

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

February 23, 2020

This Week

Sun. Feb 23	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:00	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
Mon. Feb 24	7:00	Adult Neighboring Faiths Workshop
	7:30	Women's Book Group
Tues. Feb 25	9:30	Women's Book Group
	6:00	RJAG
Wed. Feb 26	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thur. Feb 27	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Feb 28	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sat. Feb 29	7:30	"The Gold Rush" Silent Film
Sun. Mar 1	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	4:00	Drum Circle

Parish Notes

February's Share the Plate: Sanctuary Boston

Sanctuary Boston is a community of vibrant worship and real connection, grounded in Unitarian Universalism and open to seekers of all kinds. Sanctuary was formed by young adults looking to combine the progressive theology of UUism with worship alive in music and ritual. They are one of the largest UU ministries that caters to the needs of young adults through informal worship, small groups ministry, and other programs. Sanctuary Boston is an experiment in contemporary worship, a spiritual home for young seekers, and a model of innovative ministries amplifying the message of UUism. Visit sanctuaryboston.org.

Directories Now Available

The new 2020 Directory is available to pick up after service beginning this Sunday. Copies will also be available in the church office during our normal hours of Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is no charge.

Pilgrimage to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, Museum and Lynching Memorial

Sunday Forum, February 23, at 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

In 2019, First Parish members traveled to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama to see the museum and lynching memorial started by Bryan Stevenson (Just Mercy). We joined 35 others from around Boston organized by Rev. June Cooper of City Mission. We heard from activists in Montgomery and walked the historic Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma. It was life-altering, heart-breaking, and inspiring. Please come and hear our stories: Wendy Holt, Lea Delacour, Cindy Soule, Sue St. Croix, and Ted Bayne, and CC King.

Volunteer Opportunity on the First Parish Sound Team

Are you interested in volunteering at First Parish? Join the Sound Team! We are seeking a Sound Operator to record the Sunday Morning Worship Service on the second Sunday of each month. It is an easy, once-a-month commitment to help us preserve a recorded record of each service. Training and ongoing support will be provided. This is a flexible commitment as the Sound Team trade Sundays among themselves to fit it into their schedules. For more information, contact Keith Wortman, wortman2@verizon.net, 978-392-9226 (email preferred).

"The Gold Rush": Silent Movie Night with Rob Humphreville Saturday, February 29, at 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

In this classic silent comedy, the Little Tramp (Charles Chaplin) heads north to join in the Klondike gold rush. Trapped in a small cabin by a blizzard, the Tramp is forced to share close quarters with a successful prospector and a fugitive. When the prospector needs help locating his claim, it appears the Tramp's fortunes may change. Organist Robert Humphreville accompanies silent movies all over New England and has been singled out several times by the Boston Globe for his inventive improvisations. Admission is FREE! Fun for all ages!

Important Pledge Calendar Dates

Each year we must raise the funds to keep our doors open and our ministries thriving. That amounts to \$1.4 million for the FY 20-21 operating budget. Like public radio, we want to do this quickly. Help us meet our pledge campaign goals, by noting these key dates:

March 1—Decide your pledge amount. You could win a pledge raffle prize!

March 8—Celebration Sunday! Fill out your pledge card as we kick off the Pledge Campaign with a Banner Parade.

March 22—Attend the All-Church Pancake Breakfast before the service.

March 29—Expect a call from another parishioner if you haven't pledged.

April 5—Done! Pledge Campaign ends on Palm Sunday.

April 19—Oh dear, please spare us from nagging the stragglers to do their part. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please contact 2020-21 Pledge Campaign Project Manager, Darien Smith, at darien@smithquest.com.

First Parish's New Drum Circle

First Parish's new Drum Circle meets first Sundays, beginning March 1, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel. Enjoy heartbeat trance drumming and improv rhythms. Try out a variety of percussion instruments; feel the deep vibrations of the Didgeridoo. In March we'll welcome large gongs, more and different drums, bells to play, and hear two Didgeridoos! No experience needed, just your presence. Contact Dan Shea or CC King for more information at ccking.interplay@gmail.com or dshea2003@earthlink.net.

First Tuesday Group: "Eightsomethings"

The First Tuesday Group (65+) meets March 3, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., to hear Katharine Esty discuss her latest book, *Eightsomethings: A Practical Guide to Letting Go, Aging Well, and Finding Unexpected Happiness*. Chapters in her book—"I am not old!," "Upside down parenting," "Health matters," "Love and sex," and "Grandparenting," should lead to a lively Q and A with the author.

Come join us to discuss Katharine's must-read guide for the uncharted territory of eighty and beyond! (While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.)

Note: If you are interested in an opportunity to gather with First Parish friends for coffee and conversation one morning a month, contact Berni Jenkins at bernijenkins2@gmail.com.

You are Invited to Sunday Supper!

The last supper for this year will be Sunday, March 15, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Please join us every third Sunday for a casual community meal. Feel free to bring a beverage of your choice. The suggested donation is \$5 per person, with a maximum of \$20 per family. Youth Group members eat FREE. All ages are welcome! If you have questions or would like to RSVP—we love RSVP's—contact Sue Ryan at susanryan101@comcast.net, or Kate Svrcek at katesvrcek@hotmail.com.

**Upcoming Workshop: Capturing Memories on Paper
March 18 and 25; April 1, 8, 15, and 22; 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.,
Emerson Room**

Connecting with the future, giving our descendants an impression of our lives, is one good reason to capture memories on paper. Even more important is the personal pleasure and insight that come from reconstructing parts of our lives in words. This 6-week workshop will invite participants to write their memories as short reflections in response to concrete prompts and then share their writing with the group if they choose. Register by sign-up sheet in office, or by email at virginiarosstaylor@gmail.com or lweber@firstparish.org. Facilitated by Virginia Taylor, former English professor and currently a private writing coach. Maximum of 10 participants.

Social Action

The Huddle is Here!

On Sunday, February 23, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the Harvey Wheeler Center in West Concord, the Immigration Justice Taskforce will again join Concord Indivisible for a letter and postcard writing Huddle on critical issues. For example, over 400,000 immigrants have Temporary Protective Status, many of which have families and businesses and have lived here for decades, live in great uncertainty because they have no pathway to permanent residency. These neighbors need our help. Please hold the date and plan to join us! Materials, snacks, conversation and community are all provided. Any questions please talk to an IJTF member, Jane Blumberg, Gail Kharidia or Tony Rodriguez.

SAC Grants

Now is the time for First Parishioners to recommend organizations as recipients of next year's Share the Plate. You are encouraged to nominate a nonprofit group committed to social justice that would benefit from a donation from First Parish. Now through March 1, the SAC Giving Team is accepting requests for the 2020-2021 church year. The easy-to-complete Nomination Form is available online at surveymonkey.com/r/FPCSACForm. Please check out the SAC Grant page on the First Parish website for more information. Need more information, please contact Ted Bayne (tedbayne@comcast.net), Liz Rust (liz@therusts.net), or Chris Miara (chrismiara@gmail.com).

IJTF Monthly Meeting

You are invited to the Immigration Justice Taskforce Monthly Meeting on Monday, March 2, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Brooks Room. This is a can-do group of committed folks. Come see for yourself! You won't be disappointed. For more information, talk to an IJTF member—Carl Proper, Joyce Proper, Rachel Wheeler or Ted Bayne.

Take Your Children to Vote

Super Tuesday on March 3 is an opportunity for First Parish adults to teach children about voting our UU values. The national UU the Vote campaign encourages parents to talk about why elections matter and take their children to vote. Younger children grades K-4 will have a special election activity during RE on Sunday, March 1.

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, March 6, 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

AWE (Advocates for Women's Empowerment) will be featuring "Frida" for the First Friday Film in March. "Frida" is a 2002 American biographical drama directed by Julie Taymor. It depicts the bold and controversial life of artist Frida Kahlo and is set in Mexico City. Her forward-thinking artistic, political, and sexual attitudes are explored as we witness a hard-drinking, passionate woman of the early 1900s. This film earned an Oscar nomination for Salma Hayek. Contact Lou Toussaint (mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

More Huddles are Coming!

You'll want to hold these dates for more Huddles: March 8 and 22, and April 5 and 19. All Huddles are held at the Harvey Wheeler Center from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information, please talk to an Immigration Justice Taskforce member, Janet Donovan, Laurie van Loon or Regina Corrao.

Additional Sanctuary Volunteers Needed!

The UU church in Bedford has been home for the past two years to a person many of us have come to know and care for; separated from her children she remains there month after month. Almost a dozen area congregations provide volunteers who offer 24/7 presence to this Sanctuary guest through three/four-hour shifts of their choice. One volunteer recently said of her shift, "I love having a block of time to read, write, get organized and catch up on email." The Immigration Justice Taskforce is actively recruiting new helpers. If a few quiet hours, and helping our neighbor, sound good to you, please contact Abby Bhule, abhule68@gmail.com.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, February 23: Multiage Program

9:45 a.m. Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:15-11:15 a.m. Praying in Color (K-8) – Emerson Room
4:00-6:00 p.m. 8th Grade OWL – Emerson Room
6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Group – Wright Tavern

Next Sunday, March 1: Religious Exploration

Wonders of Water, Multiage Workshop (K-8)

Sunday, February 23, 10:15 to 11:15 am, Emerson Room

The Umbrella Arts Center has issued an Earth Month Call for Art. This year's theme is "Fresh Water and Our Watershed" and the exhibit will be displayed at the Umbrella in April. This Sunday, we will explore with Dawn Van Patten the wonder and power of water in all its forms and use paint, beads, fabric, and other materials to reflect on the aspects of water that speak to us as we begin our collaborative artwork for the exhibit.

Family Game Night

Friday, March 13, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

All are welcome to a Potluck Dinner and Game Night! This will be an opportunity for kids and adults to get to know one another beyond Sunday morning at First Parish in Concord. Please bring a dish to share and your favorite game(s) to play. As a part of our Green Sanctuary efforts, you may also wish to bring a table setting (plates and utensils) for your family. Questions? Contact Amy at afreedman@firstparish.org.

Discover More:

Each week, we send announcements about our program for children, teens, and families. Subscribe online: firstparish.org/wp/learning/re/.

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education
afreedman@firstparish.org

Dawn Van Patten, Assistant Director of Religious Education
dvanpatten@firstparish.org

Madzie Burnham, Lead Youth Advisor
mburnham@comcast.net
617-877-9858 (cell)

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.

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.