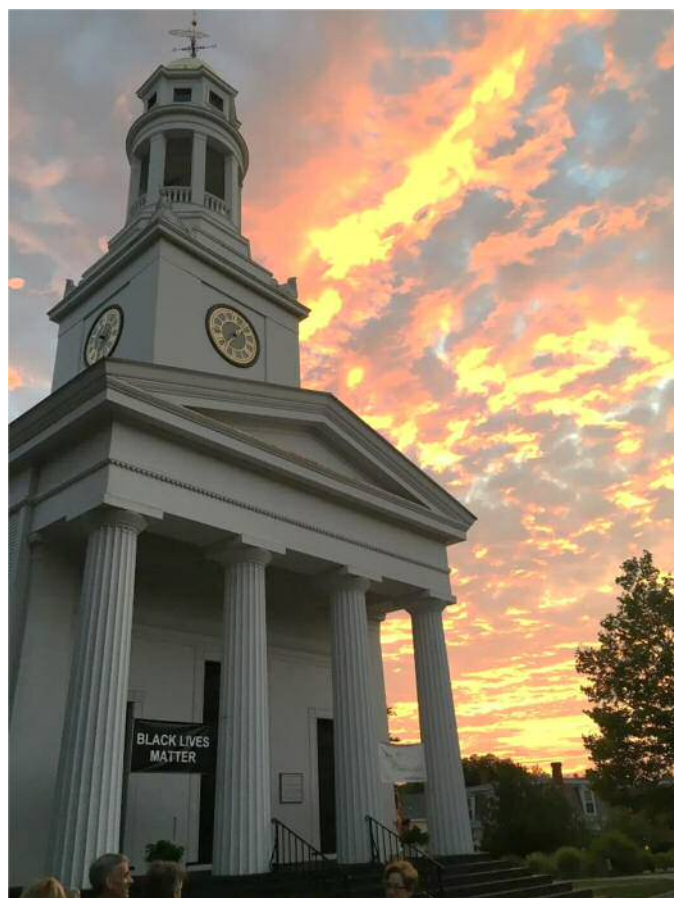


## What's Happening at First Parish?

# MEETING HOUSE NEWS

OCTOBER 2016



Homecoming Photo by Roger Mattlage

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**Next MHN deadline is 10/18.**

**Please plan ahead! See [Editor's Notes](#) for submission tips.**



Photo by Pam Dritt

### Next Meeting House News

**Deadline: October 18**

**Publication: November 1**

**We do our best to provide complete information for you here, but things do change. We encourage you to check the white board inside the side entrance for up-to-date room assignments.**

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## Sundays at First Parish

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

### Worship-at-a-Glance

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

Rev. Howard Dana  
First Parish Choir

#### **Sunday, October 9 – “A Joy, a Depression, a Meanness”**

Jan Hutslar, Ministerial Intern  
First Parish Choir

#### **Sunday, October 16 – “Michael Servetus – Religious Outlaw”**

Rev. Howard Dana  
First Parish Choir and Children’s Choirs

#### **Sunday, October 23 – “Awakening to Our Universe Story”**

Rev. Amy Freedman  
Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

#### **Sunday, October 30 – “A Faith Worth Singing About”**

Rev. Jason Shelton and Rev. Howard Dana  
First Parish Choir and Gospel Singers

#### **Sunday, November 6 – “All Souls Day”**

Rev. Marion Visel  
First Parish Choir



### First Parish Café

The First Parish Café is available on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Come enjoy the fellowship and light fare before the service.

### Homecoming Picnic Reflections

#### **Stone Soup – The Homecoming Picnic**

**From Sunday, September 10, late afternoon on the lawn**

We know the story of stone soup: a traveler boils water. Hearing he is making stone soup, each villager finds something to contribute: a carrot, a potato, a bit of meat. Soon there is soup to share. And so our picnic. First a lawn. Then add news of the summer. Hopes for the coming year. Delicious desserts. The harmonies of the boomers. A hug, a smile. A welcome. Beanbag toss. Helping hands to set up and clean up. A fiery sunset behind the steeple; luminaries on the labyrinth. A festive, fun evening is shared.

Click to see [homecoming picnic pictures by Roger Matlage](#), or go to end of newsletter.

# 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**

“Let us open our eyes to see what is beautiful” all around us at First Parish. Do you wonder how it came to be here? Barbara Wheeler has put together a series of Sunday Forums beginning October 2 of speakers who 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 narrated by Douglas Baker, and made possible by donations from members of the congregation last year. Produced and presented by Sue Beck, this engaging video gives a general history of the five meeting houses that have served First Parish since 1635. It also recounts many of the traditions, beliefs, and legends associated with the congregations who gathered in them over the past 380 years.

### **October 9 – Our Beautiful Church Home**

The architecture of First Parish, inside and outside

- Evolving campus plan of our buildings and architectural details (Peter Nobile)
- Steeple, bell tower and Sanctuary (Richard Keleher)
- Wright Tavern and the Coan, White and Thayer/Ball cottages (Pat Brinkman)



### **October 16 – Chalice, Flowers, and Banners**

The pulpit 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 (Judy Dembsey)

### **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 (in the Parlor)**

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

*Continued next page.*





## 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)

### *Suggesting Forum Topics or Speakers*

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

## MUUsings

This fall is full of special events for the First Parish music ministry. We took off like a rocket in September with the festivities surrounding the dedication of our new organ. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate this milestone for our congregation and our music ministry together. The celebration will continue when we cohost “Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza,” a program for aspiring young organists, on October 22.



In October, we will welcome two extraordinary musical guests. Singer/songwriter and activist [Holly Near will perform](#) in our Sanctuary on Sunday, October 9. Even if you don’t know the name Holly Near, I’ll bet you know her songs. “We Are a Gentle Angry People” and “I Am Willing” are two of her classics that we regularly sing in worship. This concert is sponsored by the Diversity Committee and open to the public. There has been a lot of buzz about it already. See the article later in this newsletter for ticket information. It will be a great evening, and such an honor to host her in our Sanctuary.

At the end of the month, we will be visited by one of the brightest stars in the UU musical constellation, Rev. Jason Shelton. You already know Jason’s music from hymns such as “The Fire of Commitment,” “Standing on the Side of Love,” and his beautiful arrangement of “Blue Boat Home.” Many of his anthems are in our choir’s repertoire, and we’ve performed two of his larger works, “Sources” in 2010 and “Suite Progress” in 2014.

*Continued next page.*

On Saturday, October 29, First Parish will host “What We Sing Is Who We Are,” a day-long workshop on congregational singing led by Rev. Jason Shelton and sponsored by the New England Region of the UUA. This will be Jason’s first visit to New England and the workshop promises to be well-attended. I *highly* recommend this workshop for anyone who cares about congregational singing and the future of Unitarian Universalism. [Registration details can be found below.](#)

Jason will join us for worship on Sunday, October 30. So if you aren’t able to make the workshop, or the community sing in the afternoon of the October 29, you’ll get to meet him on Sunday. Jason is a treasured friend and colleague and I look forward to introducing you.

Blessings, Beth  
Beth Norton, Director of Music  
Contact at [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602



## Religious Education (RE) News

### Religious Exploration

Children are bursting with questions. As a parent, I delight in the ways that my daughter meets the world around her with curiosity and joy. A child is an explorer, at once playing and discovering. Young minds are constantly taking in new information and seeking to make sense of the world.

Some of my daughter’s most tender questions come at bedtime right before I turn out the light. Usually I am tired and ready to relax with my spouse. I remind myself to listen to the question behind the question and recognize that she does not need “the answer” but the ability to keep her heart open to whatever she is trying to make sense of at the moment.

With the pace of modern living, it is important to make room for great questions. As Rilke so beautifully articulates in his Letter to a Young Poet: “Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves.”

How do we learn to love the questions? By stopping the endless distraction of television, the Internet, and music—to sit in silence, open to the mystery.



Consider keeping an “I wonder” scrapbook or journal to capture both questions and insights. Do not answer the questions of children and youth but encourage them to wonder, dig deeper or explore together. Share great questions with your children, loved ones, and friends.

Blessed Be.  
Amy  
Rev. Amy Freedman  
Minister of Religious Education  
[afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org)

## K-8 Columbus Day Program

**Sunday, October 9, during the service, Emerson Room**

The Columbus Day Weekend will feature a multiage program following the Children's Message. Children in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will be invited to the Emerson Room for a morning of getting to know each other through community games and crafts.

## Joining Neighbors on CROP Walk

**Sunday, October 23, 1:30 p.m., First Parish in Concord**



Our Neighboring Activists (Grades 6 and 7) are working to make a difference locally and globally. In October they are preparing to participate in the CROP Walk for the Hungry. Funds raised by the Concord CROP Walk go to Church World Service for worldwide emergency relief of disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes. In addition, one quarter of the funds raised provide contributions to the ten local supper and food pantry programs that we support, including Open Table, which we host at First Parish. So, we are helping hungry people around the world and right here where we live.

We encourage families and First Parish members of all ages to join in this fun and worthwhile event by walking or making a donation. To make a donation or participate, check out <http://www.concordcrop.org/cms/>.

## Pastoral Care

***Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings***

### Ministers

**Minister for Pastoral Care**, Rev. Marion Visel

Email: [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org)

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 414

Cell: 203-931-5329

**Senior Minister**, Rev. Howard N. Dana

Email: [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 411

Cell: 717-412-8543

**October Pastoral Care Lay Minister**, Lori Gill-Pazaris

Email: [lpazaris@gmail.com](mailto:lpazaris@gmail.com)

Phone: 978-369-6305



## Small Group Ministry Drop-In Series

**Wednesdays: October 19, 26; November 9, 16 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Small Groups That Nourish and Connect**

Jan Hutslar, Ministerial Intern, will facilitate a series of drop-in Small Group Ministry (SGM) sessions at First Parish. Come and explore a topic of meaning as we hear one another's stories and experiences and get to know a few folks better. No need to sign-up; just show up! Attend as many or as few sessions as you wish.

Small Group Ministry Steering Committee: Sally Brandon Bemis, Merrill Comeau, Francie Nolde, Marian Stanley, Rev. Marion Visel. Questions? Contact Rev. Marion Visel at [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or cell 203-931-5239.

## Openings in Covenant Group

**Monthly on a Sunday, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at First Parish**

Our Covenant Group is looking for two new members. We meet on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. less often than once a month. We're quite comfortable exploring questions that are not normally asked, laugh a lot, and are open and honest with each other. If interested, contact Bill Seaver 978-369-7318.

## Standing Committee News

**Next Meeting: Sunday, October 16, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

The Standing Committee met on September 11 to attend to regular business, approve our covenant, and create our goals. In addition, Rev. Amy Freeman gave an overview of the RE program. These occasional presentations by staff members are one way that the Standing Committee remains aware of the great work going on within our parish. Our meetings are open. We welcome anyone interested to attend our next meeting on Sunday, October 16, at 6:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room.

## New Standing Committee Covenant

Inspired by the practices of the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee, the Standing Committee at First Parish has created a covenant to be read at each of our meetings. This covenant was drafted at our August meeting, and a revised version was approved at our September meeting. The approved text is below.

## Standing Committee Covenant

As we gather for our regular Standing Committee meeting, we covenant to remember our UU Principles and that we are here to represent the congregation of First Parish in Concord.

*Continued next page.*



We will:

Be kind and supportive to others.  
Listen respectfully.  
Assume best intentions.  
Accept disagreement.  
Welcome diverse opinions.  
Welcome questions.  
Ensure others are heard.  
Consider others as we express ourselves.  
Speak with truth and compassion.  
Speak what is helpful and necessary.  
Make decisions thoughtfully.

We are aware that our words are for others to hear.  
We are committed to the processes and principles of effective governance.

## New Standing Committee Goals

In a shift from previous years, the Standing Committee is formulating biennial goals to help direct us until 2018. This serves the dual purpose of forcing us to look further ahead for our congregation and to provide us with direction through the summer, rather than having a lull between the spring evaluation and the fall goal setting each year. At our September meeting, we worked in three small groups to form specific goals under the broad subjects identified at our August meeting: leadership, governance, and supporting social justice. We will continue to refine these goals in October.

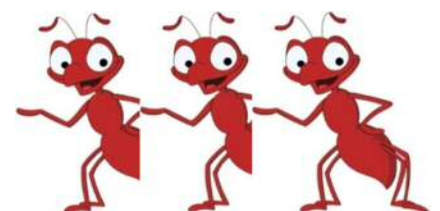
## Black Lives Matter Banner Update

At our September 11 meeting, Howard shared a letter that we have received from the Town of Concord. The Historic District Commission has sent an inquiry to our church in response to questions they have received about our banner. At our meeting, we agreed to send a notice acknowledging receipt of the letter and are currently composing our further response.

## We Want to Hear from You

Standing Committee members are always 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  
[Kristin.haddad@gmail.com](mailto:Kristin.haddad@gmail.com) or 978-254-5012





## Denominational Affairs Committee

Meeting, October 17, 7:30 p.m., Brooks Room

The Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) helps us keep abreast of all levels of the denomination, and facilitates paths to strengthen our First Parish voice. Our meetings are the third Monday of the month.

For more information, please contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or 978-369-1471.

## 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](mailto:music@firstparish.org).



### 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.

### Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	October 5	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	October 8	9:30 a.m.	Photography Club Open to all First Parish adults
Sunday	October 9	7:30 p.m.	Holly Near Concert
Sunday	October 16	5:00 p.m.	“Grub’s Place” casting call. Contact Claudia Nimar, <a href="mailto:cnimar@aol.com">cnimar@aol.com</a>
Saturday	October 22	11:00 a.m.	Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza
Friday	October 28	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing First Parish’s monthly song circle
Saturday	October 29	10:00 a.m.	UUA New England Workshop “What We Sing Is Who We Are” with Rev. Jason Shelton

For more information on these events, check this *Meeting House News*, FP Announce, and *The Sunday News*. For additional information, contact Susan Page, chair, at [srpage10@verizon.net](mailto:srpage10@verizon.net).

Thank you for supporting the arts at First Parish!

## Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

### Organs of Concord

Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Concord Churches

A 2016 program offered by the Young Organists Initiative of the American Guild of Organists Boston Chapter for piano and organ students

#### At Concord Churches

	Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street	10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Victoria Wagner Music Director
	First Parish in Concord 20 Lexington Road	11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Eric Huenneke Organist
	Holy Family Parish 12 Monument Square	12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Jim Barkovic Music Director

For more information, please contact Christine Hogan at [christine01776@verizon.net](mailto:christine01776@verizon.net).

## Photography Club Seeks Members

Saturday, October 8, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Emerson Room



We are a noncompetitive, informal photo club for First Parish adults, from novice to professional. As a member you can:

- Enjoy other members' pictures
- Display some of your own pictures
- Make new friends
- Refine your "eye"
- Learn new photography techniques
- Take field trips, both near and far

For information, contact: Kathleen Elcox, 978-318-1970, [Kelcox1@verizon.net](mailto:Kelcox1@verizon.net), or Fred VanDeusen, 978-369-0435, [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com), or come to First Parish at 9:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month. Enjoyment of photography and a camera are all that's required. Brochure is available on side table outside of church office. (NOTE: new meeting time.)

## What We Sing Is Who We Are

Saturday, October 29, 10:00 a.m., at First Parish  
Registration closes Tuesday, October 25

*A congregational singing workshop with Rev. Jason Shelton.  
Sponsored by New England Region UUA*

This workshop is for anyone who believes in the future of Unitarian Universalism, but will be especially appreciated by music directors, choir members, clergy, and anyone else who loves to sing. No experience necessary!



Vibrant congregational singing is a sure sign of a healthy, thriving church. Why? Because congregations that sing with vitality are congregations that know who and why they are. Revitalizing congregational singing is one of the best growth strategies available and it's easier to do than you might think. After exploring the treasure trove of hymnody at our fingertips, we'll open the doors for a robust Community Sing where we can put our new tools to work.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-we-sing-is-who-we-are-10292016-registration-27585351529>.

## Social Action Community

Faith into Action



### SAC Update

The SAC Board continues to work with Howard and a search committee to define the qualifications and responsibilities for an interim SAC position. We are considering piloting a community organizer position that would focus on helping First Parish make a larger impact on two or three social justice goals identified by the congregation. This would reduce the amount of support of the kind that Bethany offered to all SAC programs and the wider community, putting more responsibility on the SAC Board and Program Leaders to communicate and coordinate with the congregation. The board is meeting with representatives of the SAC programs to discuss this possibility and then will present any new social action models to the congregation. In the meantime, feel free to contact any one of us if you have questions or ideas.

Working with and for you in good faith,

Your Social Action Community Board

Bob Brack, [brackrobert@gmail.com](mailto:brackrobert@gmail.com), 508-735-6394

Leslie Fisher, [lesliefisher@treitman.com](mailto:lesliefisher@treitman.com)

Tricia Haut, [triciahaut@gmail.com](mailto:triciahaut@gmail.com)

Wendy Holt, [wendyh@dmahealth.com](mailto:wendyh@dmahealth.com)

Janine Olson, [janine.olson@morganstanley.com](mailto:janine.olson@morganstanley.com), 508-479-1015

Tony Rodriguez, [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com), 617-877-9542

Margie King Saphier, [margie.king.saphier@gmail.com](mailto:margie.king.saphier@gmail.com), 781-424-2179



### *SAC Newsletter*

To sign up for this electronic newsletter, please visit <http://firstparish.org/wp/justice/social-action/sac-newsletter/>.



### **Americans for Economic Fairness**

**Premieres October 7, 10:00 p.m., PBS  
Recommended PBS Documentary**

We encourage everyone to watch the upcoming PBS documentary “[Dream On with Jeff Fugelsang](#),” which investigates the perilous state of the American Dream after decades of rising income inequality and declining economic mobility. In an epic road trip, political comedian John Fugelsang retraces the journey of Alexis de Tocqueville, whose study of our young country in 1831 came to define America as a place where anyone of any background could climb the ladder of economic opportunity.

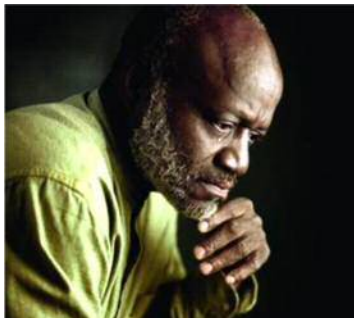
Follow our group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EconomicFairness/> or email [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com) for more information.



### **Amnesty International, Group 15**

**Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room**

We'll be wrapping up final details for our community at our next meeting concerning an evening with Shujaa Graham, exonerated death-row inmate and criminal justice activist. In addition to death-penalty abolition, our other ongoing concerns include Massachusetts prison reform, violence against women, and global human rights. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Kathy Taylor, 781-275-0791, [Kly.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:Kly.taylor@gmail.com).



## Concord CROP Walk

**Sunday, October 23:**

- **1:30 p.m., Registration and Music by CCHS Pep Band**
- **2:15 p.m., Step-Off Starting at First Parish**

Join us for the *36th Annual Concord CROP Walk for the Hungry*. Funds raised go to support ten local food pantries and suppers; and the global disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development projects of Church World Service. Rev. Dana will be walking with the First Parish team. Please plan to sponsor him or walk with our team. You may register to walk or make a donation sponsoring a walker through the CROP website at [www.concordcrop.org](http://www.concordcrop.org). Contact Sara Ballard at [sara@sb.org](mailto: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/wp/evening-holly-near-october-9-2016/> at coffee hour, or in the church office. Get yours before they sell out! This concert is sponsored by the Diversity Committee. Contact Richard Keleher at [kel@rkeleher.com](mailto:kel@rkeleher.com) or 978-944-2734 with any questions.

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

## Partner Congregation News

### *Székelykeresztúr Visitors Coming*

**Friday, November 25—Monday, December 5**

Organized by the Partner Congregation Committee, eight delegates from our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, will be visiting us (see picture below). The delegates include their new minister, Rev. Csaba Tódor, his wife Éva, Domokos Demeter, Edda Fekete, Judit Lőrinczi, Adél Palkó, Mihály Sófalvi, and Ildikó Szilágyi. During their stay they will meet with many of our staff and lay leaders. There will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to meet them, including at the Sunday church services on November 26 and December 4. For the latest information, visit the [Transylvania Partnership Community](#) (TPC) page on the First Parish website.



*Continued next page.*



### *Save These November Dates*

#### **Welcoming Ceremony, Friday, November 25**

Please join us for a short welcoming ceremony at First Parish when our visitors arrive Friday evening.

#### **All-Parish Supper, Saturday, November 26**

Save this date! Everyone is welcome to join us for supper at First Parish to learn about the delegates as well as the opportunities we are jointly considering for the next chapter of our historic partnership.

### *Student Scholarship Program*

One of the essential elements of our partner relationship is our support of the scholarship program for deserving students at the Berde Mózes Unitarian high school in Székelykeresztúr. Once again it is 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, Pat Brinkman and Rodger Mattlage, who divide the responsibilities of the program and will be recruiting new donors.

Visit the Partnership table during a coffee hour for more information about the upcoming visit and our scholarship program.



## Race Conversations Group

Thursday, October 27, at 6:30 p.m., Brooks Room

All are welcome to join the conversation and the planning for increasing our knowledge about and addressing the issues of racial (in)justice at our next meeting. Contact: Margie King Saphier [mksaphier@comcast.net](mailto:mksaphier@comcast.net) and CC King [cking.interplay@gmail.com](mailto:cking.interplay@gmail.com).

## Women's News

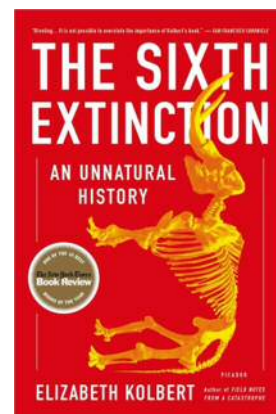
### Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, October 24, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Tuesday, October 25, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

For October, the Women's Book Group will be reading *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, by Elizabeth Kolbert. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join a discussion – there's no need to sign up!

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



**Book for October 24/25 – *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert.**

### Dates and Books for 2016-2017

Date	Book	Author
Oct. 24/25	<i>The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History</i>	Elizabeth Kolbert
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 on a later date 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

### *Holiday Artisans Fair*

**Saturday, November 5, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., throughout the Building**



Plans are well under way for our annual Holiday Artisans Fair! Over 40 outstanding artists and artisans will be selling their latest handmade items, which include jewelry, household goods, table decorations, scarves, clothing, children's items, photography, paintings, greeting cards, wooden and glass items, food gift items, ceramics, international gifts, unique recycled art objects, etc. Save the date and bring family members, friends, and neighbors for a day of great browsing, holiday shopping, and festive socializing at the Artisans Café. Great door prize and raffle items!

Contact Dian Pekin at [dcpekin@gmail.com](mailto:dcpekin@gmail.com) or the church office at 978-369-9602 to volunteer your help with this fun-filled community event.

### *Boutique Donations Requested*

**Saturday, November 5**

The Women's Parish Association will hold its popular WPA Boutique again at this year's Holiday Artisans Fair on November 5 and is looking for donations of handmade items, as well as high-quality, like-new, special regifting items such as jewelry, artwork, home decorating items, etc. Please contact Marilyn Lowitt at [marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net](mailto:marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net) or 978-793-0267 to arrange for collection of your donations or to offer your help in making the famous catnip balls.



### *Luncheon Program*

**Wednesday, October 19, Parish Hall**

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

**RSVP by October 15**



Have you tried to understand or predict the outcome of this year's very unusual Presidential Election? To help you in such tasks, the Women's Parish Association is pleased to bring you Professor Rick Frese at a special luncheon program, during which he will help us determine critical factors of the election and give ways to predict its outcome. Back by popular demand, this is the third Presidential Election that Rick has examined with us.

Contact the office, 978-369-9602, or Dian Pekin, [dcpekin@gmail.com](mailto:dcpekin@gmail.com), to make reservations and communicate food requirements. All are warmly welcome!



## Other Cool Stuff

### Auction Parties Remaining

A few tickets remain for auction parties. Contact Jennifer Izzo, [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com), to purchase.

### *Fall Fun at the Ballards'*

**November 5, 7:30 p.m., \$25.00**

Sara and Stoney Ballard, Darien Smith, and Val and Biff Holt will host a "Fall Fun with FP Friends" party featuring decadent desserts, savory snacks, and merry drink provided by your hosts.

### *Fall Flower Arranging Workshop*

**Saturday, November 11, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., \$60.00**

Experienced arrangers and Flower Committee members Val Vallancourt and Ellen Whitney will lead a hands-on workshop about the art of creating floral masterpieces. You'll select and process flowers and learn color theory basics and how to create a vase arrangement and/or tabletop centerpiece.

## Concord Area Humanists

**Meetings: Wednesday, October 5, November 2, December 7 ; 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

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](http://www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org). If questions, contact: Pat Everett, chair, [pne@aol.com](mailto:pne@aol.com).



### First Tuesday Group (65+)

**Moving Spiritually as We Age**

**Tuesday, October 4, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Parlor**

At General Assembly 2016, Dana Snyder-Grant was inspired to pose the reflections below after attending Rev. Bruce Marshall's *Meaning and Spirit in Aging* workshop. Dana integrates learning from his talk with her years of working with disability and aging as a person with multiple sclerosis (MS) and as a psychotherapist. In small groups we will focus on the following reflections:

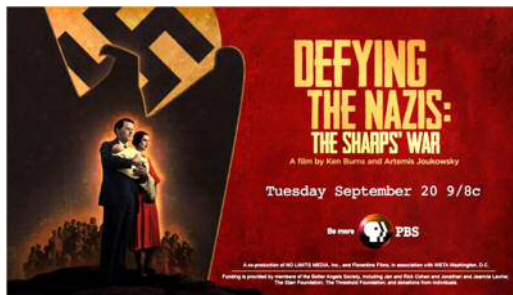
- How has aging allowed you to redefine who you are?
- What are you letting go of, and what are you holding on to (for better or worse)?
- What matters to you, and what resonates with the deepest sense of who you are?
- Come listen, reflect, question, and share with the First Tuesday Group.

For more information, contact Virginia Taylor, [virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net](mailto:virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net) or 978-263-9777.

## Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

### *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*

Thursday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.; Film Showing in the Emerson Room



This [new film](#) directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children behind in the care of their parish and boldly committed to a life-threatening mission in Europe. Over two dangerous years they helped save scores of imperiled dissidents and refugees fleeing the Nazi occupation across Europe.

### *Monthly Meeting*

**Friday October 21, 7:00 p.m.; Brooks Room**

The monthly meeting will discuss the film *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*, a PBS documentary, and its meaning. All are welcome.

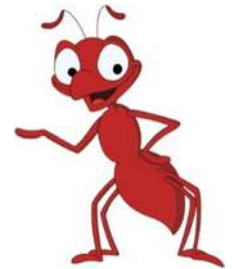
For more information, contact Dana Snyder-Grant, [dana.snydergrant@gmail.com](mailto:dana.snydergrant@gmail.com) or 978-760-1129.

### *Musical – Grub’s Place*

**Casting Call: Sunday, 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, and 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](mailto:francene99@gmail.com), for the audition materials, or producer Claudia Nimar, [cnimar@aol.com](mailto:cnimar@aol.com), or 978-771-8216. Save the dates!

## Editor’s Notes

Next *Meeting House News* **Deadline: October 18, 2016**

Next Publication Date: **November 1, 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. Please review guidelines in the [June 2016 MHN issue](#).

**NEW** – If you submit regularly, please request a template file of your copy from the Editor that you can edit and submit to reduce rework for you and the Editor. Thank you.

## MHN Schedule for 2016-2017

For your calendars:

Month	Deadline	Publication
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 General Information

### Hours

#### September 6 through June

Regular office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. 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](mailto:Contact@firstparish.org); Website: [www.firstparish.org](http://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.*

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

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*Add us to your address book*





## Homecoming Picnic Pictures



Photos by Roger Mattlage  
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