

What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

JUNE 2017



Herb Garden photo by Dian Pekin

Summer office hours **begin June 20.**

Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
The office is closed on Mondays.

For your calendar – next deadline is
August 15 (and **August 8** for your committee to
review its submission.)

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*Ruth Johnson garden and Wright Tavern photo
by Dian Pekin*

Next Meeting House News—September

COMMITTEES—Please plan ahead for your August submission and plan for extra time for committee review **prior** to deadline.

Deadline: August 15

Publication: August 23

Don't Miss the Summer FP News

Want to stay connected to the latest First Parish news over the summer? If you haven't already, sign up for FP Announce emails by visiting <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/>.

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Sundays at First Parish

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

Worship-at-a-Glance

Sunday, June 4 – “Hungry for Poetry These Days”

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Choir

Sunday, June 11 – “Mission Emerging”

Rev. Howard N. Dana

Combined First Parish Choirs

Sunday, June 18 – “Lessons from Flowers: A Flower Communion”

Jan Hutslar

First Parish Choir

Sunday, June 25 – “Service of the Living Tradition from General Assembly”

Rev. Marion Visel, coordinator

Meeting in Parish Hall



Special Coffee Hour

Celebrate Jan Hutslar

Sunday, June 18, in the Herb Garden

On the last Sunday of the church year we will celebrate 30 years of our beautiful Herb Garden and also our wonderful ministerial intern, Jan Hutslar, who will be leading worship on June 18, her last day with us. The Intern Committee invites everyone to enjoy a special coffee hour in our delightful Herb Garden to celebrate Jan's year with First Parish, and to wish her well as she continues her journey to ministry. For more information, contact Kate Keleher at kate@rkeleher.com.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 11, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

We invite you to come be a part of the First Parish Annual meeting! You will receive reports from staff and committees, vote on officers and committee members, approve delegates to General Assembly, and approve the budget for next year.

In addition, the Standing Committee will be presenting background information on our congregational policy of reserving 7.5% of the proceeds from the annual pledge campaign to support social action. This will launch a congregation-wide policy review throughout FY18. The Standing Committee will also be asking the opinion of the congregation on our Back Lives Matter signs in front of the Meeting House.

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Child care is available during the meeting. If you will be using this service, please pack your child a nut-free lunch. If you have any questions or concerns about the meeting, please contact Kristin Haddad, chair of the First Parish Standing Committee, at Kristin.haddad@gmail.com or 978-254-5012.

Summer Office Hours

June 20 through September 1

The Church Office is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon) throughout the summer. First Parish is closed on Mondays.

- Summer hours begin Tuesday, June 20, and continue through Friday, September 1.
- Regular office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., will resume on Tuesday, September 5.



Summer Services

For service leaders in July and August, see the ***Schedule of Services Summer 2017*** at the end of this newsletter.

Café Off for the Summer

The last First Parish Café of the year will be on Sunday, June 18. The Café resumes on Homecoming Sunday, September 10.

Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 10, 5:30 p.m., on the Lawn



The First Parish Homecoming Picnic will be Sunday, September 10 at 5:30 p.m. All ages. All First Parish. Bring your whole family. Visit with your friends, catch up on the summer news, and meet other First Parish folk. Enjoy the music, labyrinth, and a family activity. This is an evening for everyone.

Potluck Dessert

Please bring a finger food dessert to share; your own picnic, food and beverage; lawn chairs and blankets. The party will be on the lawns of First Parish, weather permitting; in the Parish Hall in case of rain. No admission charge. Mark your calendar now.



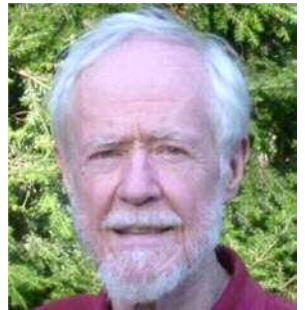
Sunday Forums

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

Update

by Patrick Everett, outgoing Forum Committee Chair

Over the past year, 28 forums have been provided, several from Social Action groups. More nonparishioners are attending, and one is now a committee member. We continue to encourage more First Parish groups to present Forums, informing parishioners and reducing competition in the valuable after-service time slot. (We can help with set up.)



September Forum

In September, our Forum will be “*Report from General Assembly*”.

New Cochairs

Patricia Brinkman and Alan Whitney will become cochairs at the end of May. This will allow me to remain a member while returning to a more active role as coordinator for the Concord Area Humanists (CAH). These two groups have enjoyed good relations and share some publicity. Rev. Howard N. Dana will address CAH at their June 7 meeting. All are always welcome.

New Projector

The Forum Committee, Photo Club, and CAH groups are jointly buying an Epson 535W, new-generation projector for First Parish. It will eliminate light dimming during presentations and has an internal loudspeaker. Two video recordings of recent Forums show how much better this projector is. First do a Web search on “*Alan Walworth—Argon Desaki’s Report from Earth*,” which used the present dimmer projector. Then search on “*From Syria to Carlisle MA—An Immigrant Family’s Story*,” which used a borrowed 535 projector, like the one we will buy. Look especially for frames showing both speaker and slide.

Do you have requests, suggestions, or comments on the Forums? Or would consider joining the Forum Committee? Please email Pat Brinkman, pabrinkman@comcast.net and Alan Whitney, awhitney@alum.mit.edu. Thank you for your continued support.



Religious Education News

Summer Program Drop-In Fun

Sundays, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (except on July 2), during the service, Emerson Room
Sign children in before the service, Emerson Room

Children and youth of all ages are invited. This program will feature both professional teachers and volunteers leading activities like drumming, yoga, messy art, games, and more! This program is designed to make it fun and enriching for the whole family. Our goal is for you to feel energized and renewed.



For more information, check out the RE page on the First Parish website: <http://firstparish.org/wp/learning/re/>. To subscribe to the First Parish RE Google Group weekly announcements, visit <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/>.

Youth Group Mobilizing

Support for Syrian Refugees

by Julian Henry, First Parish Youth



During the service on May 14, Ayden and I lit the Social Action candle for the Allohs, a family of seven Syrian refugees who are now living with Sean Kavanagh and Donna Vaillancourt in Carlisle. Sean and Donna took a new perspective on life after Sean had a near-fatal bike crash. After four years in a refugee camp in Jordan and spending time in a neglected apartment in Lowell, on February 12, 2016, the Allohs came to live with them in Carlisle and have finally found the peace that they have searched for since being forced out of their home.

I quote Emerson when I say, “[The purpose of life] is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, and to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” In a time when Muslims can be cast off as criminals and terrorists, it is important to remember Emerson’s words and to see humanity in all humans. We lit the Social Action candle to commemorate the beginning of a relationship that will be formed between the First Parish Youth and these Syrians as we lead the congregation in providing any support we can for this family and their quest for a suitable and permanent home. For more information, contact Amy Freedman, afreedman@firstparish.org.

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Pilgrimage to Transylvania

April 2018, deposit due by June 30



The Partner Congregation Committee (PCC) and Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education, are excited to announce that in collaboration with our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, next April is the best time for our multigenerational pilgrimage to Transylvania. The dates are during the school vacation, leaving either Thursday or Friday, April 12 or 13, and returning on Monday, April 23, 2018.

The cost will be \$1800-2200 per person (largely driven by airfares) and we will have the details by fall. This pilgrimage is open to all, individuals and families alike. A \$200 per person or \$500 per family deposit is due by June 30. Scholarship assistance is available by contacting Amy.



If you are interested or have questions, contact Lillian Anderson, lillianand@comcast.net, or Rev. Amy Freedman, afreedman@Firstparish.org.



If you have any questions about our Children's Program, please contact me: afreedman@firstparish.org.

Blessed be, Amy
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



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Lay Ministers

June Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Dana Snyder-Grant

Email: danasg@newview.org

Phone: 978-266-9409

Cell: 978-760-1129

July Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Lori Gill-Pazaris

Email: lpazaris@gmail.com

Phone: 978-369-6305

Cell: 978-505-2720

August Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Virginia Taylor

Email: virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net

Phone: 978-263-9777

Cell: 978-727-3619

September Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Sally Brandon Bemis

Email: sqbrandon@me.com

Cell: 978-505-0492



Caregiver Support Group

Monthly, Monday afternoons, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.



Providing care for a family member in need is an age-old act of love or at least loyalty. You may care for an aging parent (while also caring for your own children), disabled spouse, sibling, or a young or adult child with physical, mental, or addiction issues. Whether you provide direct care or oversee care at a distance, with support you can be a good caregiver without sacrificing yourself in the process.

This ongoing group meets regularly. The group will meet monthly through the summer. Contact facilitators Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, mvisel@firstparish.org or Diane Clapp, dianeclamclapp@gmail.com to learn more about the group. If you are unable to attend meetings on this day or time, please let us know of your interest.

Come to Cook—Rescheduled

Friday, June 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., First Parish Kitchen



As a part of our shared Pastoral Care outreach, the Caring Connection of First Parish provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition. We are going to cook and you're invited to help. No experience or skills are necessary. Recipes and provisions are provided. Breakfast snacks will be served! (NOTE: This session was postponed from May 12.)

Please RSVP to Judy Dembsey at dembsey@verizon.net or 978-263-3272 (email preferred).

Mental Illness Education Program

NAMI Family-to-Family Program

Tuesdays, 6:30-9:00 p.m., September 19 through December 5, at First Parish

Coming this fall—the Family-to-Family Education Program. This is a free 12-week course run by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for family caregivers of individuals with severe mental illnesses. The course is taught by trained family members. There is no cost for participants.



The course includes:

- Acquiring strategies for handling crises and relapse
- Focusing on care for the caregiver: coping with worry, stress, and emotional overload
- Guidance on locating appropriate supports and services within the community

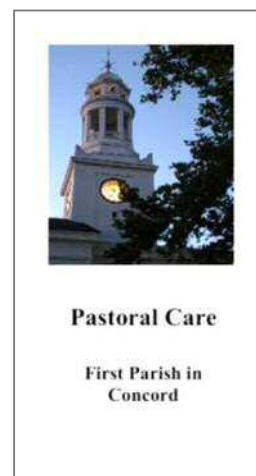
To Register or for More Information

Contact Clare Cooper, ccooper@westfordconsulting.com or 978-692-8994. For information on this program and on mental illness, visit <https://www.nami.org/Find-Support/NAMI-Programs/NAMI-Family-to-Family>.

Pastoral Care Council Brochure

At some point in our lives, most of us would benefit from pastoral care to help us through difficult situations, transitions, or losses. Among other services, our program offers ministers, lay ministers, and visitors who can be present with you in your pain, loss, struggles, or joy. They can offer encouragement and comfort, and help you work through your situation, whatever it may be.

Please pick up a copy of our wonderful brochure outside the office.



First Parish Rides



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



If you need a ride or are interested in volunteering, please contact the Rides Coordinator, Pat Brinkman, at pabrinkman@comcast.net or 781-259-9639. Our drivers would love to help!

Shawl Ministry

Needs New Leader

Second Tuesday of the month, 2:00-4:00 p.m., at First Parish

The Shawl Ministry's able leader for many years, Regina Hugendubler, will be moving to Texas by June. The Caring Connection needs a new leader to keep this group going, providing the shawls that the minister or lay ministers take to parishioners during difficult times.

The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at First Parish. The leader schedules the room for the meetings, sees that needed supplies are available, and that shawls are photographed.



If you are interested in leading this important part of Pastoral Care, please contact Judy Dembsey at judydembsey@gmail.com or 978-263-3272 (email preferred).

MUUsings

Here's an old UU joke—

Q: Why don't UU's have church in the summer?

A: Because God trusts them.

Now, that punch line might prompt a theological discussion, or even a sermon series. But it points to a time, not so long ago, when many Unitarian Universalist churches shut down in the summer. During the past decade, the customary UU summer service hiatus has become less common. As far back as I can remember, First Parish in Concord has continued worship during the summer, with services led by an interesting array of guest clergy, laity, and musicians. Recruiting and scheduling speakers and musicians for summer services has been part of my job since I came to First Parish. It is a puzzle with many pieces, and I enjoy working with our ministers to assemble it each year.

While our staff team plans and leads our services from September through June, summer worship is fashioned a bit differently. Each summer Sunday is created by the synergy of the worship team that leads it—speaker(s), soloist(s), and accompanist, with guidance as needed by a staff liturgist. It makes for a rich tapestry of summer worship. There is also engaging and meaningful children's programming for the summer Sundays. While there are more rests in our summer rhythm, the worship life at First Parish continues to be vibrant through July and August.

As I've worked with Howard this spring to populate the summer services with inspiring speakers and music leaders, I've found that I'll be sorry to miss some of them when I'm away! I encourage you to consult our summer worship schedule and to post or bookmark it so you can return to it over the summer months. You might highlight the services that particularly spark your interest.

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The fact that Concord UU's worship together through the summer months has little to do with whether God trusts us, or even whether we trust God. So here's a variant on that old joke:

Q: Why DO UU churches have services in the summer?



A: Because we trust in one another to hold and to heal; to challenge and to inspire; to make this beautiful and broken world a better place. And we want to welcome those who would join us on the journey.

Have a great summer. Hope to see you in church!

Blessings, Beth

Beth Norton, Director of Music

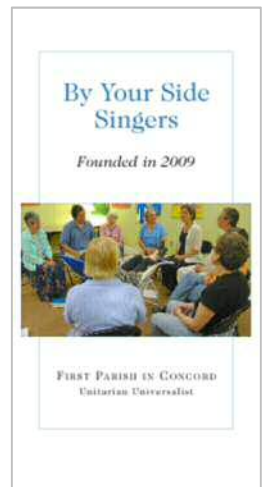
Contact: music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602

By Your Side Singers

Call for a Visit

By Your Side Singers is First Parish's pastoral choir. Through our gentle singing, we offer a musical presence to people seeking comfort and support during times of illness or transition. When invited, singers go to parishioners' homes or hospital rooms in groups of three or four to share soft, soothing songs. Any trying time of change or transition may be made less stressful with the gentle support of being sung to.

To arrange a visit or to answer any questions, please contact a minister, a pastoral care lay minister, or Music Director Beth Norton at music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, x420. We also have a brochure on the table outside the church office.



Jan Hutslar's Farewell

I have arrived at the most difficult task of my year in Concord.

My leave taking and saying good bye.

Concord friends—you have received me with open hearts and generous spirits.

You have accepted my unique way of being a minister—here amongst many amazing ministers.

You have listened to me and you have shared your stories with me.

You have challenged me to do my best and to stretch.

You have encouraged and supported me in my learning and my growth.

Thank you so much! You have enriched my life and warmed my heart.

Now I travel with all of you—as companions on my continuing journey.

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Special Reception

The ministerial internship committee will host a reception on my last day and last service, June 18, after church. Please come so that I can thank you in person for a wonderful year.

Jan Hutslar
Ministerial Intern



Standing Committee News

Next Meeting: Sunday, June 4, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

On May 7, the Standing Committee met in the Brooks Room to hear regular reports, to review progress on our goals, to go over our evaluation of Rev. Howard N. Dana, and to discuss a preliminary budget for FY18.

Next Meetings

- **Sunday, June 4, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room**
We will vote to endorse a finalized budget ahead of Annual Meeting.
- **Sunday, June 11, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room**
We welcome new members to our committee, hear regular reports, hear about a proposal to become a Sanctuary Level 2 Congregation, and reconsider the hanging of the Black Lives Matter banners.
- **Sunday August 13, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room**



Slate Nominations

The Standing Committee unanimously voted to present Mark Russell Prior on the slate for the nominating committee at this year's Annual Meeting. The Standing Committee also ratified the nomination of Laura Bernstein for a second five-year term on the Trustees.

Ministerial Evaluation

Lora Venesy, Mark Russell Prior, and Kate Svrcek submitted an evaluation of the work of Rev. Howard N. Dana from this past year. They collected responses from the Standing Committee, a selection of parishioners, as well as parishioners and staff who directly observed the progress on his self-appointed goals. The report highlighted his strengths as a worship leader and steward, while it made suggestions in other areas. If you are interested in seeing a copy of the report, please contact Kristin Haddad at Kristin.haddad@gmail.com or 978.254.5012, email preferred.

Budget Presentation

Director of Operations Fifi Ball presented the first draft of a budget for FY18. The shorter duration of the pledge campaign made estimating the overall income for FY18 easier than in previous years. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, it looks like we will be able to achieve many of our goals, including increasing our support to the UUA and

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providing our staff with cost of living increases. The Finance Committee presented a draft budget to the congregation on May 21 at 11:30 a.m. The information gathered at that event will inform the version of the budget presented at the June 4 Standing Committee meeting.

Thank-You's

Mark Russell Prior, Tom Wilson, Michelle Fortier

The Standing Committee would like to thank Mark Russell Prior, who has completed two three-year terms on the Standing Committee and who served as the chair for two years. In addition, we would like to thank Tom Wilson, who has served as Treasurer for the past three years and who has agreed to continue serving on the committee as a member-at-large. Thank you to Michelle Fortier, who is on the slate to become our next Treasurer.

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 on the website under [Connection → Committees → Standing Committee](#).



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.



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.

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Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	June 7	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	June 10	9:30 a.m.	Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults)
Friday	June 23	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly folk song circle; open to all)
Friday	July 28	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly folk song circle; open to all)
Friday	August 25	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly folk song circle; open to all)
Saturday	October 28	TBD	Peter Mayer Concert—folk singer and composer

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.

Peter Mayer Concert Save the Date! Saturday, October 28

Pete is a well-known folk singer and composer of one of our favorite hymns - “Blue Boat Home”.



“Grub’s Place” Follow-Up



“Grub’s Place” was a successful theatre project involving approximately 100 parishioners in various roles—including acting, stage managing, ticket sales, set building, costuming, and more. The goal of the project was to build community in a culture of kindness through the process of a theatre experience. All four performances were sold out, and it was the highest grossing theatre project to date. A significant amount of the profits are being donated to [Dignity in Asylum](#).

We hope the friendships and bonds that developed through this project will continue. Thank you to the First Parish community for your support in making “Grub’s Place” such a success!

Photography Club's Annual Show

The Photography Club's ever popular "Photo Booth" was a huge success again at this year's show. People enjoyed the framed pictures, slide shows, and delicious treats. The Photo Club folk had to get in on the Photo Booth pizzazz with new member Marilyn.



Social Action Community

Faith into Action

Greetings

In last month's newsletter, I wrote of the importance of relationality in Social Action work at First Parish in Concord—building strong relationships within our own community and amongst those with whom we seek to ally. This month I would like to address the importance of having clear focus.

Ours is a moment in history that could be summed up with one word: contradiction. Through advances in modern technology, we have reached a point where information is available at the click of a button, but so many still remain trapped in echo chambers, ignorant of those unlike themselves. We live in a country with obscene wealth, yet there are those living here who are in extreme poverty. Our culture values hospitality and welcome, our national narrative focused on being a nation of immigrants, and yet many fear the immigrant and the refugee. Some proclaim our society as post-racial and "color-blind," remaining unfazed as they watch unarmed black youths being shot down in the streets. Women are proclaimed equal, as they continue to fight for equal pay, equal opportunity, and the right to control their own bodies. The ability to use clean energy has advanced, yet we continue to pollute our air, spill oil into our rivers and oceans, and pillage our planet.

Faced with the knowledge of where we could be, and the sad reality of where we currently are, it is a normal reaction to seek to address all of our world's woes at once. However,

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when we divide our time, resources, and efforts amongst such a wide array of issues, we can actually end up limiting our effectiveness by, amongst other things, being unable to give each issue the attention necessary.

In the brief time I have been at First Parish in Concord, I have encountered a community that is passionate about transforming the world for the better, and individuals who give an incredible amount of their time and talent toward attaining that goal. If we can find a way to clearly focus our abundant resources and our collective energy, united as a whole behind common goals, just imagine all we could accomplish. As I said in last month's newsletter, we are stronger and more effective when working as a whole for a common purpose.



In peace and hope,
Zach

Zachary Roe
Social Action Coordinator
zroe@firstparish.org
978-369-9602, ext.450

SAC Committee

You can find the contact information for each Social Action Community committee member along with programs, grants, calendar, and newsletter on the [Social Justice Community](#) page on the First Parish website. Working with and for you to advance social justice.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, June 20, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

Before summer break, in addition to writing letters supporting individuals imprisoned for peaceful human rights activities, we'll have updates on Massachusetts prison reform, death penalty abolition, and the prevention of violence against women worldwide. We'll continue to focus on strategies to free two young Azerbaijanian student activists arrested in May 1916 on trumped-up charges of heroin possession.

We welcome all to join us. For more information, contact Kathy Taylor at Kly.taylor@gmail.com or 781-718-7640.



Advocates for Women's Empowerment

Upcoming Events

Women's Wellness Workshop

Friday, June 9, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m., at First Parish

Find out how to take care of yourself and refocus on living meaningfully while practicing mindfulness and enjoying healthy drinks. Led by empowerment coaches Amy Smalarz and Paul Grieco. Contact Jennifer Izzo, jbizzo@hotmail.com.

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Volunteer Opportunity

Sunday June 18, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m., Rosie's Place in Boston

A few spots are available for adults and teens (12 or older) to cook and serve dinner at Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women in Boston. Contact Suzie Weaver, skatesuzie@aol.com or 978-369-5352.

AWE's Summer Book Group

Thursdays, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Discuss books on topics relevant to women.

Date	Book	Author	Location
June 22	<i>We Should All Be Feminists</i>	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	First Parish
July 13	<i>Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity</i>	Katherine Boo	TBD
August 10	<i>Americanah</i>	Ngozi Adichie	TBD

For more information, contact Jennifer Izzo, jbizzo@hotmail.com.

Mailing List

To join the AWE mailing list, contact Lora Venesy, venesy@comcast.net.

Boston Pride Parade

Saturday, June 10, 12:00 p.m., Boston

The Diversity Committee will take a group to march with our banner in the Boston Pride Parade on June 11. This is a multi-generational event; kids, youth, and adults are all welcome to join and help us show support for the LGBTQ community. New this year, parade groups will have staggered times to report to their meeting spot, so those farther back in the lineup won't have as long to stand around waiting to march. Sign up at coffee hour; or to sign up or get more information, please contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org or 978-371-0723.



Partner Congregation Committee



Award for Valerie Z. Holt

2017 Steward of Partnership Award

The First Parish Partner Congregation Committee is happy to announce that our former member Valerie Z. Holt has been selected by the UU Partner Church Council Board of Directors to receive posthumously one of the 2017 Steward of Partnership awards. This award recognizes individuals in the United States and Canada who have provided exceptional care to their

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congregation's partnership. The First Parish PCC nominated Val for this award in light of her many years of service and devotion to our partnership with the congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, from its early days through the end of her life last October. Indeed, the establishment by Val's family of the Val Holt Partnership Fund in her memory means that Val's love and care for the program continue.



Darien Smith, a member of the First Parish PCC, will accept the award on Val's behalf at the UUPCC Luncheon and Annual Meeting on June 23 in New Orleans during this year's UU General Assembly. Lillian Anderson, current cochair of the First Parish PCC, will also be in attendance.

PCC and Education

Our Scholarship Programs

Thursday, June 8, 7:30 p.m., Emerson Room

Please join our Partner Congregation Committee (PCC) and help greet PCC members from neighboring communities to discuss the educational systems in Transylvania and how our scholarship programs support students. This discussion will be moderated by Cathy Cordes of First Parish in Bedford, previously Executive Director of the UUPCC. For questions, contact Lillian Anderson, 978-369-1468 or lillianand@comcast.net.

Unitarian High School Graduation

At the Berde Mózes Unitarian School

Rodger Matlage, cochair of the First Parish PCC, traveled to Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, as our congregation's delegate, and delivered greetings at the Unitarian High School graduation ceremony. While in Keresztúr, he met with Csaba Tódor, minister of our partner congregation, and several committees and lay leaders with whom he had fruitful conversations discussing the future of our shared partnership, as well as the scholarship program that many of our parishioners support. Come hear Rodger share what he learned at our June 8 gathering.

Women's News

Women's AM/PM Book Group



The Women's AM/PM Book Group will be determining next year's reading list at their annual potluck. Look for the new list over the summer via FP Announce to get a head start on some terrific reads, which are perfect for summer.

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the monthly book and join a discussion during the church year. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

Women's Parish Association

Craft Fair and Flea Market

Saturday, June 3, from 9:00 a.m to 3:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Get ready to come to the WPA's Craft Fair and Flea Market. If you have high quality items ready to donate to the WPA's table, such as jewelry, household items, gift items, children's items, collectibles, antiques, etc., or if you have plants from your gardens to donate, contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net.



There may still be space available to rent a table yourself to sell your treasures. Contact Dian Pekin to rent a table. Don't miss this popular event! Light food will be served throughout the day. Bring family members, friends, and neighbors and have a fun day of socializing and bargain hunting. Entrance is one dollar. There will be a great door prize.

Herb Garden Coffee Hour Party

Sunday, June 18, 11:00 a.m., in the Herb Garden

Several wonderful things will happen on Sunday, June 18, this year. The Women's Parish Association will hold its popular Coffee Hour Herb Garden Party on that date right after the worship service. Among all the lovely and fragrant herbs, we will honor and thank Jan Hutslar for her outstanding service to First Parish during her ministerial internship with us. We will celebrate 30 years of the garden itself and we will be celebrating Father's Day! Come and enjoy herb-flavored sweets and savories and enjoy one of the most beautiful gardens in Concord!



First Parish Gardens



We've had a cold spring this year; but now that it's getting warmer, take time to enjoy the general landscape and special gardens of our First Parish campus.

The Deborah Webster Greeley Memorial Garden is a hidden treasure and a wonderful place to visit. It's often been cited as one of the most beautiful gardens in Concord and has been made ready for you to enjoy. This year

marks 30 years since the creation of the garden. So do stop by to enjoy the calm, the herbs, and overall loveliness. In addition to being the very busy wife of Rev. Dana Greeley, first president of the Unitarian Universalist Association and Senior Minister here in

Continued next page.

Concord, Debby was an extremely active member of the Women's Parish Association and a dedicated herbalist.

The Ruth Johnson Memorial Garden near the driveway has been recently updated and made ready for the summer. It too awaits your presence! During her life at First Parish, Ruth was a very active member of the Women's Parish Association, helping to provide numerous fundraising, educational, and social events.



Feel free to bring a book, lunch, or just yourself, and relax on a bench in each of our gardens. Bathe your soul in the greenery, fragrances, and colors of these sacred spaces. Happy summer!

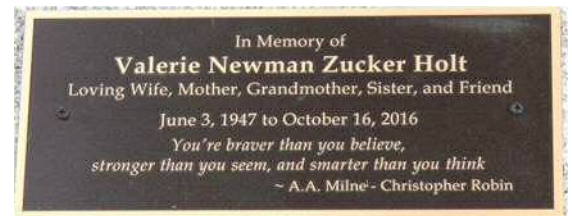
Other Cool Stuff



Dogwood Memorial Tree

A beautiful pink flowering dogwood tree has been planted at First Parish as a memorial for beloved parishioner Valerie Holt, who passed away on October 16, 2016. The tree is a gift from the Holt family in honor of her strong love for and commitment to the First Parish community, where she had put down deep and wide roots. May the beauty of this tree help Val's many First Parish friends keep the memory of her beautiful spirit alive in

their hearts.



First Tuesday Group (65+)

"The Nature Connection: How It Works"

Tuesday, June 6, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., in the Parlor

Sophie Wadsworth's will explain how The Nature Connection combines seasonal natural materials, live animals, and hands-on activities, to connect individuals with nature's capacity to heal, teach, and create joy. The day will include live animals, a videotape of a visit to the Nature Connection, a list of likely topics for next year's programs, and our traditional June ice-cream social.

Come participate in this stimulating mix of end-of-the-year activities! While our heading says 65+, please come if you are interested, whatever your age. For more information, contact Virginia Taylor, virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net or 978-263-9777.

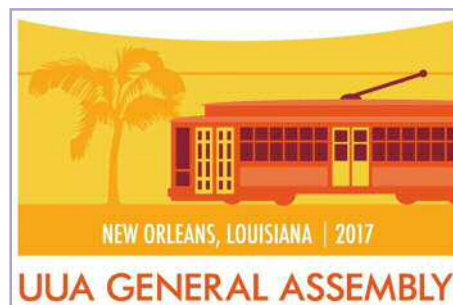
General Assembly

“Resist and Rejoice!”

June 21 – 25, New Orleans, Louisiana

Sunday Service Broadcast at First Parish, June 25

First Parish has eight delegate positions, and since this year we will elect the next President of the UUA, it is important to vote. You can also be a delegate and not attend or attend remotely. The sermon at the Service of the Living Tradition will be broadcast at First Parish during our Sunday worship, June 25.



Registration and housing information are on the website, <http://www.uua.org/ga>. If you are interested in attending or being a delegate, contact Lillian Anderson, landerson@uubelmont.org.

Membership Committee News

Monthly, on third Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Wow! So many people have joined our church this year! The members of the Membership Committee are dedicated to making sure every person feels welcomed with a smile and given the information they need. After someone signs the book, we assign each new member a mentor to help him or her integrate into the First Parish community.



Our meetings are short and fun. If you would like to join the Membership Committee, please contact either Karen Sullivan, consul.3@verizon.net or 978-760-6844, or Suzanne Lowe, suzanne.campbell.lowe@gmail.com.

Thoreau Bicentennial Events

For information, contact Marilyn Lowitt, marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net. Free and open to the public.



Celebrating Thoreau

The Life, Works, and Legacy of Henry David Thoreau
Wednesday, July 12, through Sunday, July 16

Keynote speaker: Terry Tempest Williams
Registration/fees: www.thoreausociety.org

Bicentennial Worship Service

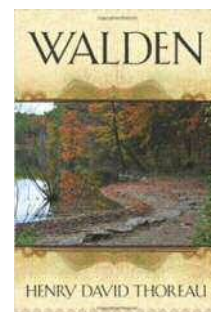
Sunday, July 16, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Howard N. Dana preaching

Thoreau as Spiritual Guide

6 Mondays, September 18 (no meeting 10/9), 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., Chapel

Rev. Marion Visel facilitates conversations based on *Walden*.



Continued next page.

Limit: 15. Preregister with Rev. Visel, mvisel@firstparish.org or leave a note in her office mailbox.

Gallery Talk and Tour

Thursday, September 21, 11:00 a.m., at the [Thoreau Institute Library](#)

Limit: 20. Preregister with Dianne Weiss, diannemcweiss@comcast.net. Carpooling advised, due to limited parking. Sponsored by [Transcendentalism Council](#) of First Parish in Concord.

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

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

Sandra Petrulionis, Ph.D.

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



"A Visit from Henry Thoreau"

Dramatic Performance by Kevin Radaker. Reception follows.

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

Sponsored by the [Transcendentalism Council](#) of First Parish in Concord, the [Concord Museum](#), and [The Thoreau Society](#). For admission, contact [Concord Museum](#) or 978-369-9763, ext. 216.

Editor's Notes

Next *Meeting House News*: **Deadline: August 15, 2017**

Next Publication Date: **August 23, 2017**

What Does It Take?

As we approach the end of my second year as Editor of the *Meeting House News* (MHN), I wondered how many emails it's taken to put an MHN issue together. Emails counted included the initial submission received and all subsequent emails for clarity, confirmation of receipt, etc. Emails are processed within a 3-5 day period. The totals are:

- Sept 2016 to Jun 2017 = 1724, averaging 172 emails/issue
- Sept 2015 to Jun 2016 = 1195, averaging 120 emails/issue

That's a lot of emails. Now you know why we ask for guideline compliance, that committees allow an extra week for committee review prior to the MHN deadline, and that only **FINAL** form submissions be sent.

The *Meeting House News* means a great deal to those near and far from Concord. Thank you for your hard work and support.



Submissions and Guidelines

There is a new, simplified brochure that covers publicizing events at First Parish. Are you wondering when to use *The Sunday News*, FP Announce emails, and/or the *Meeting House News*? Please stop by the small table outside the church office for a copy.

The older, more detailed guidelines for submitting can be downloaded from the website: <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/news-submission-guidelines/>.



Meeting House Newsletter 2017-2018

Issue	Deadline	Publication
Sep	15-Aug-17	23-Aug-17
Oct	12-Sep-17	20-Sep-17
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.

- **MHN Deadline** – Noon Tuesday for the dates shown
- **FP Announce Deadline** – Noon Friday for the following week
- **Sunday News Deadline** – Noon Wednesday before Sunday service



FP General Information

Office Hours

Regular office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The office is closed on Mondays.

Summer Office Hours

June 20 through September 1

The Church Office is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon) throughout the summer. First Parish is closed on Mondays.

- Summer hours begin Tuesday, June 20, and continue through Friday, September 1.
- Regular office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., will resume on Tuesday, September 5.



Contact Us

Address: 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

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

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

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

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

FP Facebook:

"Like" our Facebook page:

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

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

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

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

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Add us to your address book



To all our wonderful volunteers



First Parish of Concord

Schedule of Services

Summer 2017

DATE	SERVICE LEADER	SERMON	MUSICIANS
June 25	Rev. Marion Visel	GA Service of the Living Tradition *Service in Parish Hall	General Assembly Musicians
July 2	Rev. Nancy Haverington	"Unearthing Mary Moody Emerson"	Larry Gall, bass Mary Jane Rupert, keyboard
July 9	Rev. Marion Visel and Small Group Ministry Leaders	"Small Group Ministry: Experiences That Change Us"	Kristin Moore, vocalist Mary Jane Rupert, keyboard
July 16	Rev. Howard N. Dana	"A Eulogy for Henry David Thoreau"	Kimberly Brainerd, flute Lauren Evans, vocalist Mary Jane Rupert, keyboard
July 23	Rev. Jim Sherblom	"Human Flourishing"	The Conchords Mary Jane Rupert, keyboard
July 30	Sean Kavanagh	"Fall Risk: How My Near Fatal Bike Accident Taught Me How to Live."	Jane Barnes and Co. David Owens, keyboard
August 6	Zachary Roe, Director of Social Action	"Toward a UU Theology of Social Action"	Lauren Evans, vocalist David Owens, keyboard
August 13	Matt Meyer, Percussionist and Friend of First Parish	"Sing Your Spirit Home"	Beth Norton, vocalist Mary Jane Rupert, keyboard
August 20	Rev. Howard N. Dana Rev. Maddie Sifantus, preaching and singing	"Smoke Gets In Your Eyes"	Maddie Sifantus, vocalist David Owens, keyboard
August 27	Rev. Howard N. Dana	"The Value of Leisure"	Pamela Schweppe, soprano Mary Jane Rupert, keyboard
September 3	Rev. Jo Vonrue, 2017-18 Minister in Residence	"A Journey to Faithism"	Bob Goodearl, vocalist Eric Huenneke, keyboard