



The Meeting House News

September 2014

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Autumnal Greetings!

Welcome to the September Meeting House News.

September starts with a big bang of excitement here at First Parish.

Learn more in the following pages.

Worship Services

Sunday, September 7, Intergenerational Water Communion

Rev. Howard Dana and the First Parish Choir

Sunday, September 14, Of Loneliness and Solitude

Rev. Howard Dana and the First Parish Choir

Sunday, September 21, Choose to Listen

Rev. Marion Visel and the First Parish Choir

Sunday, September 28, Transylvania Thanksgiving and the Kopjafa Dedication

Rev. Howard Dana, the First Parish Choir, and Children's Choirs

All worship services at **10:00 a.m.**, except as noted below

Additional parking on Keyes Road

NOTE: Two Worship Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on
11/23 Thanksgiving, 12/21 Winter Solstice,
3/29 Palm Sunday, 4/5 Easter Sunday

REVeries

I am excited to be back at work at First Parish for my second year as your Senior Minister. Over the summer I got some much needed rest and had time with family and friends. A trip to Montana to see my parents and my brothers and sister resulted in fun family time together. My six small nieces and nephews added to the delight as we swam in a pond, rode



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Pastoral Care

Lay Minister for September

Sue Dobbie, 978-456-8432
susandobbie@gmail.com

Minister for Pastoral Care

Rev. Marion Visel
978-369-9602
mvisel@firstparish.org

Caring Connection

Meals and rides
Rev. Marion Visel
978-369-9602
mvisel@firstparish.org

First Parish Café

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate
Muffins available for \$1.00

Sunday Forum

September 21

On Ukraine
Dr. Larisa Goncharenko
Sunday, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Events This Month

September 7

First Parish Homecoming
Picnic and Celebration
Sunday, 5:30 p.m.

September 17

WPA Luncheon

horses, played Uno, and went camping together. I was glad to see my father doing well just a few months after his open-heart surgery.

After a kayak camping trip of my own in the Adirondacks, I spent a week working on my house in Maynard. After a year of living in it, I now know what it needs—and in what order. I tackled the task of insulating the attic myself. And other than getting really dirty in the process, the project went well. There is such satisfaction in being able to make a big difference on your own!

My two weeks with friends in Mexico was just the thing I needed to actually stay on vacation and not jump back into work prematurely. I spoke a lot of Spanish and had any number of fun adventures. The feeling of returning home to the Concord area reassured me that I have arrived here and am settling in. It is lovely to start the year not feeling brand new.

I hope to see each of you at church in the next few weeks. We are trying the grand experiment of having just one worship service and one Religious Education program each Sunday. And I am joined this year by Rev. Marion Visel, our new Minister for Pastoral Care, and Brian Chenowith, our new Ministerial Intern. Both are eager to start here at First Parish and eager to get to know you. It's going to be a great year at church.

Love, Howard

Intern-al Dialogues

It is a joy to finally be with all of you here at First Parish in Concord. Nearly eight months ago, when I found out I would be your next Ministerial Intern, I didn't expect the time to go by so quickly. The journey out here was a delight. My partner and I had the pleasure of driving 1200 miles through the Catskills, the Adirondacks, and the Green and the White mountains on our way to Massachusetts. We visited some stunning locations, had the opportunity to relax, and enjoyed the entirety of the trip. It was a long journey, but so very good! Even so, it will be difficult adjusting to this new and temporary life. I am a lifelong Chicagoan and this is my first time living outside of the Midwest. While I miss my home dearly, I am exploring and experiencing New England with a beginner's mind. I ask myself, What can New England teach me? How can Massachusetts help me grow? Where will Concord take me? I eagerly await seeing these questions unfold in the next ten months.



I've been a Unitarian Universalist since my early teens and have fond memories of my home congregation in Hinsdale, Illinois. I recently graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago with my Master of Divinity degree and also finished up a two-year part-time internship at Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois. My experience in Oak Park reaffirmed two very important feelings: I love Unitarian Universalism, and, I love ministry. I know that here at First Parish I will have the opportunity to learn and grow with all of you in the months ahead. It is with astonishment and wonder that I approach this year with First Parish. I look forward to all that awaits us.

Polly Peterson
Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.

All the best,
Brian

September 19
Mom's Night Out
Friday, 7:00 p.m.

September 21
Ordination of Sarah Napoline
First Parish in Brookline
Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

September 22
Equinox Celebration
Monday, 7:00 p.m.

September 23
Transylvanian History
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Additional details elsewhere

Music & the Arts Events

September 1 – 30
Photo Club Exhibit
Altshuler Gallery

September 3
Arts Council Meeting
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

September 13
Photo Club meeting
Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

September 21
Sarasa Chamber Music Concert
Sunday, 7:00 p.m.

September 26
Rise Up Singing
Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Additional details elsewhere

Social Action Events

September 3
ELT Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

September 8
Interfaith Environmental Potluck
Kerem Shalom
Monday, 6:30 p.m.

MUSings

For me, music and the arts have always provided a pathway to belonging. At summer camp, a guitar and a campfire could create a circle of song; in school, the choir, orchestra and theater folks were “my people.” In every church my family attended, singing hymns helped me feel part of the congregation and learn the tradition. As a life-long chorister, I knew from childhood that I could be a worship leader. This sense of belonging and creative leadership is what we hope to inspire in the music ministry at First Parish.



Belonging, at its best, means offering something meaningful to others and being open to receiving what others have to offer you. There is nothing like making music together to build this kind of relationship: the exchange of giving and receiving are simultaneous and continuous.

Our music and arts ministry at First Parish provides avenues for people of all ages to participate in that continuous circle of belonging, through music, drama, photography, fine art. There are the Children’s Choirs, Youth Gospel Singers, First Parish Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, Rise Up Singing, By Your Side Singers, poetry readings, photography club, concerts, plays. The list goes on, and is as long and full as our imaginations and energy will allow. Check the listings in this newsletter and on the website to see where you might fit in.

This summer, I was struck by the definition of “call” that Rachel Baker articulated in her sermon: Call is “that thing you can’t not do.” Building community through music and the arts is that thing I “can’t not do,” no matter where I am. It is the foundation of our First Parish music and arts ministry. I am blessed to work with a talented staff of music leaders, Gail, Anderson and Eric, who share this calling. And we are grateful for the many dedicated parishioners—of all ages—who seek ways to deepen spiritually, build community and make a positive difference in the world through the arts. As we begin this new church season, I hope you will ponder how you can be a part of that circle of giving and receiving that is the First Parish arts ministry.

Blessings,
Beth

Reflections

Many people ask if church life slows down for RE over the summer. It does... and it doesn't. I like to say the focus of the work changes. It changes from "Sunday to Sunday" to "September to June."

So what does that look like? Each summer I meet with many people to shape and plan the program for the coming year. So much needs to be prepared to be ready for 250 kids and 150 parent teachers. We need a strong



September 10
AI Filipov Forum
Ft. Dr. Jim O'Connell
Tri-Con Church
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

September 14
SAC Candle Writing Workshop
Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

September 13 – 14
Concord Farm and Garden Fair
Saturday and Sunday, All Day

September 16
Amnesty International
Group 15 Meeting
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

September 21
People's Climate March
New York City
Saturday, All Day

Additional details elsewhere

Members of the SC

Kate Crosby
kate_crosby@newview.org

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foundation and organized classrooms so children feel that we are ready for them, and that we had faith that they would show up.

Clean classrooms, class lists, name tags, smiling teachers... all of these add up to a feeling of being loved and cared for by a faith community. I am grateful for all this community does to provide this experience to our Unitarian Universalist children. They are our future; we are their foundation.

I look forward to a year that promises to unfold within our midst. I look forward to a year that continues the tradition of a community that cares.

With love,
Pam

Social Action Community

In high school English class, I was taught to write a "hamburger" essay. This consisted of a top bun (introduction); lettuce, tomato, patty, (3 arguments, from least to most substantive); and bottom bun (conclusion). It seems silly, but the method got good results... from English teachers and SAT adjudicators.



The hamburger essay method didn't work at all when I tried writing autobiographical essays later in life. And as a seminarian, I had to learn to write a good autobiography, because every few months we're asked to submit an essay that gives "a reasonably full account of your life," and every few weeks we're asked about part of our journey to ministry.

As I began to write and tell my story more, I learned about what makes a good story. I learned how to make people laugh, and cry. I learned how to tell testimonials and stories for fun. To learn all this, I had to free myself of the confines of the hamburger essay and write from my heart.

I know that telling or writing a story from the heart takes practice. It takes unlearning "the right way," and relearning how to express emotion and conviction. Each week, when a member of our community lights the Social Action Community Candle, we're hearing a piece of their social action story. We all know what it feels like when someone tells a great story from the pulpit; but not everyone has the tools and confidence to write that great story.

I want to hear more of your great stories from the pulpit. And I want you to feel confident that these stories will get a fabulous response. So this church year, I'm planning on hosting a series of SAC Candle Writing Workshops. The first one will be on September 14 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. If you can't make this one, I'll host the same workshop in December and March. The goal of these workshops will be to write compelling, inspiring SAC Candle testimonials to be read during a subsequent Sunday worship. We'll learn how to write a testimonial, write our own stories, and workshop each other's stories to increase the impact. Space in each workshop is limited to ten participants. Sign up with me (Blowe@firstparish.org) if you'd like to attend. Lunch will be provided with a requested donation of \$5.00.

Bethany

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Bethany Lowe
Social Action Director &
Youth Program Director
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Cassy Bosworth
Church Administrator
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Tina Storey
Assistant to the
Director of Operations
tstorey@firstparish.org

Doug Baker
Sacristan and Curator
dbaker@firstparish.org

Beth Norton
Director of Music
music@firstparish.org

Eric Huenneke
Parish Organist

Meet Marion!



We are pleased to announce that Rev. Marion Visel has arrived to begin her service as Minister for Pastoral Care at First Parish in Concord. In her 30 hours per week, Marion will focus on the pastoral needs at First Parish and other related ministerial duties. She will be present to check in with members of the congregation most Sundays and will perform some of the memorial services next year. As our Minister for Pastoral Care, Marion will be the “first contact” for pastoral matters. She has many years of experience serving in this role. After this first contact is made, Marion will involve other members of the staff and the Lay Pastoral Care Ministers in ministering to the congregation.

Marion is originally from Hamden, Connecticut. She is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry, where she specialized in pastoral care. Most recently, Marion served part-time with the Unitarian Society of New Haven (USNH). Her primary area of ministry at USNH was in pastoral care. She has been a chaplain for Connecticut Hospice part-time for ten years. Marion’s career path has been a journey to wholeness; she has undergraduate and graduate degrees in communications and became a television producer (mind). She was a massage therapist in physical therapy, hospital and retreat center settings (body), and then she became a chaplain and minister (spirit). Please join us in welcoming Rev. Marion Visel to First Parish.

Standing Committee

Summer is a time of transition for the Standing Committee (SC). In June, we said goodbye to five dedicated members who finished their terms: Outgoing Chair Jack Nevison, Laurie Van Loon, Andrea Siani, Gretchen Nelson and Treasurer Suzanne Lowe. We are grateful to these members for all of their efforts in support of First Parish. We also welcomed five newcomers: Dave Elwood, Toby Smith Ropeik, Dawn Van Patten, Lora Venesy and Treasurer Tom Wilson. All of these individuals bring wonderful skills, experience, and energy to the Standing Committee and have already made an impact.

At our June 8, 2014, meeting, outgoing and incoming SC members discussed the Standing Committee evaluation of our Senior Minister, Rev. Howard Dana. At the June 22, 2014, meeting, it was the Standing Committee’s turn, as Howard and the Standing Committee reviewed the Standing Committee’s progress against its annual goals. Howard’s evaluation is included in the minutes of the June 8, 2014, meeting. The Standing Committee evaluation is included in the June 22, 2014, meeting minutes. Both are available in the Minutes section of the Standing Committee Web page.

We have continued to focus on improving Standing Committee connections to the congregation. At our July 20, 2014, meeting, the Standing Committee approved a charter for a new First Parish Finance Committee. We also created a Finance Committee implementation group, led by Treasurer Tom Wilson and SC Chair Mark Russell Prior. This group developed an application process; and communicating through the First Parish Announce email list, the SC bulletin board, committee leaders and other networks, invited interested parties to

music@firstparish.org

Gail Carey
Music Ministry Associate
music@firstparish.org

Anderson Manuel
Director of Youth Gospel Choir
music@firstparish.org

Gary E. Smith
Minister Emeritus

David Huston
Music Director Emeritus

Contact First Parish

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Address: 20 Lexington Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

Phone: 978-369-9602
Fax: 978-369-8701

Email: FPConcord@firstparish.org

Website: www.firstparish.org

Church Calendar:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/hours-directions-services/church-calendar>

Sign up for emailed First Parish Announcements:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/e-mail-lists>

"Like" our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Parish-in-Concord-Unitarian-Universalist/343822177494>

apply for membership. The Standing Committee intends to consider membership at its September 14, 2014, meeting so that the new Finance Committee is available to participate in the fall congregational discussions on spending priorities.

On July 21, 2014, several Standing Committee members met at First Parish with delegates and other attendees of the 2014 UUA General Assembly in Providence, Rhode Island, to discuss their GA experience and share ideas developed since the big event. First Parish had a record turnout at GA this year, thanks to the work of many to encourage participation.

At our August 17, 2014 meeting, we began work on our annual goals. Our discussion was facilitated by Justine Sullivan, District President of the UUA Clara Barton District. This year, we have appointed SC members to monitor and evaluate our progress on these goals throughout the year, to help focus our efforts and foster continuous improvement and accountability.

Feel free to contact any SC members. (Find contact information in left-hand column.)
Best wishes to all for a wonderful year.

Mark Russell Prior, Chair, First Parish Standing Committee

Pastoral Care Team

Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

The pastoral care team welcomes the Reverend Marion Visel to First Parish. We are very pleased to have her with us!

Attention, cooks and bottle-washers!

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." So said Charles M. Schulz, the cartoonist behind the Peanuts comic strip.

The Cooking Committee of Caring Connection can always use help at their cooking workshops, which are held a few times a year in order to fill the freezer with ready-made meals for those who need them. We know the importance of good food from a nutritional standpoint, but additionally share a belief in its spiritual value to those who need help. Recipients have let us know that there is nothing so satisfying as a home-cooked meal after a stint of illness or loss.

Whenever the Caring Connection freezer shelves get low, we seek, through the *Meeting House News* or the weekly *Sunday News*, volunteers who will help us cook three or four dishes in various size servings. The bulk of our dishes are meant for "flexitarians," but there's always something for vegetarians, vegans and those who follow a gluten-free diet. And, we make chocolate cake in all three categories! Join us for a cooking session in the coming months and see what fun we have.

Carolyn Shohet, Caring Connection

Membership and Re-membering

Membership and Welcoming Team Reforming

Did you know that First Parish in Concord has not had an active Membership Committee in two years? It is time to re-create a Membership Committee—or maybe we will call it the Welcome Committee. Are you interested in planning and participating in creative ways to welcome visitors to this wonderful congregation? Has your life been enhanced by becoming involved at First Parish? Would you like to share your love of this congregation with those who walk through the door?

If so, send Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org an email with the words, “Yes, count me in!” on the subject line.

New to Unitarian Universalism? New to First Parish? Considering membership?

Come learn more about Unitarian Universalism, First Parish in Concord, and what it means to become a member at two orientations.

Orientation: *New to Unitarian Universalism*, Sunday, October 5, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Participants will learn about the rich history of our Unitarian Universalist faith, gain an understanding of congregational polity, and better understand the role of the UU principles and sources in our values-driven religious movement.

Orientation: *New to First Parish in Concord*, Sunday, October 26, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Participants will hear from the ministerial team, staff, and lay leaders, find out how to become engaged in congregational life at First Parish, and have the option to sign the membership book.

RSVP to Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications, at rbaker@firstparish.org by Wednesday, October 1.

The Arts at First Parish

Fostering Community through the Arts

Each month the First Parish Arts Council will highlight arts events in the upcoming month that offer opportunities to participate in the ministry of the arts at First Parish. Unless otherwise noted, questions may be directed to music@firstparish.org.

September 1 – 30, Photo Club Exhibit, Altshuler Gallery

September 3, Arts Council Meeting, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

September 13, Photo Club meeting, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

September 21, Sarasa Chamber Music Concert, Sunday, 7:00 p.m.

September 26, Rise Up Singing, Friday, 7:30 p.m.

The purpose of the First Parish Arts Council is to further the mission of First Parish through facilitating, promoting, and coordinating a diverse arts ministry that inspires and celebrates creativity and connection. The Council is open to all interested parishioners. Contact Susan Page, Chair, for more information: srpage10@verizon.net.

Sarasa Chamber Music Concert

The Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble returns to First Parish for another exciting season. On Sunday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m., Sarasa presents “La Voix Française, French Baroque vocal and instrumental music.” Sarasa invites you to delve into the rich tapestry of French Baroque music on an intimate scale. This concert includes works by composers at Louis XIV’s court such as François Couperin Le Grand, Marin Marais, and the brilliant (and mysteriously murdered!) violinist Jean-Marie Leclair. Come hear this delightful program,

performed by world-class musicians. Help support their mission of bringing such performances to underprivileged and incarcerated youth. Visit www.sarasamusic.org for more information.

First Parish Choirs

Information about singing with the choirs at First Parish is available in this newsletter.

Transylvania Partnership

Partner Congregation News

Please join us Sunday, September 28, for the dedication of the kopjafa (memorial pole) that was carved by the minister of our partner congregation, József Szombatfalvi, when he visited Concord last fall. It will be unveiled in its permanent home next to the Keresztúr Terrace.

For those who support students in Transylvania, remember that your scholarship donations are due in September; you will receive a reminder letter. There will be opportunities at coffee hours for those who wish to support new students qualifying for scholarships.

If you have an unused Windows PC-compatible laptop (no Macs) that you would like to donate, we are looking for PC's for our pilgrims to take to Transylvania for the use of the Unitarian High School, when we travel to Keresztúr at the end of October. The memory will be wiped clean before they are transported to Transylvania. Please contact Dana Booth at dana.a.booth@gmail.com if you have a PC to donate.

All are invited to an educational presentation on Transylvanian post-WW I history on September 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

WPA

Women's Parish Association

Looking forward to the new church year, the Women's Parish Association invites all women of First Parish to join us for our events. Monthly luncheons, Mom's Night Out, the fall Artisans Fair, seasonal and evening events are in the works. Come for fellowship and for fun. As always, we welcome your help, good spirit and involvement. Help on a single event, serve on a committee of the board, share an idea for a new event.

Our board will meet on Tuesday, September 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ellen Emerson Room. Our annual meeting follows the noontime September luncheon on Wednesday, September 17. All members and friends of First Parish are welcome. To volunteer or for more information about the WPA, contact Vice President Lois Whitney, awhitney@alum.mit.edu, or board President Marilyn Lowitt, Marilyn.Lowitt@verizon.net.

Women's Parish Association Luncheon Program, September 17, 11:30 a.m.

The Women's Parish Association invites all women and men to its September luncheon and program featuring a presentation by Polly Peterson, who will talk about her latest book: *Missionaries, Builders and Pathfinders: Unitarians and Universalists Stories from the Midwest, West, and South, 1830-1930*. Sales and book signings of her latest two books will follow her talk. Lunch at noon, followed by the program and a brief annual meeting. Charge: ten dollars. Contact the church office or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by September 13 for reservations and dietary restrictions.

Mom's Night Out! Friday, September 19, 7:00 p.m.

Come join other FP mothers for Mom's Night Out (MNO) on Friday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Bring a beverage and/or snack of your choice to share at this casual and fun gathering. The First Parish MNO group connects mothers of young and school-age children in friendly and fun ways, and provides a forum for sharing wisdom and inspiration for raising children and meaningful living. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm to MNO. In addition to casual get-togethers, additional activities are being planned. Email Val Vallancourt (valvallancourt@gmail.com) or Melissa Chaffee (mamacha.tea@gmail.com) for more information.

RE News

One 10:00 a.m. Service this Year

This year will be different at First Parish. We will have one single service at 10:00 a.m. The RE Council and I have worked to adjust our programming in a way that will best serve our children. We also think we have made it more manageable for parents. As always, we want to hear from you as we move into the year. Let us know what is working and what isn't. We want to know your experience and how we can best meet the needs of our families.

Here are some thoughts about how to make things more pleasant for your family on Sunday morning. You could plan to arrive at 9:30 a.m. and park over on Keyes Road. It is a five-minute walk to First Parish. There will be a café set up in the kitchen, with coffee and muffins. Maybe your family would like to meet a friend and have a snack before church. Maybe you would like to sit in the pews and watch the choirs rehearse for worship. Maybe your family would like to walk the labyrinth or prepare the bullion in the winter months. You could even arrive earlier (9:00 a.m.) and participate in a small group session, leaving your children with our teenagers and RE staff.

During church, we will reserve the very front pews for our 5th, 6th and 7th graders so they can sit with one another for the beginning of worship. The rest of the children will be called forward when it is time for the Message to Children. All children will be dismissed to their classrooms after the message.

After church, you can pick up your child at their classroom and then decide if you would like to stay for a program offering at 11:30 a.m. There will be discussion groups, committee meetings and the Forum. There will even be teens and RE staff to care for your children.

Does it sound like we have been busy preparing for you and your family? We have! We want First Parish to be a place that feels like a second home. This is where your mind, heart and soul are nourished, and where your children grow up in a faith community that knows their name and cares about their dreams. We hope you find true friendship and a caring community within our parish doors.

Religious Education Staffing Changes

Emily Wheeler has resigned as RE Administrator, effective August 16. Emily left to pursue her other community efforts. I would like to thank Emily for her dedicated service to the children of First Parish. I am sure she will be missed, and families are welcome to write a note of thanks to Emily and leave it in my mailbox. I would be happy to deliver them to Emily in late September.

Our programming needs in religious education have changed significantly over the last two years. With email and online curricula, we need less help with administration and more help in our program areas. Because of this, we are taking this opportunity to change our staffing model to include an Assistant Director of Religious Education. This position will serve a broader and more encompassing need in our RE program, specifically focusing on our 0-1st grade families and our newest and youngest members in Little RE. Members of the RE Council and I have interviewed several promising candidates and will keep you posted on our progress.

Child Dedication Service and Covenant Circle This Fall

This November 23 our congregation will gather for an important part of the life of our church, our children. We believe that every child brings new life and hope into the world. This Child Dedication Ceremony allows families who are part of our congregation to formally bless the life of their children of all ages, signifying their hopes as well as the congregation's promise to support and nurture our children throughout their spiritual lives.

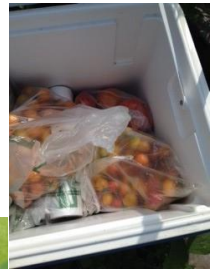
Prior to the Dedication, the RE Council will be hosting a Covenant Circle for Parents. We will meet three Sundays following the service, and there will be child care provided for all ages. This is a chance for parents to connect with each other in a meaningful way and contemplate parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. The book, *Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting*, by Michelle Richards, is not required reading but will help to focus our conversations.

There will be a Dedication informational meeting following service on September 28. Please visit <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/religious-education> for detailed information and commitment information.

Our First Parish Community Garden

Thanks to the commitment of many people this year, we have been able to continue our garden through the summer and it is still going strong. Many parishioners signed up to care for the garden this summer and Regina Hugendubler kept everything moving along. Her timely emails kept the thread of garden knowledge going from week to week.

We still meet each Thursday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. to work, pick and deliver food to Open Table. This is a great way for our children (and our adults) to learn how to grow food and help others. This is an intergenerational opportunity to get your body moving and your hands dirty. Please join



us.

The RE Council

This year the council will be chaired by Jeff Brainerd. As members, we have Dawn Van Patten, Sarah Wilfert, Denise Howard, Michelle Fortier, Leslie Pelton, Sarah Napier, and Jan Goddard Taylor. We have been working together to make the transition to one service calm and orderly for our families. I am deeply grateful for this team of very dedicated adults who realize how lucky we are to have such an amazing community of RE families.



We have a very active parent community, and many parents have expressed interest in helping shape our family ministry here at First Parish. As a council, we are forming subcommittees this year that will focus on three areas of need: pastoral care for RE families, RE program support, and social justice opportunities for families. We will have more information about these opportunities in October.

RE Curricula

We will be using the UUA's Tapestry of Faith curricula this year in grades K-7. Below are the curriculum names for each grade level as well as the link to the curriculum resources. This will help you follow what your children are learning in Sunday School each term.

Kindergarten: Wonderful Welcome, Lessons 1-6

First Grade: Spirit Play (not UUA)

Second and Third Grades: Love Will Guide Us, Lessons 1-4

Fourth and Fifth Grades: Faithful Journeys, Lessons 1-4

Sixth and Seventh Grades: Heeding the Call, Lessons 1-4

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/index.shtml>

Eighth Grade: Dramatic Arts

This year Jen Jarvis will be directing the play *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, with our 8th graders. We are lucky to have such an experienced director working with our youth.

You may wonder why do we do theater in Religious Education? Plays require commitment, accountability and presence. Theater allows our young teens to take safe risks. Theater also creates something unique and special between a group of people. We want our kids to be connected to each other, to caring adults and to our church community. Year after year, our kids say the play is worth it, not because of the show, but because of the good friends they make when they learn to trust one another.

Ninth Grade: Coming of Age

Our Youth Program Director, Bethany Lowe, will be leading our Coming of Age program this year. Bethany comes with so much experience and is just right for this important leadership role in our parish. Bethany was raised UU, participated in Coming of Age in her home congregation, was once a mentor, and enjoys leading youth toward Unitarian Universalism. We have a terrific leadership team too with mentors Del Friedman, Eric Kilburn, Michael Madera, Darlene Vanstone, Tammie Foote, and Laurel Dogget. We are lucky to have such dedicated adult leaders who step up to form lasting relationships with our youth.

RE Teacher Orientations

Orientations for Religious Education Teachers for 2014-2015

Our orientations are critical to the success of our RE program. When all leaders are on the same page and understand the deeper goals of the program they are leading, the experience is much more meaningful for both our children and the leaders themselves. Please take a moment to mark your calendar with your teaching assignment's orientation date.

Orientation Schedule for 2014-2015:

Fall Term, September 6: Meet in the Emerson Room

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Little RE: 0-4year Teachers
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Junior RE: K-1st Grade Teachers
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Middle RE: 2nd-5th Grade Teachers
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Teen RE: 6th-7th Grade Teachers

Holiday Term, October 25: Meet in the Emerson Room

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Little RE: 0-4year Teachers
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Junior RE: K-1st Grade Teachers
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Middle RE: 2nd-5th Grade Teachers
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Teen RE: 6th-7th Grade Teachers

Winter Term, January 24: Meet in the Emerson Room

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Little RE: 0-4year Teachers
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Junior RE: K-1st Grade Teachers
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Middle RE: 2nd-5th Grade Teachers
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Teen RE: 6th-7th Grade Teachers

Spring Term, March 28: Meet in the Emerson Room

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Little RE: 0-4year Teachers
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Junior RE: K-1st Grade Teachers
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Middle RE: 2nd-5th Grade Teachers
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Teen RE: 6th-7th Grade Teachers

Important Dates for 8th and 9th Grade Parents and Leaders:

8th Grade Play Dates:

Friday, December 12, 7:00 p.m., Saturday, December 13, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

MANDATORY OWL 8th Grade Parent (BOTH) Orientation:

Monday & Tuesday, 12/8 & 12/9, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

9th Grade COA Mentor Orientation: Sunday, September 14, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

9th Grade COA Opening Reception for Parents and Teens:

Sunday, September 28 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

RE Church School Calendar

Sunday, September 7

Babies – 4 years: Lower Level Classroom
Intergenerational Service for K – 8th Grades

Sunday, September 14

Babies – 4 years: Lower Level Classroom
K/1st: Lower Level Classrooms
2nd/3rd: Chapel, pickup in Emerson Room
4th: Bulkeley Room
5th: Brooks Room
6th: Wright Tavern, Left-hand Room
7th: Wright Tavern, Sunporch
8th Grade Play: Wright Tavern, 4:00 p.m.

9th Grade Mentors, Coming of Age, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 21

Babies – 4 years: Lower Level Classroom
K/1st: Lower Level Classrooms
2nd: Ripley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room
3rd: Greeley Room, pickup in Emerson Room
4th: Bulkeley Room
5th: Brooks Room
6th: Wright Tavern, Left-hand Room
7th: Wright Tavern, Sunporch
8th Grade Play: Wright Tavern, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 28

Babies – 4 years, Lower Level Classroom
K/1st: Lower Level Classrooms
2nd: Ripley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room
3rd: Greeley Room, pickup in Emerson Room
4th/5th: Chapel Sunday, Chapel
6th: Wright Tavern, Left-hand Room
7th: Wright Tavern, Sunporch
8th Grade Play: Wright Tavern, 4:00 p.m.
9th Grade Coming of Age: Sanctuary, 4:30 p.m.

Choir Notes

Open Rehearsals in September!

The First Parish Choir begins each season with “open rehearsals” on Wednesday nights. This year, we start our season on Wednesday, September 3. Rehearsals are from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Adult and teen singers of all voice parts are welcome to attend with no obligation during this time. The choir will sing in worship for the first time on Sunday, September 7, at 10:00 a.m. If you plan to attend a rehearsal, or have any questions, please contact Beth Norton at 978-369-9602, x420, or email music@firstparish.org.

Keep this information handy as you make plans for fall. And consider joining a choir!

Choir Rehearsal Schedule – Fall 2014

First Parish Choir

Wednesdays 7:45 – 9:30 p.m., Sanctuary, beginning Wednesday, September 3
Beth Norton, Director

Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Sundays 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Wright Tavern Porch, beginning Sunday, September 14
Gail Carey, Director

Gospel Choir (*Grades 7 – 12*)

Wednesdays 5:15 – 6:15 p.m., Sanctuary, beginning Wednesday, September 10
Anderson Manuel, Director

Junior Choir (*Grades 1 – 3*)

Wednesdays 4:30 – 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall, beginning Wednesday, September 10
Gail Carey, Director

Chalice Choir (*Grades 4 – 6*)

Wednesdays 5:15 – 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall, beginning Wednesday, September 10
Gail Carey, Director

By Your Side Singers

First and Third Thursdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor, beginning Thursday, September 4
Beth Norton, Director

For more information, contact Beth Norton at 978-369-9602, x420, or music@firstparish.org.

Children's Choir Update: Just a Little Magic

Children's choir is a community within a community. Wednesdays have become a day of magic, just a little. Thank you, Pam Howell, for suggesting our "family gathering time" (4:30-5:15). While I rehearse with our younger junior singers, choir families gather in the Parlor for tea and impromptu snacks. You can hear young brave voices trailing in the background, song games, solos at the microphone. At about 5:00, as our older chalice singers arrive, we are one full community of music lovers. We marvel together at the beauty our children find in their own voices, their willingness to share of themselves and to grow into their worship leadership roles.

Our children's choirs will be resuming on Wednesday, September 10, in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. There is no need for any singing experience. It is an especially nice way for new families to build friendships. Registration forms are available on the First Parish website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact, Gail Carey, Music Ministry Associate at gcarey@firstparish.org.

Gospel Choir

Gospel Choir is back on Wednesday afternoons from 5:15-6:15, starting September 10 in the Sanctuary. We invite all 7th through 12th graders to join Gospel choir. We welcome new members with open arms and hope that you are ready to inspire and be inspired. For our first rehearsal, we will meet a little early at 5:00 p.m. for refreshments and catching up. Rob Castillo, Mark Weltner and Anderson Manuel are looking forward to working with the Gospel singers again. We will do some reggae, blues, gospel and a little contemporary gospel flair just to spice things up. All 7th through 12th graders are invited to come and share their gifts and talents with people who will really enjoy and appreciate them. For more information, contact Anderson Manuel at AManuel@firstparish.org.

By Your Side Singers

By Your Side Singers, First Parish's pastoral choir will begin a new season on Thursday night, September 4 at 7:30 p.m. By Your Side Singers welcomes adults who love to sing and long to serve through music. We sing to deepen our experience of music's comforting power. When invited, singers go to parishioners' homes or hospital rooms in small groups to sing with people seeking comfort and strength during times of illness or transition.

By Your Side Singers meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. For more information, contact Beth Norton at 978-369-9602 or music@firstparish.org.

Adult Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Forming Again!

Everybody Has a Friend of a Friend Who Knew a Friend of a Friend Who's Got a Friend of a Friend
Can you hear Anna Tuckabee-Hull's voice sailing on this Mavis Staple's rendition of "In Times Like These"? Our contemporary vocal ensemble offering up a tight harmony gospel back-drop? Our house band driving those unifying rhythms? Our worship music reminding us in soulful praise of the need to come together to share in friendship and song?

Our contemporary vocal ensemble forms again this year. Do you have a passion for singing? Do you love gospel, jazz, folk? Do you enjoy singing but feel unable to make a weekly commitment to a choir? Do you long to share your voice in the music ministry here at First Parish in Concord? If so, the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble may be just what you are seeking. If you have sung with us before and loved your experience, tell a friend. Tell a friend of a friend. Come experience the power and joy that comes of shared song!

We will be rehearsing on Sundays in Wright Tavern from 11:30 to 12:15. Folks will be able to commit by the service. We will have three to four rehearsals prior to singing at a service. We will always plan to warm up and run through pieces the morning of the service as well. If interested, contact Gail Carey, Music Ministry

Associate, gcarey@firstparish.org. Our first rehearsal will be on Sunday, September 14, in preparation for worship on Sunday, October 12.

SAC Action

Interfaith Environmental Potluck

Monday, September 8, Kerem Shalom, 659 Elm Street, 6:30 p.m.
The Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) of First Parish in Concord invites everyone to an interfaith environmental potluck on Monday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. This is the fourth potluck the ELT has had in the past year with representatives of five other Concord area houses of worship. They will share resources with one another and discuss new projects they might initiate together. RSVP to Bethany Lowe (Blowe@firstparish.org) and bring your favorite dish.



AI Filipov Forum

Wednesday, September 10, Dr. Jim O'Connell, Tri-Con, 7:00 p.m.
First Parish members and friends are invited to the Thirteenth Annual AI Filipov Peace and Justice Forum. This year the Forum speaker is Dr. Jim O'Connell, founding physician and president of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP). Dr. O'Connell has written extensively in medical journals, serving as the National Program Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, was a guest for the ABC Nightline documentary "Give Me A Shot of Anything," and has received numerous humanitarian awards.

Concord Farm and Garden Fair

Come out to the Concord Farm and Garden Fair on September 13 and 14. This food-filled weekend will include the Ag Day Farmer's Market on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Garden Tours on Saturday from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Farm Tours on Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.. Preregister for Saturday tours at www.concordfood.ning.com. Both Saturday and Sunday, there will be bike tours of Concord's gardens and farms – email richard@playandlearntogether.com to join the bike tour. Finally, at the Stone Soup Dinner at Verrill Farm on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. diners will delve into local produce prepared by local chefs. Seating is limited for the Stone Soup Dinner; sign up beforehand at www.stonesoupconcord.com.

Concord Crop Walk on Sunday, October 19, 1:30 p.m.

The Concord Area Crop Walk for the Hungry will take place on Sunday, October 19, starting at First Parish; registration begins at 1:30 PM, step-off is at 2:15. Funds raised go to support several local hunger relief organizations, and the global disaster relief and development projects of Church World Service. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to walk or sponsor a walker. See www.concordcrop.org for more details, and look for the Crop table at coffee hours starting in mid-September. You may register to walk, or make a donation online. This is a great social action project for families to participate in together.

Climate Solutions Speaker Series

Friday, October 24, Dr. John Carroll, Tri-Con, 7:30 p.m.
What will it take to ensure food sufficiency and farm sustainability in New England as climate change advances? John Carroll, UNH Professor of Natural Resources, will speak about the rising movement toward small-scale, sustainable agriculture in New England. Because we rely heavily on food imported by using fossil fuels, New Englanders are highly vulnerable to food insecurity. Adapting to climate change as well as reducing the carbon footprints that fuel it require of us that we reinvest in locally grown food. John Carroll provides a road map for achieving regional food security.

Department of Peace

Energized by Howard's forceful pulpit response to the tragic deaths of Robin Williams and Michael Brown, the Mass. Campaign for a Department of Peace is rolling out its agenda for the year. Over the summer parishioners joined in a petition campaign to urge Rep. Niki Tsongas to join other Massachusetts legislators in cosponsoring a Resolution to Establish a Department of Peacebuilding. The Campaign will continue to add signatures and will present the petition in the fall. Highlighting the year's program will be a tenth Anniversary

Celebration of the founding of this Social Action Program, to feature Congressman Jim McGovern as well as representatives of local peacebuilding programs, including Restorative Justice and Mass Peace Action. Contact Pat Simon, psimon4peace@gmail.com.

Women's Book Group

New Schedule!

Welcome to a new year of book discussions with the First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group! All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both discussions. Please note that we are always open for drop-in, and you never need to sign up to attend. If you'd like to join the discussion one month, just come to either the Monday evening session, 7:30-9:00 p.m., or the Tuesday morning session 9:30-11:00 a.m. The meetings are held at First Parish in the Brooks Room.

Discussions are usually the 4th or 5th Monday and Tuesday of the month, with a few exceptions as indicated in the date list below. The morning session is facilitated by Darien Smith and the evening by Siri Smedvig. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

Books and Dates for 2014-2015

September 29/30: *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*, Meghan Marshall

October 27/28: *The Art Forger: A Novel*, B.A. Shapiro

December 1/2: *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, Elisabeth Tova Bailey

January 26/27: *My Beloved World*, Sonia Sotomayor

February 23/24: *Main Street*, Sinclair Lewis

March 30/31: *The Art of Travel*, Alain De Botton

April 27/28: *The Orphan Train: A Novel*, Christina Baker Kline

June 1/2: *Moloka'i*, Alan Brennert

Homecoming Picnic

Sunday, September 7, 5:30 p.m., Picnic and Potluck Dessert

All ages. All First Parish. Bring your whole family. Visit with your friends, catch up on the summer news and meet other First Parish folk. Enjoy the music, labyrinth, crafts for all ages, and Rise Up Singing. This is an evening for everyone.

Please bring:

A finger food dessert to share

Your own picnic food and beverage

Lawn chairs and blankets

The party will be held on the front lawns of First Parish, weather permitting; in the Parish Hall in case of rain. No admission charge. Mark your calendar now. This is an event not to be missed.

Sunday Forum

Sunday, September 21, 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

On Ukraine – by a Native Ukrainian
Dr. Larisa Goncharenko, MIT Haystack Observatory

The developments in Eastern Ukraine continue as a dramatic and deadly cat-and-mouse game between the Ukrainian government and neighboring Russia, including the tragic backdrop of the shoot down of flight MH20 with the loss of nearly 300 lives, as well as a dramatically rising number of Ukrainian civilian casualties. Dr. Larisa Goncharenko, a research scientist at MIT Haystack Observatory and native of the Donetsk area of Eastern Ukraine, will illuminate the history of Ukraine and Russia leading to the current situation. Also she will explore possible future developments, all with knowledge and insights that only a native Ukrainian can have.



Dr. Goncharenko was raised and schooled in Eastern Ukraine, with members of her family still living in the Donetsk area. Larisa received her degrees from Kharkov Polytechnic University and came to MIT Haystack Observatory as a post-doctoral fellow in 1996, followed by her appointment in 1997 to a permanent research position in upper atmospheric physics. Her research involving sudden warming events in the stratosphere and the propagation of energy through layers of the atmosphere have received recent prominence in helping to promote further understanding of the causes and consequences of global warming.

Equinox Celebration

Women's Goddess Covenant Circle

Celebrate the coming of Fall in community on Monday evening, September 22, with stories, songs, quiet and spoken reflections, a labyrinth walk, and seasonal decorations and refreshments. All are invited; families especially welcome. Meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Brooks Room, dressed for the weather. Presented by the Women's Goddess Covenant Circle. Questions? Contact bozenasmith@mindspring.com.



Reverence for Life

Come join our Reverence for Life (RFL) team at our first fall meeting Tuesday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Come to listen or to join in. We are a group interested in promoting the last line of our benediction, "Honor All Beings". Currently we have vegan potlucks once a month, where all are welcome to enjoy a vegan evening together. We need ideas and energy to broaden and enhance our program, so please come and see what you think... no commitment! Meetings may be once a month, dependent on the availability of the group. Please contact: Diana Shoemaker Kelly, shoefolk@comcast.net, Lyell Slade, llsrvd@netscape.net, or Brooks Stevens, stevensbrady@comcast.net, with any questions or suggestions.

Concord Area Humanists

Concord Area Humanists (CAH), September and October, first Wednesdays 7 p.m. Details in www.concordareahumanists.org under "Events."

September 3, "The Spectrum of Secular Organizations," Maria Greene

Maria is active in running CAH, and is Executive Director of the national UU Humanist organization. More details on CAH website, www.concordareahumanists.org, under "Events."

October 1, "Accidental Universe," Alan Lightman

Supported by Dr. Henry Vaillant who gave a memorable talk, last February, entitled, "Darwin and Lincoln," Prof Alan Lightman will discuss his article, originally in Harper's Magazine in 2011, and again in his book, same title, published January. See: <http://harpers.org/archive/2011/12/the-accidental-universe/6/>.

Ordination

Ordination of Sarah (Keleher) Napoline

September 21, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

First Parish in Brookline, 382 Walnut Street, Brookline, Massachusetts

First Parish in Brookline and First Parish in Concord joyfully request the honor of your presence for a service of ordination for Sarah Jordan Napoline to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. This is a joint ordination with Brookline. Concord members are encouraged to attend to perform the official Act of Ordination. Child care will be available during the service for children ages four and under. Reception following the service.

Holiday Fair

Holiday Artisans Fair Preparations

Preparations are well under way for this year's annual Holiday Artisans Fair, which will take place at First Parish in Concord on Saturday, November 1 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This is a wonderful community event giving artists and artisans great opportunities to showcase and sell their latest works. It provides fantastic holiday shopping, socializing, and café dining for all visitors from near and far. Please contact Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net if you would like to work at this very enjoyable fundraiser.

Catnip Ball Reminder

It's not too late to pick up a copy of the directions for knitting covers for the famous First Parish catnip balls. These popular, and ornamental, cat toys will be assembled at workshops in October and sold at the Artisans Holiday Fair in November. The directions are available in the First Parish office on the Exchange Shelf. If you have questions or would like help with the pattern, contact Margaret Stewart at 979-369-6670.

History Project

A Video of Doug Baker's History of First Parish

Let's Make it Happen!

This year we are taking on an exciting project: Doug Baker has agreed to produce a video presentation of his informative history of the church so that we will have it to present to new UU's and future generations of parishioners. To do this, we are going to need your help. Look for more information starting in October, when the Doug History Project will be asking you to make donations toward the hiring of a professional videographer. For more information or to help with fundraising, please contact Sue Beck at sbeck345@comcast.net or call Sue at 978-369-8445.

UU Universe

Womensphere UU Fall Retreat for Women

September 27, 10:00 a.m. – September 28, 3:00 p.m., “Uncaged Women Sing,” Senexet House, Woodstock, Connecticut

In the wake of the passing of Maya Angelou, author of “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” we offer an opportunity to recognize the times in our lives when we uncaged our voices and became Phenomenal Women. For more information, contact registrar Mary McRae, mcm3038@yahoo.com, 781-470-0090, or uuwomensphere.com.

Editor's Notes

Communications Strategizing Team

Have thoughts about the newsletter? Ideas about the website? Wonderings about the email announcements? Issues with the *Sunday News*? Step up and become an ad hoc Communications Strategizer. We will meet a

few times this year to strategize broadly and narrowly about communications at First Parish. Contact Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications, at rbaker@firstparish.org.

Next Meeting House News deadline:

Tuesday, September 16, 11:59 PM (yes, the middle of the night)

Email submissions, either in the body of the email or as an attached Word document (not a PDF), to Rachel Baker. Inserts will no longer be possible due to the new format.

Next publication date:

Tuesday, September 30

First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts is a welcoming congregation seeking ways to deepen spirituality, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.