenue, Burlington, MA, snow or shine. All are needed! A member of the JJTF can help with further information: Abby Buhle, Jane Blumberg, or Nancy Kerr.

Climate Solutions Speaker Series Presents: Varshini Prakash
January 21, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Willard School Auditorium, 185 Powder Mill Rd., Concord, MA
The Climate Solutions Speaker Series, co-sponsored by The First Parish Environmental Team and nine other local organizations, presents Varshini Prakash, co-founder, Executive Director, and national leader of the Sunrise Movement, a youth-led grassroots organization mobilizing millions to stop climate change, transform the economy, and make the Green New Deal a reality. Varshini was raised in Acton and graduated from UMass Amherst. Her work has been featured in The New York Times and New Yorker. She was recently named as TIME’s 2019 100 Next List Rising Star. Program includes questions and answers, followed by a reception.

Safe Communities Act Hearing
The State House visit for the Safe Communities Act is less than two weeks away! The Immigration Justice Taskforce has been working for months with other justice-minded organizations to support this legislation; it will help reduce the fear in immigrant communities and allow our neighbors to seek help from their schools, clinics, and the police. The hearing is Friday, January 24, at 11:00 a.m., at the Gardner Auditorium, State House, Boston. To attend, or if you would like some other ways to influence the hearing, please contact Tony Rodriguez at trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

Funderburg Scholars Fundraising Dinner
Saturday, February 1, 6:30 to 9:15 p.m., 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 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 McClay at 7:15 p.m., then dessert by Kristine Wiggins!

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series
Friday, February 7, at 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel
AWE (Advocates for Women’s Empowerment) will be featuring Queen of Katwe for the First Friday February. Queen of Katwe is based on a vibrant true story and stars Lupita Nyong’o and David Oyelowo. A Ugandan girl’s life changes forever when she discovers she has an amazing talent for chess, in this celebration of the human spirit.

Your Presence is Needed at the JJTF Monthly Meetings
“In 2019, 69,550 children were wrenched from their migrant families at the southern border . . . this practice continues and more than 4,000 children and young teens remain in custody and will inevitably suffer emotional trauma and physical harm,” reported the Associated Press in December. The Immigration Justice Taskforce is a committed, action-oriented group that would love for you to try us out. Monthly meetings are 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. Mark your calendars! You are welcome and needed!

Religious Exploration
Youth Service Planning Begins!
Today, January 12, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
All First Parish High School teens are invited to a special Youth Group gathering when we will begin planning our Youth Service together. The service will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 15. Join Madzie for pizza in the Kitchen at 6:00 p.m. Even if you are not available for dinner, join us in the Wright Tavern from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. when Rev. Amy Freedman will help us choose a worship theme and empower us to create an amazing service! Questions? Contact Madzie Burnham, Lead Youth Advisor, at mburnham@comcast.net or 617-877-9858.

Intergenerational “Family Choir” Opportunity
Do you like to sing? Always wanted to sing with a choir but have no time to commit? We have a singing opportunity for you! On Sunday, January 19, singers of all ages are invited to join with First Parish choirs to form an intergenerational Family Choir. This one-rehearsal choir is open to all First Parish congregants. To participate, you can simply come to the Sanctuary promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 19. We’ll teach a few easy-to-learn songs for the 10:00 a.m. service that day. Families are also welcome to join in children’s choir rehearsals today when we will be learning the same music. It’s a great opportunity to sing with your child, grandchild, niece or nephew . . . Come join in the fun as you like! Questions? Contact Gail Carey at gc Carey@firstparish.org.

Middle OWL Parent Orientation
Sunday, January 26, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Wright Tavern
First Parish is pleased to offer comprehensive sexuality education not only to adolescents but also to 5th graders! 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. One parent/guardian is required to attend the Orientation and both parents are required to sign the Permission Form to register. If you decide not to have your child participate, they will be included in another RE class during the eight-week program. For more information, contact Dawn at dv anpatten@firstparish.org.

This Sunday, January 12: Religious Exploration
9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths, Grade 7– Brooks Room
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 classroom 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.

Spirit Play, Kindergarten and Grades 1– Lower Level
Celebrating Our 6 Sources, Grade 2– Emerson Room
Celebrating Our 6 Sources, Grade 3– Greeley Room
Bibleodeon, Grades 4 & 5– Wright Tavern
Neighboring Activists, Grade 6– Ripley Room
Grade 8 counting Guest at Your Table collection– Chapel
4:00- 6:00 p.m. – 8th Grade OWL– Emerson Room
4:00- 6:30 p.m. – Coming of Age with Mentors, Families join at 5:30 p.m. for an informal potluck–Parish Hall
6:00- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group Pizza– Kitchen
6:30-8:00 p.m. Youth Group Service Planning– Wright Tavern

Next Sunday, January 19, 10:00 a.m.
“Journeying Toward Spiritual Wholeness”
All-Ages Service on MLK Weekend
There is a call for an 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism! Come learn how we could more boldly “dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” This will be a service for all ages with a special Family Choir and reflections from Rev. Amy Freedman and Rev. Howard Dana. This will be an uplifting way to honor the vision of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to renew our commitments.

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.