

*What's Happening at First Parish?*

# MEETING HOUSE NEWS

*NOVEMBER 2016*



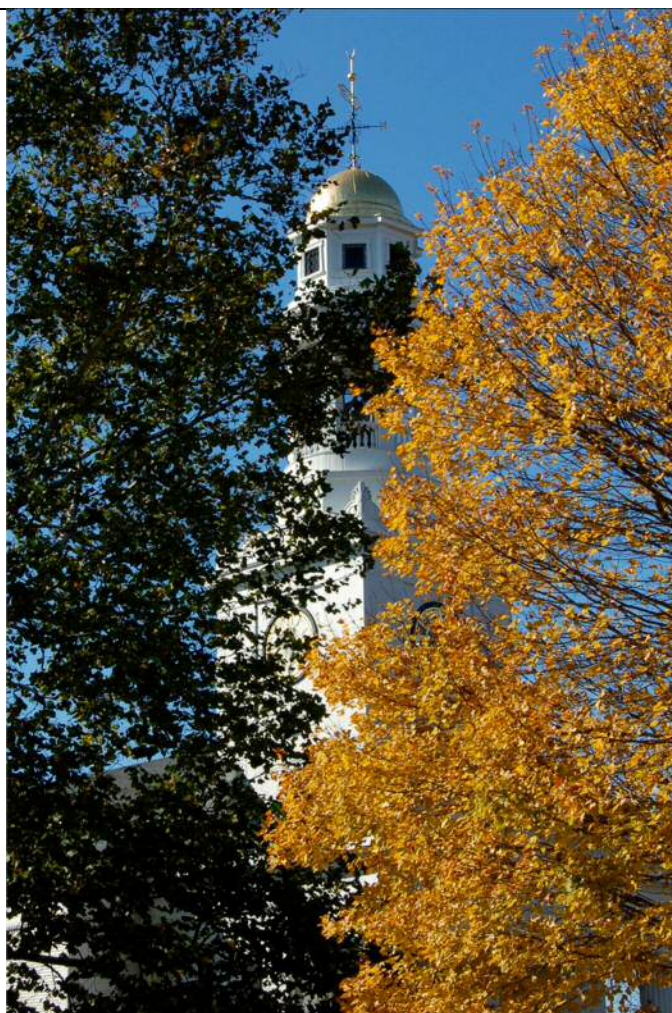
*Photo by Wendy Wolfberg*

## ***Read – Election 2016 and FP***

***First Parish offices will be closed on November 8 and 11. The building will be open—with minimal staff on hand—for previously scheduled and volunteer activities.***

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*Photo by Don Cohen*

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**Publication: November 29**

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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, November 6 – “All Souls Day”**

Rev. Marion Visel  
First Parish Choir

#### **Sunday, November 13 – “Be Not Afraid”**

Rev. Howard Dana  
Lincoln Ringers

#### **Sunday, November 20 – “Celebrating Thanksgiving – A Service for All Ages”**

Rev. Howard Dana and Rev. Amy Freedman  
Combined First Parish Choirs

#### **Sunday, November 27 – “Unitarian Universalism around the Globe”**

Rev. Howard Dana  
First Parish Choir

#### **Sunday, December 4 – “A Partnership of Faith and Friendship”**

Rev. Csaba Tudor and Rev. Howard Dana  
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.

### Sunday Forums

**After Worship; Promptly at 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

#### **November 6 – Our International Connections**

Rodger Mattlage and Peter Mitchell

This next-to-last Forum in our special series “Let Us Open Our Eyes to See What Is Beautiful” highlights the history and heritage of the objects hanging on the walls of First Parish.



*Wood carving from Transylvania*

Peter Mitchell will discuss the considerable difficulties faced by early ministers Peter Bulkeley and John Jones in their relations with church authorities in Odell, England.



*Church in Odell, England*

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Rodger Matlage will discuss more modern times—the past 20 years of First Parish's partnership with the Unitarian church in Székelykeresztúr in Transylvania, Romania. He will provide a bit of context about the partnership and discuss the many partnership-related objects you see around our Meeting House. Rodger has served on the board of the UU Partner Church Council.

### **November 13 – Religious Education and the Arts**

Amy Freedman

Concluding our special series, join Rev. Amy Freedman to explore the role of the arts in Religious Education. Throughout time, the practice of religion, and the performing and visual arts, have been closely linked. They inspire creativity and self-expression, which are essential to our children's programs.



*Children's tile-art next to Emerson Room*

### **November 20 – Heat your Home with Freezing Outside Air**

Bob Zogg of Brad Hubbard-Nelson and Gordon Brockway

If you are a homeowner without access to natural gas, come learn if a heat pump (or two) might be right for your home. This interactive session will provide an overview of heat pumps for home heating/cooling, water heating, and even clothes drying. We'll discuss the pros and cons, incentives available, and suggest a few questions that you should ask installation contractors. Bob, Brad, and Gordon include a mechanical engineer with 25 years of experience in home heating/cooling technologies, a physicist, and a former chair of the Concord Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee (CSEC).

## **MUUsings**

*Hol hit, ott szeretett; hol szeretett, ott béke.*

*Hol béke, ott áldás; hol áldás, ott Isten.*

*Hol Isten, ott szűkseg nincs.*

*Where there is faith, there is love; where there is love, there is peace.*

*Where there is peace, there is blessing; where there is blessing, there is God.*

*Where there is God, there is no need.*



I first heard this *Székely Áldás* (Székely Blessing ) at the 2002 UU General Assembly in Quebec City. Rev. John Gibbons spoke the Hungarian and the English during a presentation on the UU Partner Church Council. Our choir was planning its first musical pilgrimage to Transylvania that summer. I heard the verses and thought, "Wouldn't they make a wonderful 'partner song'." John gave me permission to use the words and his translation; I composed the two independent, but complimentary, melodies

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while on vacation on the Gaspé Peninsula. The choir sang it for the first time on that 2002 Transylvania pilgrimage. It was received with warm enthusiasm by our partners in Székelykeresztúr and has subsequently been shared among many partner congregations. The song was published in *Singing the Journey* in 2005.

In 2002, I didn't know much about the Áldás/Blessing. Visiting the pottery village of Kórund, I was chagrined to see shelves of colorful ceramic plates etched with the words. It took some *chutzpah* to write music for that traditional text when I knew so little about Székely culture. Despite my misgivings, the setting has been sincerely appreciated by Hungarians and Americans alike. When we returned to Székelykeresztúr with the choir in 2007, we were greeted by their choir singing the Áldás. What a welcome!

As a composer, I have learned that songs, like children, develop a life of their own. There is a YouTube performance of the Áldás where the melody is identified as "traditional Transylvanian." I'm oddly flattered that someone mistook my music for a traditional folk melody. There is also an anthem on the same text—in Spanish. "Donde hay fe, he amor" is attributed as "a traditional Spanish blessing." Clearly, this blessing has cross-cultural appeal.

Later this month, we will welcome a delegation from our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, including their new minister. At some point, we will sing the Székely Áldás, a "partner song" that symbolizes our partner relationship; two independent congregations working together in harmony. May we continue to nurture those strong bonds of friendship and faith.

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

## Concert Celebrating Community

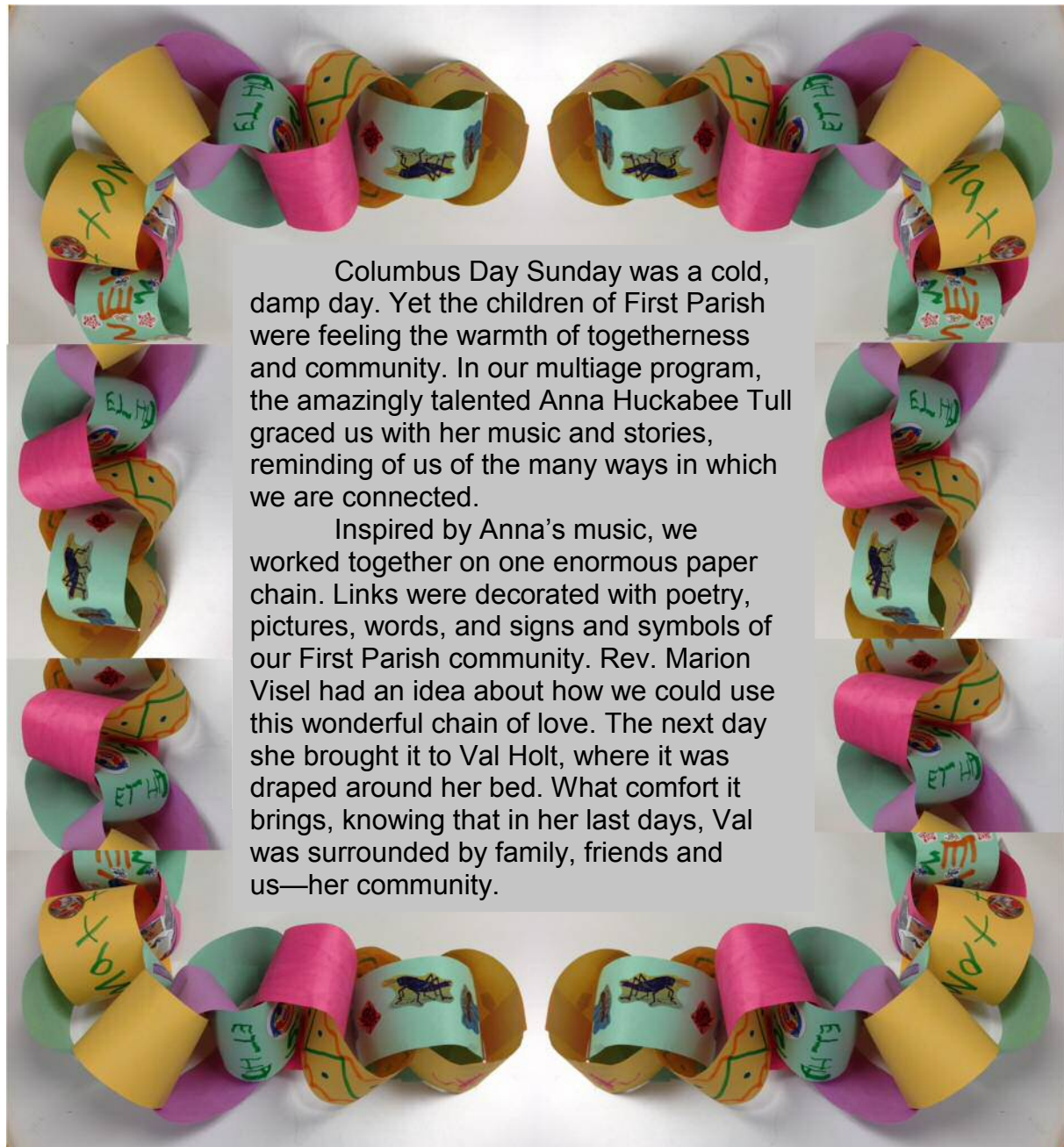
**Sunday, November 6, at 3:00 p.m., First Church in Roxbury, 10 Putnam Street**



Join the Handel and Haydn Society for a free concert at the historic First Church in Roxbury, celebrating the spirit of community. Countertenor Reginald Mobley leads a program highlighting the diversity of the choral tradition, featuring members of the Handel and Haydn Society Chorus and the Vocal Arts Program Young Men's Chorus. Tickets are free and are available through the [Handel and Haydn Society website](http://Handel and Haydn Society website). Please join us!

# Religious Education (RE) News

## Beloved Community



Columbus Day Sunday was a cold, damp day. Yet the children of First Parish were feeling the warmth of togetherness and community. In our multiage program, the amazingly talented Anna Huckabee Tull graced us with her music and stories, reminding of us of the many ways in which we are connected.

Inspired by Anna's music, we worked together on one enormous paper chain. Links were decorated with poetry, pictures, words, and signs and symbols of our First Parish community. Rev. Marion Visel had an idea about how we could use this wonderful chain of love. The next day she brought it to Val Holt, where it was draped around her bed. What comfort it brings, knowing that in her last days, Val was surrounded by family, friends and us—her community.

## Food Collection

### During Thanksgiving Service

**Sunday, November 20, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary**

Please consider making a donation to our Thanksgiving food collection. All ages will be invited to bring forward donations of nonperishable food during the service. Our gifts will help nourish our OpenTable guests. OpenTable offers weekly community supper

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programs and food pantries in Concord and Maynard/Sudbury to more than 300 guests. Please select items that are always in demand or needed in the food pantry as listed below.

#### High-demand foods

- Cereal
- Spaghetti sauce
- Strawberry jam, grape jelly, and peanut butter
- Canned chicken, tuna, and other meats
- Canned fruits
- Chunky soups, stews, and chili
- Canned vegetables and beans
- Pasta, rice, and grains

#### Always needed

- Cooking oil
- Coffee (including instant)
- Tea
- Baking supplies or mixes
- 100 percent fruit juice
- Condiments (ketchup, mayonnaise, salad dressings)
- Nuts and raisins



Thank you!

### Religious Education Schedule

Day and Time	Program	Details
Sunday, November 6 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	RE Program	Sunday morning Religious Education.
Sunday, November 13 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	RE Program	Sunday morning Religious Education.
Sunday, November 20 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Service	All ages worship together.  Little RE available on Lower Level for 0-4 year olds.  <b><i>Everyone is invited to bring food for Open Table.</i></b>
Sunday, November 27 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	RE Workshop	Welcoming guests from our Partner Church in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania.  Little RE for 0-4 year olds.



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

## Fall Youth Programming Under Way

I can't believe that two months have passed since I came to Concord!

Back in September I had a wonderful introduction to First Parish over "Homecoming" weekend, with delicious desserts and lawn games at the All-Church Picnic, a great Sunday sermon, and moving testimonials from three youth who went to New Orleans over the summer.

Since then we have been figuring out our new youth programming schedule, which seems to be falling into three broad categories:

1. **Youth Discussion Circle**, some Sunday mornings. We've been meeting twice a month *after* service at the request of the youth, so they don't have to miss out on assisting with RE, singing with the choir or hearing the occasional sermon.
2. **Youth Fellowship**, Sunday evenings. After buckling down and finishing your homework in the afternoon, come celebrate with your friends! Once or twice a month, the youth gather for a potluck supper followed by a variety of activities—musical, spiritual, social, dramatic, creative, silly or just plain fun.
3. **Special Events and Youth Service Trips**. Ideas include visiting refugee families being hosted by the New London UU church, taking a spring break trip to NYC, planning a hiking or camping outing, attending GA in New Orleans, and traveling to Transylvania next year—which of these ideas interests YOU?

All youth in grades 9 through 12 youth are encouraged to join in!

*Christa Champion, Youth Programs Director*



Christa and the Attorney General, Maura Healey, encourage you all to affirm Principle #5 by voting on November 8th!

## Adult Religious Education

### Overview

Below is an exciting list of new adult religious education and spiritual enrichment opportunities for 2016-2017 offered by our ministerial staff and others. Some programs require sign-up and many do not so please read carefully. We hope you enjoy and partake of these wonderful offerings.

Please note that because a year of offerings is listed, not all the specific dates and rooms could be include at this time. Look for more specific information in future FP Announce notices and The Sunday News.

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## Drop-In Small Group Ministry Series

**Wednesdays, November 9 and 16, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Jan Hutslar, Ministerial Intern

These are groups that nurture and connect. Come and explore a topic of meaning as we hear one another's stories and experiences, and get to know a few others better. No need to sign up; just show up, attending as many sessions as you wish.

## Parent Circles

**Sundays\*, January 22, 29, and February 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist parent? How can we be spiritually resilient in the face of life's challenges? This will be a chance for parents to connect with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a UU perspective.

- **"Parenting in the Digital Age,"** Peter Bowden and Rev. Amy Freedman. Sunday, January 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **"Talking with Children about Death,"** Dawn Van Patten and Rev. Amy Freedman, Sunday, January 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **"Sandwich Generation: Caring for Aging Parents and Children,"** Rev. Marion Visel and Rev. Amy Freedman, Sunday, February 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

\*Register for 1, 2, or 3 sessions: [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org). Child care will be available.

## Men's Spirituality Retreat

Saturday, February (date to come) 2017

Rev. Howard N. Dana, Senior Minister

All First Parish men are welcome at an all-day retreat with Rev. Howard N. Dana focusing on the spiritual gifts and needs of men. The retreat will include individual, all-group, and small-group opportunities. The retreat will result in an invitation to participants to join a new men's group at church. Lunch will be provided. Sign-up necessary. Limit: 40 men.

## Preparing for End of Life

**Sunday\*, February 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care

This program provides an overview of end-of-life decision making, focusing on the Conversation Project Starter Kit, which emphasizes having a conversation about values: what matters to you, not what's the matter with you.

Copies of the Conversation Starter Kit will be provided to help you think and talk about your wishes for care at the end of life. We'll also explore how best to talk with family members about their wishes at the end of their life. This isn't about filling out forms

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(though the paperwork is important); it's about talking about what you and they want for end-of-life care, based on values.

\*No need to sign up; just show up.

## What Moves Us

### **Late Winter/Early Spring\*; Four Sessions**

Jan Hutslar, Ministerial Intern

This four-session program was written by UU minister – Thandeka. Each 90-minute session explores the life of a UU theologian and highlights what caused in them a change of heart and a deeper understanding of their liberal faith. Participants will have an opportunity to engage with the questions posed by the theologian, and explore their own personal beliefs and spiritual understandings. These sessions weave together threads of Unitarian Universalist theology and history with self-reflection and personal experience.

\*No need to sign up. Each session can stand alone or can be built upon.

## Prayer Bead Workshop

### **Saturday\*, March 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

Cofacilitated by Rev. Marion Visel, Susan Dobbie, and Dana Snyder-Grant

We'll learn about different forms of prayers and will offer a practical approach based on a modern use of prayer beads, a practice that you can personalize. We will also each make our own Prayer Beads.

\*Sign up necessary. Limit: 16, \$10.00 supplies fee

## History Hikes

### **Saturdays in the Spring; Open to adults and children**

Rev. Howard N. Dana, Senior Minister

Come learn Unitarian and Universalist history while walking from place to place. Rev. Howard N. Dana will lead these hikes and provide history lessons as we go. Hikes will be on Saturdays and will be open to adults and children. Sites will include Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Fruitlands, Boston Common, Mount Auburn Cemetery, and the Concord Museum (good for those with mobility challenges).

## Walking the Labyrinth

### **Saturday\*, June 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Chapel**

Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care

Walking the labyrinth puts us in touch with a ritual that dates back thousands of years and appeared in diverse cultures across the globe. We'll explore the meditative practice of moving toward the center as walkers let go of cares



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and concerns that distract, and in the center receiving clarity or illumination, and on the way out perceiving a sense of unity bringing us back to the world renewed. We'll use our outdoor labyrinth; and in case of inclement weather, we'll use our big canvas labyrinth.

\*Sign up necessary. Limit: 16

## 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



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

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

Phone: 978-505-2720

### The Holden Fund



The Holden Fund was established at First Parish in 1901 when Ellen Emerson contributed \$3,500 in honor of Nancy Holden for “daughters taking care of mothers in straitened circumstances.” The original instructions have been interpreted more liberally since then to support residents of Concord who require care so they can continue to live in their own homes. Monthly stipends of varying amounts, based upon need, are awarded to help support caregivers (family members or paid professionals). The Holden Fund is meant to supplement other income and benefits.

The Holden Fund panel reviews applications/extension requests twice a year, in April and October, and reviews emergency applications as needed. Eligibility criteria:

1. Financial support is needed to provide for care in the home; no age requirement.
2. Applicant is a resident of Concord, or a member of First Parish in Concord.



## **Calling All Cooks!**

**Friday, December 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon,  
Kitchen**

It's time to restock the First Parish Caring Connection freezer. We will make delicious meals for those in our community who have a need. Please save the date. Questions? Contact Vivienne Aldrich, [vivaldrich@aol.com](mailto:vivaldrich@aol.com).



## **Election Week 2016**

### **Election Day Volunteers Needed**

**Drivers/Dispatchers Needed**

**Tuesday, November 8 – Election Day**

### ***Help Get Out the Vote***

To encourage First Parish staff and congregants to participate in local and regional “get out the vote” efforts, First Parish offices will be closed on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8. The building will be open—with minimal staff on hand—for previously scheduled and volunteer activities (please see below). First Parish helps get out the vote!

### ***Rides for Concord Residents***

**Tuesday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.**

First Parish will provide rides to the polls for Concord residents who need transportation. In an arrangement with the Concord Council on Aging and the Concord-Carlisle Community Services Coordinator, Concord residents who contact either of those agencies and need a ride to the polls on Election Day will be given First Parish’s phone number (978-369-9602) as a ride resource.

Any Concord resident needing transportation to the voting polls Tuesday may contact First Parish for a ride. First Parish will accept calls and dispatch drivers from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

### ***Drivers/Dispatchers Needed***

**Tuesday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

To help Concord residents needing transportation to get to the voting polls, *First Parish needs volunteers*. On Election Day, as calls come in to First Parish from voters needing rides, FP dispatchers will pair callers with available drivers. Drivers will pick up voters at home, drive to the appropriate polling site, wait for their passenger to vote, then return the voters home.

To volunteer to drive or to answer phones and dispatch drivers, please email Fifi Ball, Director of Operations, at [fball@firstparish.org](mailto:fball@firstparish.org), or call Fifi at 978-369-9602, x456. Let

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Fifi know your *name, address, phone number, and the hours you will be available* to drive or be at First Parish to answer phones and connect callers with drivers.

*If you, or someone you know, needs a ride to the polls* that day, please (have that person) contact Fifi Ball at First Parish on Election Day—Tuesday, November 8—at 978-369-9602, x456.

## **Post-Election Potluck**

### **Dinner and Discussion**

**Wednesday, November 9, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

Having feelings about the upcoming presidential election? After you've voted on Tuesday, November 8, watched the returns come in that evening, and (probably) heard the final results by Wednesday morning, come recap and discuss the election with other interested First Parishioners. Let's gather to talk about election results and ramifications over a potluck dinner. Bring the whole family! Our time together will include a brief worship circle to lift up our prayers for our country. We will be done in time for adult choir practice at 7:45 p.m.

## **Veterans Day**

**Friday, November 11, All Day**

First Parish offices will be closed for Veterans Day. The building will be open—with minimal staff on hand—for previously scheduled activities.

For questions, please contact Fifi Ball, Director of Operations, [fball@firstparish.org](mailto:fball@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602 x456.



## **Standing Committee News**

**Next Meeting: Sunday, November 13, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

On Sunday, October 16 the Standing Committee met and voted on several different topics. Treasurer Tom Wilson presented revised financial policies that were approved. The Standing Committee also approved the appointment of Rudi Scheiber-Kurtz to the Finance Committee and a congregational sponsorship for seminarian Hannah Gallo. We reviewed our response to the Historic District's Commission inquiry on our banners, as well as ideas for a grant application for the Woburn Fund. Next month we will be reviewing the semiannual staff compensation report and finalizing our biennial goals. Our meetings are open. We welcome anyone interested.

## **Revised Financial Policies**

After months of refinement by the Finance Committee, members of the Standing Committee, the Director of Operations, Fifi Ball, and Rev. Howard Dana recommended Financial Policies were presented to the Standing Committee. The new policies reflect

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our current best practices and will not lead to changes in financial protocols. The policies were approved and will be posted on our website.

## **Banner Update**

At our October 16 meeting, the Standing Committee approved a letter to the Concord Historic District Commission, responding to their initial inquiry regarding our “Black Lives Matter” and “Join the Conversation” banners. This letter, which will be included in our October minutes, highlights Section 6 in the Concord Historic District Act, which describes exemptions from this act. It also provides specifications on our banners and a copy of the 2015 General Assembly resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

## **Congregational Sponsorship**

### **Hannah Gallo**

The Standing Committee voted to sponsor Hannah Gallo (daughter of Melissa and Tony Gallo) as she begins her road to ministry. Hannah attended RE here at First Parish and graduated from Oberlin College. She is currently enrolled at Union Theological Seminary in New York City and plans to devote her career as a minister to social justice work. This vote is a small but necessary early step in the process of becoming a UU minister. More information about congregational sponsorship can be found at <http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/becoming/sponsorship-by-congregation>.

## **Goal Formation**

In October, the Standing Committee continued to work on our biennial goals. We had an hour of conversation about the three previously identified areas for goal development: Leadership, Governance, and Supporting SAC. Although the goals have not been finalized, consensus is building around chartering a Governance subcommittee and pursuing active initiatives to grow leadership within our church, as well as to look to develop leadership through interactions with the wider denomination or nearby congregations. We are still elucidating how we can best support Howard and SAC as they search for a new director and investigate pilot programs for alternative funding.

## **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 e-mail to discuss your First Parish experiences. You can find the contact information for each Standing Committee member, along with meeting agendas, governing policies, and meeting minutes and reports at <http://firstparish.org/wp/connection/committees/standing-committee/>.

Best Regards,  
Kristin Coffman Haddad, chair, Standing Committee  
[Kristin.haddad@gmail.com](mailto:Kristin.haddad@gmail.com) or 978-254-5012





# Finance Committee

## Committee Nominee Approved

In September, the Standing Committee asked congregants who were interested in serving on the Finance Committee to contact our Treasurer, Tom Wilson. After interviewing three highly qualified candidates, the committee nominated Rudi Scheiber-Kurtz for a three-year term. At our October meeting, the Standing Committee approved her nomination. Congratulations to Rudi, and thank you for sharing your financial acumen with our community.

## Woburn Fund

Standing Committee member Lora Venesy has outlined a project description for a Woburn Fund grant application. The Woburn Fund gives grants to congregations in the Mass Bay district and will fund up to \$5,000 for a broad range of initiatives to grow our faith. The proposal, with a working title of "Hands That Are Ready to Serve," outlines the creation of a toolbox for creating multifaceted, congregation-wide responses to big events and ongoing local issues. The Standing Committee was inspired by the ideas presented by Lora and encouraged by the congregational energy around the proposal. The deadline for the grant application was October 30.

## Congregational Conversations

**Sunday, November 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Greeley Room**

**Monday, November 7, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Emerson Room**

Come join the Finance Committee for a conversation about the First Parish financials and more. We'll review the results from last year, and how we translated our priorities into our budget.

And we want to discuss three important topics with you.

1. Priorities for 2017-2018
2. Initial plan for the First Parish Legacy Giving Program
3. How to make the annual pledge campaign simpler, more meaningful, and more efficient

We would appreciate your thoughts and ideas on these topics. Come to one or both of the scheduled meetings. Contact Tom Wilson, Treasurer, if you have any questions at [twilson@wilsongorup.com](mailto:twilson@wilsongorup.com).

## 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).



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## 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	November 2	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting (all welcome)
Sunday	November 6	7:00 p.m.	Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble "Continuum"
Saturday	November 12	9:30 a.m.	Photography Club Open to all First Parish adults
Friday	November 18	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing First Parish's monthly song circle

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!

## Social Action Community

### Faith into Action



### SAC Board Update

#### Volunteers Needed

The SAC Board, Rev. Howard N. Dana, and SAC Program leaders have spent the last few months discussing the most effective way to proceed with social justice work here at First Parish.

We value the current variety of programs that parishioners lead and support. We also know that there is a yearning among congregants for a more significant impact in some areas of social justice, such as we've had in the past. To that end, we plan to pursue a two-year pilot period that will include:

- Priority areas of focus
- Hiring of a staff person with community organizing experience
- Support of current social action programming, with better integration across First Parish
- Evolution of the grants process

We have determined from our outreach last year that the following two areas have the most congregational interest and participation: *Economic and Racial Inequality* and *Climate Change and Environmental Justice*. These areas of focus mirror the priorities of the UUA and UUSC.

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To have a bigger impact in these two areas, there is general agreement that we need to use our social action staff funds to hire someone to do more community outreach and organizing. This would necessitate liberating that person from many of the administrative duties that Bethany performed. The SAC board cannot currently fulfill all those duties, and we don't have the funds to hire an administrator as well as a community organizer.

*We need your help!* To proceed with this vision of making a bigger difference in the world while also supporting current social action programming, we require more people willing to serve on the SAC board. We need two or three more people to help with communication, the grants process, and integration of social action throughout the parish. We urge you to come forward to help fulfill and expand First Parish's mission.

For more information, please contact any of the SAC board members below:

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 the SAC electronic newsletter, please visit <http://firstparish.org/wp/justice/social-action/sac-newsletter/>.

## **Americans for Economic Fairness**

### **Corruption of Our Democracy**

We will be focusing our efforts this year on the latest UUA Congregational Study Action Issue: "[The Corruption of Our Democracy](#)." Many social activist groups around the country are turning their focus to this issue, realizing that positive change depends on reforming our democracy. We are hoping to collaborate with other UU churches in the region to raise our collective voices and reclaim our democracy from corporations and the uber-rich. If you would like to participate in our work and advance this "People's Movement," please contact Fred Van Deusen at [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com). Look for events to come later.





## Amnesty International, Group 15

**Tuesday, November 15, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room**



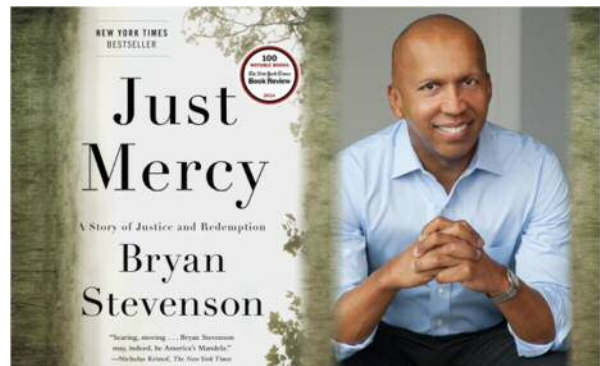
Group 15 will brainstorm about how best to advocate for two youth activists in Azerbaijan, who, after a public political protest, were falsely charged with drug possession, were tortured and face the possibility of 12 years in prison. We'll also plan for December's Write for Rights, a global campaign that last year led to the release of 6 of the 12 targeted cases. All are welcome to join us.

For more information, contact Kathy Taylor: [Kly.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:Kly.taylor@gmail.com) or 781-718-7640.

## All-Church Read and Discussion

**Monday, November 28, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and early December (date to come)**

The Race Conversations group announces an all-church read of *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. *Just Mercy* tells the story of this Harvard Law School graduate's heroic work in Alabama to bring justice to poor defendants, particularly those on death row. He says, "The criminal justice system treats you better if you are rich and guilty than if you are poor and innocent."



Evening discussions are in November 28 and a date in early December. The book is available for purchase at coffee hour. For questions, contact Don Miller, [donaldbmiller@comcast.net](mailto:donaldbmiller@comcast.net) or 978-610-6298.

## Partner Congregation News

We are very pleased and excited to welcome members of our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania.



### Transylvanians are Coming

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

Several guests from our partner church will visit us later this fall, including their new

minister, Rev. Csaba Tódor and his wife, Eva, Domokos Demeter, Edda Fekete, Judit Lőrinczi, Adél Palkó, Mihály Sófalvi, and Ildikó Szilágyi (see picture collage).

*Continued next page.*

✿ *Transylvanians are Coming* ✿  
November 25 - December 5



*Come Meet Our Visitors*

**All-Congregation Potluck – Sunday, November 27, 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Service – November 27 and December 4**

**Sunday Forum – December 4**

There will be opportunities to meet our visitors. In addition to the potluck, they will be in church on the Sundays of November 27 and December 4, and also at the December 4 Forum. There will be other events as well, with sign-ups at coffee hours. See the [PCC page on the First Parish website](#) for more information and/or contact Lillian Anderson at [Lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:Lillianand@comcast.net) or 978-369-1468 with any questions.

*Laptop Donations Requested*

The Partner Church Committee seeks donations of six to eight used laptops, either PCs or Macs, that can be sent to Székelykeresztúr to be used by students at the Unitarian high school. They will be wiped clean of all data before being sent there. If you can help, please contact Dana Booth at [dana.a.booth@gmail.com](mailto:dana.a.booth@gmail.com) or 978-369-5702.



## Women's News



### Moms' Night Out

#### Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange

Friday, December 9, 7:30 to 10:00 p.m., Parlor

The holidays will be here before you know it! Bake a batch (or two or three or four) and come swap cookies and recipes with fellow members of the First Parish community. Celebrate the season, bring a snack or drink to share, and take home some delicious treats. Stay tuned for more details and please mark the date on your calendars!

RSVP to Leah Russell, [leahkrussell@gmail.com](mailto:leahkrussell@gmail.com), 978- 266-1216; or Jean Chandler, [jeanjeanc2@aol.com](mailto:jeanjeanc2@aol.com).

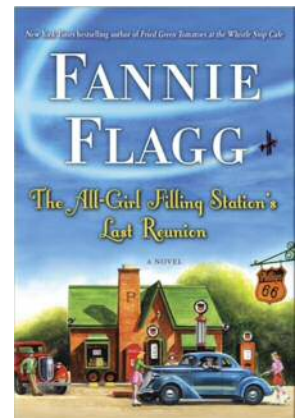
### Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, December 5, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Tuesday, December 6, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

As is our custom, the Women's Book Group will be reading one book for November and December. The selection is *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion*, by Fannie Flagg.

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).



### Dates and Books for 2016-2017

Date	Book	Author
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: The 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**



Don't forget to come to our annual Holiday Artisans Fair! Over 40 outstanding artists and artisans will be selling their latest handmade items. Café open all day. Great browsing, shopping, and socializing! Bring family members, neighbors and friends!

Great door prize and raffle items! Our WPA Boutique at the fair is looking for donations of handmade items, as well as high-quality, like-new, special regifting general items and jewelry and nice accessories.

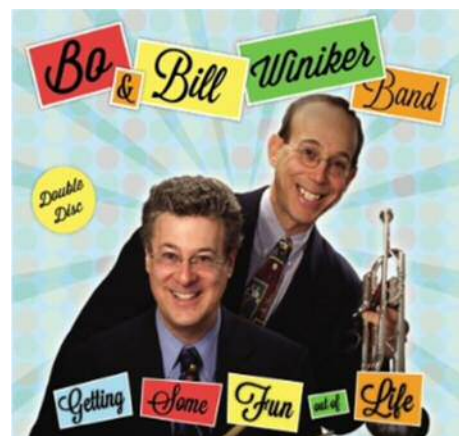
Contact Marilyn Lowitt at [marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net](mailto:marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net) or 978-793-0267 with questions and to arrange for collection of your donations. Entrance fee: \$3.00 for adults; \$1.00 for children. Children under 6-years old: no charge.

### *Holiday Concert and Tea*

**Saturday, December 10, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Parish Hall**

This year's Holiday Concert and Tea will add sparkle and delight to your holiday season, featuring the critically acclaimed and ever popular Winiker Brothers Jazz Trio, who will play seasonal and popular music, after which a traditional Christmas tea will be served. There is no charge for this event. Attendees are asked to bring plates of sweets to share, if they wish.

Bring your family and friends for a joyful afternoon! For reservations, contact the church office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) by December 6. All are warmly invited.



## Women's Retreats 2017

### **Potluck Dinner and Brainstorming**

**Tuesday, November 8, 6:30 p.m., Brooks Room**



The Women's Retreats Committee invites all women of First Parish. Let's share ideas for making the 2017 Retreats the best ever! For more information or questions, please contact Bozena Smith at [bozenasmith@mindspring.com](mailto:bozenasmith@mindspring.com) or 978-371-1060.

## Other Cool Stuff

### First Tuesday Group (65+)

#### Volunteering: What and Why

Tuesday, November 1, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Parlor

Five First Parish members will speak about volunteer experiences they have had since retiring—what they did or do, why they chose it, and what satisfaction they have found in it. Speakers are as follows:

- John Lang: formerly from *Analog Devices*, volunteering at *Household Goods Recycling Ministry*
- Margie King Saphier: UU minister supporting the *Louis D. Brown Peace Institute*
- Sue Dobbie: former hospice nurse volunteering at the *Nature Conservancy*
- Richard Fortier: engineer and developer of medical devices, now at the *Restoration Project*
- Anne Gibbs: former psychiatric nurse, now at *Jumpstart*



Come prepared to share your own experiences in a small 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, November 18, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room



Each month, the Jewish Awareness Affinity Group gathers to share some bread, wine, and conversation. All are welcome. This month, Steph Chiha will lead a discussion on *The Mezuzah in the Madonna's Foot*, a book about the secret Jews of Spain during the Inquisition. Some left Spain for Mexico, and their descendants now live in the southwestern United States, still practicing in secret.

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

## Editor's Notes

Next *Meeting House News* **Deadline: November 15, 2016**

Next Publication Date: **November 29, 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](#). When you submit, you will receive a confirmation email that your submission was received. Please contact the Editor, if you do not receive a confirmation email.

**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
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

### Office 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.

#### November 8 and 11

First Parish offices will be closed. The building will be open—with minimal staff on hand—for previously scheduled and volunteer activities.

*Continued next page.*

### *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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