

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 1, 2020

This Week

Sun. Mar 1	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
	4:00	Drum Circle
Mon. Mar 2	7:00	Adult Neighboring Faiths Workshop
	7:00	IJTF Meeting
	7:30	Nominating Committee
Tues. Mar 3	8:00	Finance Committee Meeting
	1:30	First Tuesday Group
	6:00	Open Door Service
Wed. Mar 4	9:30	Buddhist Group
	6:00	Concord Area Humanists
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thur. Mar 5	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Mar 6	7:00	AWE Movie Night
Sun. Mar 8	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service and Banner Parade
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:00	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

Parish Notes

March's Share the Plate: Casa

The Metrowest Worker Center/Casa del Trabajador/Casa do Trabalhador (Casa), located in Framingham, supports and empowers immigrant workers to defend and advocate for their workplace and civil rights. Casa is an intentionally multilingual, multicultural community that focuses on issues of wage theft, workplace injury, and immigration justice. Partnering with the Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network, Casa provides support and public witness to recently arrived immigrants. Casa joins with other organizations to promote action steps that support its mission, including working toward fair legislation. And Casa seeks to make a difference in public attitudes by increasing everyday awareness of immigrants' humanity and presence.

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.

Stewards Needed: Join the Annual Pledge Campaign Team!

The Annual Pledge Campaign begins next week and we'll need a large team of stewards to help contact parishioners who haven't pledged on Celebration Sunday, March 8. Please consider taking a turn at this time-limited, easy, and important task! Most contacts are made by email, and our Steward Captains are pros at helping stewards with information and suggestions for writing their messages! We have a great system to keep stewards informed of progress during the campaign and to record their feedback. For questions or to join the team, please contact Irl Smith at opticsmith@mindspring.com.

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).

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: "Eightysomethings"

The First Tuesday Group (65+) meets March 3, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., to hear Katharine Esty discuss her latest book, *Eightysomethings: 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.

Concord Area Humanists

Pamela Dritt Presents "Robber Barons and Wage Slaves"

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall

With three short videos, stories, and discussions, we will explore how extreme economic inequality destroys communities and reduces freedom. In addition it increases systemic racism, poverty, and corruption in America. We'll also look at what we can do to fix it. Come prepared to listen, learn, and contribute to the discussion. We will start and finish with 15-minute Socials. Some regular attendees enjoy bringing refreshments to share. Please direct any questions to Patrick Everett at pne@aol.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 RSVPs—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.

Celebration of the Vernal Equinox

Thursday, March 19, 7:30 to 9 p.m., in the Parlor

Join us to celebrate the time of Balance between light and dark and the First day of Spring. All ages Welcome. Hosted by the Women's Goddess Covenant Circle. For more information, contact Martha Kilcoyne at martha.kilcoyne@gmail.com.

Partner Congregation Committee to Host All-Parish Potluck

Saturday, March 21, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Please join Rev. Howard Dana and our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Gary Smith, in welcoming Jozsef and Anna Szombatfalvi to First Parish. Jozsef was the minister of our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania from 1998 to 2015. The Szombatfalvis and the Smiths (Gary and Eliz) helped establish and deepen our partnership. We will share stories to celebrate the wonder and excitement of our friendships over time, and reflect on the importance of building and maintaining these connections. Sign up at coffee hour starting on March 1, or email Lillian Anderson at lillianand@comcast.net.

Melanie DeMore, Vocal Activist, Open Community Sing

Sunday March 22, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Melanie DeMore will be leading music in worship on Sunday morning, March 22, and you will want to come back for the afternoon workshop! It is open to the public and appropriate for all ages! There will be a free-will donation. Presented as part of Melanie's February and March residency at Follen Church, sponsored by Follen's Music Friendship Initiative. For more information go to follen.org/music/melanieedemore.

Vadrózsák Folk Dance/ Lelkes Band 10 Year Anniversary Invitation

Next September, the Vadrózsák Folk Dance /Lelkes Band from Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, who visited us last fall, will celebrate their tenth anniversary. Founders Levi and Annamarie and our friends from our partner church there hope that some of us can attend. The festivities will be September 17 to 20, 2020. Visitors are encouraged to stay a few extra days for other excursions and activities. Please note: this is not a formal Partner Congregation Committee (PCC) organized trip. It will require that the travelers work together and with our Transylvanian friends to organize their trip (flights, etc.) The PCC will help a bit where needed. If you are interested in going, please contact Lillian Anderson by March 22. at lillianand@comcast.net or 978-369-1468.

Social Action

Write Here Write Now! Help Support Immigrant Families Today, March 1, 11:00 a.m., in the Parlor

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles compel us to affirm that all immigrants, regardless of legal status, should be treated justly and humanely. At coffee hour on Sunday, March 1, please come by our UUSJ Write Here! Write Now! table in the Parlor and write to our US Senators and ask them to provide a pathway to legal permanent status for immigrant families with Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Background and writing materials will be available. Your letters will be hand-delivered to their offices in Washington, D.C. on March 10. Questions? Contact fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Environmental Team Meeting

Please join the First Parish Environmental Team at 11:30 a.m. this Sunday, March 1, for our monthly meeting. Greening the FP Campus, preparing for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day activities, and planning an RE program are on the agenda.

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).

Heartfelt Thanks to All Who Attended Last Sunday's Huddle!

Over 100 people filled two rooms at the Harvey Wheeler Center and First Parish was very well represented. Sixty letters were written to senators on two looming issues: urging a pathway to permanent residency for Temporary Protective Status holders and not funding the new "Public Charge" rule (or wealth hurdle) for new immigrants. The buzz and energy among participants was fantastic and the Immigration Justice Taskforce is so grateful to those of you who were there!

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!

Almost a dozen area congregations provide volunteers who offer 24/7 presence to a guest in Sanctuary in Bedford UU. A brief training is provided for these three/ four-hour shifts. One volunteer recently said of her shift, "I love having a block of time to read, write, get organized, and catch up on email." Sound good to you? The Immigration Justice Taskforce is actively recruiting new volunteers. If a few quiet hours and helping our neighbor sound good to you, please contact Abby Bhule at abhule68@gmail.com.

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.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, March 1: Religious Exploration
9:15 a.m. Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) meet in Parlor; visit Union Baptist Church in Cambridge, Return to First Parish ~12:30 p.m.
9:45 a.m. Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Middle OWL (Grade 5)– Wright Tavern
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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.

10:15- 11:15 a.m.
"Connecting with Our Community," Kindergarten- Grade 4– Emerson Room
Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Ripley Room
4:00-6:00 p.m. 8th Grade OWL– Emerson Room
4:00-6:00 p.m. Coming of Age– Parish Hall
6:00-8:00 p.m. High School Youth Group – Kitchen and Sanctuary

Next Sunday, March 8: Celebration Sunday

9:45 a.m. Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00- 11:15 a.m. Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Children in Kindergarten and older begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for the Parish Hall for a special project and will rejoin their families in the service.

4:00-6:00 p.m. 8th Grade OWL– Emerson Room
6:00-8:00 p.m. High School Youth Group– Wright Tavern

Youth Service Run-Through

Sunday, March 1, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Our Youth Service on "Universal Connections Within and Outside Ourselves" will be held on Sunday, March 15, at First Parish. All high school teens are welcome to join us for our run through on March 1. Even if you have not attended a planning service yet, there is still room for you to participate. We will shape the flow of the service, practice our original children's message, and run through the speaking parts. If you have agreed to offer a reflection, please bring a rough draft or at least an outline on Sunday. Pizza will be provided in the kitchen beforehand. If you have questions or ideas for the service, please email Amy at afreedman@firstparish.org. Thanks!

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: afreedman@firstparish.org.

Discover More:

Each week, we send announcements about our program for children, teens, and families. Subscribe online at 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)

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

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

March Pastoral Care Lay Minister: Diane Clapp
dianebamclapp@gmail.com

Church office: 978-369-9602

Visit our website: www.firstparish.org.