



What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

MAY 2018



Photo by Kathleen Elcox

SAVE THE DATES

Music Sunday, May 20

Annual Meeting, June 10

General Assembly, June 20-24

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Photo by Susan Page, a special visitor to Great Meadows.

NEXT: Meeting House News—June Last MHN issue until September

It is recommended that you allow extra time to collect and review all the information you want to submit in May for the summer issue covering June, July, August, and the first week of September.

Deadline: May 15

Publication: May 23

September issue deadline: August 21

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***Love, Light, and Community
at First Parish
Happy May!***



Sundays at First Parish



A welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.



Worship-at-a-Glance

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

Sunday, May 6 – Coming of Age Service

Coming of Age teens with mentors and Rev. Amy Freedman
Gospel Ensemble

Sunday, May 13 – “Gratitude Takes Practice”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
Larry Gall, bass

Sunday, May 20 – “Sunrise Mass”

Music Sunday with First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra
Beth Norton, conductor
Sarah Ford Terry, choreographer

Sunday, May 27 – Memorial Day Poetry

Rev. Howard N. Dana
Beth Norton, violin

Sunday, June 3 – “Who Is My Enemy”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

Summer services begin June 24.

Coming of Age Service

Sunday, May 6, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

9th graders and Mentors, with

Revs. Amy Freedman, Ken Reeves, and Howard N. Dana



Our Coming of Age Service will be the culmination of our Grade 9 program. The youth will present their credos, personal statements of belief to our congregation, as well as lead other parts of the service. This is always a moving rite of passage. We encourage children who are in Grade 5 and older to attend the service. All ages are welcome!

Music Sunday

Sunday, May 20, 10:00 a.m.

The First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra will perform Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass* for chorus and string orchestra—a deeply stirring piece of music that evokes the harmony of the spheres, the chaos of the city, and the grounding of the individual in community. The First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra will be joined by dancers, choreographed by Sarah Ford Terrey. A very special event! (See [MUUSings](#) on Page 9 for more details.)



Sunday Forums

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

May 13 – “Coming of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail—36 Years of Progress!”

With the recent opening of 5 additional miles through Westford and Acton, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) already surpasses the 11-mile length of the Minuteman Bike Path from Bedford to Cambridge. And much more is coming, including 3 miles of trail through Concord and, in a couple of years, a bridge crossing Route 2.

There is even more to come after that—much more! Join us for the details with Stuart Johnstone, a board member of the Friends of the BFRT and Concord resident, amid the excitement that the reality of a 25-mile full-length BFRT trail is well on its way!



May 20 – “Reducing Food Waste by Home Composting”



Adam Janauskas, owner of [City Compost](#), will talk about what to include in a compost pile, factors that go into making healthy compost, and what's required for a good home composting system. He will inform us about a service he provides whereby food scraps and compostable materials collected by homeowners are processed into high quality compost suitable for farming or home gardens. Berni Jenkins, part of the First Parish Environmental Leadership Team, will then present on her experience with composting through First Parish and at home.

For more information or questions or to join the Forum Committee, contact a cochair: Pat Brinkman at pabrinkman@comcast.net or Alan Whitney at awhitney@alum.mit.edu.

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.

Listening to Past Sermons

Would you like to listen again to a sermon that touched you deeply or hear a sermon that you missed? The sermons from most all past services are recorded and are available to you on the Worship page of our website at <https://firstparish.org/wp/worship/past-worship-services/>. The services are listed by date, with the most recent listed first.

Notice the date, title, minister, playback triangle, speaker volume slider control, duration (length in minutes), and file size. Click the playback triangle to start.



Download a Podcast

The Download file link is not active, but you can download a podcast or listen from the First Parish iTunes account: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/first-parish-in-concord-sermons/id91460245?mt=2>.

Borrow a CD

If you don't want to listen online, you are welcome to sign out a CD copy of the full service, available on the bookshelf in the Parlor.

Ushers and Sound Teams

Thank You!

A big thank you to the usher and sound teams for an outstanding job! Every Sunday these friendly folks greet you with a smile, a handshake, or a hug while giving you an Order of Service, and are also responsible for your comfort and safety while you're in the Sanctuary.



USHERS & GREETERS

Whether you call on us for a hearing device or to help with a crying infant, we're here for the serious stuff too. We're trained in CPR and the location and use of fire extinguishers and the defibrillator, as well as evacuation and police procedures. This year we received special training on dealing with threatening intruders.

The sound operators record our services, so the sermons are available on iTunes and Player FM for the benefit of parishioners or newcomers who want to get a sense of our church (see "[Listening to Past Sermons](#)," above). We collect the offerings, count the congregation, and clean up the Sanctuary, retrieving items left behind. Each team is responsible for a particular Sunday and is organized by a head usher.

Thank You!

Continued next page.

Many thanks to our regular Sunday teams:

- Major White, Nancy Beeuwkes, Pat Everett, Lou Fackert, Robert Hilsinger, Priscilla Smith, Martha Soper
- Mary Lou Toussaint, Beverly Bringle, Richard Fortier, Derek McCarthy, Chris Popov, Peter Ward
- Keith Wortman, Maile Hulihan, Susan Page, Susan Ryan, Sue St. Croix, Jack Nevison, Mary Lou Toussaint
- Eric Read, Robert Andrews, Petra Betts, Nancy Birchard, Bill Fry, Berni Jenkins, Phyllis Savage, Flavia Perugini
- Plus the many volunteers who join us at Christmas services

Photo by Susan Page: Third Sunday Head Usher Keith Wortman gets help from Theo and Delaney Remington (also Christmas Eve helpers) in ringing the bell that calls the congregation to worship.

Thank you, all!—Maile Hulihan, Head Usher



Year for Reflection and Visioning Results are HERE!

The Standing Committee is eager to share results from this year's Listening Sessions, Survey, and Retreat.

Presentations Please Attend One

- **Thursday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m.**

At both sessions, we will present *preliminary* findings and identify some of the initial congregational themes we see emerging. We recognize that a thorough exploration of the large amount of data gathered will take many months, perhaps a year, to review, analyze, and translate into a plan for action.



This is one important reason your voice continues to be such an important part of this new five-year practice. Remembering that *this data will form the foundation of both the Standing Committee and Staff goals for the next five years*, your continued participation remains essential in determining direction for First Parish. We welcome your input on how to interpret the results. What do you see emerging from the data?

Continued next page.

Survey Question on 7.5% Social Action Allocation

Interested in what parishioners are thinking about our yearly practice of allocating 7.5% of annual pledges to Social Action? A link to the [results](#) of that survey question are posted on the FP Home page, www.firstparish.org.

Remember: At Annual Meeting on June 10, the full congregation will be asked to reaffirm, revise, or revoke this 20-year-old policy. Standing Committee Chair Kristin Haddad will unveil the Standing Committee's recommendation concerning this important issue at a **Congregational Conversation on April 29, 2019, at 11:30 a.m.**

Questions?

Feel free to contact any member of the Standing Committee.

Jeff Brainerd <jeffbrainerd@gmail.com>

Dave Elwood <daveelwood@hotmail.com>

Kristin Haddad, Chair <kristin.haddad@gmail.com>

Peter Nobile, Clerk <peter.nobile@gmail.com>

Toby Smith Ropeik <tobyasmith@gmail.com>

Michelle Fortier, Treasurer

Kate Svrcek <katesvrcek@hotmail.com>

Lora Venesy <venesy@comcast.net>

Patty Popov <ppopov@nichols-pratt.com>

Tom Wilson <twilson@wilsongroup.com>

John Lowe <john.moore.lowe@gmail.com>

Ponderings

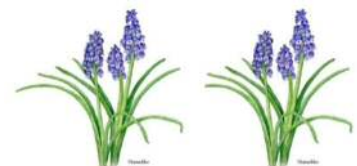
To consider something deeply and thoroughly.



We offer some words that can help us slow down a little and reflect more deeply. This month we offer the closing words from one of the Easter service responsive readings, #628 by Sara Moores Campbell. The complete reading is in the back of a hymnal. (Photo on Google images: Flickr/Julie Falk on Phys.org.)

“In this season where light and dark balance the day, we seek balance for ourselves.

Grateful for the darkness that has nourished us, we push away the stone and invite the light to awaken us to the possibilities within us and among us—possibilities for new life in ourselves and in our world.”



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: 203-931-5239



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



May Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Dana Snyder-Grant

Email: dana.snydergrant@gmail.com

Cell: 978-760-1129

Caregiver Support Group

New Members Welcome

Are you caring for a family member—an aging parent (perhaps while caring for your children), an ill spouse, a sibling, or a child with physical or mental issues? Whether you are providing direct care or overseeing care at a distance, you don't have to sacrifice yourself in the process. Get support from others while learning new coping skills. We welcome new members to join this ongoing group, which meets the afternoon of the first Monday of each month.

Contact Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239; or Diane Clapp, dianeclamclapp@gmail.com, to learn more or if you are unable to attend Monday afternoon meetings.

Come to Cook

Friday, June 8, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Kitchen

We need you! 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 ingredients are provided. Breakfast snacks will be served. RSVP to Judy Dembsey at judydembsey@gmail.com or 978-263-3272 (email preferred).



MUUsings

At our first choir rehearsal of the New Year, we listened to *The Spheres*, the opening movement of Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo's beautiful *Sunrise Mass*. Hearing the ethereal harmonies of that opening *Kyrie*, I realized that this was the perfect piece for us to be learning during what promised to be turbulent months ahead. That has been even truer than I imagined.



Ola Gjeilo (Yay-lo) [b.1978] is a pianist and composer known for his lush harmonies and his evocative, cinematic style. Gjeilo is especially inspired by the film composer Thomas Newman, jazz legends Keith Jarrett and Pat Metheny, glass artist Dale Chihuly, and architect Frank Gehry. This combination of sonic, visual, and spatial influence explains much about Gjeilo's music and about our response to the *Sunrise Mass*.

Sunrise Mass is a setting of the traditional Roman mass for choir and string orchestra. Though the piece has a feeling of ritual, it is one that transcends the form and meaning of the mass text. Gjeilo was not attempting to write a mass in any liturgical sense. Rather, he used the sounds of the mass text to orchestrate the human voice, much as he uses different bowing techniques and articulations for the string orchestra.

The mass is in four movements that Gjeilo has entitled *The Spheres*, *Sunrise*, *The City*, and *Identity/The Ground*, suggesting a visual and spatial narrative. This is where Gjeilo's cinematic gifts come in. The mass transports the listener from the spaciousness of the universe, to the glory of an earthly *Sunrise*, to the human urgency of *The City*, and finally to the intimacy of *Identity* and a deep sense of connection and resolution in *The Ground*.

This music calls up vivid images for me. I had thought of projecting photographs as we offered the music. The worship team wondered what it would be like if we used movement to interpret Gjeilo's mass. That led to a delightful artistic collaboration with Sarah Ford Terrey, a professional dancer and choreographer in our congregation. Sarah and I have enjoyed brainstorming ideas as we study the music. Together, we are discovering a new narrative of recognition, conflict, redemption, and community moving through Gjeilo's creation.



Sunrise Mass will be the musical offering on Sunday, May 20. It will be unlike any music Sunday we've ever had! Please come with an openness to experiencing this music with all of your senses.

Blessings, Beth
Beth Norton, Director of Music Ministry
Contact: music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 420

Minister in Residence

Helping to Fight the Fight

Wednesday, April 18

This morning I stood outside of the regional Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) office with Abbey Buhle and many other concerned citizens from other denominations and other communities. Although this is my first experience with ICE and this group of people, they gather whenever they are asked by those families who are facing deportation. It is a grapevine of sorts. Our UU Mass Action representative Laura is in touch with many different immigration lawyers who can call on her to ask for the presence of witnesses.



After arriving at the location, in front of the office that is identified only with a waving flag, we were told that the man we were here to support today has asked for clergy presence with him and his family inside the ICE office. So, when he arrived with his wife and five-year-old son (both U.S. citizens), I, along with a priest and Rabbi accompanied them into the ICE office. Once they signed in, it was up to them to just wait for however long it took. From then on, they were treated like cattle, people being moved around, no privacy, no compassion, and absolutely no respect for the families that were being ripped apart. The officers were cold and unfeeling. My heart aches for these families that have to endure this treatment, this uncertainty of life.

Friends, these individuals and families who are facing deportation need our support. I urge you to get connected with the Immigration Justice Task Force to hear about the events that are coming up in which you can very directly show up and offer witness for our neighbors who are facing an unjust and unfeeling justice system. Come answer the call of love, and join hands and hearts to show compassion and love to those people who need someone in their corner, helping them to fight the fight.



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

Adult Education

Historic Tour of First Parish

Wednesday, May 9, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Front Entrance to First Parish in the Vestibule

Tour the historic fourth meeting house of the First Parish in Concord! Senior Minister Howard N. Dana will show the group around the church grounds and building, explaining various aspects of the congregation's nearly 400-year history. Come learn about the Puritan founders, the church's role in the American Revolution, and its famous Transcendentalist members.

Continued next page.



We will meet inside the front entrance to First Parish in the vestibule. The tour will take roughly 90 minutes, with plenty of opportunities to sit down and ask questions. Thanks to Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, Hidden Treasures program, for its grant support. Free and open to the public. (Photo courtesy of Pierre Chiha.)

RSVP – Sign up with the church office at 978-369-9602.

Meadville Lombard on the Road

Saturday, May 5, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Pre-Event dinner, Friday, May 4, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Required online registration closes Friday, April 27

First Parish is cohosting a free day of worship and learning with Meadville Lombard Theological School, our UU seminary in Chicago. It will be a day filled with intellectual discussions and spiritual inspiration to lift up our justice work and



give us tools for faith-based social engagement. The theme of the day is, “How Can We Save Our Democracy, Religion, and Politics in an Uncertain World?”

The event includes a box lunch. Registration is online only and is required by Friday, April 27. For more details, visit [here](http://www.meadville.edu/ml-commons/details/meadville-lombard-on-the-road/) (<http://www.meadville.edu/ml-commons/details/meadville-lombard-on-the-road/>).

To learn more about the school, you are more than welcome to join the dinner. Please make sure to indicate that when you register online.

Men's Spirituality Retreat

“The Adventure of Friendship—a Men's Spirituality Retreat at First Parish”

Saturday, June 16, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., starting in the Chapel

Lunch together—bring \$10 to cover the cost.

All men connected to First Parish are welcome.

Join retreat leaders Rev. Howard N. Dana and Jeff Clanon as we explore ways to deepen existing friendships between men and make new ones. We will ask questions like: What do you value most about your friendships with other men? What helps you make or deepen these friendships? What gets in the way or inhibits these friendships?

Because friendship is an adventure, we will carpool to Boston for a group lunch. We ask everyone to make a commitment to attend the full retreat—no late arrivals or early departures, please. Call the church office to sign up for this retreat. Questions: contact Jeff Clanon at jclanon@solonline.org.

Religious Exploration News

Religious Exploration

Day, Date, Time	Theme	Description
Sunday, May 6 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Coming of Age Service	Little RE Kids Yoga (K-4)
Sunday, May 13 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Mother's Day Walk for Peace, Boston	Free bus from First Parish
Sunday, May 20 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Creativity	Little RE Religious Exploration
Sunday, May 27 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Poetry Service	No RE Memorial Day Weekend

Coming of Age Service

Sunday, May 6, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

9th graders and Mentors, with

Revs. Amy Freedman, Ken Reeves, and Howard N. Dana

For details on these this wonderful and important Sunday event, please see [Sundays at First Parish](#) on Page 3.



Mother's Day Walk for Peace

Sunday, May 13; Bus leaves 8:30 a.m., Returns 1:30 p.m., First Parish

All ages are invited to join the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace! A free bus from First Parish in Concord will leave at 8:30 a.m. to take walkers to Boston and will return by 1:30 p.m. This is a three-mile walk from Madison Park High School to City Hall. All walkers are asked to register and contribute at least \$10.



Select "Register to Walk" online at <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/>. At the end of the form, credit your event registration to the "First Parish_Concord" team. Visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour to sign up for the bus to the Peace Walk. Questions? Contact Margie King Saphier at margie.king.saphier@gmail.com or 781-424-2179.



Youth Group



Spiritual Practice: Lectio Divina

**Tuesday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m., or
Wednesday, May 16, at 1:00 p.m.**

Are you looking for a spiritual practice to help sustain you through the week? Come join us on either Tuesday or Wednesday to learn about how Unitarian Universalists can practice this ancient spiritual practice taught to us by our Christian siblings. The class will be the same on both days and will last about 90 minutes. For more information, please contact Rev. Jo VonRue at jvonrue@firstparish.org.

Teens' Upcoming Events

Attention – Important Dates

- **Youth Social Justice CON:**
Friday, May 11, at 6:00 p.m. to Saturday, May 12, at 6:00 p.m. in Belmont.
If you are a teen in grades 9 to 12, join us in May for a 24-hour *Youth CON* at the UU Church in Belmont. A great way to connect with other teens in our UU world! The theme will be social justice as it relates to mass incarceration. Cost will be around \$40. Please contact Jo VonRue to register.
- **Mother's Day Walk for Peace: Sunday, May 13, in the morning.**
The congregation will be chartering a bus into Boston for the annual walk for peace. Please contact Jo for more information about how to sign up.
- **Youth Group Gathering: Sunday, May 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Loft.**
Join us for pizza, friends, and fun!

To register, get questions answered, or if you need information about Youth Group activities, please contact Rev. Jo VonRue, jvonrue@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 412.

Learning Service Trip

Puerto Rico, Fall 2018

Teens and parents of teens, please keep an eye out for a letter detailing a possible fall learning service trip to Puerto Rico.

If you are interested in any of these events, please contact Jo VonRue at jvonrue@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 412.

Standing Committee

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

Meeting Summary

On April 8, the Standing Committee met in the Emerson Room. In addition to our regular business, members of the SAC board presented to us some information about their history



Continued next page.

and this year's pilot programs, as well as their operational proposal for a "Hybrid Giving Model." In May, we will hear from the Environmental Leadership Team about a Climate Resolution, and we will see a draft of the proposed FY19 budget. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Minutes from our meetings are regularly posted on the [SC website page](#).

SAC Board Presentations

Wendy Holt presented an informative and detailed look at the historical impact of the 7.5%, and then compared it with the initial results of the Share the Plate initiative. Then Ted Bayne presented a proposal that the SAC board has been working on that thinks about how Social Action funding might look in the future. The conversation was very interesting and shed light on how better alignment of Social Action with operations can have a very big impact. Although the presentations were informative and optimistic, it also provided us with things to watch. Thanks to the SAC board for providing so much information.



Annual Meeting – June 10

Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 10, at 11:30 a. m. in the Sanctuary. At each Annual Meeting, the congregation receives reports from staff and committees, votes on officers and committee members, approves delegates to General Assembly, and approves the budget for the next church year. Other items currently on the Annual

Meeting agenda are the Standing Committee's recommendation on the 7.5% SAC Policy, and a vote to affirm our mission statement or to request that it be revised throughout the next church year. More items are also being considered. The warrant will be posted on the door of First Parish at least eight days prior to the meeting.

Who can vote at our Annual Meeting? Our bylaws state that First Parish members who have signed the book at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting may vote. So, if you are considering joining our community and would like to participate and vote, you must sign the book by Friday, May 11, 2018.

7.5% SAC Policy Update

As we approach Annual Meeting, the Standing Committee continues to work on drafting a recommended policy to replace to the policy that defines a 7.5% allocation for social action purposes. On Sunday, April 29, at 11:30 a.m., we will be presenting a Forum describing our findings throughout the past year as well as our current recommendations. This is a great opportunity to come and ask questions, as well as provide feedback on our progress.

Budget Conversation

On June 3 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, the Finance Committee will present the proposed FY19 budget, information about our financial priorities, and pledge campaign results. This is a good opportunity to go into detail about the proposal that will be presented at Annual Meeting. All are welcome.

Continued next page.

Preliminary Findings

Year for Reflection and Visioning

Throughout the year, the Standing Committee has been soliciting input from the congregation from listening sessions, a survey, and a retreat. The congregation has two opportunities to hear the results that we have uncovered so far: Thursday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 8, at 7:00 p.m. I hope that you can make one of the sessions to see how this information is charting our course of action, as well as to understand what we would like to accomplish together as a congregation.

We Want to Hear from You!

Standing Committee members are always eager to talk with First Parishioners. Please reach out to any of us at coffee hour, at an event, by phone, or by email to discuss your First Parish experiences. You can find the contact information for each Standing Committee member, along with meeting agendas, governing policies, meeting minutes, and reports at <http://firstparish.org/wp/connection/committees/standing-committee/>.



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 in the upcoming month that offer opportunities to participate in the ministry of the arts at First Parish. Unless otherwise noted, questions may be directed to music@firstparish.org.



Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Friday	May 4	7:00 p.m.	AWE Movie Night at Concord Academy
Sunday	May 6	5:00 p.m.	Oriana Consort Concert
Wednesday	May 9	6:30 p.m.	Arts Council meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	May 12	9:30 a.m.	First Parish Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults)
Friday	May 18	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly song circle)
Sunday	May 20	10:00 a.m.	Music Sunday—Ola Gjeilo's <i>Sunrise Mass</i> : First Parish Choir, Festival (string) Orchestra, and dancers
Sunday	May 20	2:00 p.m.	Photography Club Annual Exhibit and Reception

Continued next page.

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

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.

Call for People with Special Skills

New Arts Events Resource List



The number of arts events at First Parish is growing. To help people coordinate their event, we are compiling a resource list of people with special skills who may be able to assist with planning music events, plays, art exhibits, poetry readings, and more. If you have a skill such as producing, directing, writing (press releases, articles, brochures or posters, photography, etc.) and would like to help, please contact Susan

Page at srpage13@gmail.com or 978-264-4271. She will add your name and be happy to answer your questions.

Oriana Consort Concert

Sunday, May 6, at 5:00 p.m., First Parish Reception Follows

Oriana presents beautiful but infrequently performed choral works by several lesser known composers. Settings of German romantic poetry by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel are followed by Franz Biebl's lovely "Ave Maria." Ludwig Senfl, a 16th-century Swiss composer, provides a sacred motet and a lively mimetic piece that sounds like bells in a cathedral tower. The first half ends with three small ensemble choruses by Boston's own Amy Beach. The program ends with Gerald Finzi's sensitive choral settings of seven poems of Robert Bridges, who later was England's Poet Laureate. (Photo © Hendrik Broekman.)



Photography Club Annual Exhibit

Sunday, May 20, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Bring your family and friends to the Annual First Parish Photo Club Show and Reception on Sunday, May 20, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Members' work will be displayed on the Stage Gallery, and two slide shows will run continuously. First, in the Parlor, ten of each member's photos; and second, on the Stage, Field Trip Highlights.



Continued next page.

Choose from an assortment of costumes and props and have your picture taken in the popular “Photo Booth.” A variety of delicious foods and beverages will be served at no charge. Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Social Action Community

Faith into Action

News from Zach



Background

In June of 2017, Open Table invited the SAC to send groups to volunteer and dine at Open Table to collaboratively carry out our mission to provide healthy food, friendship, and support. During this meeting, Open Table committed to making the first Thursday of every month “First Thursdays”—when First Parish members would be given priority to volunteer with an affiliated Social Action group.

A year later, in April of 2018, those First Parish members who participated in First Thursdays attended a meeting to review the program. Members of the Women’s Parish Association (WPA), Reverence for Life, Race Relations, and Immigration Justice Task Force agreed to continue SAC participation and to help promote the community dinner to a broader population. Placing the emphasis on celebrating community rather than highlighting need was also discussed, and each participant was encouraged to promote the dinner in other areas of church outreach.



Celebration of Community Dinners

Open Table continues to work hard to change the stigma of Open Table as a place for “poor people.” As we promote a “Celebration of Community,” and our pantry operation is no longer associated with the dinner at First Parish, we hope that First Parish will be a major advocate for this program. Open Table has been very pleased with how many WPA members both help regularly and understand deeply the need to change the “us/them” feeling between volunteers and diners. Open Table hopes to blur these lines by making volunteer and dining opportunities more widely available.

Enjoy a Community Meal

First Parish is invited to join the Open Table community dinner on the first Thursday of every month, from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall.

- Please arrive by 5:30 p.m. and enjoy a community meal; financial donations are welcome.
- To volunteer, please contact me, Zach Roe, zroe@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602 ext.450, for exact jobs and times needed.

Continued next page.



For more information about Open Table, please visit <http://www.opentable.org/>, email info@opentable.org, or call 978-369-2275. To volunteer, contact me.

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

Amnesty International, Group 15

Meeting: Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

Our years-long efforts working with others advocating for Massachusetts prison reform culminated in Gov. Baker's signing the Criminal Justice Reform Bill in April, a huge victory.

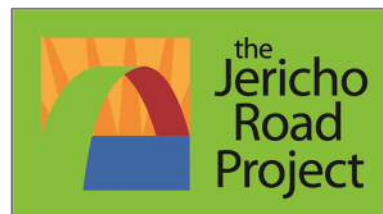
Our May agenda includes ideas for actions directed to death penalty abolition, the prevention of violence against women worldwide, and the freeing of two Azerbaijanian student activists. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, njlyons22@gmail.com, or 978-369-6109.



Jericho Road Renewed

General and/or Skills-Based Volunteers Needed

If you're new to First Parish, you may be asking, "What is the Jericho Road Project?" In 2003, Jericho Road was launched as a bridge between Lowell and Concord through short-term, pro bono projects with nonprofits. After many adventures outside of First Parish, and three "think tank" meetings, Jericho Road is back to provide expanded volunteer opportunities for social action in Lowell.



Join Jericho Road as a general and/or skills-based volunteer by signing up through our [Google form](#) and following us on [Facebook](#). For details and questions, please contact Katharine Roberts at katharine@goodstory.works.

Partner Congregation News

Greetings from Transylvania

Greetings from our 26 pilgrims in Transylvania. We are building and deepening relationships between us and our Keresztúr partners and among ourselves. We are appreciating seeing our children and youth enjoying their Keresztúr peers.

The photo below shows us all in front of the Church of the 1569 Edict of Tolerance and the statue commissioned to celebrate its 450th anniversary.

Continued next page.



Women's News

AWE Upcoming Events

Advocates for Women's Empowerment

- **Toiletry Drive:** Ends Sunday, April 29
- **First Friday Film Series:** Friday, May 4, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
- **AWE Book Group:** Tuesday, May 8, 7:00 p.m., First Parish
- **Next Meeting:** Saturday, May 19, 8:00 a.m., Open Table, 33 Main Street, Maynard

Final Days for the Toiletry Drive for Rosie's Place and Open Table

Our drive ends on Sunday, April 29. Please bring unopened full- and travel-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, lotion, lip balm, combs/brushes, and hygiene items (pads, tampons) to the collection boxes in the coatroom. Contact Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com).

Free Feminist Film Series

We'll show "Whale Rider." Only males are allowed to ascend to chiefdom in a Maori tribe in New Zealand. This ancient custom is upset when the child selected to be the next chief dies at birth. His twin sister challenges tradition and seeks to claim her birthright. Contact: Lou Toussaint (mloutoussaint@gmail.com).



AWE Book Group

We'll read articles on the subject of women's bodies, covering three topics: reproduction, body image, and sport. Please read at least one article per topic. The article links and a hard copy (for photocopying) are in the church office and on Facebook, www.facebook.com/concordwomen. Contact Jen Izzo (jbizzo@hotmail.com).

Monthly Meetings

Note the change of location for our May meeting. Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Our meetings and events are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions who wish to advance women's rights and improve their lives.

Mailing List

To join, contact Lora Venesy, venesy@comcast.net.

Continued next page.



Mother's Day Walk for Peace

**Sunday, May 13, Bus leaves 8:30 a.m.,
Returns 1:30 p.m. Meet at First Parish**

For details on this Sunday event, please see [Religious Exploration News](#) on Page 12.

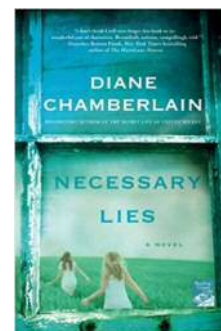
Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, May 21, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Tuesday, May 22, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

Our final book of the church year is *Necessary Lies*, by Diane Chamberlain. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the 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, contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.



Remaining Dates and Books for 2018

Date	Book	Author
May 21/22	<i>Necessary Lies</i>	Diane Chamberlain
June TBD	Annual Potluck and Book Choosing for 2018-2019	

Women's Parish Association

Tour Walden Pond Visitor Center

Special Tour of Stunning New Visitor Center

Wednesday, May 16, 11:00 a.m.

Another popular off-site visit and bagged lunch program is being planned. There will be a morning visit and tour of the stunning new Walden Pond Visitor Center, with its interactive exhibits and a new welcome video about Thoreau and Walden produced by Ken Burns. The LEED Gold, net zero energy building, is well worth the visit! You'll also have time to shop in the new Thoreau Society Shop.



Bring a bagged lunch and meet back at First Parish afterward for more conversation. Dessert and drinks will be provided. More details to follow. Contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net for reservations.

Continued next page.

May Luncheon

Rescheduled Program “The Art of Resistance”

Wednesday, May 16, 11:30 a.m.

RSVP by May 13—Required, even if done previously

Fellow parishioner Professor Shelley Hawks will give a special illustrated presentation about her latest book, *The Art of Resistance, Painting by Candlelight in Mao's China*. Her findings present a compelling picture of what dedicated resisters against oppression can accomplish.



Important

You must RSVP by May 13 even if you reserved previously for the postponed March luncheon. To reserve a spot, contact the church office at 978-369-9602, sign up at coffee hour, or email Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net. Book signings will follow the program.

Herb Garden Coffee Hour Party

Sunday, June 17, 11:00 a.m.

Spring is having a slow start this year, and the Deborah Greeley Memorial Herb Garden is calling us! The Women's Parish Association will hold its popular Coffee Hour Herb Garden Party right after the worship service.

Among all the lovely and fragrant herbs, we'll celebrate the coming of summer and Father's Day. Join fellow parishioners and enjoy herb- flavored sweets and savories as you nourish your soul in one of the most beautiful gardens in Concord.



Other Cool Stuff

Celebrate Community Dinner

Open Table, First Thursdays, Monthly, 5:15 - 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Come enjoy a community meal. You are invited to join the Open Table community dinner on the first Thursday of every month. Please arrive by 5:30 p.m.; financial donations are welcome. For background and details, see [News from Zach](#) on Page 17. To volunteer, please contact Zach Roe, zroe@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext.450, for exact jobs and times needed.

Continued next page.



Concord Area Humanists

First Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

May 2 – Roy Speckhardt, “Humanism and Change”



Roy Speckhardt, Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, will draw from his latest book, [Creating Change Through Humanism](#). Roy will discuss how the modern humanist movement has been at the forefront of such social issues as civil rights, women’s rights, religion-free science, LGBTQ equality, and environmental preservation. He will argue for the need to be open about being “good without god” and combating the antihumanist prejudice of the Religious

Right.

Sponsored by FP Humanist Council. Contact Pat Everett at pne@aol.com. All welcome.

Ferry Beach Retreat

Friday to Monday, May 25 - 28

Registration Deadline: April 29 at coffee hour

Join families, couples, and singles from our congregation and First Parish in Lexington for this relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine, over Memorial Day weekend.



The Registration Packet can be downloaded from www.firstparish.org/forms. Registrations will be taken during coffee hour and in the church office during the week. Late registrations may be accepted on a space available basis. For questions or to inquire about scholarship assistance, contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com. For more information on Ferry Beach, visit www.ferrybeach.org.

FP Announce Name Change

New Name “FP Weekly”

Started April 2

“First Parish Announce” email switched to a once-a-week format and is now known as “First Parish Weekly.” Instead of daily email notices, you will receive one longer-format email each Monday. These will contain the events for the following two weeks, as well as events further out on the horizon.

Submission guidelines will remain the same as they were for First Parish Announce. “Publicizing Events at First Parish” brochures can be found outside the front office. For questions or concerns, contact Sarah Burns at sburns@firstparish.org.

First Tuesday Group

“Books That Have Inspired Us”

Tuesday, May 1, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

We will be discussing one or two books that have inspired us. When we read a book, we feed our brain. We improve language skills that affect how we think. We widen our mental horizons. And sometimes, as we learn about ourselves from the characters in the book, we may improve our character. This session will consist of discussion in small groups. Please come with at least one, and at most two, books that you wish to share with others.

While our focus is seniors, please come expand your reading list whatever your age. For more information, contact Virginia Taylor at virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net or 978-263-9777.

General Assembly 2018

“All Are Called”

June 20 – 24, Kansas City, Missouri

The UUA General Assembly (GA) is the Annual Meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the association through democratic process. This year congregations will ask, “How can UU’s faithfully meet the demands of our time?” The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those that fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life.



First Parish will be represented in Kansas City by Lillian Anderson, Sara Ballard, Beth Norton, Jim Sherblom, Kate Svrcek, and Alice Van Deusen. Off-site delegates include Steve Cadwell, David Elwood, John Lowe, Peter Nobile, Jan Power, Dana Snyder-Grant, Lora Venesy, and Susan Zelt. Please thank these members of First Parish for their service at this critical time of deep transition for Unitarian Universalism.

Questions? Contact the Denominational Affairs Committee or Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom, jimsherblom@gmail.com. For more details or to participate off-site or online, visit the [UUA Website](#).

For your calendars, future GA's: 2019: June 19-23, Spokane, Washington; 2020: June 24-28, Providence, Rhode Island.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

**“Jewish Meditation” – Rescheduled from October
Friday, May 15, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room**

Come to the Jewish Awareness Affinity Group on Friday evening, May 15, in the Brooks Room. Rescheduled from October, 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 regarding 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.



Passover Seder Follow-Up

Held Saturday, April 7

A wonderful evening was had by all at the Cooperative Passover Seder held in the Parish Hall.

Many thanks to the Seder leaders: Dana Snyder-Grant, Zachary Roe, and Rev. Amy Freedman.



Reclaim Our Democracy

"The Role of Faith Communities in Times of Social Unrest"

Tuesday, May 29, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

The [Reclaim Our Democracy](#) group at First Parish in Concord has organized a panel discussion of local church leaders to discuss the current democracy challenges facing this country and the role that our local faith groups can play in addressing these challenges.

Participants will include:

- Rev. Howard Dana, Senior Minister, First Parish in Concord
- Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom, former Senior Minister, First Parish in Brookline
- Fr. Austin Fleming, Pastor, Holy Family Parish
- Rev. Hannah Brown, Pastor, West Concord Union Church
- Rev. Nancy Hagner, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church

For more information, please contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.



Communications at First Parish

To whom and by when do I send my submission?

Please pick up a copy of the brochure “Publicizing Events at First Parish in Concord” on the table outside the church office.

Publicity Deadlines

Next May *Meeting House News* deadline: **May 15, 2018**

Next Publication Date: **May 23, 2018**

- **FP Weekly (formerly “Announce”) Deadline** – Noon Friday for Monday email, which includes two weeks of upcoming events
- **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.

Steps for Publicizing a First Parish Event

1. Plan ahead; then add a “fudge factor”—extra time for committee review and for Editor’s questions. We need you to adhere to deadlines.
2. How much lead time does the Editor need? Which Editor?
 - a. **Weekly** email – FP Weekly; send to Sarah Burns by Friday noon
 - b. **Sunday** insert – *Sunday News*; send to Sarah by Wednesday noon
 - c. **Monthly** newsletter – *Meeting House News (MHN)*; send to Wendy by the deadline noted in the first two pages of your last *MHN* or on the [website under “News.”](#)
3. Write draft, send for review, rewrite, and send to Editor before deadline.

Editor Information

FP Weekly (formerly “Announce”), *The Sunday News*
Sarah Burns, Office Administrator and Editor
978-369-9602
sburns@firstparish.org



Meeting House News (MHN)
Wendy Wolfberg, Editor
978-578-1077, cell
wolfberg@post.harvard.edu (email preferred)



We are glad to answer any questions. Please review deadlines and guidelines.
Thank you.



Meeting House Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Publication
Jun*	15-May-18	23-May-18
Sep	21-Aug-18	29-Aug-18
Oct	18-Sep-18	26-Sep-18
Nov	16-Oct-18	24-Oct-18
Dec	13-Nov-18	21-Nov-18
Jan 2019	11-Dec-18	19-Dec-18
Feb 2019	15-Jan-19	23-Jan-19

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

Questions?

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



First Parish General Information

Office Hours

September 6 through June 18

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

Summer Office Hours

June 19 through August 31

From Tuesday, June 19, to Friday, August 31, summer office hours will be Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon). The office, as usual, will be closed on Mondays. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, September 4.



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 Weekly: 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. Copyright © 2018 First Parish in Concord, Unitarian Universalist. All rights reserved. FPC Meeting House News May 2018. Add us to your address book.