

Meeting House News

September 2016



Photo by James Pazaris

**Next MHN deadline is 9/13.
Please plan ahead!**



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Photo by Doug Baker

Email and Phone

NOTE: where contact information is provided, we aim to include both an email and phone number for parishioners not using email.

However, because the newsletter is available to the public from our website, some contacts prefer not to list their phone number here. If not provided, we recommend parishioners reference the FP Directory. Then, if necessary, contact the church office. Thank you for understanding.

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Office Hours Resume September 6, 2016

Regular office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, will resume on Tuesday, September 6. Reminder: the office is closed on Mondays.

Next Meeting House News

Deadline: September 13, 2016

Publication: September 27, 2016



Sundays at First Parish

All Sunday Worship Services are held at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Worship-at-a-Glance

Sunday, September 4 – “The Journey So Far”

Jan Hutslar, Ministerial Intern

Nancy Ackerman, clarinet; Eric Huenneke, organ

Sunday, September 11 – “Here Together”

Ingathering Sunday Intergenerational Service

Rev. Howard Dana, Rev. Amy Freedman

First Parish Choir

Sunday, September 18 – “The Singing Will Never Be Done”

First Parish Organ Dedication Service

Elizabeth Norton, Music Director; Eric Huenneke, Parish Organist

First Parish Choir

Sunday, September 25 – “Slightly Askew”

Rev. Howard Dana

First Parish Choir

Sunday, October 2 – “Rosh Hashanah – Finding Peace Within”

Rev. Howard Dana

First Parish Choir



Café Returns

The First Parish Café returns on Sunday, September 10, at 9:00 a.m. Come enjoy the fellowship and light fare before the service.

Homecoming Celebration

Saturday, September 10, 5:30 p.m., on church lawn

All ages

Music, 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, potluck dessert, and Rise Up Singing. This is an evening for everyone.



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Please bring:

- A finger food dessert to share
- Your own picnic, food and beverage
- Lawn chairs and blankets

The party will be on the lawns of First Parish, weather permitting; in the Parish Hall in case of rain. No admission charge. *Mark your calendar now.*



Sunday Forums

After worship, promptly at 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

September Forums



September 11 – “Organ Open House”

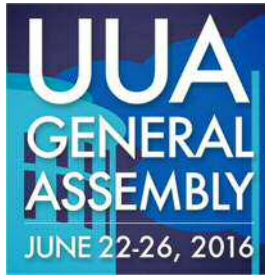
Our forum season opens with the celebration of our new organ at First Parish. Our organist, Eric Huenneke, will talk about our new Russell and Company, Opus 54, organ before playing Bach’s Toccata in D minor at 12:00 noon sharp, simultaneously with organs at Trinitarian Congregational and Trinity Episcopal churches. The intent of the Pipe Organ Open House is to open our doors for all the community to see, hear, and play each of these different pipe organs in joyful anticipation of the organ dedication concerts the following weekend. We hope you will join us!

September 18 – “Unnatural Gas Pipeline”

Dr. Colin Lonsdale, director of MIT Haystack Observatory, will take us on a journey through the challenges and perils of major natural gas pipelines. Recently, strong backlash against construction of a large new pipeline through New Hampshire and Massachusetts caused the project to be cancelled, but others are awaiting approval and construction. Understanding the pros and cons of various approaches to energy policy and the merits of specific projects is challenging because of the influence of powerful vested interests, political opportunism, both inadvertent and deliberate media filtering, and the inherent complexity of the subject matter. Dr. Lonsdale will help us to sort the wheat from the chaff in this contentious and confusing landscape.



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September 25 – "Report from GA"

The General Assembly (GA)—the annual meeting of the UUA—is where attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the UU Association through the democratic process. And GA is fun, to boot! Paula Vandever, chair, Denominational Affairs Committee, will host a panel of our own 2016 GA delegates. As each panelist describes a special moment or important event, you will vicariously experience their energy, enthusiasm, and vision for the future.

If you have suggested topics or speakers, or would like to help, please contact: Patrick Everett, pne@aol.com ; Alan Whitney, awhitney@haystack.mit.edu ; or Jack Nevison, jmn@newleafpm.com .

October Forums

A very special series not to be missed. See end of newsletter for details. Save the dates!

MUUsings

This year, we begin the fall season at First Parish in Concord with the festive celebration and dedication of our new Russell and Company pipe organ. This is an important milestone for First Parish and a rare opportunity for this community. The new pipe organ that now occupies our balcony is the fifth such instrument in our 380-year history. It is the second organ to grace our current meeting house.

Parishioners who have come to our congregation in recent years may not even be aware that we've been building a new pipe organ in the balcony. The pace of the project has been quite deliberate. This instrument was born of discussions and evaluations begun almost 20 years ago. Numerous committees have carefully studied and debated various solutions to problems that had developed with our venerable 1901 Austin/Skinner organ. The new Russell organ has taken eight years to complete. Along the way we have been given the opportunity to observe and hear the creation of a unique and magnificent instrument.



Our 1901 Austin was also the 54th instrument that Austin built. Our Russell and Company, Opus 54, links those of us who gather for worship today with our spiritual forebears, who rebuilt a ruined sanctuary in 1901, replacing the Hook and Hastings organ that was destroyed by fire with a new Austin organ (coincidentally, also their Opus 54). Like composers, organ builders assign each organ they build an opus number, *opus* referring to the significant work of any artist. So, this is the 54th organ that our builder, Stephen Russell, has built.

He has incorporated the best of the old organ into his new opus. There are pipes from the 1901 Austin organ that are seen and heard in new ways in the Russell organ. Roughly a quarter of the new instrument has restored and/or remanufactured pipework from the old

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instrument. Traditional craft and artistry combined with modern technical resources and know-how have created a pipe organ that will support First Parish's music and worship for generations to come.

Our new Russell and Company pipe organ will be celebrated as part of a town-wide Pipe Organ Celebration Week, September 11-18, 2016. Our neighbors at the Trinitarian Congregational Church will also be dedicating their new Noack pipe organ during that week. Churches all over town will join in the celebration. The schedule at the end of the newsletter provides more detailed information about dedication events here at First Parish and beyond. Let us join together and celebrate the completion of these wonderful new instruments!

Blessings, Beth
Beth Norton, Director of Music
Contact at music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602.

Pipe Organ Dedication Week

A very special series not to be missed. See end of newsletter for details. Save the dates!

Gala Organ Dedication Dinner

Saturday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Please see [details of invitation at end of newsletter](#). Reservations can be made [here on our website](#).

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Fall 2016

First Parish offers an exciting variety of choirs for youth and adults. Please see the details of rehearsal schedules and season start dates [in the flyer at the end of this newsletter](#). Registration for youth choirs can be made online [here](#). Please keep the Choir Rehearsal Schedule flyer handy as you make plans for fall and consider joining a choir! We need you!



Religious Education (RE) News

At First Parish in Concord, we offer Religious Education (RE) for all ages.

RE Programs

In 2016-2017 we will explore the following themes:

Continued next page.

FALL: Unitarian Universalism

This fall our RE program will explore our Unitarian Universalist values and traditions. We are guided by seven principles that are important life lessons:

- Everyone matters.
- Be kind.
- You are free to ask life's big questions.
- Offer that same freedom to others.
- Everyone gets a vote.
- Work for peace and fairness.
- Take care of our earth.

WINTER: World Religions

Through hands-on activities, storytelling, and special guests, our young people will gain an appreciation of Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Earth-centered traditions.

SPRING: Explorations with Thoreau

2017 will mark the 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth. Organizations throughout Concord—and around the world—will be hosting events to commemorate the occasion. Inspired by our spiritual ancestor, we will spend time outdoors, journaling, walking, connecting with nature, and reflecting on our place in it.

RE Sunday Services

Most Sundays, young people in Kindergarten through Grade 7 begin in the service with their families. Following our "Message to Children," teachers accompany children to their classrooms. All groups meet until 11:15 a.m. to allow for an hour-long session. Parents of infants to Third Graders are asked to pick up their children in the classrooms at 11:15 a.m.. Older kids will be dismissed to coffee hour.

Infants to Preschool

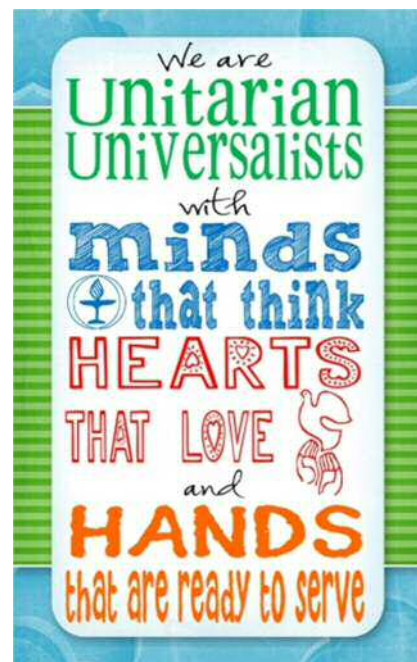
Little RE

The youngest children are warmly welcomed in our nursery/toddler classrooms on the lower level by our adult volunteers, our dedicated teen assistants, and Dawn Van Patten, our Assistant Director of RE. Parents are invited to bring their children to the classroom 15 minutes before the worship service begins (9:45 a.m.).

Kindergarten and Grade 1

Spirit Play

Spirit Play is an engaging approach to religious education based on the Montessori method and the UU Principles. Children are told a story and then encouraged to explore "wondering questions" through learning centers and art activities. Our Fall theme is Unitarian Universalism.



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Grade 2 and Grade 3

Living Our Principles

Based on a curriculum called “Free to Believe,” our Grades 2 and 3 will use the UU principles as starting points for exploring values, beliefs, and spiritual practices. The sessions will include hands-on activities, stories, games, songs, and conversations.

Grade 4 and Grade 5

Faith in Action

What tools does Unitarian Universalism offer for the challenges of life? Our Grades 4 and 5 will learn in a fun, engaging way about *Faith, Questioning, Integrity, Flexibility, Reflection, Expression, Democratic Process, and Power*. They will also take an active role in the UU Service Committee’s Guest at Your Table program.

Grades 6 & 7

Neighboring Activists

Grades 6 and 7 are exploring how they can make a difference in our congregation, locally and globally. This fall they will be helping to mobilize First Parish participation in the CROP Walk for the Hungry. The 36 Annual Concord Mass. Area CROP Walk for the Hungry will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2016, at First Parish in Concord.

Grade 8

UU Explorers

Following the Neighboring Faiths experience last spring, our Grade 8 will explore their UU identities. This new offering will include field trips to other Unitarian Universalist congregations, spiritual practices, and deep conversations about the science and the power of spirituality.

Grade 9

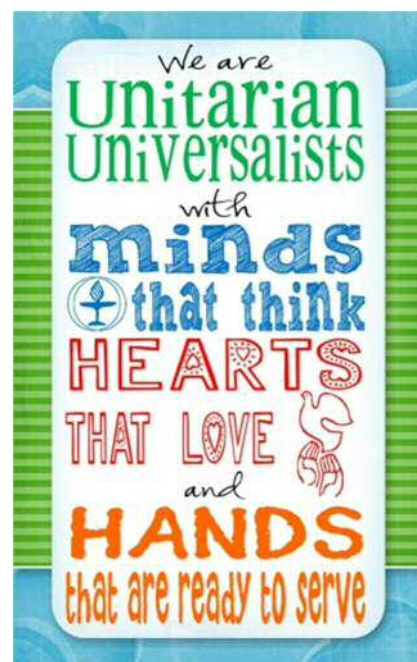
Coming of Age

The Coming of Age program for Grade 9 is designed to acknowledge the transition between childhood and adulthood. While exploring life’s big questions, each participant strives to assume self-responsibility, understand the importance of community, and develop a personal value system. This yearlong program includes three overnight retreats and culminates in a special service on Sunday, March 12, when each youth will present a personal credo statement of belief.

High School (Grades 9-12)

Youth Group

Our Senior High Youth Group meets on Sunday mornings in Wright Tavern to discuss issues of spiritual importance to today’s youth. With the support of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), the High School youth of First Parish will also plan other gatherings in the spirit of fun and social action throughout the year.



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For more information about our RE Program, upcoming events or opportunities please email Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education: afreedman@firstparish.org.

Blessings, Amy
Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education
Contact at afreedman@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602.

Youth Programs Director

Coming of Age Program and Senior High Youth Group

We are pleased to introduce our new Youth Programs Director! Christa Champion will be leading our Coming of Age program and Senior High Youth Group beginning in September.

Christa Champion spent the past 14 years in Ohio, where she was a member of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and served as Youth Ministry Coordinator for West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church. She loved being part of the Ohio-Meadville District youth community and can't wait to start her new job at First Parish in Concord.

Christa, who patrolled the sidelines in her previous career as a collegiate basketball coach, now divides her time between youth work, writing, hiking and kayaking. A Bay State native, Christa was born in Middlesex County, grew up in Newburyport, and now lives in Maynard with her partner Nancy and their dog Dietrich.



Pastoral Care

Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

Ministers

Minister for Pastoral Care, Rev. Marion Visel

Email: mvisel@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 414

Cell: 203-931-5329

Senior Minister, Rev. Howard N. Dana

Email: hdana@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 411

Cell: 717-412-8543

September Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Diane Clapp

Email: dianebamclapp@gmail.com

Phone: 781-257-5025



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First Parish Rides

Do you need transportation help to come to First Parish on Sundays? First Parish offers rides to Sunday worship and other parish events, in addition to rides for medical appointments, etc., on weekdays. With a few days' notice we can usually fulfill a request for a local ride. Our drivers would love to help.

To request a ride, please contact our Rides Coordinator, Suzanne Hogan, suzanne.hogan@comcast.net or 978-318-9035. Our back-up Rides Coordinator is Suzanne Knight, suzanneknight@comcast.net or 978-369-9636.

Small Group Ministry

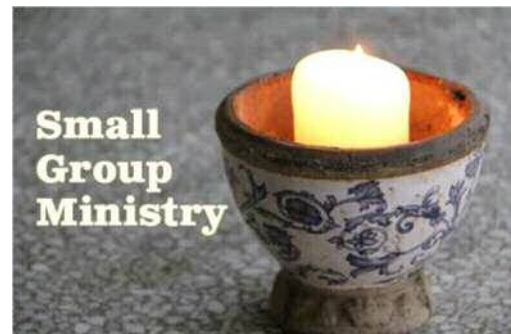
Call for Facilitators

Thursday, September 15, RSVP

Saturday, September 24, Facilitator Training

There was a positive response to Small Groups last year! Evaluations show that participants and facilitators found the groups to be meaningful and that they recommend the experience to others. People are enthusiastic about growing spiritually and deepening their relationships. But Small Group Ministry (SGM) can't exist without facilitators!

Most Small Groups meet for four to six sessions to explore a variety of meaningful topics. (Hundreds of session plans are available for facilitators to choose from, although some facilitators have created their own session plan.) Facilitating a Small Group requires commitment to a regular meeting schedule and helping to manage the group process while modeling caring covenantal relationships. Facilitators are trained and supported by the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee, staffed by Rev. Marion Visel.



If you are interesting in facilitating a group, please let us know by September 15. Hold the morning of Saturday, September 24, for the Small Group Ministry facilitator training. We are happy to talk with you about becoming a SGM facilitator!

SGM Steering Committee

Sally Brandon Bemis, Merrill Comeau, Francie Nolde, Marian Stanley, and Rev. Marion Visel. Contact Rev. Visel, mvisel@firstparish.org, 978-369-9602, x414, or 203-931-5239 (cell).

New Staff

Ministerial Intern

Sunday Service, September 4, 10:00 a.m.

Welcoming Jan Hutslar

The Ministerial Intern Committee invites all parishioners to warmly welcome our ministerial intern, Jan Hutslar. Jan will lead worship on September 4 (although she will be at services beginning August 14), and she is eager to meet each and every one of you. Don't be shy!



As a teaching congregation, the members of First Parish are charged with partnering with Howard to guide student ministers as they follow their path toward UU ministry, so don't hesitate to offer your constructive feedback — you have coached many blossoming ministers!

Contact Kate Keleher with any questions at kat@rkeleher.com or call the church directly at 978-369-9602.

Getting to Know You

Dear Parishioners,

It is my third day here in Concord as I write to introduce myself and say hello. I am delighted to be here as your ministerial intern this year.

I have a home in Canton, New York, and consider that my home base; but, I have become a traveler these last few years. The last two school years I have been studying in Berkeley, California, at Starr King School for the Ministry, and I spent last summer in Transylvania. It feels good in my bones to be back in the Northeast (though I am looking forward to cooler temperatures!).



I have great anticipation about exploring my new community. I welcome recommendations for places to adventure and things I should experience. I brought my kayak and my bike to aid in my explorations.

Mostly, I am honored and thrilled to be working at First Parish this year. I look forward to meeting all of you, and to learning and worshipping together. Please introduce yourselves to me and say hello.

I will be preaching on September 4; I hope to see you there.

With much enthusiasm,
Jan

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Church Administrator

Sarah Burns is our new Church Administrator. Sarah comes to us after serving as an Administrative Assistant at Hancock United Church of Christ in Lexington, Mass., for the past two years. She is a 2014 graduate of New Hampshire Institute of Art, with a BFA in Illustration. She is already bringing her administrative and design skills to First Parish and is eager to join the staff team here. In her spare time Sarah writes and illustrates graphic novels and helps young artists build college-worthy portfolios. She also loves playing with her dogs and finding a great cup of coffee.



Closing Fiscal Year 2016



We ended Fiscal Year 2016 (July 2015-June 2016) with a net surplus of \$80,675! After accounting for a planned use of \$15,000 savings during FY17, we start FY17 with \$96,000 “available” cash.

Since our new website (firstparish.org) is fully open to the public, our financial reports will no longer be posted there. A paper copy will be posted outside the church front office. If you would like to be added to the monthly email distribution list for First Parish financial reports, please email me.

As of 6/30/16, 5% of FY16 pledges remain unpaid—we are still gratefully accepting FY16 pledge payments. We start FY17 with \$192,839 in prepaid pledges and non-pledge contributions (out of a total of \$970,187 pledged/given); \$17,000 more than this time last year.

Fifi Ball, Director of Operations, fball@firstparish.org

Standing Committee News

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 11, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is a subcommittee of the Standing Committee that serves in a resource, policy, and advisory role to the Standing Committee, the Senior Minister/Head of Staff and the Director of Operations. The full charter for the committee can be found on our website under [Standing Committee](#).

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Opening

The Finance Committee is looking for one individual to serve a three-year term to replace an outgoing member. We seek to find an individual who has particular interests in the financial policies and programs of First Parish to fill this role.



If you have an interest and wish to contribute to our future, please send your name to Treasurer Tom Wilson, twilson@wilsongroup.com, by Sunday, September 18, 2016. Please indicate why you are interested in the Committee. Someone will contact you to set up an interview with a representative from the Standing Committee or Finance Committee. Thank you.

Self-Evaluation

At the June meeting, the Standing Committee discussed our self-evaluation from Fiscal Year 2016. We reflected on how well we met our five goals: improve Standing Committee operational effectiveness, model healthy/right relations in Standing Committee communications, function with a proactive outward vision, build a culture of stewardship, and provide support for our senior minister. The report shows progress made in these areas, but provides insight on where our goals are not yet completed. The full report can be found on our website.

Black Lives Matter Banner

Rev. Margie King Saphier attended the June 12 meeting to present the work of the Race Conversations Group, and to request that we retain our “Black Lives Matter” and “Join the Conversation” banners on the front of First Parish. After hearing about the programming and initiatives completed by the race conversations group since December, as well as the future plans for the group through the fall, the Standing Committee voted to continue hanging the banners until January 2, 2017.

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

The congregation approved the budget at Annual Meeting on June 12. The pledge campaigns of the past few years have been well run and positive, and have generated a great yield. We have a sizable endowment that provides monthly support to our operating budget, while continuing to slowly build principal. Despite the fact that our financial picture is relatively rosy, the approved budget requires \$15,000 of our available cash and does not provide staff raises. This is a temporary solution. It allows us to maintain staff and services at a level similar to 2015-2016, but is not sustainable. Our congregation has the privilege to deliberate over how best to live within our means going forward. Please stay tuned for information about congregational conversations coming later in the fall.

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Transitions

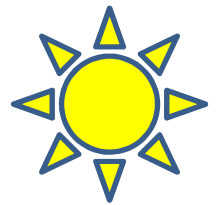
The Standing Committee is pleased to announce two new members, Kate Svrcek and John Lowe. They joined the committee after their election at the June 12 Annual Meeting. The Standing Committee is grateful for the service of their predecessors, Kate Crosby and Alec Walker, who each served two three-year terms.

Thank you, Mark Russell Prior, and Welcome, Kristin Haddad

Thank you to Mark Russell Prior, who has completed his term as Standing Committee chair. He remains on the committee as an at-large member. Kristin Haddad began her term as chair at the Sunday, July 10 meeting.

Summer Meetings

At our July 10 meeting, we discussed revisions to our financial policies that were proposed by the Finance Committee. A second revision will be presented this fall.



SC Covenant

On August 14, 2016, we began creating a Standing Committee Covenant to guide our behavior in meetings. We began to identify and define a new set of biennial goals to help focus the committee for the next two years.

We Want to Hear from You

Standing Committee members, as always, are eager to talk with First Parishioners. Please reach out to any of us at coffee hour, at an event, by phone, or by email to discuss your First Parish experiences. You can find the contact information for each Standing Committee member, along with meeting agendas, governing policies, meeting minutes, and reports at <http://firstparish.org/wp/connection/committees/standing-committee/>.

Kristin Coffman Haddad, chair, Standing Committee
Kristin.haddad@gmail.com or 978-254-5012

Denominational Affairs Committee

Sunday, September 25, Forum, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Meetings, third Monday of the month; September 19, 7:30 p.m., Brooks Room



Insights from GA Delegates

From grassroots community organizing to interfaith state and national advocacy, we put our principles into action, seeking to courageously speak the truth and demand justice. The issues that become the focus throughout our denomination are selected at General Assembly (GA) as thousands of UU's connect, share, and explore.

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For important details, please attend the September 25 Forum or any DAC meeting, even if only to observe. For more information, please contact Paula Vandever at VandeverP@aol.com or 978-369-9268.

Membership Committee

September 20, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Remember when you were new to church? We all get impressions about a group of people when we first encounter them, don't we. The Membership Committee focuses on these early impressions and those beyond too! We work to welcome visitors, help them find a pathway to membership at First Parish, and guide them to integrate into our large community.



Our work is to be friendly, listen, and connect people to others. Come to our next meeting to see how you might like to help us! Questions? Contact Suzanne.campbell.lowe@gmail.com or 978-287-4444.

Usher and Sound Team

Come Join the Usher and Sound Team



Are you friendly? Helpful? Come join us on Sundays. It's an easy, once-a-month commitment to welcome fellow parishioners, hand out an order of service, and pass the collection plate. We're seeking ushers/greeters and sound operators for the third and fourth Sundays, and, the occasional fifth Sunday (sound training provided). It's a

flexible commitment as ushers switch among themselves to fit the job into their lives. It's a great way to learn faces and make friends!

Interested? Contact volunteer head usher Maile Hulihan at mailehulihan@earthlink.net or 978-443-7020.

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.



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Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	September 7	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	September 10	9:00 a.m.	Photography Club Open to all First Parish adults
Friday	September 16	8:00 p.m.	Organ Dedication Concert by David Briggs, international concert organist
Saturday	September 17	10:00 a.m.	Organist Master Class with David Briggs. Open to all.
Friday	September 23	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing First Parish's monthly song circle
Sunday	September 25	5:00 p.m.	"Grub's Place" auditions. Contact Claudia Nimar, cnimar@aol.com

For more information on these events, check this *Meeting House News*, FP Announce, and the *Sunday News*. For more information on the organ dedication events, see the details at end of this newsletter.

Thank you for supporting the arts at First Parish!

Purpose

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. For more information, contact Susan Page, chair, at srpage10@verizon.net.

Social Action Community

Faith into Action



SAC Update

On June 17, the Social Action Community (SAC) board hosted the annual SAC dinner for 50 First Parishioners and area social justice activists who have received grants from First Parish. We learned about what's happening at First Parish and beyond, networked so we can pursue social action justice more effectively, and dined on excellent food prepared by Sven Olson and his crew of helpers. It was inspiring to see all the energy and mutual support in the room. We very much appreciate everyone's efforts, big and small, to make a positive difference in the world.

Although it will be hard to fill the shoes of Bethany Lowe, we are moving forward in the process of hiring a new Social Action Director. A Search Committee has been convened to recruit candidates and recommend finalists to Howard, who will make the final decision. Committee members are Wendy Holt (chair), Tony Rodriguez, Jane Blumberg, John Caffrey, and Eric Moore. We hope to have someone in place by October. Please spread

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the word and refer any potential candidates or questions to Wendy Holt (wendyh@dmahealth.com) or any other member of the Search Committee.

SAC Newsletter

Over the summer parishioners have been busy planning for another robust year of social justice education and action. You will continue to hear about First Parish events and opportunities via this monthly newsletter and the weekly or special FPAnnounce emails. However, there are opportunities in the wider Metrowest, Boston, and UU communities that we periodically publicize via the SAC Newsletter to those particularly interested in social action. To sign up for that electronic newsletter, please visit <http://firstparish.org/wp/justice/social-action/sac-newsletter/>.

Welcome back!

Your Social Action Community Board

Bob Brack, brackrobert@gmail.com, 508-735-6394

Leslie Fisher, lesliefisher@treitman.com

Tricia Haut, triciahaut@gmail.com

Wendy Holt, wendyh@dmahealth.com

Janine Olson, janine.olson@morganstanley.com 508-479-1015

Tony Rodriguez, trod.rodriguez@gmail.com, 617-877-9542

Margie King Saphier, margie.king.saphier@gmail.com, 781-424-2179

Amnesty International, Group 15

Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room
Sister Helen Prejean, October 7, Cancelled

Because of family illness, Sister Helen Prejean's scheduled October speaking engagement, "Dead Man Walking—the Journey Continues," has been cancelled (to be rescheduled, spring 2018). We will be finalizing alternative plans for a death-penalty-abolition community program this fall. Our other ongoing concerns include Massachusetts prison reform, violence against women, and global human rights.

For more information, contact Kathy Taylor, 781-275-0791 or Kly.taylor@gmail.com.



Concord Crop Walk

Sunday, October 23: Registration: 1:30 p.m., Step-Off: 2:15 p.m., First Parish



The 2016 Concord Crop Walk (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) will help raise funds for nine local area food pantries and suppers, as well as the global disaster relief and development projects of Church World Service.

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Please put this date on your calendar and plan to walk or sponsor a walker. See www.concordcrop.org for more information and look for more details in next month's newsletter. You may also register to walk or make a donation online.

Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org with any questions or to volunteer to help.



Holly Near Concert

Sunday, October 9, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Don't miss this special opportunity to hear legendary folk singer and social activist Holly Near and her backup musicians in concert at First Parish on October 9. Tickets are \$25, and are available at <http://firstparish.org/hollynear>. This concert is sponsored by the Diversity Committee. Contact Richard Keleher at kel@rkeleher.com or 978-944-2734 with any questions.



Be sure to get your tickets now before they sell out!



Partner Congregation News

Friday, November 25 to Monday, December 5

All-Parish Supper, Saturday, November 26

Visitors Coming

Organized by the Partner Congregation Committee, we will host eight members from our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, including their new minister, Rev. Csaba Tóder and his wife Éva.

Continued next page.

All-Parish Supper

Save the date for an all-Parish supper with our visitors on November 26. The travelers are Rev. Csaba Tóder, ÉvaTóder, Domokos Demeter, Edda Fekete, Judi Lőrinczi, Adél Palkó, Mihály Sófalvi, and Ildikó Szilágyi.

Hosting

If you are interested in hosting a couple of visitors for a homestay of two to four nights, please contact Rodger Mattlage at mattlage@mac.com or 781-259-9639.

Scholarships

For Students at the Székelykeresztúr Unitarian High School

One of the essential elements of our ongoing relationship with our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr is our support of the Keresztúr Scholarship Program. It's again time to start thinking about donations for the coming school year. Look for upcoming announcements from the Concord Scholarship Team, which includes Dana Booth, Linda Benua, Ellen Crompton, Tim Jacoby, Marilyn Lowitt, and Bill Maxwell, who divide the responsibilities of the program and who will also be recruiting new donors.

Visit the Partnership table at coffee hour for more information.

Peace Campaign

In 2005, First Parish folks met to plan a MA Campaign for a U.S. Department of Peace, a SAC Project to support legislation. It was launched with the support of three First Parish Committees, featuring Congressman Jim McGovern! Pat Simon and Jason White, early co-coordinators, with First Parish members and those of other UU churches, lobbied representatives gaining several MA cosponsors. A Party for Peace, hosted by Alec Walker, featured Jamie Eldridge, Cory Atkins, and jazz musicians.

Those interested in accomplishments to date and plans for support of the UUA-endorsed national campaign, please contact psimon4peace@gmail.com.

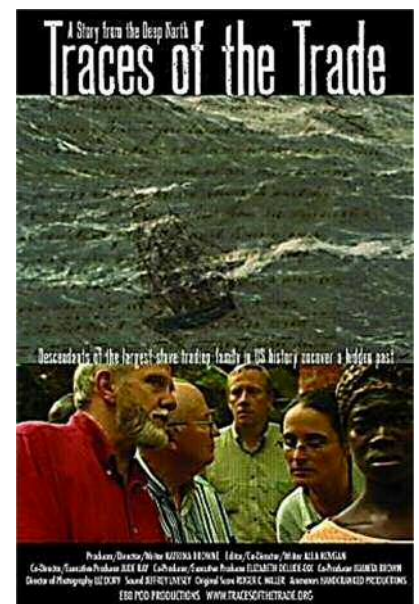
Race Conversations

Group Film and Dialogue

Thursday, September 29, 7:00 p.m., Concord Museum

Film Screening at 7:00 p.m.

You are invited to a screening and interactive dialogue at the Concord Museum of *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*. In this Emmy-nominated documentary (PBS 2008), filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the steps of the Triangle Trade from Rhode Island to Ghana to Cuba, uncovering the



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hidden history of the North and gaining powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide.

Interactive Audience Dialogue at 8:00 p.m.

Audience dialogue is facilitated by Katrina Browne and Elon Cook, Humanities Director at the Robbins House, an African-American historic house in Concord. The dialogue will include simple, accessible interactive exercises that will invite participants to share their reactions to the film's potent material in a full way. For more information, please visit <http://www.concordmuseum.org/>.

Race Conversations Group

Thursday, September 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Brooks Room

If you are interested in race relations and Black Lives Matter, we hope you will attend this important meeting as we choose our next book on racial justice for the congregation to read, as well as setting a schedule of exciting programs for the upcoming year. To stay current in the current conversations, please join our email list at Race_Conversations@googlegroups.com.

For more information, contact chairs, CC King, ccking.interplay@gmail.com or 617-710-1153, or Margie King-Saphier, mksaphier@comcast.net or 781-424-2179. Also

Women's News

Moms' Night Out

Friday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m.; Location: 7 Whittier Drive, Acton



The Moms' Night Out (MNO) group is hosting its Second Annual Back-to-School Gathering. Come join other FP moms as we enjoy light food, drink, and conversation together. MNO was created by FP moms as a way to socialize, build a support network, and share resources and ideas about raising kids in today's world. All FP moms are welcome!

Hosted by Dana Lissy and Valerie Vallancourt at 7 Whittier Drive, Acton. For details on MNO gatherings, please join the *MNO listserv* by sending an email to valvallancourt@gmail.com.



Women's AM/PM Book Group



New Schedule! 2016-2017

Monday, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., at First Parish

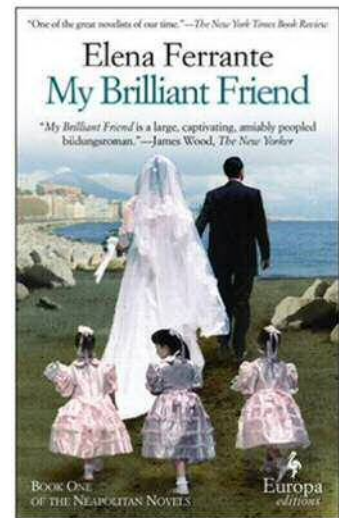
Tuesday, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., at First Parish

Welcome to a new year of books and 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 a discussion.

Please note that we are always open for drop-ins and you never need to sign up. Just come any month to either the Monday evening session from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. or the Tuesday morning session from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., both at First Parish. (Mondays in the Emerson Room; Tuesdays in the Brooks Room.)

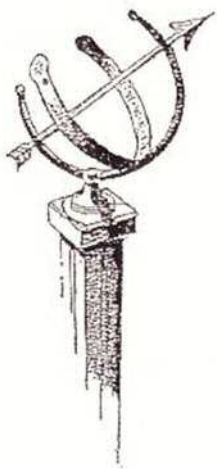
If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

Book for September 26/27, *My Brilliant Friend*, by Elena Ferrante, translated by Ann Goldstein.



Dates and Books for 2016-2017

Date	Book	Author
Sept. 26/27	<i>My Brilliant Friend</i>	Elena Ferrante, Ann Goldstein (Translator)
Oct. 24/25	<i>The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History</i>	Elizabeth Kohler
Dec. 5/6	<i>The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion</i>	Fannie Flagg
Jan. 30/31	<i>The Nightingale</i>	Kristin Hannah
Feb. 27/28	<i>Brooklyn</i>	Colm Tóibín
March 27/28	<i>Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family</i>	Amy Ellis Nut
April 25 (a.m.) May 1 (p.m.)	<i>We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves</i> NOTE: Evening discussion is later due to Concord Town Meeting on April 24	Karen Joy Fowler
May 22/23	<i>Spinster: Making a Life of One's Own</i>	Kate Bolick



Women's Parish Association

Luncheon and Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, Parish Hall

- ✓ **11:30 a.m., Social time**
- ✓ **12:00 p.m., Luncheon and Program**

RSVP by September 16

The WPA cordially invites you to its Annual Meeting and Luncheon to "break bread" together and catch up with old and new friends. The WPA Annual Report will be distributed, and a brief review of last and next year's programs and events will be presented, as well as news of women's events throughout First Parish. Election of next year's officers follows.



Contact the office, 978-369-9602, or Dian Pekin, dcpekin@gmail.com, to make reservations and communicate food requirements. All are warmly welcome as we look forward to another interesting and eventful year!

Luncheon Program

Wednesday, October 19, Parish Hall

- ✓ **Social time: 11:30 a.m.**
- ✓ **Luncheon and Program: Noon**

Have you tried to understand or predict the outcome of this year's very unusual Presidential Election? To help, the WPA is pleased to offer a special program with Professor Rick Frese. Back by popular demand for the third time, Rick will help us determine critical factors and give us tools to determine its outcome. So, save the date and plan to join us at what promises to be a very informative and entertaining event. Look for more details in next month's *Meeting House News* and FP Announce.



Other Cool Stuff

Concord Area Humanists



We bring outside speakers to share interesting Humanistic topics. We socialize and enjoy refreshments, continue with the presentation, and follow with vigorous discussion. For more details, visit "Events," www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org.

Continued next page.

Slide Show

Courage and Compassion in the Holy Land **Wednesday, September 7, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

A slide show by Pat Westwater-Jong documents meeting with Jews, Muslims, Christians, and others in Israel and Palestine. Meet members of other religions to dispel fears and stereotypes, and increase understanding.



Upcoming meetings: October 5, November 2, December 7, all on first Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Contact: Pat Everett, pne@aol.com.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

Friday, September 16, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room



Jews and Judaism at General Assembly 2016

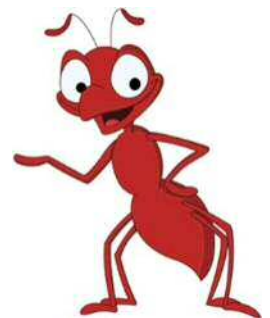
At our September meeting, we will hear about some issues of interest to Jews and Judaism that came up at GA in Columbus, Ohio, with a special focus on the divestment/screening business resolution on occupied Palestinian territories. Each month, this affinity group gathers to share some bread, wine, and conversation. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dana Snyder-Grant, dana.snydergrant@gmail.com, or 978-760-1129.

Musical – Grub’s Place

Casting Call: Sundays, September 25 and October 16, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall
Performances in 2017 on March 31, April 1, April 7, and April 8

Grub’s Place, a new musical, written and composed by Jane Blumberg, directed by Francene Amari and produced by Claudia Nimar.

This intergenerational musical is set in an ant colony. Grub (played by Terry Rothermel) creates a spot for everyone commanding compassion rather than conformity. Turf battles, jealous hearts, death, and prejudice threaten the colony’s survival. There are roles for all ages, a bug chorus, backstage, costume, choreography, and front of house (FOH) opportunities for all.



Contact director Francene Amari, francene99@gmail.com, for the audition materials, or producer Claudia Nimar, cnimar@aol.com, or 978-771-8216. Save the dates!

Continued next page.

Website Wonder

Written by Stoney Ballard

New Website "Theme"

In October 2015, the UUA released a "theme" for UU websites. We started working on converting our website and made the switch in June. This theme has many advantages over our previous website: it works on smart phones, is accessible to people using screen readers, and lets us switch to WordPress—a friendlier platform.

A main difference you'll see is that you no longer need to log in to the website. We removed sensitive content, so it's easier to manage and use. It's been reorganized to make finding things simpler and will continue to evolve as we add more content and fix some problems. We hope that you enjoy using the new website! <http://firstparish.org/wp/>

Please send notes about errors or omissions to the webmaster, Stoney Ballard, stoney@sb.org.

Editor's Notes

Next *Meeting House News* **Deadline: September 13, 2016**

Next Publication Date: **September 27, 2016**

We ask your help in reducing the rework of the over 100 monthly submissions received collectively for the *Meeting House News*, *Sunday News* and FP Announce.

Important: Send ONLY FINAL form submissions. **Plan ahead!** Maximum 100-word count (double-check), no spacing, formatting or abbreviations, font: Arial size 12. Include a picture if possible, and be sure to spell-check. We go with what you send us. Most submissions forget to include the **ROOM**. This is the only check we use to remind you to make or cancel a room reservation. Questions? Contact the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg: wolfberg@post.harvard.edu or 978-496-1397 (email preferred). Thank you!

What May I Submit for Publication?

The *MHN*, *Sunday News* and FP Announce are reserved for events at First Parish, events sponsored by First Parish, or something that falls under a staff member or First Parish committee or group. We hold to this policy, but if you feel your event deserves special consideration or are not sure whether your announcement fits in this guideline, please contact the appropriate staff member for clarification before you submit your message. If your submission does not fall within this guideline, the church office would be glad to print your write-up for the First Parish bulletin board. Please email or drop off a printable final form to the church office. We are glad to help as best we can.

Continued next page.



MHN Schedule for 2016-2017

For your calendars:

Month	Deadline	Publication
October	Tuesday, September 13, 2016	Tuesday, September 27, 2016
November	Tuesday, October 18, 2016	Tuesday, November 1, 2016
December	Tuesday, November 15, 2016	Tuesday, November 29, 2016
January	Tuesday, December 13, 2016	Tuesday, December 27, 2016
February	Tuesday, January 17, 2017	Tuesday, January 31, 2017
March	Tuesday, February 14, 2017	Tuesday, February 28, 2017
April	Tuesday, March 14, 2017	Tuesday, March 28, 2017
May	Tuesday, April 18, 2017	Tuesday, May 2, 2017
June*	Tuesday, May 16, 2017	Tuesday, May 30, 2017

*Include information for June, July, August, and the first week of September

FP GI

First Parish General Information

Hours

September 6 through June

Regular office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, will resume on Tuesday, September 6. A reminder: the office is closed on Mondays.

Contact Us

Address: 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

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

Email: Contact@firstparish.org; Website: www.firstparish.org

Church Calendar: <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/calendar/>

FP Announce: Sign up for announcements by email: <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/>

FP Facebook

"Like" our Facebook page:

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

Reserve a Room: <http://firstparish.org/wp/connection/reserve-a-room/>

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

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Add us to your address book*





Choir Rehearsal Schedule Fall 2016



Keep this information handy as you make plans for fall, and consider *joining a choir!*

First Parish Choir

Open Rehearsals, Wednesday nights, in September

Rehearsals start: Wednesday, September 7, 7:45-9:30 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 11, 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 e-mail music@firstparish.org.

First Parish Choir

Wednesday, 7:45-9:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Beginning Wednesday, September 7

Beth Norton, director

Contemporary Vocal Ensemble—NEW TIME!

Sunday, 12:15 to 1:00 p.m., in the Chapel

Beginning Sunday, September 25

Gail Carey, director

Gospel Choir

We welcome new members with open arms and hope that you are ready to inspire and be inspired. We will do some reggae, blues, gospel, and a little contemporary gospel flair just to spice things up.

Gospel Choir—NEW DAY AND TIME!

(Youth in grades 7-12)

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., in the Bulkeley Room

Beginning Sunday, September 18

Anderson Manuel, director

For more information, contact Anderson Manuel at AManuel@firstparish.org.

Children and Youth Choirs

Our choirs for children and youth will rehearse on Sunday mornings this year, beginning on September 18. All are welcome. Our children's and youth choirs offer a wonderful way for new families to build friendships and make connections.

Continued next page.



Choir Rehearsal Schedule Fall 2016 (continued)

Children and Youth Choirs (continued)

There is no need for any singing experience. During the rehearsals before the service, family members may gather for the “First Parish Café” in the Parish Hall, or after the service for the Social Hour.

Junior Choir—NEW DAY AND TIME!

(Grades 1-3)

Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to noon

Beginning Sunday, September 18, in the Chapel
Gail Carey, director

Chalice Choir—NEW DAY AND TIME!

(Grades 4-6)

Sunday, 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

Beginning Sunday, September 18, in the Chapel
Gail Carey, director

If you have any questions about the Junior or Chalice choirs, please contact Gail Carey, Music Ministry Associate at gcarey@firstparish.org. You are also welcome to let your child try it out for September.

Registration

Please note: Registration for choirs is combined with RE registration and may be completed online through [RE registration](#). See you on September 18!

By Your Side Singers

By Your Side Singers, First Parish’s pastoral choir, 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

1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., in the Parlor

Beginning Thursday September 1, at 7:30 p.m.
Beth Norton, director

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

Special October/November Forums

Shedding Light on Our History



After worship, promptly at 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Do we see all the beauty that is First Parish? Barbara Wheeler will be our moderator for a series of Sunday Forums beginning October 2 that will help “us open our eyes to see what is beautiful.” The speakers all share a passion for First Parish history and stories, and some are even the creators of what we see around us.



October 2 – Musings on the Meeting House

Please join us for a showing of *Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord*, a video written and presented by Douglas Baker and made possible by donations from members of the congregation last year. This engaging video gives a general history of the five meeting houses that have served First Parish over the past 380 years, depicting their construction and explaining why they were built the way they were. It also recounts many of the traditions, beliefs and legends associated with the congregations who worshiped in them.

October 9 – Our Beautiful Church Home

Its architecture, inside and outside

- Evolving campus plan of our buildings and architectural details (Peter Nobile)
- Steeple and the bell tower (Richard Keleher)
- Wright Tavern and the cottages (Pat Brinkman)

October 16 – Chalice, Flowers, and Banners

The altar holds important elements of our worship.

- Ceramics and creation from clay to final firing (David Ropeik)
- Art of flower arranging – seasonal beauty to enhance our worship (Ellen Whitney)
- Banners for special occasions – one in particular (Merill Comeau)

October 23 – Paintings and Photos and Gardens

- Tom Diepto Painting (Bill and Sherry Seaver, Anne Fortier)
- Ellen Emerson and the Memorial Gardens (Dian Pekin)
- R. W. Emerson (Jack Nevison)
- Photography Club (Kathleen Elcox)



October 30 – Paintings and Sculptures

- Ezra Ripley and E. W. Rogers (Barbara Forman)
- Busts of Dana Greeley, H. D. Thoreau, R. W. Emerson (Daniel Altshuler)

November 6 – Our International Connections

- Odell, England: Our First Minister's Family, Painting from 1958 (Peter Mitchell)
- Transylvania: Gifts from Our Partner Congregation – 1990 to Present (Rodger Mattlage)

November 13 – RE Creative Contributions (Amy Freedman)

CELEBRATION WEEK

TWO NEW CONCORD PIPE ORGANS DEDICATED THE SAME WEEKEND!



First Parish in Concord



Trinitarian Congregational



Peter Sykes



David Briggs

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Organ Dedication Service

10 a.m.

Trinitarian Congregational Church

Concord Organs Open House

An opportunity to see inside, hear, and play diverse organs

12–2 p.m.

First Parish in Concord,
Trinitarian Congregational,
Trinity Episcopal Church

Friday, September 16, 2016

Organ Dedication Concert

David Briggs, International Concert Organist

8 p.m.

First Parish in Concord
Russell & Company, Opus 54, III/46

Saturday, September 17, 2016

Organ Master Class with David Briggs

10 a.m.

First Parish in Concord

Sunday, September 18, 2016

Organ Dedication Service

10 a.m.

First Parish in Concord

Organ Dedication Concert

Peter Sykes, International Concert Organist

4 p.m.

Trinitarian Congregational Church
Noack Organ Company, Opus 159 II/30



You are invited!

Gala Organ Dedication Dinner
Saturday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.
First Parish in Concord, Parish Hall

A festive evening celebrating the completion of Russell & Co. Opus 54, our new pipe organ, with catering by Cafe UTEC, a cash bar, entertainment and appreciations.

Reservations: \$35.00

Reserve by credit card online at firstparish.org/galadinner or by cash/check in the First Parish Office

Reservations accepted until Sunday, September 11