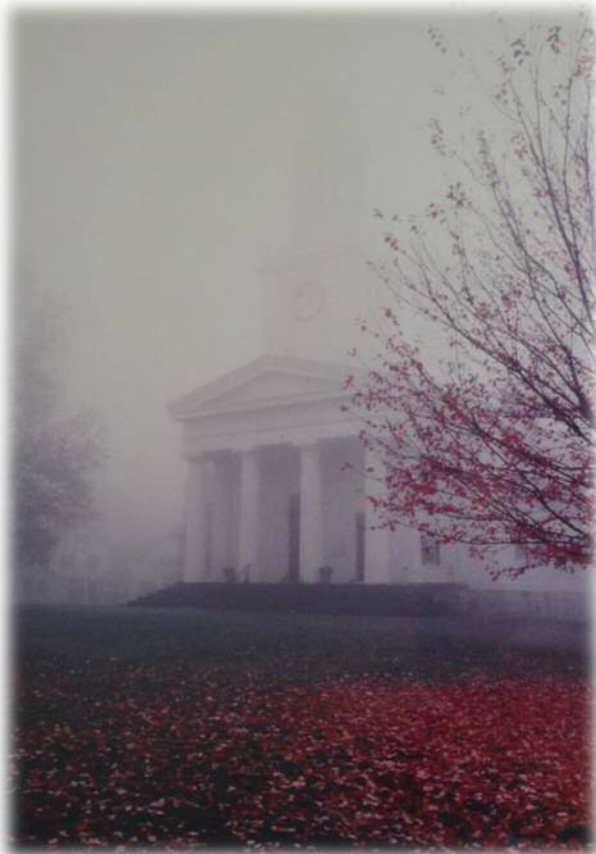




What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

NOVEMBER 2017



Photograph by Daniel X. Coffey, 1991

Photo credit corrections:

- Homecoming Photos in the October Meeting House News were taken by Rodger Mattlage.
- Photograph of Dawn Van Patten and Rev. Amy Freedman was taken by Rev. Jo VonRue

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Photograph by Don Cohen

Next Meeting House News

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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 5 – “All Souls: Remembering Well”

Rev. Marion Visel
First Parish Choir

Sunday, November 12 – “Living in Concord with Native Americans”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

Sunday, November 19 – Thanksgiving Service. All ages worship together

Rev. Amy Freedman
Combined First Parish Choirs

Sunday, November 26 – “Preaching with the Stars”

Rev. Jo VonRue
Pamela Schweppe, soprano

Sunday, December 3 – “Christmas in the Western World”

Music Service
First Parish Choir and Festival Chamber Orchestra

Sunday Forums

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

November 5 – No Forum

November 12 – Estate Planning and the Legacy Giving Program

Ever wondered what is important to include in an estate plan or in your legacy giving plan? Come to this special Forum introduction sponsored by the First Parish Legacy Giving Committee and learn, discuss, and discover what you may need or ways to improve your plan. The program will feature a panel of experts and good discussion.



Come learn about the new First Parish Legacy Giving Program and how you can make this new plan work for both you and First Parish. Plus, we will be announcing our new Peter Bulkeley Living Legacy Program named in honor of our founding minister. Bring your questions, and be prepared for some important information and engaging discussion. If you have questions or particular areas of interest, contact Tom Wilson, twilson@wilsongroup.com.



Continued next page.

November 19 – Living Transcendentally

All human beings have a capacity for joy in the midst of suffering, resilience in the face of despair, love in the midst of strife, and peace in times of turbulence. What would it be like to live transcendentally in Concord as a spiritual pilgrim? This can be a fun and informative exploration for spiritual seekers to deepen their own spiritual journey while practicing living transcendentally. Over the years Jim has traveled as a spiritual pilgrim with Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Shamanic, and Taoist mystics, learning their techniques.



Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom is an author, mystic, theologian, entrepreneur, investor, company creator, spiritual seeker, and Laughing Buddha, living a transcendental existence with his wife Loretta in Concord.

November 26 to January 7 – No Forums

The Forums are taking a holiday break. The next Sunday Forum after November 19 will be January 14, 2018, which will be a one-hour documentary film on the life of Carola Domar, Holocaust survivor and long-time Concord resident. The film is entitled “Exile and Community: The Life of Carola Domar.”

If you would like more information about Sunday Forums, to get on the Forum mailing list, to suggest a topic or speaker, or join the Forum Committee, please contact a co-chair: Pat Brinkman, pabrinkman@comcast.net; or Alan Whitney, awhitney@alum.mit.edu.

Thank you for your continued support.

First Parish Café

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



Red Mugs at Coffee Hour



Until recently, new attendees or new members were encouraged to pick up a red mug when heading for coffee hour in the hopes that seasoned parishioners would notice the red mug and engage, welcoming them. The Membership Committee thought it helpful to reverse the process. The goal is to invite interactions among our congregational community. Now, the person holding a red mug, eager and willing to engage in conversation, answer questions, or provide information will, most likely but not always, be a member of the Membership Committee.

Continued next page.

It was felt that often a new person may have been a bit uncomfortable taking the first step, resulting in a missed opportunity to connect with others in the congregation. We hope this new approach will promote and encourage many new conversations and relationships among our growing congregation. If you see a “lost” look at coffee hour, do introduce yourself and feel free to escort a new person to a committee member—the one now holding a red mug.—Karen Sullivan, Membership Committee.

Ponderings

(To consider something deeply and thoroughly)

In our turbulent times, among all the *MHN* listings of things to do, we thought it would be helpful to balance these activities with quietude, to offer some words that can help us slow down a little and reflect more deeply. We start this new column of ponderings with one of Howard's favorite poems.



Camas Lilies

*Consider the lilies of the field,
the blue banks of camas
opening into acres of sky along the road.
Would the longing to lie down
and be washed by that beauty
abate if you knew their usefulness,
how the natives ground their bulbs
for flour, how the settlers' hogs
uprooted them, grunting in gleeful
oblivion as the flowers fell?*

And you—what of your rushed
and useful life? Imagine setting it all down—
papers, plans, appointments, everything—
leaving only a note: “Gone
to the fields to be lovely. Be back
when I'm through with blooming.”

Even now, unneeded and uneaten,
the camas lilies gaze out above the grass
from their tender blue eyes.
Even in sleep your life will shine.
Make no mistake. Of course
your work will always matter.
*Yet Solomon in all his glory
was not arrayed like one of these.*



By [Lynn Ungar](#) (from “Blessing the Bread”)

Adult Religious Education

Men's Spirituality Retreat

"A Conversation among Gay and Straight Men"

Saturday, November 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall and Parlor

Leaders: Rev. Howard N. Dana and Jeff Clanon. Lunch included.



Come engage in a conversation about the similarities and differences between gay and straight men. Three openly gay men, Steve Cadwell, Howard Dana, and Zach Roe will talk about their experiences growing up gay in three different eras. All participants will reflect on these questions: What does our own sense of masculinity tell us about ourselves and other men? How can we broaden our spirituality as it relates to our masculinity? There will

be large and small group opportunities for sharing. All straight, gay, bi, and transgender men connected with First Parish are welcome.

Please plan to stay for the whole retreat—no latecomers or early departers. To sign up, please call the church office, 978-369-9602.

Religious Education (RE) News

Family Explorations

Our theme for November is **Abundance**. Here are some ideas from "Soul Matters" by Kate Covey to explore at home with your family.

Mindfulness

Find a comfortable position. Read the following poem, and follow it with a moment of silence.

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright,
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive,
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting,
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
I wish you enough hello's to get you through the final good-bye.

—Anonymous

Spend some time thinking about the wishes you might wish for your friends and family. Return to the present when you are ready.

Game Time—Have Fun Together

Invite congregants of all ages to learn and play games together. Multigenerational favorites include Farkle, Apples to Apples, and Jenga.

Continued next page.

Cooking Time—Cooking Together

Invite a congregant to teach a cooking class to children and/or youth. Wear a toque, a chef's hat, and prepare something for the families or the congregation. It might be Ratatouille, from the movie of the same name. It might be simple, like hard-boiled eggs or making your own dip for chips.

Discover More

<http://firstparish.org/wp/learning/re/>

If you have questions about our programs for children and youth, please contact Dawn Van Patten, Assistant Director of Religious Education: dvanpatten@firstparish.org or Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education: afreedman@firstparish.org.

RE Education Details

November Theme: What does it mean to be a people of Abundance?

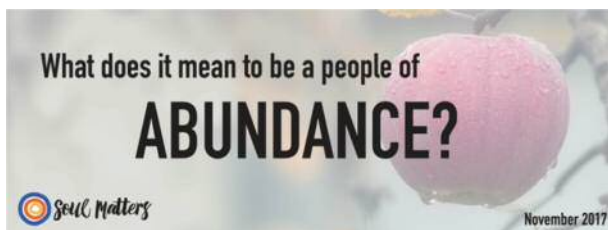
Date	Description
Sunday, November 5 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Religious Exploration
Sunday, November 12 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Religious Exploration
Sunday, November 19 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Service All Ages Worship Together Little RE for 0-4 year olds
Sunday, November 26 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Multiage Sunday with Amy and Dawn



Photograph by Rev. Jo VonRue

If you have questions, please contact

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



Children's Holiday Crafts Workshop

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

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.

[Read more...](#)



MUUsings



“For everyone born, a place at the table,
For everyone born, clean water and bread,
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
For everyone born, a star overhead,
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
Compassion and peace.”*

These are lyrics from an anthem chosen for the combined First Parish choirs to sing at our Intergenerational Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 19. What a vision this is for a Thanksgiving table: a place where all are welcomed, fed, sheltered and nurtured. A sacred, all-embracing presence that “delights” in the work of the people to reach out to one another.

It can be hard to hold on to this vision of community as we continue to hear of and observe the ravages wrought by hurricanes, fires, floods, political maneuvering, systemic racism, and war. But it is a vision we must keep alive. An aspiration that we as Unitarian Universalists work to make real as we live out our principles. A “delight” that we can create together.

I have been moved by the way our congregation has demonstrated these values during this turbulent fall. I am delighted and proud of the generosity shown by this congregation for hurricane relief in Houston and in Puerto Rico. I was excited to see the response to the white supremacy teach-in service, led by Jo VonRue. I was challenged and intrigued by the follow-up conversations during the Forum that day. I look forward to our annual “Guest at Your Table” program, during which we offer “a place at the table” in our homes throughout the holiday season through our donations to the UU Service Committee. And I am continually blessed and inspired by the passion and commitment that our choirs bring to providing music that deepens our spiritual understanding and inspires us to action.

“God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy; compassion and peace.”

Continued next page.

No matter how you understand the sacred transcendent, called God by some, it seems to me that every step we take toward creating justice, joy, compassion, and peace must cause holy delight. Delight that we share.

In this season of gratitude, let us be thankful for—let us delight in—the opportunities this community provides to create justice and joy; compassion and peace.

Blessings, Beth
Beth Norton, Director of Music
Contact at music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602
*©1998 Shirley Erena Murray



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



November Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Dana Snyder-Grant
Email: dana.snydergrant@gmail.com
Cell: 978-760-1129



The Holden Fund

The Holden Fund was established at First Parish in 1901 when Ellen Emerson (photo) 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. The 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.

The Holden Fund panel: Rev. Howard Dana, Susan Dobbie, Alice Van Deusen, and Rev. Marion Visel. For information or application, contact Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, mvisel@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 414.

Rides and Drivers



Drivers Needed

We find that we need more drivers who can be contacted when someone needs a ride to an appointment or to a First Parish service or event. Rides are arranged when an email is sent to a group of members who have volunteered to be contacted as potential Ride Providers. If there is a match, the Rides Coordinator connects the Ride Provider with the Ride Requester.

Contact Rides Coordinator

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.



Minister in Residence

Sunday Service, November 26, 10:00 a.m.

Me, Too

On Sunday night there began a campaign on Facebook, a campaign that was urging women to post a status with the simple words *Me, Too*, explaining that "If all the women and femmes and people who grew up with girl bodies who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote *Me too* as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem."

I posted a status that read *Me, too* as well to signify that yes, I am just one of so many women who have experienced this type of abuse at some time in their lives, and I know

that many of you have as well. Over the past few days I found myself scrolling and scrolling through my newsfeed, specifically looking for those women on my page that would post this status so I could be in solidarity and love with them. And my heart began to weep as I read post after post. My heart began breaking into smaller and smaller pieces in hopes that I could send a small piece to every single one of you that posted *Me, too*.

I then came across a post from one of my male identified friends on Facebook who posted a rather flippant response to the campaign. This made me angry, and hurt, and confused, and frustrated, and vulnerable. So I reacted in haste by posting a Facebook comment of my own in which I made the mistake of judging his post as a way that patriarchy is alive in our world.

Because, while I do believe that this is a time and moment where women's voices need to be given priority, I do not want to reduce the real feelings of pain and anger that men feel because their stories are also real, and painful just like mine, yours, and ours. As Unitarian Universalists, our theology calls us to listen to the stories of all people, to open our hearts to those that we do not understand, to find a place in their heart to make a connection with our own.



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

Sewing Machine Request Loaner or Donation Needed

Jo is taking a quilting class at Emerson's Umbrella Community Arts Center but discovered her old sewing machine is beyond repair. Might you have a sewing machine in good working order with all the parts that you could loan or donate to Jo? If so, please connect with Jo via email jvonrue@firstparish.org, at First Parish 978-369-9602 ext. 412, or by cellphone 570-899-0457. Many thanks!



Standing Committee News

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 12, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Meeting Summary

On October 15, the Standing Committee met in the Emerson Room to hear regular reports and to vote on becoming a Sanctuary Level 2 Congregation in support of First Parish in Bedford. We reviewed our current progress on the Year for Reflection and Visioning, our two-year goals, and our congregational discussions on the 7.5% social



action spending policy. In November, we will go over a semiannual staff compensation report and complete a review of the chair. Minutes from our meetings are regularly posted on the First Parish website [Standing Committee News](#).

Sanctuary Level 2 Congregation

A Sanctuary Level 2 congregation is a congregation that is unable to provide physical sanctuary, but is willing to commit as an institution to support the sanctuary congregation in their region. At our meeting, the Standing Committee unanimously voted in support of the Immigration Justice Task Force request to become a Sanctuary Level 2 Congregation in Support of First Parish in Bedford.

The Immigration Justice Task Force (IJTF) initially brought their proposal forward in June, and the Standing Committee asked for parishioners who wanted to weigh in on the decision to talk with us. At the same time, the IJTF has been sharing their mission with the congregation and gathering additional support. We are excited and proud that our congregation is ready to stand by with help, as needed, on behalf of the person or persons who would enter into sanctuary at First Parish Bedford while seeking a stay of deportation.

Year for Reflection and Visioning

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 October, we finished our first series of congregational conversations on the 7.5% and looked at the attendee feedback from the Harvest the Power Leadership workshop. Before the survey is distributed and listening sessions commence, we plan to have a few small group meetings about the best way to frame those activities. Please watch FPAnnounce, the *Sunday News*, and the website for more opportunities to shape our future together.



7.5% Policy Conversations Update

The Standing Committee held four congregational conversations about our policy on Social Action funding. The notes taken at all four of those sessions are available on our website and are easily found by searching "7.5." The conversations repeatedly demonstrated a commitment to Social Action in our community, as well as a desire to move forward to make Social Action more engaging and an openness to trying new things. We will be soliciting more input toward our policy proposal through the congregational survey coming in the winter.

Continued next page.

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.



Day	Date	Time	Event
Saturday	October 28	7:30 p.m.	Peter Mayer "Blue Boat Home" Concert
Wednesday	November 1	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	November 11	9:30 a.m.	First Parish Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults)
Sunday	November 12	7:00 p.m.	Film "Wild & Precious" Pre-Screening
Friday	November 17	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly folk song circle; open to all)
Sunday	December 3	3:00 p.m.	Holiday Concert and Tea
Sunday	December 10	4:00 p.m.	Copley Singers Holiday 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. Unless otherwise noted, questions may be directed to music@firstparish.org.

Thank you for supporting the arts at First Parish!

Continued next page.

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.

Social Action Community

Faith into Action

News from Zach

Happy November, First Parish community!

Hurricanes Relief Efforts

Last month was busy for social action at First Parish. In response to the devastating hurricanes Harvey and Maria, our community raised \$56,348, of which \$23,824 came from social action funds. These funds have been sent to nonprofit organizations local to Houston and Puerto Rico that are on the ground and working to rebuild.

First Thursday Partnership

The Immigration Justice Task Force (IJTF) volunteered with Open Table as part of our First Thursday partnership. They served the meals to the guests, enjoyed a meal and conversation with them, and helped with the cleanup afterward. It was so great to see First Parish members connecting with Open Table volunteers and guests! If your group is interested in volunteering for a First Thursday, please [contact me](#).

(As of this writing, our 50-Bag Challenge targeted a food drive for Open Table and our Gleaning trip with the Boston Area Gleaners. They have yet to happen, but I am sure they will be a success!)

March for Racial Justice

The Race Conversations Group joined the March for Racial Justice in Providence. There they were able to join with a crowd of hundreds to hear about the work being done by folks in that area. They have also decided to take the lead in bringing *Beloved Conversations* to First Parish in Concord. If you are unfamiliar with this amazing program, you can find more information [here](#). Be on the lookout for more information about how to join in this transformative program! See the write-up [later in the newsletter](#).

Working Together

We also had the opportunity to have various social action groups come together for a "SAC Intersectionality Conversation." In this conversation, we were able to come together to discuss the issues groups are addressing, the solutions they see, and areas in which groups can partner together to work for change.



Continued next page.

Rev. David Billings

Sunday, November 5, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.



First Parish will be hosting Rev. David Billings, author of *Deep Denial: The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life*. This event, sponsored by the Race Conversations Group, is sure to be both informative and powerful. Books will be on sale at the close of the event.

Great Things Are Happening



So many great things are happening with social action here at First Parish in Concord! Keep an eye out for more through FP Announce, Sunday bulletin announcements, and our [Facebook page!](#)

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

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

This month we'll finalize our annual December *Write for Rights* tabling at various faith groups. Also on the agenda are updates/actions on Massachusetts legislation regarding criminal justice reform, access to contraception, and child marriage. Ongoing advocacy includes death penalty abolition and the freeing of two Azerbaijanian student activists. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, nilyons22@gmail.com or 978-369-6109.



Climate Solutions Speaker Series

"What's That Smell?"—Concord Gas Leaks Forum

**Wednesday, November 8, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Parish Hall
Reception follows at 8:30 p.m.**

Far from being safe and environmentally clean, methane gas can pose serious health, safety, and environmental problems—especially when it leaks. Concord alone has over 115 methane leaks.



Come join Nathan Phillips, Ph.D., Regina LaRocque, M.D., and Audrey Shulman of HEET (Home Energy Efficiency Team), who will discuss the impact of leaking gas and what can be done. The event is organized by the Climate Solutions Speaker Series, of which First Parish is a cosponsor.

Diversity Committee—Film

“Wild & Precious” Pre-Screening

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

Congregant Steve Cadwell premiered his theatrical production of his poems, stories, music, and photographs at First Parish in 2014. It chronicles his journey growing up as a wild and precious boy in 1950's Vermont, coming out, navigating life as a gay man, and creating a family that landed in Concord; he's toured the country with it. Now he's made a film-memoir of that wonderful show, and the Diversity Committee will present a pre-screening for friends and sponsors, followed by a talk-back with Steve. Suggested donation is \$10, which will benefit the LGBT Asylum Task Force.



Partner Congregation News

Pilgrimage

In April 2018, twenty one adults and six children from First Parish will travel to Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, Romania, where our partner church is located. They are starting to meet regularly to learn about Transylvania and get to know each other. Four members of our staff are participating in this important journey: Rev. Howard N. Dana, Beth Norton, Rev. Amy Freedman, and Dawn Van Patten.



Regional Gathering

All Souls Day of Remembrance and Discussion

Wednesday, November 1, from 6:45 to 9:00 p.m., First Parish in Bedford



Photo by Sara Ballard.

All Souls Day is a solemn day of remembrance in Transylvania, when people visit cemeteries and decorate graves with flowers and candles to honor the lives of family and friends. Some of us have been there to join members of our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr in this beautiful celebration.

For many years, First Parish in Bedford has also observed this day by gathering at their Memorial Garden to light candles and remember those who have died. This year they are inviting other congregations to join them for this remembrance and stay for coffee, dessert, and partnership conversation.

If you would like to participate, please RSVP to Lillian Anderson, lillianand@comcast.net.

Scholarships

Donors Needed for Transylvania Scholarship Students

Many thanks to those who have already volunteered to donate a scholarship to support a deserving incoming freshman at the Hungarian Unitarian High School in Székelykeresztúr. A few more donors are still needed to make sure that all the eligible incoming freshman Hungarian minority students from rural villages will be supported. To learn more, or to sign up to be a scholarship donor, please visit our partnership table at coffee hour, or contact Dana Booth at dana.a.booth@gmail.com (preferred) or 978-369-5702. We now have confirmation of continuing students, and our class coordinators will be reaching out to current scholarship sponsors to solicit their donations.

Race Conversations Group

Next meeting: Thursday, November 9, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Brooks Room

Beloved Conversations

Healing the Wounds of Racism



Would you like to hone your skills and habits of mind to work toward healing the wounds of racism? SAC and the Race Conversations Group are excited about a special program planned for this winter at First Parish!

Beloved Conversations is an 8-week experiential curriculum developed by Mark Hicks and the UUA. It seeks to create a space for new conversations

and understanding to heal from the brokenness of racism. If you are unfamiliar with this amazing program, you can find more information [here](#).

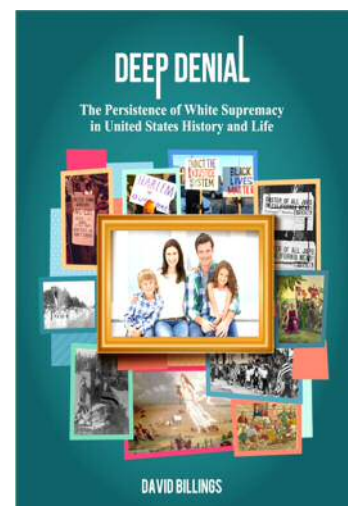
Currently in the planning stages, we could use more people on our steering committee. Contact Lea Delacour at leadelacour@comcast.net or contact Margie King Saphier margie.king.saphier@gmail.com or [978-369-4467](tel:978-369-4467).

Intricacies of White Supremacy

Sunday, November 5, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

First Parish and the Robbins House are hosting Rev. David Billings, antiracist activist and historian from Mississippi. Author of the book *Deep Denial*, he will discuss the intricacies of white supremacy in our country, past and present.

To learn more about white supremacy, come visit us at coffee hour and pick up a list of resources.



Women's News

Moms' Night Out

Shopping for a Cause!

Friday, November 17, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Wish, 525 Mass. Ave., Acton



First Parish Moms' Night Out is sponsoring a private shopping party at the new woman-owned clothing and jewelry boutique Wish. Come get a jump start on your holiday shopping while enjoying a glass of wine and hanging out with friends. 15% of the proceeds will be used to support the Secret Santa program at First Parish, and to help people in our community during this holiday season. All are welcome!

Questions? Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com, or 617-869-5563 (email preferred).

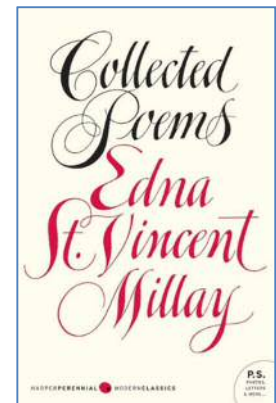
Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, December 4, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Tuesday, December 5, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

We will be reading poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay for our November/December discussions. You are welcome to choose any collection of Millay's poetry to explore, or contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com for a list of suggested poems and sources, if you are not already on the Book Group email list.

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read some of Millay's poetry and join a discussion. There's no need to sign up!



Dates and Books for 2017-2018

Date	Book	Author
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

Continued next page.

Women's Parish Association

Holiday Artisans Fair

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

Our ever popular Holiday Artisans Fair includes over 40 artists and artisans showing and selling their latest hand works. There are many new vendors as well as old favorites.

A favorite stop, the WPA Boutique, returns. We would appreciate donations of nice handmade items as well as high-quality, like-new regifting items such as jewelry, artwork, holiday and general home decorating items. Please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to arrange for donations.



Bring your family members, friends, and neighbors. Great browsing, shopping, and socializing! Café will be open all day.

Holiday Concert and Tea

Sunday, December 3, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Parish Hall

Reservations by December 1



This year's Holiday Concert and Tea will add special sparkle and delight to your holiday season, featuring award-winning classical pianist Julia Zhou, who was a runner-up in the Concord Orchestra's Young Artist Competition last year, as well as other significant competitions. After the concert, a traditional Holiday tea will be served.

Attendees are asked to bring plates of sweets to share, if they wish. Bring your family and friends for a joyful, free afternoon! Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by December 1 for reservations. All are warmly invited.

Other Cool Stuff

Auction Party

"Holiday Hijinks"—Spots Available

Saturday, December 2, 7:30 p.m., at Sara and Stoney Ballard's house, Concord

The auction party planned for October 2016 was postponed and has been rescheduled. Enjoy a fun evening with old and new First Parish friends. More guests are welcome. Decadent desserts and lively libations will be provided by your hosts: the Ballards, Darien Smith, and Biff Holt.



Continued next page.

Spots are \$25 each and limited to 50. If you'd like to attend, please email Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org with the number of spots you'd like, and send your check to First Parish with "auction party" on the memo line.

Banner Photo Book Coming Soon!

The Banner Project Committee has been hard at work documenting and photographing the pulpit and Celebration Sunday banners that are part of the history of First Parish. Much love and many talents were poured into creating these banners, all to inspire each other and build community. A lovely photo book of these treasures will soon be completed and available for purchase from the Web. Makes a great gift. Questions? Contact Barbara Wheeler. barbw213@comcast.net or 978-369-9518. Stay tuned!



Children's Holiday Craft Workshop Saturday, December 2, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., First Parish



Children Create Beautiful Gifts

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. Cost: \$15 per child.

Holiday Elves Needed

Calling all Crafty Helper Elves! We need you. Come be part of the fun! To see what volunteer spots we have open, visit our table at coffee hour or contact Kristin Moore, kmoore.gm@gmail.com or 978-254-5037. Your Holiday Planning Elves are Kimberly Brainerd, Dave Elwood, Kristin Moore, and Jeanne Williams.



Concord Area Humanists First Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

November 1 – "How Effective Altruism Changes Ideas about Living Ethically"



Chris Webster, Ph.D. retired from the biopharma industry after 25 years in regulatory science and drug development. Raised in the Church of England, he later attended Quaker meetings before turning to Humanism. Interested in practical ideas for ethical living, he has been influenced by Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and George Monbiot. He is active with ACLU and Massachusetts Literacy Unlimited. All welcome.

Continued next page.

December 6 – “Human Flourishing”



Many spiritually oriented religious people seek salvation and redemption. What do spiritually oriented humanists seek? In his book “Spiritual Audacity: Six Disciplines of Human Flourishing”, Rev. Jim Sherblom suggests resilience, humility, gratitude, generosity of spirit, understanding of mystery, and spiritual awakening. These are humanist fruits of the spirit. Jim is an author, mystic, theologian, and entrepreneur. If you ever ponder these matters, come join the discussion. All welcome.

For questions, contact Pat Everett at pne@aol.com.

First Tuesday Group

“The Many Faces of Depression”

Tuesday, November 7, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Parlor

Depression can be confused with dementia, precipitated by loss and isolation, or occur as a side effect of certain medications. Come participate in what promises to be a stimulating and informative discussion with these wonderful panelists, who know a lot about depression in seniors and how it can be successfully treated:

- Nancy Crowley, R.N., the former Executive Director of Concord Park
- Berni Jenkins, M.Ed., Former Director of the Concord Council on Aging
- Katharine Esty, M.S.W., a practicing psychotherapist, writer, and speaker



We welcome you, whatever your age. For more information, contact Virginia Taylor, virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net or 978-263-9777.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

“Violins of Hope: Strings of the Holocaust “

Friday, November 17, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room



Come watch this documentary about the restoration of about 50 violins that were played in concentration camps, and a concert celebrating the restoration of a synagogue in Cleveland, Ohio. Time permitting, we'll also watch the short film "Joe's Violin" about a Holocaust survivor who donates his violin to a local instrument drive, changing the life of a schoolgirl from the nation's poorest congressional district. We'll share challah, wine, blessings, and conversation.

Continued next page.

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



Editor's Notes

Next Meeting House News **Deadline: November 14, 2017**

Next Publication Date: **November 22, 2017**

Publicity Deadlines

- **FP Announce Deadline – Noon Friday** for the following week
- **Sunday News Deadline – Noon Wednesday** before the Sunday service.
Please note that 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 in an already busy office, and last minute submissions are problematic. Please plan ahead. Your insert copy **MUST** be received by Noon on Wednesday. Much appreciated. Thanks for your help.

Meeting House Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Publication
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.

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

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 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>.

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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