



What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

SUMMER (JUNE / JULY / AUGUST) 2018



Photo by Sara Ballard. Church steeple framed by the Valerie Holt memorial dogwood.



SAVE THE DATES

Annual Meeting, June 10

General Assembly, June 20-24

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Herb garden photo by Doug Baker including the [armillary sundial](#).

Summer office hours begin June 19.

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

NEXT MHN—September

Deadline: August 21

Publication: August 29

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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, June 3 – “Who Is My Enemy”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

Sunday, June 10 – “Just as I Am”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
Combined First Parish Choirs

Sunday, June 17 – “Flower Communion”

Rev. Amy Freedman and Rev. Jo VonRue
First Parish Choir

Sunday, June 24 – “Service of the Living Tradition from General Assembly”

Jan Power, Liturgist
([More on GA on page 21](#))

Sunday, July 1 – “How to Tell Time”

Matt Meyer, percussionist and friend of First Parish
Mary Jane Rupert, keyboard

Celebrate Rev. Jo VonRue

Sunday, June 17, Deborah Webster Greeley Memorial Herb Garden



On the last Sunday of the church year, we will celebrate our wonderful Minister in Residence, Rev. Jo VonRue, who will be leading worship on June 17, her last day with us. The Minister-in-Residence Support/Intern Committee invites everyone to take time at coffee hour in our delightful Memorial Herb Garden to celebrate Jo's year with First Parish, and to wish her well as she begins her ministry at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society in Syracuse, New York. For more information, contact Kate Keleher at kate@rkeleher.com.

Summer Services

For service leaders in July and August, see the ***Schedule of Services Summer 2018*** near the end of this newsletter.

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Sunday Forums

Returning September 23

Is there a Forum you would like to hear? Can you help? We need you!

We had 15 Forums this season, ending with Stuart Johnstone's update on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail on May 13. We look forward to another busy season starting in September. Most Sundays next year (September through May) are still open. If you have suggested topics or speakers or can help, please contact a cochair, Pat Brinkman at pabrinkman@comcast.net or Alan Whitney at awhitney@alum.mit.edu.



Homecoming Picnic

Sunday, September 9, at 5:30 p.m.

Save the date. All ages are welcome. Bring your whole family; visit with your friends; catch up on the summer news; and meet other First Parish folk. Enjoy the music and a family activity. This is an evening for everyone. There is a potluck dessert. Please bring a finger food dessert to share and your own picnic—food and beverage. No admission charge. Mark your calendars now.

To see more pictures of Homecoming picnics, download the [October 2017 MHN](#).



Photo by Rodger Mattlage, 2017.



Photo by Wendy Wolfberg, 2012.

Café Off for the Summer

The last First Parish Café of the year will be on Sunday, June 17. The Café resumes on Homecoming Sunday, September 9.

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

June Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Lori Gill-Pazaris

Email: lpazaris@gmail.com

Cell: 978-505-2720

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 provisions will be there. Breakfast snacks will be served. Please RSVP to Judy Dembsey at judydembsey@gmail.com or 978-263-3272 (email preferred).



Sacred Texts of the World

Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom

Sundays, October 14, 21, 28, and November 4, 11, 18, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Chapel

Save the dates. Come join wisdom teacher Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom to explore the sacred texts of the world. Texts will include excerpts from the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Analects of Confucius, Dao De Jing, Dhammapada, Torah, Bible, and Qur'an. No prior understanding of these texts or their religious traditions is necessary to encounter the divine mystery. Simply come with an open mind.

To sign-up, add your information to the sheet in the Front Office or contact Marion Visel mvisel@firstparish.org or 203/931-5239 cell. Maximum of 18 participants.

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!



MUUsings



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

A: Because God trusts them.

There's a sermon somewhere in that old joke. But it points to a time, maybe a generation ago, when many Unitarian Universalist churches shut down in the summer. During the past decade or so, the customary UU summer service hiatus has become less common. It's hard to remember a time when First Parish in Concord did not have summer services led by a diverse array of guest clergy, laity, and musicians. Recruiting and scheduling speakers and musicians for summer services 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. So be sure to check out the summer worship schedule and the programs for children.

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 Ministry

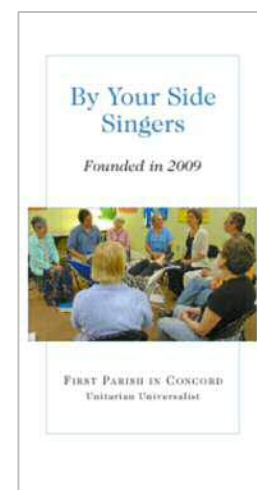
Contact: music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602

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.



Minister in Residence

Time to Say Good-Bye . . .



Well, Friends, my time with you has come to an end. I came to First Parish to learn about ministry in a large church, and I did certainly learn about that. You have each helped me to become a better minister, spiritual leader, and activist. You have embraced different worship styles and welcomed my ministry. I am thankful that you took a chance on me this year and grateful for all that you have shared with me. One of the most impactful elements of this residency was the opportunity to work with such amazing ministers and staff. Howard is truly a remarkable teaching pastor; Marion and Amy have both enriched my learning and ministry tenfold. The staff that make this operation run is put together with such fine people, including our sextons, who are always here to check in with me on a late night or offer a story or smile to my day. They have truly become part of my little Concord family.

For those of you who don't know, I am heading to [May Memorial](#) UU Society in Syracuse, New York, where I will be the solo minister. It is a wonderful community that has a yearning to engage in social justice, which is just the right fit for my ministry. May Memorial is a small midsize congregation around 250, members and friends, which is the right size for me.

Concord, while wonderful in so many ways, is just too big for my preference, and I am looking forward to getting back to a smaller community, where I really can have meaningful relationships with everyone.



Thank you for your love. Thank you for sharing your ministers with me. Thank you for embracing my ministry with you. Thank you for all the wonderful and valuable things you have taught me about ministry that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. You will forever have a place in my heart.

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

Adult Education

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.; start 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 among 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.

Youth Group

Last Gathering of the 2017-2018 Year
Sunday, June 10, 3:00 p.m., RSVP needed

Hey, Teens of All Ages (Grades 9-12), join us on for an afternoon on the water! We will head to the South Bridge Boat House to spend a few hours on the river. Please RSVP to this event so we will know how many drivers we will need. Contact Rev. Jo at jvonrue@firstparish.org.



Religious Exploration (RE) News

Day, Date, Time	Theme	Description
Sunday, June 3 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	RE Field Day At Emerson Playground	Children and youth with permission participate in Games, Bubbles, Relay Races, and Face Painting. Little RE available.

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Day, Date, Time	Theme	Description
Sunday, June 10 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Transylvania Pilgrimage Show and Tell	Come find out about our recent trip to visit our Partner Congregation! Little RE available.
Sunday, June 17 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Flower Communion Service	All ages are invited to bring a flower for our annual ritual. Little RE available.
Sunday, June 24 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Kids Yoga	Jaime Andrews, a certified Kidding Around Yoga (KAY) instructor will lead Yoga during the service. No Little RE.

RE Field Day

Sunday, June 3, 10:15 a.m., Emerson Playground

Rain date: June 10

Permission forms are now available for the RE Field Day! Children and youth are invited to a morning of outdoor fun—including Games, Bubbles, Relay Races, and Face Painting. Little RE will still be available for preschool children. Following the Children's Message, all kids with permission will walk with RE staff and volunteers to 90 Stow Street, Concord. Please email or give your permission form to Rev. Amy Freedman. Questions? Email: afreedman@firstparish.org.



Ice-Cream Social

Sunday, June 3, from 11:15 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

All ages are invited to enjoy homemade ice cream from “Reasons to be Cheerful”! All flavors will be nut-free, with two vegan options. We will also unveil a special “First Parish in Concord” flavor designed by our kids! This event will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Sponsored by the RE Council.

Summer Program for Kids

Sundays, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Children and youth of all ages are invited to drop in for our fun Summer Programs, held every Sunday during the service time, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.. Each Sunday will feature a professional teacher assisted by a teen and adult volunteer. A schedule will be soon be available! Possible activities include bubble painting, obstacle course, nature mosaics, 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!

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Introducing Wendy Dalton

Our Lead Summer Teacher

“Play is the highest form of research.”—Albert Einstein



Hello! I like long walks in the woods and quality time spent with loved ones, new and old. I am originally from Iowa but have lived in several other states—including Alabama, Georgia, Michigan, Vermont, and now Massachusetts. I have had the privilege to work with children and their families from all walks of life, specifically in the mental health services field, for the better part of a decade.

Currently, I am closing in on the completion of my Master's in Mental Health Counseling, with a specialization in Expressive Arts Therapy. I think this is just a fancy way of telling people I love to get to know others through play and creative expression, offering them a place to work toward and explore their own goals in a way that feels right to them. I know the Arts to be a rich playground for expression and healing, and I am an advocate for playtime for all ages. After all, we never stop needing to laugh, connect, and play. I am looking forward to getting to know you!

Sign-Ups

RE Registration and Teacher Sign-Ups

New and returning families are encouraged to register children and youth for the 2018-2019 church year on our website. Our Religious Exploration program is year-round, but we offer classes by age group in the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Please sign up today so we can plan and be prepared to welcome your family!

Our program for children and youth is a cooperative model. We depend on each family's signing up to teach or volunteer to support our program. Teachers work in teams, and each member volunteers for eight Sundays across the church year. We found this approach allows our volunteers greater flexibility. You will receive a follow-up email confirming your assignment. Links are on our website: <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.



Standing Committee News

Next Meeting: Sunday, June 10, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Meeting Summary

On May 6, the Standing Committee met in the Emerson Room. In addition to our regular business, we saw a first draft of the FY19 budget and heard members of the Environmental Leadership team present on a Climate Resolution for Annual Meeting. On May 20, we had a short meeting to approve the finalized budget and affirm the Trustee's candidate for the slate at Annual Meeting. On June 10, we will review our self-evaluation about this past year while we welcome newly elected members. We will also vote whether to continue hanging the Black Lives Matter banner for another six months. All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings. Minutes are regularly posted on the [SC website page](#).



Annual Meeting Is 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 next year. Other items currently on the Annual Meeting agenda are the Standing Committee's recommendation on the 7.5% SAC Policy, a vote on whether to affirm our mission statement or to request that it be revised throughout the next church year, and a vote on the Environmental Leadership Team's proposed Climate Resolution. The signed warrant will be posted on the door of First Parish at least eight days prior to the meeting.



7.5% SAC Policy Update

The Standing Committee hosted conversations on Sunday, April 29, and Wednesday, May 9, that detailed our proposed 7.5% policy replacement. Our goal is for the new policy to emphasize holistic budgeting, and to emphasize that our head of staff is accountable for the full budget. A comparison chart on the proposed policy, along with its full text, can be found in this newsletter. Please ask any member of the Standing Committee if you have questions about this proposal.

Budget Conversation on June 3

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. Two budget proposals will be shared: one that is configured in the manner of the current 7.5% policy, and one that is configured according to the potential replacement policy. This is an excellent place to hear about the possible operational differences between the two policies. All are welcome.

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Nominating Committee Candidates

The Standing Committee is proud to announce their nominations for Nominating Committee: Eric Moore and Jan Goddard-Taylor are both being recommended for a second term, while Darien Smith is the proposed candidate for the single vacancy on the Nominating Committee. More information on each of these candidates can be seen on the slate, which will be posted on the Standing Committee's bulletin board in June and distributed at Annual Meeting.

New Chair Elected

The Standing Committee is proud to announce that Dave Elwood will be the next chair of the Standing Committee of First Parish in Concord. The leadership selection subcommittee recommended him and cited Dave's calm demeanor, interesting questions, and incisive comments as some of the strengths and skills that we believe will serve him well as our next leader. Congratulations, Dave. The committee is behind you, and we know that you are going to do a great job. This also means that this is my final column as chair. It has been an honor for me to serve as chair for the past two years and I look forward to serving under Dave's leadership.



Climate Resolution Information

The Environmental Leadership Team attended the Standing Committee's meeting on May 6 to share with us their climate resolution that will be presented at Annual Meeting and to share their strategies for disseminating this information among the full congregation. Their statement was inspired by a similar resolution passed at First Parish Bedford and postulates that our congregation ought to feel empowered to stand against the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure in our country. Look for them at coffee hour and get informed before Annual Meeting.



Year for Reflection and Visioning Preliminary Findings

Thank you to the parishioners who came to hear detailed results on the Year for Reflection and Visioning process on April 26 or May 8. In these presentations, congregational input from our listening sessions, survey, and congregation-wide retreat were shared. Three main areas of focus that were identified were building connected community, changing who we are, and reaching outward. The cultural shift of becoming kinder and more inclusive that is implied in these areas will be difficult and will require broad participation. The Standing Committee will continue to examine this data and to listen to the congregation as we work to create new end statements for our church. Up-to-date end statements will help the Standing Committee and the staff to align their goals more effectively, and help to implement the changes that we believe can make First Parish better without losing sight of who we are.

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End-of-Year Thank-You's



First, I want to thank Patty Popov for her six years of service on the Standing Committee. She will be rotating off our board at Annual Meeting. Her valuable perspective on policies, financial strategies, and voice of reason has been invaluable to the committee. I'd like to thank Patty especially for her work with the Nominating Committee and the Finance Committee—and her banana bread!

Thank you again to our amazing Year for Reflection and Visioning task force: Kate Svrcek, Toby Smith Ropeik, Lora Venesy, and Tom Wilson. This team worked tirelessly on behalf of the congregation and created an inclusive, powerful process to help us identify where we would like to go together.

Finally, thank you to the congregation. During this year, we have called on members again and again to share their skills, share their perspective, and to show up. The breadth of volunteers helped us to engage the congregation more fully during the Year for Reflection and Visioning. We also had many people engage in our discussions on the 7.5% policy. We are continuing to work toward becoming a kinder, more inclusive place, and your engagement and commitment fills me with hope.



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.



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Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Friday	June 1	7:00 p.m.	AWE Movie Night – “She's Angry When She's Beautiful”
Saturday	June 9	9:30 a.m.	First Parish Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults); does not meet in July and August
Friday	June 22 July 27 August 24	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly song circle)
Wednesday	July 12	9:00 a.m.	Art Exhibit Opening – Children’s Books about Henry David Thoreau

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.

Social Action Community

Faith into Action



Amnesty International, Group 15

Meeting: Tuesday, June 19, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room



We'll be sending letters to advocate for the release of individuals whose dire situations are determined to be urgent by Amnesty International, and continue efforts directed to death penalty abolition, preventing violence against women, child marriage laws, and the freeing of two Azerbaijanian student activists. We will not meet in July, and our August 21 meeting will be in a private home. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, njlyons22@gmail.com or 978-369-6109.

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 the May issue of the *Meeting House News*, “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.

Environmental Leadership Team

Climate Justice Resolution Congregational Conversations

Sunday, June 3, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

The Environmental Leadership Team proposes a Climate Justice Resolution to support congregants' taking action to stop investments in fossil fuel infrastructure; and to underscore our commitment to a livable planet for our children and grandchildren. We urge the congregation to adopt this resolution and to take a firm stand on this critical issue. We are holding congregational conversations June 3 as well as staffing coffee hour tables to hear and address concerns. Look for us.



Burning fossil fuels is already causing great harm to the environment and people elsewhere in the world. Thus, we consider it immoral and illogical to invest in new fossil fuel infrastructure. Fortunately, renewables-based technology is falling into place, and a huge opportunity exists for our country and our congregation. Investments in fossil fuel-related infrastructure, which will last many years, lock in irreversible damage to the biosphere and immense misery for future generations.

Pride Service and Parade

Saturday, June 9, 11:00 a.m., Arlington Street Church, Boston

The Diversity Committee is organizing a group from First Parish to attend the Pride Service at the Arlington Street Church in Boston, and then march in the Boston Pride Parade (or watch for those who can't march). After the service, those attending will take their spot near the front of the parade. Carpools can be arranged. Sign up at coffee hour or contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org, or 978-371-0723.



Transylvanian Pilgrimage a Success!

In April 26 pilgrims from First Parish—including children, youth, and adults—traveled to visit our partner congregation in Székeleykeresztúr, Transylvania, which helped strengthen the bonds of friendship between our congregations. The intergenerational aspect really helped make the trip successful, and we plan to have more such pilgrimages in the future. The travelers are grateful for all the planning and arrangements the members of the Partner Congregation Committee in Keresztúr did for them, and for the wonderful hospitality received during their visit. Travelers will share their experiences with us at a church service in late September.

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Women's News

AWE Upcoming Events

Advocates for Women's Empowerment

- **First Friday Film Series:** Friday, June 1, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
- **End-of-Year Celebration:** Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 p.m., Patio / Brooks Room
- **Cook and Serve at Rosie's Place:** Save the Date – Sunday, September 23, 1:30 p.m.; meet at First Parish. Advance sign-up required
- **Legislative Event:** Date TBD
- **Next Meeting:** Saturday, September 15, 8:00 a.m.

Free Feminist Film Series

We'll show "She's Beautiful When She's Angry," a documentary that resurrects the buried history of the outrageous, often brilliant women who founded the modern women's movement from 1966 to 1971. The film series will break for the summer and resume in October. Contact: Lou Toussaint (mloutoussaint@gmail.com).



End-of-Year Celebration

Join us for socializing and good company to wrap up our year! Bring a finger food appetizer, dessert, or beverage to share. This gathering will replace our regular meeting scheduled on June 15. Our monthly meetings will resume on September 15.

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Legislative Event to Support Candidates

Watch for details for a summer event to celebrate and get to know women in Massachusetts politics. We will invite female political leaders who have served or who intend to run for office in our district. Interested in helping? Contact Jen Izzo (jbizzo@hotmail.com).

Rosie's Place—Volunteers Needed to Cook and Serve Dinner

Are you looking for a meaningful, intergenerational social action event (for ages 12+)? Volunteer to cook and serve dinner at Rosie's Place in Boston! We'll carpool from church at 1:30 p.m. and return by 6:30 p.m.. Advance sign-up required. Contact Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com).



Toiletry Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated toiletry and feminine hygiene items for a collection for Rosie's Place and Open Table. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month and 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.

Women's Parish Association

Herb Garden Coffee Hour Party

Sunday, June 17, after the Service, in the Herb Garden

It's been an unpredictable spring this year, and it will be a special treat to visit the Deborah Webster Greeley Memorial Herb Garden again! The Women's Parish Association will hold its popular Coffee Hour Herb Garden Party on June 17 immediately after the worship service.

Surrounded by fragrant herbs, we'll have a chance to celebrate and thank Rev. Jo VonRue, our wonderful Minister in Residence, and also celebrate Father's Day. Join fellow parishioners and enjoy herb-flavored sweets and savories as the Herb Garden nourishes your soul!



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[Visit Our Gardens](#)

Don't Forget to Visit This Summer!

We've had a cold and unpredictable spring this year; but it's getting warmer. Summer will eventually arrive so that you will be able to enjoy the general landscape and special gardens on our First Parish campus.

[Deborah Webster Greeley Memorial Garden](#)

Often referred to as the Herb Garden, it 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 is being made ready for you to enjoy. So do stop by this summer to enjoy the calm, the herbs, and the overall loveliness. In addition to being the very busy wife of Rev. Dana McLean Greeley, first President of the Unitarian Universalist Association and Senior Minister here in Concord, Debby was an extremely active member of the Women's Parish Association and a dedicated and knowledgeable herbalist.



[Ruth Johnson Memorial Garden](#)



This special garden near the driveway has been updated in the last couple of years and will soon be 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. Have a lovely and peaceful summer!

Other Cool Stuff

[Concord Area Humanists](#)

"Cognitive Limits on Human Reason," presented by David Ropeik
Wednesday, October 3, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Save the date for this October 3 talk, rescheduled from last February's storm. Meanwhile, please visit our website, <http://concordareahumanists.org>, and look at our [May 31, 2012 blog article](#) on the founding of the Concord Area Humanists (CAH) in 2009. Additional blog articles can be accessed for more CAH history. Please help reactivate our site by submitting a blog article to Patrick Everett, pne@aol.com.

Continued next page.



We invite you to also consider joining our Steering Committee to help plan and manage these First Wednesday meetings, which are such an important part of our active First Parish outreach to surrounding communities, and are sponsored by the First Parish Humanist Council. We need you and can discuss how you can help during the summer. If you can help, please email Patrick Everett at pne@aol.com.

The CAH wish you a happy summer. All are welcome.

First Tuesday Group

**“Concord before Concord” and Ice-Cream Social
Tuesday, June 5, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

We will assemble for Concord native Sarah Blodgett's discussion on Native Americans in Concord, and how colonization transformed the local scene. The discussion will reference Lisa Brooks' new book, *Our Beloved Kin: a New History of King Phillip's War*. The day will also include 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 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.

FP Flowers on YouTube

“First Parish In Concord Flowers by Season”



This four-minute video highlights most of the arrangements created by First Parish's very talented Flower Committee for our Sanctuary over recent years. Because the aim of the Flower Committee is to reflect the present moment in nature, the video is arranged seasonally. Notice the changes in plant material and palette as the seasons progress, and enjoy the beauty as it develops over the year.

You can find the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeS5fN4W42M> (with Sound On, you will hear a lovely soundtrack).

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 dates for GA—2019: June 19-23, Spokane, Washington; 2020: June 24-28, Providence, Rhode Island.

Website Wonder

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 of 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.

Continued next page.



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.

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 *Meeting House News* deadline: **August 21, 2018**. See next year’s dates on page 22.

Next Publication Date: **August 29, 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

Updated through September 2019

UPDATED!

Issue	Deadline	Publication
Sep-18	21-Aug-18	29-Aug-18
Oct-18	18-Sep-18	26-Sep-18
Nov-18	16-Oct-18	24-Oct-18
Dec-18	13-Nov-18	21-Nov-18
Jan-19	11-Dec-18	19-Dec-18
Feb-19	15-Jan-19	23-Jan-19
Mar-19	19-Feb-19	27-Feb-19
Apr-19	19-Mar-19	27-Mar-19
May-19	16-Apr-19	24-Apr-19
Jun-19	21-May-19	29-May-19
Sep-19	20-Aug-19	28-Aug-19

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 Weekly 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/>.



What May I Submit for Publicity?

What may I submit for publication in First Parish communications?

The MHN, *Sunday News* insert, and FP Weekly email are reserved for events at First Parish, events sponsored by First Parish, or something that falls under a staff member or First Parish Committee or Group. We hold to this policy; but if you feel your event deserves special consideration or are not sure whether your announcement fits in this guideline, please contact the appropriate staff member for clarification before you submit your message. If your submission does not fall within this guideline, the church office would be glad to print your write-up for the First Parish bulletin board. Please email or drop off a printable final form to the church office. We are glad to help as best we can.

What Does It Take?

Here's the annual update on how many emails it takes to put an *MHN* issue together. Emails counted include initial submissions and all subsequent emails for clarity, confirmation of receipt, etc. Emails are processed within a 3-5 day period. The totals are:

- Sept 2017 to Jun 2018 = 1598, averaging 160 emails/issue
- Sept 2016 to Jun 2017 = 1724, averaging 172 emails/issue
- Sept 2015 to Jun 2016 = 1195, averaging 120 emails/issue

(These numbers do not include *The Sunday News* and FP Weekly.)

Would you like to process an additional 1600 emails per year to do this job? We know it's not always easy, but now you know why we ask for your help and everyone's doing a good job adhering to guidelines and respecting deadlines. Thank you for your help!



First Parish General Information

Office Hours

September 6, 2017, through June 18, 2018

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, 2018

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.



Continued next page.

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 June 2018. Add us to your address book.





First Parish of Concord

Schedule of Services

Summer 2018

DATE	SERVICE LEADER	SERMON	MUSICIANS
June 24	Jan Power, Liturgist	General Assembly – Service of the Living Tradition	General Assembly Musicians
July 1	Matt Meyer, Percussionist and friend of First Parish	“How to Tell Time”	Mary Jane Rupert, keyboard
July 8	Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom	“Transcendental Moments”	Lauren Evans, alto David Owens, Keyboard
July 15	Rev. Dr. Barry Andrews Thoreau Society	“The Bloom of the Present Moment”	Elizabeth Norton, Soprano Mary Jane Rupert, keyboard
July 22	J.D. Stillwater	“Seven Candles – Science for a Deeper Spirituality”	David Owens, keyboard
July 29	Hannah Gallo, Seminarian	“Our White-Knuckle Grip on History”	Pamela Schweppe and Tamasin Foote, sopranos Mary Jane Rupert, keyboard
August 5	Zachary Roe, Director of Social Action	“Niggunim – Worship in Song”	Jane Barnes and Friends David Owens, keyboard
August 12	Merill Comeau, Teaching Artist in Residence, DYS	“Whose Mercy?”	Kristin and Ava Moore, vocalists Tyler Turner, keyboard
August 19	Rev. Howard N. Dana Senior Minister	“How Harvard Came to Concord”	Pamela Schweppe, soprano Tyler Turner, keyboard
August 26	Rev. Howard N. Dana	“TriCon, Kinship Across a Stream”	The Conchords Tyler Turner, keyboard
September 2	Laurel Gray Ministerial Intern	“My Journey So Far”	Nancy Ackerman, Clarinet Eric Huenneke. keyboard

Annual Meeting – June 10, 2018

VOTE on 7.5% Social Action Funding

Reaffirm, Revise, or Revoke? On Sunday, June 10, our congregation will vote on whether to reaffirm, revise, or revoke our current policy for funding social action at First Parish. The following information has been prepared to clarify the differences between the current funding model and a new funding model recommended by the Standing Committee.

Current Policy: First Parish shall provide 7.5% of the annual pledge receipts in a fiscal year for social action grants, activities and support, as approved at the June 9, 1996 Annual Meeting.

Proposed Policy: Annual budgeting will reflect the importance of the pillars of our ministry: music, pastoral care, religious education, social action and worship. Budgeting priorities will align with our mission statement: First Parish is a welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.

CURRENT MODEL	PROPOSED MODEL
Supports FP mission statement to “make a positive difference in the world.”	Supports FP mission statement to “make a positive difference in the world.”
Coordinator is now hired and supervised by Senior Minister.	Coordinator is now hired and supervised by Senior Minister.
7.5% of <i>annual pledges</i> * is set aside for social action. *Some parishioners give yearly <i>gifts</i> to FP, rather than pledges. These gifts go exclusively to the church and are not counted toward 7.5% allocation.	Social action spending is funded from within FP yearly budget, similar to other pillars of pastoral care, worship, music and religious education. SAC Coordinator has a budget used to support a wide range of FP social action activities.
3.37% of 7.5% allocated this year pays for salary of Social Action Coordinator* (Zach Roe). Additional costs associated with coordinator’s benefits are paid from regular church budget. *The Social Action Council (SAC) decided in 2006 to use a portion of the 7.5% to fund a part-time administrative position, with the hope that salary would be absorbed within the regular church budget within 4 years. The church only had sufficient funds to absorb that position for a few years.	Both coordinator’s salary AND benefits are paid out of the regular church budget.
By tradition, <i>most</i> of the remaining 4.13% (7.5 minus 3.37 for salary) of the social action 7.5% is distributed yearly <i>exclusively</i> through grants (ranging from \$250-\$15,000) to several dozen non-profit groups. Grant applications, which must be sponsored by an FP member, are submitted to and awarded by a Grants Committee (based on publicly available criteria), under SAC direction.	Social action funds are used to support a range of social action activities, which may encompass some or all of the following: grants, matching funds, all-Parish social action events, transportation to social action events, microfinance loans, and other interests expressed by groups within the congregation.

Annual Meeting – June 10, 2018 (*continued*)

VOTE on 7.5% Social Action Funding

CURRENT MODEL	PROPOSED MODEL
Many worthwhile organizations have benefited from grants including OpenTable, Common Cathedral, Jericho Road, UUSC, UUUM, UUCSJ. Many smaller grants support non-profits lacking strong funding.	Worthwhile organizations, large and small, continue to receive support from First Parish, though not necessarily in the form of regular, annual grants.
SAC maintains a reserve fund (unspent funds from yearly 7.5% allocation) to support emergency relief efforts (like hurricanes and floods).	When emergencies occur, FP solicits parishioners directly for donations to support relief efforts. No reserve fund is maintained.
By tradition, spending decisions fall to SAC, which follows the guiding principle that all 7.5% funds (<i>except</i> Coordinator's salary) must be spent <i>outside the church</i> , rather than supporting parishioner activities.	Spending decisions fall to Social Action Coordinator and Senior Minister, based on input from SAC Board and parishioners. (The Senior Minister and SAC Coordinator are currently in discussion with members of the SAC Board about a SAC-proposed <i>Flexible Hybrid Model for SAC Giving</i> .)
By tradition, SAC is not accountable to any staff member for its spending decisions.	Coordinator is accountable to Senior Minister for spending decisions.
7.5% allocation represents only a portion of the total money FP gives each year toward social action causes. Other programs, like our partner church program and Funderberg Scholars, raise money separately. For example, in 2015, the SAC Board estimated total social action spending at First Parish at \$181,316, of which \$66,000 came from 7.5% (SAC Report 2015).	Depending on pledges, the expectation is that <i>total</i> FP support for social action remains at the same level or increases.