



What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

OCTOBER 2017



Homecoming Photos 2017



Photos by Tamasin A. Foote

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Homecoming Photos by Tamasin A. Foote

[Read and see more about Homecoming.](#)

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Publication: October 25, 2017

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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 1 – “The View from the Pew”

Rev. Gary E. Smith, Minister Emeritus
First Parish Choir

Sunday, October 8 – “Seeing through Privilege”

Rev. Jo VonRue
First Parish Choir

Sunday, October 15 – “Humanism at One Hundred”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Children’s Choirs and Gospel Ensemble

Sunday, October 22 – “Because I Could Not Stop for Death”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
Lincoln Ringers

Sunday, October 29 – “The Church of What We Know”

Peter Mayer, Guest Musician and Speaker
Contemporary Vocal Ensemble and First Parish Choir

Sunday, November 5 – “Remembering Well”

Rev. Marion Visel
First Parish Choir



Homecoming Picnic

Sunday, September 10, Follow-Up

We had a wonderful party on opening Sunday, September 10. More than 125 people enjoyed delicious desserts, a wonderful jazz band, decorating pastoral care bags, luminaries on the labyrinth, Frisbees and footballs, and most of all visiting with each other. Hugs and smiles. News of the summer. Hopes for the coming year.



Thank you to all those who made the evening possible—creating the setting, offering an activity, sharing your music, providing desserts, and all the unseen tasks that make it work. And thank you to all who came, for it is always the people who make the party.

Continued next page.

HOME COMING



Photos by Tamasin A. Foote

Sunday Forums

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

October 1 – No Forum

Continued next page.

Sunday Forums (continued)

October 8 – Continuing the Conversation

Join Jo VonRue, our Minister in Residence, after worship to continue the conversations on race and white supremacy in our country and in our UUA. Why use the term “white supremacy” here? It conjures up images of hoods and mobs. Here, we mean: “White supremacy as a set of institutional assumptions and practices, often operating unconsciously, that tend to benefit white people and exclude people of color.” In 2017, actual “white supremacists” are not required in order to uphold white supremacist culture. Building a faith of people who understand that key distinction is essential as we work toward a more just society in difficult political times.



October 15 – The Trustees and the Legacy Investment Fund



Meet the Trustees. Learn what they do. Hear about the recently-launched Legacy Giving Program. The Trustees of Parish Donations oversee the management of First Parish’s three million dollar Legacy Investment Fund and manage the ancillary buildings on the Church Green. Meet the new investment advisor to the Trustees, First Parish member George Gagliardi, and hear how the investment management approach to the fund has changed. Learn about the new Legacy Giving Program, which will over time help build the endowment and reduce annual fundraising pressures.

October 22 – The Clover Foundation in Uganda

Clover supports the health and education of 71 children from impoverished families living in Kampala, Uganda. And, it provides Clover families a nano finance program to build their small businesses. Come hear from Peter Hilton and others who have visited Kampala about how Clover changes lives, the impact of a First Parish social action grant, and the potential partnering with First Parish children and teachers.



October 29 – Who Do We Want To Be?

The Immigration Justice Task Force (IJTF) invites you to come, learn, and add your voice to what we at First Parish can accomplish together in this time of policy chaos and moral challenge. We are called as UU’s to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

If you have topics or speakers, would like to help, or have questions, please contact the cochairs: Pat Brinkman, pabrinkman@comcast.net and Alan Whitney, awhitney@alum.mit.edu. Thank you for your continued support.

MUUsings

*God is a river, not just a stone
God is a wild, raging rapids
And a slow, meandering flow
God is a deep and narrow passage
And a peaceful, sandy shoal
God is the river, swimmer
So let go*

(From “God Is a River” ©Peter Mayer)



So goes the chorus to one of my favorite songs by singer-songwriter and musical theologian Peter Mayer. Peter will be best known to folks at First Parish and throughout the UU universe as the writer of *Blue Boat Home*, a beautiful recast of the Welsh hymn tune *Hyfrodol* that is No. 1064 in *Singing the Journey*. Since that book came out in 2005, his song, with its lyrical message of world unity, has been one of the most popular pieces in the collection.

Peter Mayer is a Minnesota-based folk singer who, as his website says, “writes songs for a small planet—songs about interconnectedness and the human journey; about the beauty and mystery of the world.” He began playing the guitar and writing songs in high school, studied music and theology in college, and had two years of seminary training. He was a part-time church music director until he quit his job in 1995 to perform full-time. He has produced ten albums.

Peter’s songs connect us to the divine in both unexpected and completely everyday ways. His song *Holy Now* expresses an experience of divinity and mystery that our Transcendentalist ancestors would recognize and approve.

Peter Mayer will be here at First Parish in Concord the weekend on October 28-29. On Saturday night, October 28, at 7:30 p.m., he will give a concert sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy. Sunday morning, September 29, he will lead our morning worship service, both in sermon and in song.

It will be a great honor to welcome Peter Mayer to Concord. I invite you to come and experience the gifts of this extraordinary and engaging guitar player, songwriter and theologian.

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

Religious Education (RE) News

A Blessing for 2017-2018

This year may you be blessed with **GROWTH!**

May your mind expand with new questions and ideas.

May your body be healthy and strong.

This year may you be blessed with **FRIENDSHIP!**

May your heart open to connect with others.

May your days be filled with people you can share and laugh with.

This year may you be blessed with **FAMILY!**

May your week include time with those closest to you.

May your home be a place of safety and comfort.

This year may you be blessed with **COMMUNITY!**

First Parish in Concord is a place that loves and accepts you.

We are here to celebrate your joys.

We are here to support you through struggles.

Together may we grow in friendship and find ways to bless the world.

—Rev. Amy Freedman

RE Theme and Locations

0-4 years, Lower Level

Kindergarten, Courage, Lower Level

Grade 1, Courage, Lower Level

Grade 2, Courage, Greeley Room

Grade 3, Courage, Bulkeley Room

Grade 4, Courage, Ripley Room

Grade 5, UU Tween Spirituality, Wright Tavern

Grade 6, Neighboring Activists, Emerson Room

Grade 7, Neighboring Faiths, Brooks Room

Grade 8, UU Explorers, Chapel

Grade 9, Coming of Age

High School, Youth Group



Continued next page.

RE Education Details

October Theme: What does it mean to be a people of *Courage*?

Date	Description
Sunday, October 1 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Religious Exploration
Sunday, October 8 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Multiage Program
Sunday, October 15 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Religious Exploration
Sunday, October 22 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Religious Exploration Concord CROP Walk for Hunger
Sunday, October 29 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Religious Exploration

RE Website and Emails

For more detailed information about our Religious Exploration programs for children and youth, please subscribe to our weekly email newsletter and check out our website: <http://firstparish.org/wp/learning/re/>.



If you have questions, please contact

- ♥ Dawn Van Patten, Assistant Director of Religious Education: dvnpatten@firstparish.org
- ♥ Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education: afreedman@firstparish.org.

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

Minister in Residence, Rev. Jo VonRue

Email: jvonrue@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 412

Cell: 570-899-0457

October Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Diane Clapp

Email: dianebamclapp@gmail.com

Cell: 781-257-5025



Small Group Ministry Groups

Aging and Becoming (six sessions)

We are all growing older all the time. This group will explore together questions such as: How are we changing spiritually as we age? What matters most to us now? Are your interests and expectations transforming, and are you able to embrace the new? What is on your “spiritual bucket list”? What fears and hopes do you have for this time of life?

Cofacilitators: Dana Snyder-Grant and Laura Bernstein

When: Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dates:

October 17 and 31

November 14 and 28

December 12 and 19

Class Size: Limited to nine participants.

Ourselves, Our Faith, Our Turbulent Times (six sessions)

We will share our stories as we draw from the UUA Small Group Ministry’s curriculum “A Call to Faith in Turbulent Times.” Sessions include Call to Love, Call to Vision, Call to Imagination, and Call to Relationship.

These sessions were designed not for debate but to nurture, support, and strengthen Unitarian Universalists in this moment of significant societal challenges. The group will create a safe space to explore feelings regarding current events and will affirm our

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commitment to being in community. We will ask ourselves: how am I learning, how am I in relationship, how can I cocreate change, and what do I need to sustain me as I work for change? Specific topics include race and immigration. Those who are beginners to conversations about these topics are encouraged to attend.

Cofacilitators: Merrill Comeau and Zach Roe

When: Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Dates:

October 5 and 19

November 2, 16, and 30

December 7

Class Size: Limited to 13 participants.



To Sign Up

Contact Rev. Marion Visel, at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239, or you can leave a note in her mailbox in the front office. Facilitators will contact you the week before the first session.

Minister in Residence

Sunday Service, October 8, 10:00 a.m.

Poverty and hunger are two very real ways of living in our world; and while I could list the statistics for you, I am certain you know the numbers are grim indeed.

As a child and teen I grew up in poverty. I remember standing in line with my mother to collect a food box from the pantry that may or may not have held items that we could actually use: government processed cheese, large quantities of baking supplies, sometimes bread, sometimes peanut butter, and often canned good—some appetizing, some not. Unfortunately, when you come from an unstable household, baking supplies are not always useful. But surely enough, there were times when I was so thankful to have a can of green beans, which may have been the only partially useful nutrition, if not the only thing that I ate for the day.

Not always having food on the table or the right nutrition in my body resulted in more broken bones than one kid should have had. I am thankful for my mother, who always did the best she could despite challenging personal circumstances. While I have moved out of that place of poverty, now receiving the nutrition that my body needs to thrive, that life will always be a part of me, which is why it is so important for me to be an advocate for those in our community that do not have enough.

I'm not telling you this story for your sympathy, but rather to compel you to action.

This month you have two opportunities to work toward ending hunger in our community by sponsoring the CROP Walk and/or participating in our [Gleaning Day](#) (more details in

Continued next page.



the SAC section of this newsletter). To hear my four-minute digital newsletter column, please [follow this YouTube link](#).

Warmly, Rev. Jo
Rev. Jennifer “Jo” VonRue
Minister in Residence
jvonrue@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 412

(EDITOR’S NOTE: See Jo’s write-up on her [Ukulele class](#) at the end of this newsletter.)

Standing Committee News

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 15, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Meeting Summary

On September 10, the Standing Committee met to hear regular reports, to receive the Stewardship Report from the Finance Committee, to discuss the future of Jericho Road, and to plan for our September 30 Leadership Workshop. In October, we will vote on becoming a Sanctuary Level 2 Congregation and complete a review of the chair.

[Minutes from our meetings](#) are regularly posted on the website.



Jericho Road Project

The Jericho Road Project started in 1999 with First Parishioners who wanted to provide professional expertise to nonprofits. Currently, the project is an independent 501c3 in Lowell that is “pursuing opportunities to partner with a more robust entity that has an interest in serving out its mission.” One possibility is for the organization to return home to First Parish.

On Sunday night, the Standing Committee authorized a exploratory committee to explore whether and, if so, how a 501c3 organization might be used to enhance Social Action work at First Parish. The Standing Committee also voted to show its willingness to accept a financial gift from the organization. This fund, if received, would tentatively be called the “Greeley Social Justice Endowment” and would be utilized as an endowment fund for furthering social action.

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Stewardship Report

The Standing Committee received a "Stewardship Report" created by the Finance Committee. Thank you to Tom Wilson, Gib Metcalf, Rudi Scheiber Kurtz, Fred Van Deusen, and Patty Popov for completing this project. It presents last year's finance survey results and information from interviews to further our understanding of the status of stewardship here at First Parish. This information will provide insight on how to effectively fulfill our role as stewards in the future. You can [download and read the full report](#) on the website.



Year for Reflection and Visioning A Five-Year Reassessment

Throughout the 2017-18 church year, First Parish will take time to reflect on the present and envision its future. This is the first in what will be a once every five year reassessment of where our community is and where we want to go. In September, we began this journey with a leadership workshop and congregational conversations on the 7.5%. Please watch the FPAnnounce, the *Sunday News*, and the website for more opportunities to shape our future together.

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, and meeting minutes and reports [on our website](#).

Best Regards,

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



Arts at First Parish

Fostering Community through the Arts

Each month the First Parish Arts Council will highlight arts events for 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.



Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	October 4	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	October 14	9:30 a.m.	Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults)
Friday	October 27	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly folk song circle; open to all)
Saturday	October 28	7:30 p.m.	Peter Mayer “Blue Boat Home” Concert

For more information on these events, check this *Meeting House News*, FP Announce, and the *Sunday News*.

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.

Thank you for supporting the arts at First Parish!

Peter Mayer Concert

Saturday, October 28, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday, October 29, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

“Peter Mayer writes songs for a small planet—songs about interconnectedness and the human journey; about the beauty and mystery of the world.”

Reclaim Our Democracy is sponsoring a concert by singer/songwriter Peter Mayer, author of our popular hymn “Blue Boat Home.” Tickets are \$20. Details at [News→ Music Events](#), and tickets are available at [Brown Paper Tickets](#).



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Peter has performed in many UU congregations and will participate in Sunday worship. For more about Peter, visit <http://www.petermayer.net/news/>. For more information, contact Lillian Anderson, lillianand@comcast.net.

Save These Dates

Children's Holiday Craft Workshop

Saturday, December 2, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Calling all Helper Elves! Save the date!

First Parish children are invited to spend the afternoon creating beautiful handmade gifts for the holidays, with the help of an intergenerational community of adult and teen Helper Elves. Your Holiday Planning Elves are Kimberly Brainerd, Dave Elwood, Kristin Moore, and Jeanne Williams.

We need people to help prep woodworking supplies in October, and will need lots of Helper Elves for the event. Be part of the fun!



Please contact Kristin Moore, kmoore.gm@gmail.com or 978-254-5037.

Copley Singers Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 10, at 4:00 p.m.

The celebration continues with a festive holiday concert by the Copley Singers, directed by Brian Jones. Katelyn Emerson, organist of the Church of the Advent on Beacon Hill and International Concert artist, will accompany this semiprofessional chorus.

Intergenerational Square Dance

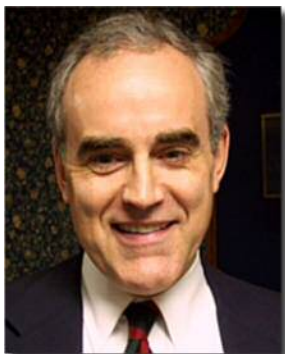
Saturday, October 14, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Beth Parkes is back as our caller for an evening of dancing and music. Read the details [under Cool Stuff](#), later in this newsletter.



Silent Movie Night

Saturday, February 24



Organist Rob Humphreville will warm us by providing the live soundtrack for a silent movie night. A truly wonderful way to experience the versatility of our instrument!

With any questions about these events, please contact the church office at 978-369-9602, Beth Norton at music@firstparish.org, or Eric Huenneke at ehuenneke@firstparish.org.

Thoreau Bicentennial Events

Women in Thoreau's Life

"Her Finer Instincts: The Women in Thoreau's Life"

Friday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Sandra Petrulionis, Ph.D.

Cosponsored by the [Transcendentalism Council](#) of First Parish in Concord and the Women's Parish Association. Contact Dian Pekin, pekindc@comcast.net, or the church office, 978-369-9602.

Contact Dian Pekin, pekindc@comcast.net, or the church office, 978-369-9602. Reservations are not required but highly recommended to help the planning committee.



A Visit from Henry Thoreau

Saturday, October 21, 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

A dramatic performance by Kevin Radaker with a reception following. Sponsored by the [Transcendentalism Council](#) of First Parish in Concord, the [Concord Museum](#), and [The Thoreau Society](#).

For tickets, contact [Concord Museum](#) or 978-369-9763, ext. 216.

Curator's Corner

Architectural Details

We continue this new history series about First Parish with a look above the pulpit at an architectural detail—specifically, the scallop shell.

Such decorative flourishes were a part of Western art. A scallop shell was carried by pilgrims on their long journey to the Holy Land, and used as a cup to drink water. In Western art, John the Baptist is frequently seen using a scallop shell to pour water and baptize Jesus. John the Baptist was associated with the key phrase from the words of Isaiah, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness." So symbolically, with the scallop shell above the minister's head



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in the pulpit, is he not a voice crying out in the wilderness of the world and the congregation?

Columns are another architectural detail of Western art visible throughout the Meeting House. Greek and Roman influences are evident in the Doric (oldest and simplest), Ionic



(scrolls, more delicate), and Corinthian (leafy, ornate) columns. Can you identify them? The Meeting House was built primarily in the Greek Revival style, 1820-40, and covered in white paint containing lead making it durable. This affordable white paint became the standard color of Greek Revival architecture and is now considered the traditional paint of historic New England.



Blessings,

Douglas Baker
Curator and Sexton

Contact: dbaker@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602

Social Action Community

Faith into Action

News from Zach

Happy October, First Parish community! This month we have some exciting opportunities.

March for Racial Justice

Sunday, October 1, 2:45 p.m., Providence, Rhode Island

Meet outside the "Hilton Garden Inn Providence," 220 India Street, Providence



Come participate in Providence, Rhode Island, in a sister march to the March for Racial Justice being held in Washington, D.C. You can find out more by visiting <https://www.m4rj.com/>. The march will be gathering across the street from the



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Hilton Garden Inn Providence (not the one at the airport). It would be wonderful to have a big group of First Parishioners representing our parish and our UU values at this march!

50-Bag Challenge

Targeted Food Drive for the Open Table Food Pantry

Pick Up Bag, Sunday, October 22

Bring Back, Sunday, October 29, to Vestibule

Take the challenge. As you exit the Sanctuary October 22, you will find 50 reusable grocery bags, thanks to a generous donation from Trader Joe's, Acton. Inside each bag will be a list of food items needed. Take a bag, fill it up with the items listed, and bring it back to the main front entrance (vestibule) on Sunday, October 29. If you cannot bring the bag back then, please return it to Zach's office during the week. We will then take the bags to the Open Table pantry.



Gleaning Day

Pick and Gather Post-Harvest Crops

Saturday, October 28



We will be partnering with the Boston Area Gleaners to pick and gather post-harvest crops from a farm not far from the Concord area. Everything collected will be donated to local shelters and food pantries. More information about gleaning and the Boston Area Gleaners, visit <http://www.bostonareagleaners.org/>. Anyone interested in volunteering to be part of the First Parish gleaning team can contact Zach for more details. Let's show them that we at First Parish in Concord can get our hands dirty!

Our Updates

For those who do not use social media, you can still find our updates in the *Meeting House News*, and the *Sunday News*, and through the SAC email list. Click through to sign up for the [SAC Newsletter](#).



Looking forward to the good work we'll be doing this month! Please contact me with any questions or for more details!

In peace and hope,
Zach
Zachary Roe
Social Action Coordinator
zroe@firstparish.org, 978-369-9602, ext.450

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

First on the agenda is to sign letters to support human rights activists determined by Amnesty/USA to be “urgent” cases. A new undertaking will be to map out a plan to address the refugee/asylum crisis. Ongoing projects include Massachusetts prison reform, death penalty abolition, the prevention of violence against women worldwide, and the freeing of two Azerbaijani student activists. All are welcome to join us.



For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, njlyons22@gmail.com or 978-369-6109.

Concord CROP Walk

Sunday, October 22, 1:30 p.m., at First Parish

Registration: 1:30 p.m.; Step-Off: 2:15 p.m.



Lots of fun—join us for the 37th Annual Concord CROP Walk. We begin at First Parish. Registration and music by the CCHS Pep Band begins at 1:30 p.m.. Funds raised go to support ten local food pantries and suppers, global disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development projects of Church World Service.

Our Minister in Residence, Rev. Jo VonRue, will walk with the First Parish team. Please plan to sponsor her or walk with her. You may register to walk or make a donation sponsoring a walker through the CROP website at www.concordcrop.org. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org with questions.

Diversity Committee—Film

Premier of “Wild & Precious” Film and Talk-Back

Sunday, November 12, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

First Parish member Steve Cadwell has made a film of his wonderful one-man show, “Wild & Precious,” a coming-of-age memoir about growing up gay on a farm in Vermont, and how he came to accept and embrace his sexuality. The Concord premiere at First Parish will be followed by a talk-back with Steve. This showing will benefit the LGBT Asylum Task Force. More details in next month’s newsletter. Sponsored by the Diversity Committee. Contact Sara Ballard, sara@sb.org, with questions.



Partner Congregation News

April Multigenerational Pilgrimage



The Partner Congregation Committee (PCC) and Rev. Amy Freedman are excited to announce the pilgrimage to our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr leaves either Thursday or Friday, April 12 or 13, and returns Monday, April 23. It is open to all congregation members, individuals and families alike. To view a draft itinerary, [download a PDF here](#).

There is still time to register. The cost will be \$1,800 to \$2,200 per person (largely driven by airfares). Scholarship assistance is available by contacting Amy. Come join Howard, Beth, Amy, Dawn, and 14 other adults, youth, and children who have already signed up.

To learn more, please visit the PCC table at Sunday coffee hours through October 8. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Lillian Anderson, lillianand@comcast.net, or Rev. Amy Freedman, afreedman@Firstparish.org.



Scholarships

Students in Székelykeresztúr

Since 1996, our congregation has provided scholarships to make it possible for deserving Hungarian minority students from rural villages in the Hungarian areas of Transylvania, Romania, to get a high school education at the Unitarian High School in Székelykeresztúr. We are now collecting donations for the coming school year. Look for upcoming announcements about our new scholarship program team, and information for donors for the new freshmen class, and for continuing high school and college students. Visit the Partnership table on Sundays at coffee hour for more information.

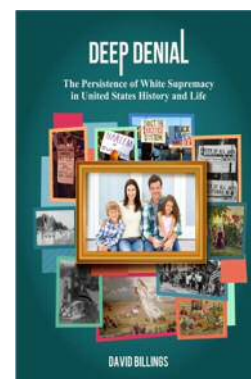


Race Conversations Group

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Special Event: Sunday, November 5, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Rev. David Billings, author of *Deep Denial*, will discuss the historical legacy of racism and white supremacy, followed by a question and answer period. Afterward, in the Parish Hall, Rev. Billings will sell and autograph his book. Refreshments will be served.



We meet monthly on the second Thursday. Please join us. And be sure to visit our table at coffee hour for these sale items:

- Bracelets: \$6.00
- Black Like Me pins: 50¢ each, 3 for \$1.00
- Black Like Me signs: \$10.00 each



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

Women's News

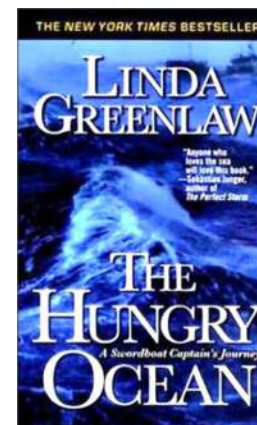
Women's AM/PM Book Group

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

Tuesday, October 31, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

For October, the Women's Book Group will be reading *The Hungry Ocean: A Swordboat Captain's Journey*, by Linda Greenlaw. 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.



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Dates and Books for 2017-2018

Date	Book	Author
Oct. 30/31	<i>The Hungry Ocean: A Swordboat Captain's Journey</i>	Linda Greenlaw
Dec. 4/5	Poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay (Stay tuned for suggested selections and sources.)	Edna St. Vincent Millay
Jan. 29/30	<i>News of the World</i>	Paulette Jiles
Feb. 26/27	<i>Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right</i>	Arlie Russell Hochschild
March 26/27	<i>Commonwealth</i>	Ann Patchett
April 23/24	<i>America's First Daughter</i> NOTE: The April 23 date may be changed, depending on Concord Town Meeting's date.	Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie
May 21/22	<i>Necessary Lies</i>	Diane Chamberlain

Book for October 30/31: *The Hungry Ocean: A Swordboat Captain's Journey* by Linda Greenlaw.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Greenlaw's boat was the sister ship to the doomed Andrea Gail in Sebastian Junger's book and movie *The Perfect Storm*. She is the world's only female swordfish boat captain and one of the most successful in the Grand Banks.]

Women's Empowerment

Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE)

Film series: Friday, October 6, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

Retreat: Sunday, October 15, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., First Parish

Cook and Serve: Sunday, October 29, from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m., Rosie's Place, Boston

Book Group: Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: Saturday October 21, 8:00 a.m., Serendipity in Maynard

Upcoming Events

- Free Film Series Kickoff – First Friday Free Film series kicks off with “Hidden Figures.” Three brilliant African-American women at NASA are the brains behind the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. Contact: Lou Toussaint, mloutoussaint@gmail.com.
- Reflective Retreat – Calling activists and feminists interested in women's empowerment social justice initiatives! Join us for a reflective retreat. We'll look back at what we've accomplished and look forward to where we are going. Contact: Colleen Mischel, colleen.mischel@gmail.com.

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- Cook and Serve – We need 15 volunteers (adults and teens 12 or older) to cook and serve dinner at Rosie's Place. Sign up soon, as the spots will fill quickly! Contact: Suzie Weaver, skatesuzie@aol.com .
- Book Group – Will resume with a book on low income families and homelessness. Stay tuned for details.
- Next Meeting – Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Come join us!
- Mailing List: To join the AWE mailing list, contact Lora Venesy, venesy@comcast.net.

Women in Thoreau's Life

"Her Finer Instincts: The Women in Thoreau's Life"

Friday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

You are invited to this wonderful presentation by Sandra Petrulionis, Ph.D. For more details, see the [write-up earlier in this newsletter](#). Contact Dian Pekin, pekindc@comcast.net , or the church office, 978-369-9602. Reservations are not required but highly recommended to help the planning committee.

Women's Parish Association

Holiday Artisans Fair

Saturday, November 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., throughout First Parish facilities

It's not too early to start planning for this year's Holiday Artisans Fair. The Women's Parish Association (WPA) will hold its popular WPA Boutique again at this year's fair and is looking for donations of nice handmade items, as well as high-quality, like-new regifting items, such as jewelry, artwork, and holiday and general home decorating items.



Please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to arrange for your donations or to offer your help in making the famous catnip balls.



Other Cool Stuff

Concord Area Humanists

"Creating a Sustainable World" with Dr. Ellen Moyer
Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall



An environmental consultant, Ellen Moyer assesses and cleans up contaminated soil and groundwater and develops sustainable solutions and practices to promote environmental and human health. Readers love her third book, "Our Earth, Our Species, Our Selves: How to Thrive While Creating a Sustainable World," published in December 2016.

See her website: <http://ellenmoyerphd.com/>. She is a registered professional engineer with a B.A. in anthropology, an M.S. in environmental engineering, and a Ph.D. in civil engineering. She is a regular contributor to *The Huffington Post*.

First Tuesday Group

"The Memoir: How to Write One" and Post-Meeting
October 3, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Parlor

Nancy Shohet West describes how to write a memoir, how to get started, what to explore, and how to work with a professional to write your own. Erica Morrison reports on how, with Nancy's help, she recently completed her own memoir. Toby Smith, Standing Committee member, joins us at 3:00 p.m. to discuss next year's congregational vote to continue the 7.5% set-aside for social action.



Come participate in this stimulating mix of start-of-the-church-year activities! We welcome you, whatever your age. For more information, contact Virginia Taylor, virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net or 978-263-9777.

Intergenerational Square Dance

Saturday, October 14, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Save the Date! Beth Parkes is back as our caller for an evening of dancing and music. Fantastic fun and so easy to learn with plenty of time to socialize with new friends and old. Bring a finger food snack and drinks to share. All ages are welcome and no partner is necessary!



RSVP would be helpful, but are not required. Contact Kate Svrcek at katesvrcek@hotmail.com. Sponsored by the Membership Committee.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

Friday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room



Come to the Jewish Awareness affinity group on Friday evening, October 20. Dana Snyder-Grant will help us explore Jewish meditation. How is it similar and different from other forms of meditation? How do Jewish teachings overlap with Buddhist teachings re: loving kindness and presence? Come learn together and even meditate a bit, if you wish. We'll share challah, wine, blessings, and conversation.

All are welcome. For more information, contact Dana Snyder-Grant, dana.snydergrant@gmail.com or 978-760-1129.

Ukulele Class, Beginners

Mondays, beginning October 3, 4:00 p.m., Chapel

The ukulele is a fun instrument to play and easy to learn! Join me, your Minister In Residence Jo VonRue, for a fun beginner's class. We will move at a slow pace so everyone can keep up and learn together. Even though this class is geared toward beginners, all ukulele lovers are welcome to join us.

Please contact Jo VonRue at jvonrue@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext 412, for questions, help, and suggestions on purchasing a ukulele of your own, or to put your name in for an evening class.

Editor's Notes

Next *Meeting House News* **Deadline: October 17, 2017**

Next Publication Date: **October 25, 2017**

Publicity Deadlines

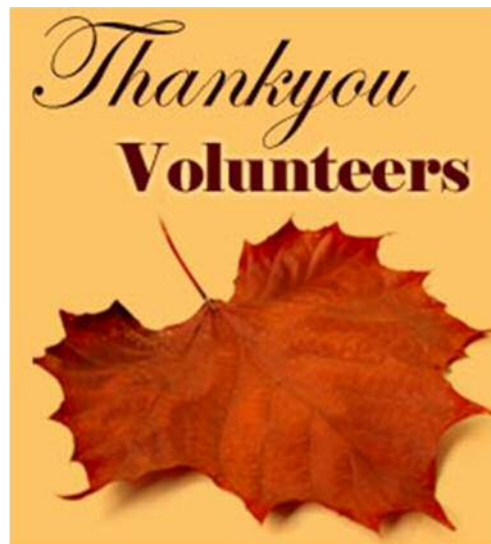
- **FP Announce Deadline – Noon Friday** for the following week
- **Sunday News Deadline – Noon Wednesday** before Sunday service.
Please note the *Order of Service* insert or *Sunday News* is compiled, formatted, printed, folded, and inserted on Fridays. As you can imagine, it takes time to pull this all together and last minute submission are problematic. Please plan ahead. Your insert copy **MUST** be received by Noon on Wednesday. Much appreciated. Thanks for your help.

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Meeting House Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Publication
Nov	17-Oct-17	25-Oct-17
Dec	14-Nov-17	22-Nov-17
Jan	12-Dec-17	20-Dec-17
Feb	16-Jan-18	24-Jan-18
Mar	13-Feb-18	21-Feb-18
Apr	13-Mar-18	22-Mar-18
May	17-Apr-18	25-Apr-18
Jun*	15-May-18	23-May-18
Sep	21-Aug-18	29-Aug-18

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



What May I Submit for Publicity?

What may I submit for publication in First Parish communications?

The *Meeting House Newsletter*, *Sunday News* and FP Announce are reserved for events at First Parish, events sponsored by First Parish or anything 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.

Questions?

Contact the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg: wolfberg@post.harvard.edu or cell phone 978-578-1077 (email preferred). Thank you!

General Information

First Parish General Information

Hours

Regular office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. A reminder that 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

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

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

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

FP Facebook

“Like” our Facebook page:

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

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.



Photo by Don Cohen

