

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 19, 2020

This Week

| | | |
|--------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| Tues. Jan 21 | 7:00 | Louisa May Alcott Performance |
| | 7:00 | Amnesty International Meeting |
| Wed. Jan 22 | 9:30 | Buddhist Group |
| | 10:00 | Coffee and Conversations Group |
| | 7:45 | Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| Thur. Jan 23 | 7:30 | Buddhist Group |
| Fri. Jan 24 | 7:00 | Edgar Allen Poe Performance |
| | 7:30 | Rise Up Singing |
| Sat. Jan 25 | 7:00 | Warm Winter Evening with Friends |
| Sun. Jan 26 | 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 |

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.

Coffee and Conversations Group

Wednesday, January 22, 10:00 a.m., in the Parlor

The Coffee and Conversations Group is brand new! If you would like to meet new and old friends for a cup of coffee and conversation, come to the church on Wednesday, or call Berni Jenkins, 978-369-2876 for more information. Who doesn't like to talk with old and new friends?

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 Vellella, as he takes aim at the Transcendentalists. Vellella 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, 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 pekindc@comcast.net.

Call for General Assembly Delegates

The UUA General Assembly will be June 24 to 28, in Providence, Rhode Island. "Rooted, Inspired, & Ready" is the theme of this ingathering of thousands of UU's from around the world. Whether or not you have ever been a GA delegate before, come join in our governance for a few days, and help inspire our future. To learn more, contact jimsherblom@gmail.com or join a GA exploratory meeting at church on Thursday, January 30, at 7:30 p.m. Use of the democratic process is a Unitarian Universalist principle.

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.

Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration

Saturday, March 14, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Parish Hall

Save the date for this local centennial celebration of the 19th Amendment which gave women in the United States the right to vote. This event is sponsored by the Women's Parish Association, The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle, Orchard House, and the Women's Suffrage Celebration Coalition of Massachusetts. Speakers, authors, dramatic historic portrayals, music of the times, women government officials, information tables, entertainment, and refreshments will all serve to mark this important event in our history. Stay tuned and contact pekindc@comcast.net for further details.

Save the Date: June 7—Honoring and Thanking Doug

After 40 years of outstanding service to our beloved First Parish in Concord, Doug Baker will be retiring on September 1, 2020. During the

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 or call 508-308-9261.

First Parish Connection Cards

In the pews you'll find a First Parish Connection Card, which you can use to inquire about getting support, getting involved, or getting information. The Belonging Team, one of the Time For Action task forces commissioned by the Standing Committee, is piloting the use of Connection Cards starting in January. If you have questions about the pilot program, please feel free to contact us at belonging@firstparish.org for more information.

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 if you'd like more information.

At-Home Women's Retreat 2020: Registration Still Open

There is room for more participants in the At-Home Women's Retreat at First Parish on February 7 and 8 (Friday evening and Saturday during the day). Please contact Darien Smith directly if you'd like to register or have questions (darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471). The retreat theme this year is "Simplify" as we share time together. We will relax, have fun, get to know each other, and explore simplifying your day, your mind, your life. All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome! It's especially wonderful to have a variety of generations of women attend.

New to First Parish or Want To Connect?

Please come to coffee hour in the Parish Hall after the service and look for folks carrying a red mug. These friendly members are happy to chat about First Parish, ways to become more involved at the church, or membership. You can also contact Chuck McDonald at cjmcdonald@mxschool.edu. We'd love to get to know you better.

worship service, followed by a reception on June 7, we will be honoring and thanking Doug for all his amazing work and sending him and Diana sincere good wishes for much joy in the next chapters of their lives. Additional details will be announced in future communications. Contact Dian Pekin if you have any questions at pekinc@comcast.net.

Social Action

Join the IJTF Huddle

Today, January 19, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Harvey Wheeler Center

The Immigration Justice Taskforce will staff a table at the Concord Indivisible Huddle at the Harvey Wheeler Center, 1276 Main Street, in West Concord. We will be writing letters in support of the Massachusetts Safe Communities Act and the Work and Family Mobility Act. It is very important that our state legislators hear from pro-immigrant constituents, as the anti-immigrant voices are extremely vocal. All materials and snacks will be provided. It's a productive and fun way to spend a little time with friends!

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 (ICE) 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, Laurie Van Loon, or Gail Kharidia.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, January 21, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room

This is our annual meeting to join human rights activists around the world as part of Amnesty International's global campaign—Write for Rights—to draw attention to human rights abuses. We'll be sending letters to officials in ten countries and cards of support to the individual victims. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons at njlyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.

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 Environmental Team, a co-sponsor of this event, wants to assure you that, despite any rumors to the contrary, this event will go ahead as planned. Although Varshini Prakash is exceedingly busy and has been called to Philadelphia for a strategic and urgent national conference on that date, we are excited to report that she will still be available to us via live streaming and will share with us the latest Sunrise plans and initiatives. We will also hear in-person from Felipe de Carvalho, another powerful Sunrise speaker. Please be sure to attend this dynamic and inspiring evening.

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.

Racial Justice Action Group Potluck and Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, Potluck at 6:00 p.m.; Meeting 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

RJAG will meet for a potluck, followed by a business meeting. We welcome all who are interested in joining us for a part or all of the evening. We have invited Adrienne Betancourt, our new Social Action Manager to this month's meeting. This is a warm and welcoming group with a serious commitment to deepening our understanding of racism within ourselves, our congregation, and our community, and turning that into action. Please join us.

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 McCloy at 7:15 p.m., then dessert by Kristine Wiggins!

Religious Exploration

Youth Group Members Eat FREE!

Sunday, January 19, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall

High School students are invited to our Third Sunday Supper. Please join us for a casual community meal in the Parish Hall. All ages are welcome. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, with a maximum of \$20 per family. Youth Group members eat free! Drop-ins are always welcome! Questions? Contact Madzie, Lead Youth Advisor, at 617-877-9858.

Lion Dance and Martial Arts Workshop

Sunday, January 26, 10:00 a.m.

We are excited to welcome back Sifu Mary Driscoll and her students from Wah Lum Wellness in Methuen! Wah Lum is a world famous kung fu system dedicated to teaching, sharing, and preserving authentic Chinese martial arts including traditional kung fu, tai chi, and of course Lion Dancing. Following the lion dance in our service, children in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will experience martial arts in the Parish Hall. Together we will explore the natural movements and spirits of animals underlying these arts. All ages are welcome to the "Lion Photo Booth" on the Parish Hall stage during coffee hour!

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. Please RSVP for the orientation here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4FAAAC29A5FE3-parent1>

This Sunday, January 19: All-Ages Service

9:00 a.m. – Family Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – All Ages Service – Sanctuary
6:00- 7:30 p.m. – 3rd Sunday Supper – Parish Hall

Next Sunday, January 26: Religious Exploration

9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
10:15-11:00 a.m. – Martial Arts Workshop, Kindergarten- Grade 3 with Wah Lum Wellness – Parish Hall
10:15-11:15 a.m.
Bibleodeon, Grades 4 & 5 – Wright Tavern
Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Ripley Room
11:00 a.m. "Chinese Lion Photo Booth" – Parish Hall
11:45 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths, Grade 7, Meet in Parlor for 12:30 p.m. visit to Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland. Return to First Parish ~2:15pm
4:00- 6:00 p.m. – 8th Grade OWL – Emerson Room
4:00- 6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age with mentors – Parish Hall
6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Group – Wright Tavern

Rev. Howard Dana's email: hdana@firstparish.org

Rev. Liz Weber's email: lweber@firstparish.org

Church office: 978-369-9602

Visit our website: www.firstparish.org.

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.