



What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2018



Photo by Don Cohen



SAVE THE DATES!

Homecoming Sunday, September 9

First Parish Auction, October 27

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Photo by Terri Ackerman

October Meeting House News

Deadline: September 18

Publication: September 26

**Donations
are Greatly
Appreciated!**

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**For the Auction, and
Holiday Artisans Fair**

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, September 2 – “New Beginnings”

Laurel Gray – Ministerial Intern

Nancy Ackerman, clarinet

Sunday, September 9 – “Draw the Circle Wide”

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Choir

Sunday, September 16 – “Mistake—How Are We Redeemed?”

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Choir

Sunday, September 23 – “Putting Up With Each Other”

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Choir

Sunday, September 30 – “New Eyes in Transylvania”

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Choir

Sunday, October 7 – “Hearts of Flesh”

Laurel Gray – Ministerial Intern

First Parish Choir

Homecoming Picnic

Sunday, September 9, 5:30 p.m., Lawns of First Parish



All First Parish is encouraged to bring the whole family to celebrate with this year's potluck dessert. Visit with your friends, catch up on the summer news, and meet other First Parish folk. Enjoy the music, labyrinth, and a family activity. This is an evening for everyone.



Please bring: a finger food dessert to share; your own picnic, food and beverage; lawn chairs and blankets. In case of rain, the party will be held in the Parish Hall. No admission charge. Mark your calendar now.

Sunday Forums

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

Sunday, September 16 – Discussion “Future Forums”

The Forum Committee invites everyone to a discussion on future forums. The continued existence of the Forum depends on volunteers, stepping forward to be part of the Forum team.

The following forums need hosts to schedule and work with the speakers:

- **Immersion Learning** – Journey to the U.S. – Mexico border. See FP Lincoln’s film of their experience two years ago.
- **Concord/Local Authors** – we have identified three authors, the first of many
- **Middlesex Senior Cohousing**
- **Options for Composting** (postponed from 5/20/18)

Come share your thoughts and hear about what’s happening. 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.

Our Ministerial Intern



Welcome, Laurel Gray

Sunday, September 2, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Please join us on this last Summer Sunday of the church year as we welcome this year’s wonderful ministerial intern, Laurel Gray, who is leading worship. Get acquainted with Laurel as she begins her year with us. As a teaching congregation, First Parish has always taken its role of guiding future ministers as a special charge. Please offer Laurel your kind attention and gentle feedback. For more information, contact Kate Keleher at kate@rkeleher.com.

Honoring Our Partner Church

“New Eyes in Transylvania”

Sunday Service, September 30, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Celebrating Transylvanian Thanksgiving—we will honor our partnership with the congregation in Székelykeresztúr through music and stories. We’ll hear the experiences from several of those who traveled to Transylvania for the first time in April on the First Parish family pilgrimage. We encourage everyone to attend this special service, and learn more about the wonderful partnership we share with our friends in Keresztúr.

First Parish Café

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

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

Ministerial Intern, Laurel Gray

Email: lgray@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 412

Cell: 401-932-7855



September Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Dana Snyder-Grant

Email: dana.snydergrant@gmail.com

Cell: 978-760-1129

Sacred Texts of the World

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

Come join wisdom teacher Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom on six Sunday afternoons to explore 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 divine mystery. Simply come with an open mind.

To sign up, contact Rev. Marion Visel, mvisel@firstparish.org, or the church office, 978-369-9602. Sign-up is required and the class is limited to 18 participants, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible.

Small Group Ministry Facilitators

Deadline: Saturday, September 15

Facilitator Training: Saturday, October 6, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Are you interested in being a Small Group Ministry (SGM) facilitator? Returning facilitators should be in touch about groups they would like to lead this year, and new facilitators are most welcome to offer a group. Evaluations show that participants and facilitators find the groups to be meaningful, and they recommend the experience to others. People are enthusiastic about growing spiritually and deepening their relationships. However, the Small Group Ministry cannot exist without facilitators!

Continued next page.

Most Small Groups meet for 4 to 6 sessions to explore a variety of meaningful topics. Hundreds of session plans are available for facilitators to choose from, although some facilitators have created their own session plans. Facilitating a Small Group requires commitment to a regular meeting schedule and helping to manage group process while modeling caring covenantal relationship. Facilitators are trained and supported by the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee, staffed by Rev. Marion Visel.

Interested In Facilitating a Group?

If you are interested in facilitating a group, please let us know by September 15. And hold the morning of Saturday, October 6, for the Small Group Ministry facilitator training. We are happy to talk with you about becoming a SGM facilitator!

Small Group Ministry Steering Committee

Sally Brandon Bemis, Merrill Comeau, Francie Nolde, Marian Stanley, and Rev. Marion Visel (mvisel@firstparish.org, or 203-931-5239, cell).

Caring Connection

Thank you to Shoppers and Cooks

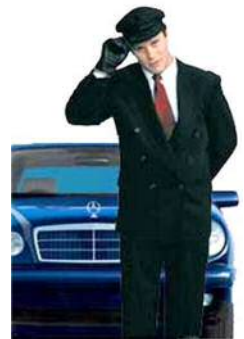


Many thanks to those who helped with the Caring Connection cooking session on June 8. The refrigerator is stocked with many tasty meals. Thanks to the efficient shoppers: Suzie Weaver, Joyce Biggs, and Holli Jones-White; and to the amazing cooks: Helene Clayton, Leslie Fisher, Joan Hurst, Libby Kurten, Janet Rothrock, Toby Smith Ropeik, Mikki Volkema, Dean Aldrich, and Barry Copp. It was an amazing job well done! Thank you, Vivienne Aldrich, chief cook and coordinator.

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!



Staff News

Update from Howard

Ministerial Search and Upcoming Sabbatical

As we head into the 2018-19 church year, I am looking forward to continuing the great work we have been doing together. Ours is a growing, thriving congregation that continues to fulfill its mission in the Concord area and beyond.

PC Advisory Search Committee Forming

This year will be an important one. Together we will enjoy a last year with our Minister for Pastoral Care (PC), Rev. Marion Visel, as she finishes her five years of contract ministry with us. In order to have the pastoral care continue seamlessly, I will be forming an advisory search committee to help find our next Minister for Pastoral Care. That search will coincide with the larger UUA ministerial search cycle. The new minister will start next summer.



Upcoming Three-Month Sabbatical

Additionally, I will be on sabbatical for part of the church year. The Standing Committee has granted me a three-month sabbatical—December, January, and February. I plan to use that time to rest, rejuvenate, and look forward to what is next in our ministry here. Plans are in place for the church to operate normally during the sabbatical. Rev. Marion Visel will move to full-time work during that time.

You will hear more about our ministerial search and the upcoming sabbatical in the coming months.

Warmly, Howard

Rev. Howard N. Dana, Senior Minister

Email: hdana@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 411

Our Ministerial Intern

Sunday Service, September 2, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Welcoming Laurel Gray

Laurel Gray has joined First Parish this year as the Ministerial Intern. She is a native New Englander—she grew up in southern Rhode Island and then attended college in Vermont and is a lifelong UU. She just finished her graduate work at Yale Divinity School and plans on going into large church ministry. Between college and graduate school, she lived in San Francisco and worked in the wedding and event industry. Laurel looks forward to meeting everyone at First Parish in Concord!



Continued next page.

Laurel's contact information—email: lgray@firstparish.org, or call the church directly at 978-369-9602, ext. 412, or 401-932-7855, cell.

Getting to Know You

Dear First Parish,
I am so glad to be joining you all this year as your Ministerial Intern! In May I graduated from Yale Divinity School, after transferring from Starr King and moving back to the East Coast. I was born in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in southern Rhode Island, before moving to Vermont to attend Middlebury College. I studied sociology and religion, and spent my summers in New York City working for a costume studio, and later Martha Stewart.



After college graduation, I thought the best union of my skills and interests would be wedding planning, so I packed up and moved to San Francisco. I loved my new home, but quickly realized that I was not in fact suited to wedding planning and started the process of discerning my call in life.

To my surprise, and basically no one else's, I realized I wanted to become a Unitarian Universalist minister. When I told my mom, she laughed. She then told me about the time I, a two-year-old prone to sprinting away when my parents weren't looking, had escaped from our pew at First Universalist in Brooklyn one Sunday, and set off running down the center aisle toward the high pulpit. I do still love running, though not in churches.

I stayed in San Francisco for several years, continuing to work in the weddings and events industry, gaining as much experience as I could in organizational leadership. I did this while simultaneously beginning my studies at Starr King, learning as much as I could from both work and school. Much as I loved the city, I ultimately decided that I needed to transfer to a different graduate school. Rather unexpectedly, that school ended up being Yale.

Now, as I transition from school to ministry, I am glad to be in the company of great teachers, as well as a congregation so accustomed to ministerial interns. It is my hope that I will leave this place not only fellowshiped and ordained, but also prepared for the work of ministry on a deeper level. It is also my hope that this year will be one filled with local history, swims in Walden Pond, and plenty of excursions out into the beautiful wild of New England.



I am so glad to be with you all this year, and I look forward to getting to know this vibrant congregation.

Laurel

Laurel Gray, Ministerial Intern

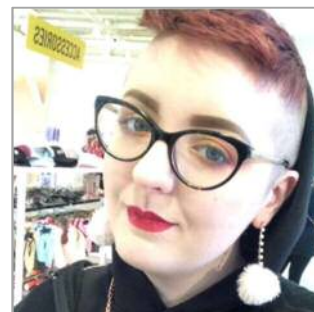
Email: lgray@firstparish.org; or 978-369-9602, ext. 412; or 401-932-7855, cell.

Office Goddess Update

Church Administrator, Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sarah Burns continues as our amazing Church Administrator. With a background in illustration and office administration, Sarah oversees the production of the weekly Orders of Service, *Sunday News*, *First Parish Weekly* emails, and various other publications.

Do not hesitate to contact Sarah with general inquiries, such as submitting for a publication, arranging a wedding or memorial service, navigating the Church's website, listening to online sermons, or other related items.



She is in the office Tuesday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and can be reached at sburns@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 410.

[Editor's Note: Please plan ahead and observe publication deadlines. Thank you!]

- **FP Weekly Deadline – Noon Friday** for the following week
- **Sunday News Deadline – Noon Wednesday** before Sunday service

Music Ministry

MUUsings

ONENESS

Now I understand
the spirituality of music
in a way I had not
hearing harmonics from behind, above, beyond, and around
imagine it's the violins
or is it the choir?
drawn to turn around and check but don't
because it doesn't matter
no need to figure things out
only be with
no separation
a oneness blessing
Perhaps this is God

Dana Snyder-Grant,
May 24, 2018, revised, July 2018

I was deeply touched, last spring, to receive this poem from Dana Snyder-Grant following our special music Sunday offering, Ola Gjeilo's "Sunrise Mass," with choir, orchestra and

Continued next page.

dancers. It is always my hope that the music our choirs and musicians prepare each Sunday will stir and inspire congregants in worship. Dana's poem simply expressed the transcendent experience that we hope to offer on any given Sunday.

We say that our mission here at First Parish in Concord is to “deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.” I think of these three aspects of our mission as a kind of continuous triangle, moving from one point to another: We deepen spiritually so that we can build community so that we can make a positive difference in the world, which leads us to deepen spiritually, and build community, and make a positive difference in the world . . .



Making music in our congregation taps into all three aspects of our mission—and often leads us from one to the other. I invite you to join in the music ministry at First Parish. There are entry points for parishioners of all ages, levels of experience, and time constraints. Please feel free to talk with me, with Gail Carey, our Assistant Director of Music Ministry, or with Anderson Manuel, our Gospel Ensemble director. We welcome you to the “oneness blessing” that is the First Parish ministry of music!

Blessings, Beth

Beth Norton, Director of Music Ministry

Contact: music@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 420

Assistant Director of Music Ministry

NEW: Expanded Role for Gail Carey



Gail Carey has served First Parish in Concord as children's choir director, then Music Ministry associate since 2008. Her presence on our staff, her creativity, and her love of making music with people of all ages have led to the growth of our children's choirs and the creation of our adult Contemporary Vocal Ensemble (CVE).

We're delighted to be able to expand her role this year and change her title to Assistant Director of Music Ministry. In this new capacity, Gail will continue to direct our children's choirs and the CVE. The new aspects of her role will be the development of an evening vespers service modeled on the “Sanctuary” services that have been so popular in the Boston area. She will also be working to develop musical relationships with an urban congregation. Be sure to congratulate Gail when you see her! She can also be reached by email, gcarey@firstparish.org.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Fall 2018

Keep this information handy as you make plans for fall, and consider joining a choir!
A quick reference is located on Page 23 at the end of this newsletter.

Continued next page.

Choirs for Children and Youth

Our choirs for children and youth rehearse on Sunday mornings, beginning on September 16. All are welcome. There is no need for any singing experience.

GRADES 1 THROUGH 6

Junior Choir (Grades 1-3) meets Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon; **Chalice Choir** (Grades 4-6) meets Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., both in the Chapel. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Gail Carey, Assistant Director of Music Ministry, at gcarey@firstparish.org. You are also welcome to let your child “try it out” for September.

GRADES 7-12

Gospel Choir (7-12) meets Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., in the Emerson Room. We welcome new members with open arms and hope that you are ready to inspire and be inspired. We will do some reggae, blues, gospel, and a little contemporary gospel flair just to spice things up. For more information, contact Anderson Manuel at AManuel@firstparish.org.

REGISTRATION

Please note: Registration for choirs is combined with RE registration and may be completed on line through [RE Registration](#).

Our children's and youth choirs offer a wonderful way for new families to build friendships and make connections. During the rehearsals before the service, family members may gather for the First Parish Café in the Parish Hall, or after the service for coffee hour.

See you September 16!

Adult Choirs

FIRST PARISH CHOIR

Open Rehearsals in September

Wednesday, September 5, 7:45-9:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The First Parish Choir begins each season with “open rehearsals” on Wednesday nights. This year, we start our season on Wednesday, September 5. Rehearsals are from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Adult and teen singers of all voice parts are welcome to attend *with no obligation* during this time. The choir will sing in worship for the first time on Sunday, September 9, at 10:00 a.m. If you plan to attend a rehearsal, or have any questions, please contact Beth Norton at 978-369-9602 x420, or e-mail music@firstparish.org.

CONTEMPORARY VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Starting Sunday, September 30, 12:15 to 1:00 p.m., in the Chapel

The First Parish Contemporary Vocal Ensemble (CVE), for those 18 and older, offers singing opportunities with a service-by-service commitment. This might be the ensemble for you if you love gospel, jazz, folk-rock. Perhaps you long to share your voice in a music ministry here at First Parish but feel unable to make a weekly commitment to the First Parish Choir. CVE singers commit by the service. We have 3 or 4 rehearsals prior

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to singing at a service. If interested, contact Gail Carey, Assistant Director of Music Ministry at gcarey@firstparish.org.

BY YOUR SIDE SINGERS

Next rehearsal: Thursday, September 6, at 7:30 p.m., Parlor

By Your Side Singers, First Parish's pastoral choir, will begin Season Nine on Thursday night, September 6, at 7:30 p.m. By Your Side Singers welcomes adults who love to sing and long to serve through music. We sing to deepen our experience of music's comforting power. When invited, singers go to parishioners' homes or hospital rooms in small groups to sing with people seeking comfort and strength during times of illness or transition. By Your Side Singers meets on the first and third Thursday of each month. For more information, contact Beth Norton at 978-369-9602 or music@firstparish.org.

Religious Exploration (RE) News

September-at-a-Glance

Day, Date, Time	Theme	Description
Sunday, September 2 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Blessing of the Backpacks	Multiage workshop with Amy Freedman and Dawn Van Patten
Saturday, September 8 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	RE Teacher Orientation	Adult volunteers meet with Amy and Dawn
Sunday, September 9 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Homecoming Service	All ages worship together. Bring water for Water Communion
Sunday, September 16 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Welcome!	Fall RE Program begins
Sunday, September 23 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	1 st UU Principle "Everyone Matters"	Religious Exploration
Sunday, September 30 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	2 nd UU Principle "Be Kind"	Religious Exploration
Sunday, September 30 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Fall Gathering: Religious Exploration Teams	RE leaders will share lunch together and then divide into working groups. Child care will be provided. Contact Amy for more information: afreedman@firstparish.org

Living, Celebrating, Connecting

It is hard to believe that I am now the parent of a fourth grader. As Liza often reminds me, this is the year she turns ten. I am proud of all the ways she has grown and matured. However, I am having a hard time adjusting to the fact that my baby's feet fit into shoes only one size smaller than my own. It is highly likely she will be taller than me

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some day. So, instead of saying, “I cannot believe how big you are!” I cherish that she is still a child today.

In the words of Reggie Joiner and Kristen Ivy: “It’s just a phase so don’t miss it! Why every life stage of a kid matters.” As religious leaders, educators, and parents, they remind us, “A parent has 936 weeks between a child’s birth and graduation. We don’t want to miss what’s happening during the critical phases of growing up.”

This year we will be offering more support for parents, and opportunities for families to connect with one another. I hope that you will join our new Family Facebook group, attend a Parent Circle or Family Night. Religious Exploration is more than what your kids do for one hour on a Sunday morning; it is an opportunity to reflect together throughout the week.

Our theme this fall is “Living Our 7 Principles.” We are guided by seven principles that are important life lessons:

- Everyone matters.
- Be kind.
- You are free to ask life’s big questions.
- Offer that same freedom to others.
- Everyone gets a vote.
- Work for peace and fairness.
- Take care of our earth.



You can discover more about our programs for children and teens, including schedules for each age group on our website: firstparish.org.

Blessings,
Amy

Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education
Contact: afreedman@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602

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	October 5	7:00 p.m. Chapel	AWE Movie Night, <i>Wonder Woman</i> —a story about Diana, Amazonian warrior
Saturday	September 8	9:30 a.m.	First Parish Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults)

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Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	September 12	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council meeting (all welcome)
Friday	September 22	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly song circle)

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. For more information, contact Susan Page, chair, at srpage10@verizon.net.

Social Action Community

Faith into Action



Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room



Initial planning for the coming year's focus and follow-up events will be the meeting's main discussion item. Continuing activities include sending letters to advocate for the release of individuals whose dire situations are determined to be urgent by Amnesty International, and additional efforts directed to death penalty abolition, preventing violence against women, and the freeing of two Azerbaijanian student activists.

All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, nilyons22@gmail.com, or 978-369-6109.

Partner Congregation News

Transylvania Student Scholarships

Seeking New Donors

Since 1996, our congregation has provided scholarships to make it possible for



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deserving Hungarian minority students to get a good high school education at the Hungarian Unitarian High School in Székelykeresztúr, which is located near our partner congregation's church.

Some of these students wouldn't get their education without support from us. We are seeking new donors for 8 to 12 new freshmen students at \$400 per student per year. Please look for announcements and information for new and continuing donors for high school and college students, and visit our partnership table at coffee hour each Sunday.

Racial Justice Action Group

Undoing Racism Workshop

Thursday through Saturday, September 20-22, 130 Dartmouth Street, Boston

Thursday, September 20: 6:00 - 8:00p.m., Friday, September 21: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,

Saturday, September 22: 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Last November many parishioners attended the David Billings event "Deep Denial: The Persistence of White Supremacy," which was sponsored by the Racial Justice Action Group. His organization, [The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond](#), is holding a rare workshop in Boston this fall.

Through dialogue, reflection, role-playing, and presentations, this intensive workshop challenges participants to analyze the structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity and

prepares them to be effective organizers for justice. A fee will be charged. For further information, contact Mary Ann Barton, mabartonst@gmail.com, 978-580-5852.



Women's News

AWE Upcoming Events

Advocates for Women's Empowerment

- **Kickoff Meeting:** Saturday, September 15, 8:00 a.m., Parlor
- **Cook and Serve at Rosie's Place:** Sunday, September 23, Boston
- **First Friday Film Series:** Friday, October 5, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

Kick-off Meeting

Join us at our fall kickoff meeting to brainstorm initiatives for the coming year! Bring your ideas for events and actions to advance women's rights and improve their lives. Whether you'd like to spearhead an event or participate as a volunteer, we are looking for your great ideas and positive energy! Contact: Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net).

Free Feminist Film Series—First Fridays in Chapel

Our first film will be *Wonder Woman*, a story about Diana, an Amazonian warrior in training, who leaves home to fight a war and discovers her full powers and true destiny. We'll show films on the First Friday of each month in the Chapel, including documentaries, dramas, and

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light-hearted films that showcase women's social justice issues, their lives, and their accomplishments. Contact: Lou Toussaint (mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

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

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.. There are just a few openings for this date, so please sign up quickly. Contact Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com).



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.

Mailing List

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

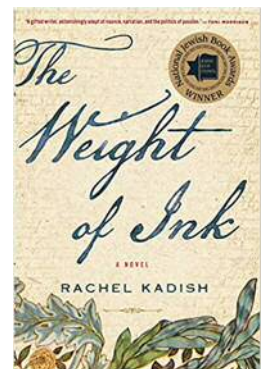
Women's AM/PM Book Group

Monday, September 24, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Tuesday, September 25, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

New Schedule! 2018-2019

Welcome to a new year of discussions with the Women's AM/PM Book Group! The first book of the church year is *The Weight of Ink*, by Rachel Kadish. 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.

Dates and Books for 2018-2019

Date	Book	Author
Sept. 24/25	<i>The Weight of Ink</i>	Rachel Kadish
Oct. 29/30	<i>Lab Girl</i>	Hope Jahren
Dec. 3/4	<i>Men Explain Things to Me</i>	Rebecca Solnit
Jan. 28/29	<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>	Celeste Ng
Feb. 25/26	<i>Euphoria</i>	Lily King
March 25/26	<i>Perfectly Miserable: God, Guilt, and Real Estate in a Small Town</i>	Sarah Payne Stuart
April 29/30	<i>The Little Paris Book Shop</i>	Nina George
May 20/21	<i>Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919</i>	Stephen Puleo

Women's Parish Association

Luncheon and Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 19, at 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall and Parlor
RSVP by September 16



You are cordially invited. Join old and new friends, share a delicious meal, catch up on the news, and enjoy a program celebrating the wonderful activities of First Parish's women's groups and their exciting plans.

During the meeting, the annual report will be distributed with a brief summary of last and next year's programs and events, followed by the election of next year's officers. Luncheon cost: \$12.00.

To reserve your spot by September 16, contact the church office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net. All are welcome!

Holiday Artisans Fair

Saturday, November 3, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Throughout First Parish Facilities

It's not too early to start planning for this year's Holiday Artisans Fair. The Women's Parish Association (WPA) will hold its popular WPA Boutique again at this year's fair and is looking for donations of nice handmade items, as well as high-quality, like-new, regifting items such as jewelry, artwork, holiday and general home decorating items, etcetera. Please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to arrange for your donations or to offer your help in making catnip balls.



Other Cool Stuff

First Parish Auction

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, October 27
Donations Needed



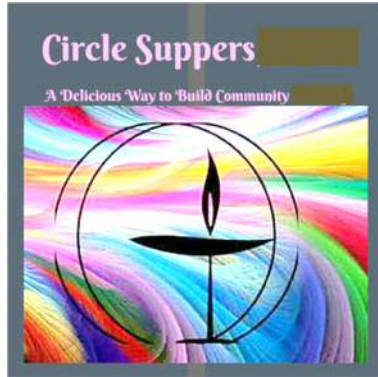
Special changes this year include: generous passed small bites instead of a sit-down dinner, complimentary champagne reception, games and music, a silent auction (think early holiday shopping!), and a gently used art sale.

Check out the flyers in the hallways for donations that have already come in! More donations are needed. Big ticket items are welcome, but so are smaller silent auction goods, gift cards, and artwork. And of course, come to the Auction!

Continued next page.

Tickets (\$25 per person) will be sold this fall. Contact Val Vallancourt, valvallancourt@gmail.com or Jen Izzo, jbizzo@hotmail.com.

Circle Suppers—Hosts Needed



First Parish Circle Suppers are starting up again this year and being held on October 20 and April 27. These wonderful potluck dinners are hosted at parishioners' homes and open to all at First Parish—a delicious way to build community!

Would you be willing to host a dinner on October 20? Hosts offer their home and do not have to cook or handle logistics, just provide coffee/tea at dessert time. If you can host, please contact Wendy Wolfberg (wolfberg@post.harvard.edu or cell 978-578-1077) by September 24 (extended). Attendee sign-ups will begin in late September.

Concord Area Humanists

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

Welcome back.

October 3 – David Ropeik

“Cognitive Limits on Human Reason”, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

(Postponed from February due to snow.)

Humans claim superiority among species to reason and make choices. However, the brain is more an organ with which we “think” we think. David Ropeik, author and consultant on risk-perception psychology, will discuss research on human cognition that established that our “thinking” is a mix of thinking and feeling—all reasoning is “motivated” and all perception ultimately subjective. David will cite his 2012 book, *How Risky Is It, Really? Why our fears don't always match the facts.* It is available for sale afterward.



New Committee Members Event

Date, Time and Room to be Confirmed in FP Weekly

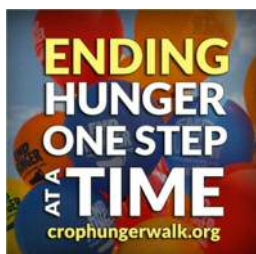
Now is an excellent time! Please consider joining our committee to help develop our program for the coming year. We are thinking of a special social event for greeting potential new committee members. Save the date! If interested in participating, please email Patrick Everett, pne@aol.com, or telephone 978-369-1589 (email preferred). Thank you.



Concord Area 2018 CROP Walk

Sunday, October 21, at First Parish

Registration 1:30 p.m., Step-off 2:15 p.m.



This walk raises funds for nine local area food pantries and suppers, as well as the global disaster relief and development projects of Church World Service. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to walk or sponsor a walker. Visit <https://concordcrop.org/cms/> for more information, and look for more details in next month's newsletter. You may register to walk or donate online. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org with any questions or to volunteer to help.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

"Who Are We?"

Friday, September 21, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room

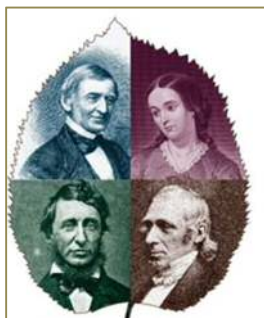
Who are we in relation to our interest in Jewish awareness? What do we bring to the integration of Judaism with Unitarian Universalism? Can I be Jewish and Unitarian at the same time? Come visit and renew these questions with the Jewish Awareness Affinity Group.

We'll share challah, wine, blessings, and conversation. All are welcome. For more info, contact Dana Snyder-Grant, dana.snydergrant@gmail.com, or 978-760-1129.



Transcendentalism Council

Calling All History Enthusiasts!



Sunday, September 23, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Emerson Room

Please join us for an open meeting of the Transcendentalism Council to discuss history programs for 2018-2019. New members, program volunteers, and history enthusiasts welcome. We'll assess interest in broadening the scope of our programs in order to cover other historical periods. A name change for our committee will also be considered. Enjoy some refreshments and talk about history programs at First Parish!

Website Wonder

Listening to Past Sermons



You can now download past sermons (as .mp3 sound files) directly off the First Parish website. Click on the Worship tab and the "Past Sermons" topic from the drop down menu, or click here <https://firstparish.org/wp/worship/past-worship-services/>.

Content Missing on Web Page

Do you like to block those endless ads on your computer screen? Do you disable cookies? From our Web guru, "Be aware that using ad blocker software or disabling cookies when viewing the First Parish website may prevent you from seeing some of its content, images, and links."

Communications at First Parish

To whom and by when do I send my submission?

Are you wondering when to use *The Sunday News*, FP Weekly emails, and/or the *Meeting House News*? Please pick up a copy of the brochure "Publicizing Events at First Parish in Concord" on the table outside the church office, and pass out to new committee members.

Publicizing First Parish Events

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.

Steps to Send Entry

1. Plan ahead; then add a "fudge factor"—extra time for committee review and for Editor's questions. We recommend a week. 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

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- 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 below.
3. Write draft, send for review, rewrite, and send final form as an attachment to the Editor before deadline.

Publicity Deadlines

Next *Meeting House News* deadline: **September 18, 2018**

Next Publication Date: **September 26, 2018**

- **FP Weekly 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.

Meeting House Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Publication	Holiday*
Sep-2018	21-Aug-2018	29-Aug-2018	
Oct-2018	18-Sep-2018	26-Sep-2018	
Nov-2018	16-Oct-2018	24-Oct-2018	
Dec-2018	13-Nov-2018	21-Nov-2018	T, 11-22-2018
Jan-2019	11-Dec-2018	19-Dec-2018	C, 12-25-2018
Feb-2019	15-Jan-2019	23-Jan-2019	
Mar-2019	19-Feb-2019	27-Feb-2019	
Apr-2019	19-Mar-2019	27-Mar-2019	
May-2019	9-Apr-2019	17-Apr-2019	E, 4-21-2019 P, 4-19-2019
Jun-2019^	21-May-2019	29-May-2019	

*Holiday = (T)Thanksgiving, (C)Christmas, (E)Easter, (P)Passover

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

What May I Submit for Publicity?

The *MHN*, *Sunday News* and FP Weekly 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

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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.

First Parish General Information

Office Hours

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

Contact Us

Address: 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

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

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

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

FP Weekly: Sign up to receive 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 September 2018. Add us to your address book.





Keep this information handy as you make plans for the fall, and consider joining a choir!

First Parish Choir

Wednesdays, 7:45-9:30 p.m.
Beginning Wednesday, September 5, Sanctuary
Beth Norton, director

Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Sundays, 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.
Beginning Sunday, September 30, Chapel
Gail Carey, director

By Your Side Singers

First and third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
Beginning Thursday, September 6, Parlor
Beth Norton, director

Gospel Choir

Youth in grades 7-12
Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Beginning Sunday, September 16, Emerson Room
Anderson Manuel, director

Junior Choir

Grades 1-3
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to Noon
Beginning Sunday, September 16, Chapel
Gail Carey, director

Chalice Choir

Grades 4-6
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Beginning Sunday, September 16, Chapel
Gail Carey, director

For more information, contact Beth Norton at 978-369-9602, x420, or music@firstparish.org.