

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

## January 12, 2020

### This Week

Sun. Jan 12	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Environmental Team Program
	12:00	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
	3:30	UU the Vote Program
Tues. Jan 14	2:00	Shawl Ministry
	7:00	Reclaim Our Democracy
	7:00	Standing Committee Meeting
Wed. Jan 15	8:00	Trustees' Meeting
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thur. Jan 16	7:00	Membership Committee Meeting
	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri. Jan 17	7:00	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sun. Jan 19	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:00	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
	6:00	Third Sunday Supper

### Parish Notes

#### January's Share the Plate: UU Mass Action

Initiated in 2005 by UUSC funding; it was the first of 12 UU State Advocacy Networks (today 22). 50 UU Parishes in MA support it financially. It seeks to inspire 20,000 UU's and their congregations in our state. Justice projects are picked according to congregation priorities. There are four core action-legislative campaigns: ending Mass Incarceration, Immigrant Rights, Economic Rights, and Climate Change. In the spring of 2014, Laura Wagner became Executive Director. She will be visiting First Parish January 12th. For more information, visit [uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org) or call 508-308-9261.

#### Women's Retreat Registration—Deadline Today, January 12

The theme for this year's Women's Retreats is "Simplify." Registration continues through January 12. All women of First Parish are invited to attend one of the Away retreats at Senexet House (January 24 to 31 or January 31 to February 2), or the At-Home retreat at First Parish (February 8 and 9). Details are available at coffee hour, in the FP Weekly email, or by contacting registrar Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com). Forms are also available during the week in the church office and online at [firstparish.org/forms](http://firstparish.org/forms).

#### Do You Like to Cook? Would You Enjoy Cooking with Others Who Enjoy Being in the Kitchen?

Third Sunday Supper is looking for cooks! We need a few people who would like to join us on the third Sunday of each month to prepare the meal we serve to the congregation. Join us in the kitchen once, or every month. It's up to you! We gather at 4:00 p.m. and prepare a simple meal for the 45-55 guests who attend. Teens welcome. Please contact Sue Ryan at [susanryan101@comcast.net](mailto:susanryan101@comcast.net) if you'd like more information.

#### A Visit by Louisa May Alcott

First Parish members are invited to attend a living history performance by Jan Turnquist as Louisa May Alcott on Tuesday, January 21, at 7:00 p.m., in the Parlor. Turnquist is the Executive Director of Orchard House, where Alcott wrote Little Women. This event is free. Sponsored by Calvin College during their annual visit. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council.

#### 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 [diannemcweiss@comcast.net](mailto:diannemcweiss@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 Morganti, 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 [pekincd@comcast.net](mailto:pekincd@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 [mmtconcord1@gmail.com](mailto:mmtconcord1@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 IJTF 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

**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 IJTF 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 [mfburnham@comcast.net](mailto:mfburnham@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 [gcarey@firstparish.org](mailto:gcarey@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 [dvanpatten@firstparish.org](mailto:dvanpatten@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](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).  
The Sunday News can be read online at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).