

What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

OCTOBER 2018



Photo by Jim Pazaris

SAVE THE DATES!

First Parish Auction, October 27
Holiday Artisans Fair, November 3

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Homecoming photo by Tamasin Foote

Next Meeting House News

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Publication: October 24

and more Publicity Deadlines.

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WANTED
VOLUNTEER
DRIVERS

**Donations Needed for the Auction,
and the 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, October 7 – “Hearts of Flesh”

Laurel Gray – Ministerial Intern
First Parish Choir

Sunday, October 14 – “Choosing Gentleness”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Children’s Choirs and Gospel Ensemble

Sunday, October 21 – “Slow Me Down”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

Sunday, October 28 – “Remembering the Dead”

Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir

Sunday, November 4 – “All Souls”

Rev. Marion Visel
Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

New Eyes in Transylvania

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

We will celebrate Transylvanian Thanksgiving through music and stories at our Sunday service to honor our partnership with the congregation in Székelykeresztúr. We’ll hear about their experiences from several of those who traveled there last April on the First Parish Family Pilgrimage.

The service is followed by a special Forum at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary on “The Meaning of Partnership.”



Sunday Forums

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



September 30 – The Meaning of Partnership

On this Transylvanian Thanksgiving, the Partner Congregation Committee welcomes you to become part of this life-changing experience and become part of our long and truly extraordinary relationship with our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Romania. Hear why this relationship has touched so many lives on both continents.

You will hear more about the recent April trip for 25 of our congregation through some of the testimonials about how this relationship has touched them, and get an overview of our partnership.

October 7 – Discussion on Future Forums

The continued existence of the Forum itself depends on volunteers stepping forward to be part of the Forum team. Come share your thoughts and hear about what's happening.

October 14 – Senior Cohousing – A Community Approach to Aging in Place

This innovative housing model started in Denmark in the 1960's. The premise is that community is the best insurance for living a fun and fulfilling Third Act of Life, and for getting the nurturing care we need as we age. Learn more about cohousing by going to the Cohousing Association at <https://www.cohousing.org/>.



Middlesex Senior Cohousing, a group of households in Metro Northwest Boston working to build the first senior cohousing

community in New England, will give a slideshow presentation about senior cohousing and their project. Learn about Middlesex Senior Cohousing at www.middlesexseniorcohousing.org.



October 21 – The Jericho Road Project and Budget Buddies



Award-winning nonprofit Budget Buddies will share the impact of their work promoting women's financial literacy. Hosted by the Jericho Road Project, Budget Buddies' staff will share program stories and how their "coach and buddy" process works to empower women financially. Jericho Road is currently involved in marketing and database projects with Budget Buddies and will talk about their pro bono work with nonprofits since 2003, along with opportunities for interested First Parish members.

October 28 – Protecting Transgender Rights: YES ON 3 Campaign

The Diversity Committee will host speakers from LexPride to address the following:

- LGBTQIA+: What does it all mean?
- One young man's journey
- Impact of ballot question 3 on civil rights



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Valerie Overton, cochair of LexPride and lifelong civil rights activist, helps lead the local #YesOn3 campaign to ensure that transgender people are treated equally under the law. Daniel Overton, cochair of Lexington High School's GSA, speaks about LGBTQIA+ issues in high school health classes, teacher trainings, and public meetings. He is an ordinary person who finds himself in the extraordinary position of having to defend his right to exist in public places.

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.

Homecoming Picnic Follow-Up



On opening Sunday, more than 100 people gathered on the First Parish lawns. We enjoyed delicious desserts, our own wonderful jazz band, colorful silly balloon hats for the young of all ages. There were new members just getting to know us and longtime members renewing friendships, lots of hugs and smiles, news of the summer, and hopes for the coming year.

Thank you to all those who made the evening possible by sharing your music, providing desserts, and doing all the unseen tasks that make it work. And, thank you to all who joined us in our community celebration. (Photos by Tamasin Foote)



Church Hand Fans

Fall may be here, but we could still have some warm days in the next few weeks. We now have some "church hand fans" to help keep parishioners comfortable on hot or muggy days. They are located in baskets in the back and next to the side door of the sanctuary. Feel free to use them, but please return them when you're done so they'll be available for others to use.

First Parish Café

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

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 words from a recent Sunday hymn: "There's a Wideness in Your Mercy," number 213.

As Howard suggested, one can read it as a prayer. And since "God" is used, we offer Marion's words when leading us into reflection, referring to God as "God of Many Names, or God Known to Us by Many Names."

(Photo on Google images: from the [NOAA website](#))

There's a wideness in your mercy like the wideness of the sea,
There's a kindness in your justice which is more than liberty.

But we make your love too narrow by false limits of our own,
And we magnify your strictness with a zeal you will not own.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.



Pastoral Care

Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

The Future Beckons Us

Dear Members and Friends of First Parish,

I am both excited for our futures and sad at our anticipated parting in June 2019, when I retire from parish ministry. It is not that I have mixed feelings about leaving or retiring; rather I'm experiencing a spectrum of sentiments, but especially gratitude. I thank Howard and all of you for being so gracious and supportive about the timing of my leaving.

And I feel that we will have a good and helpful year together! I will continue my usual 30 hour per week schedule until June, though I will be full time in December, January, and February, when Howard is on a well-earned sabbatical. I'll be fully engaged with my ministry this year, but I am not too busy to talk with you. The focus of the rest of my time will be preparing Pastoral Care for new leadership and on our having a good, good-bye.

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I will miss members and friends of First Parish who I have come to know and to care deeply about! I will miss the wonderful staff of First Parish; they are an extraordinary team. I will always remember my time with First Parish with great fondness. But the future beckons us. May our journeys be exciting and meaningful, and may we be truly grateful for the gifts and opportunities along the way. I know that I am deeply grateful for First Parish!

In faith,
Marion
Rev. Marion Visel
Minister for Pastoral Care

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



October Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Lori Gill-Pazaris

Email: gillpazaris@gmail.com
Cell: 978-505-2720

Cancer Support Group

Seven Wednesdays, 9:15 -10:30 a.m, Greeley Room
September 19, October 3 and 17, November 7 and 21, December 5 and 19

All cancer patients and survivors (First Parish member or not) are welcome to join this free, confidential, and caring support group at First Parish. The group provides gentle embodied support through the sharing of our stories while being present to others. Drawing on the practice of InterPlay®, we'll explore our experiences through simple movement, words, sound, and stillness, and engage in ways of moving through them. The emphasis will be on our present experiences to know better the next steps on our path. For more information on InterPlay: www.interplay.org

Questions & sign up: C.C. King, MA in Expressive Therapies, certified InterPlay® Leader and trainer, visual artist, teacher and workshop facilitator. ccking.interplay@gmail.com.

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First Tuesday Group

"The Play's the Thing"

Tuesday, October 2, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall



The First Tuesday Group will kick off the new season with The Concord Players Traveling Troupe, a group of senior actors who will present a program of staged readings and skits, featuring amusing views of seniors as we age "gracefully" and with a little pizzazz! The program will also feature musical interludes with the Traveling Troubadour, Tom Ruggles.

Come enjoy this variety entertainment as we raise the curtain on a new church year! While our focus is seniors, please come enjoy the show, whatever your years. For more information, contact Virginia Taylor at virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net or 978-263-9777.

Meals Preparation Coordinator Needed

Train with Vivienne

Next Cook Day, Friday, December 7

Our Pastoral Care Council needs a Meals Preparation Coordinator, as Vivienne Aldrich, who has done a wonderful job streamlining the position, will be stepping down in December (next Cook Day scheduled in the spring at coordinator's convenience). The meals serve parishioners in times of transition: bereavement, illness, injury, and emotional crisis. Meals are prepared two to three times a year by a team of volunteers, and are stored in our freezer.

The coordinator must take a "Safe Serve Training for Kitchen Managers" training, which can be done online, and is paid for by Pastoral Care. Vivienne and previous Meals Preparation Coordinators provide helpful information to make it easy to step into this position, including recipes and shopping lists. Other volunteers do the shopping, communication, and cooking for our Cook Days.

The next Cook Day on December 7 is the perfect time to train with the current coordinator, Vivienne Aldrich. If interested, please contact Judy Dembsey, chair, Pastoral Care Council at judydembsey@gmail.com.

Rides and Drivers

Sunday Drivers Urgently Needed



We need more drivers in the West Concord area who can be contacted when someone needs a ride on Sundays to/or from a First Parish service or event. Rides are arranged for by an email being sent to a group of members who have volunteered to be contacted as potential Ride Providers. If there is a match, the Rides Coordinator connects the Ride Provider with the Ride Requestor.



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Contact Rides Coordinator

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Rides Coordinator, Pat Brinkman, at pabrinkman@comcast.net or 781-259-9639.

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.

Shawl Ministry

Invitation to Join

Tuesday, October 9, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Do you knit or crochet? Come to a meeting of the Shawl Ministry, an outreach of Pastoral Care that meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Join Ingrid and Lois, the coordinators, for lively conversations while creating your shawl for a parishioner experiencing difficulties in his or her life. Old and new members are welcome whether you join this friendly gathering to knit, or knit shawls on your own. Questions? Contact Ingrid Wheeler at ingridb44@aol.com or Lois Whitney at lois.whitney@gmail.com.



Music Ministry

MUUsings

"... Whenever you find tears in your eyes, especially unexpected tears, it is well to pay the closest attention. They are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are, but more often than not God is speaking to you through them of the mystery of where you have come from and is summoning you to where, if your soul is to be saved, you should go to next."
—Frederick Buechner *Whistling in the Dark*

This is one of my favorite passages, written by writer and theologian Frederick Buechner.* It came to mind recently as I was describing John Kramer's recent cantata, *The Immigrant*



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Experience, to a choir member. As I detailed the texts that Kramer drew on, from “the New Colossus” that is quoted on the base of the Statue of Liberty to the words of American leaders describing what it means to be “a nation of immigrants,” to Kramer’s vivid musical portrayal of the monotonous and frightening journey north to the Mexican border, I suddenly couldn’t speak. The lump rose in my throat and unexpected tears gathered in my eyes.

I feel such urgency around the issue of immigration in our country right now. Like many of you, I am horrified at our inhumane treatment of people at our borders and unsettled by echoes of historical inhumanities to “the other.” Kramer’s cantata, which I had the opportunity to perform last spring, provided a musical affirmation of what I believe to be our calling and vision as a “nation of immigrants.” It is this deep affirmation that brought on my tears—and that calls me to share this music once again.

We are bringing musicians together here at First Parish to perform *The Immigrant Experience* in a concert on Sunday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m. More than a month away, I know, but save the date! Singers from our choir, and from choirs of congregations supporting the Level 1 Sanctuary at First Parish in Bedford, will join the performance. Concert proceeds will support the cause of immigration justice.

More to come next month. Now, I leave you with the words of poet Emma Lazarus:

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.
 . . . Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

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

*much quoted by our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Gary Smith

Religious Exploration (RE) News

October-at-a-Glance

Day, Date, Time	Theme	Description
Sunday, October 7 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Making Care Packages for First Parish College Students	Multiage Program
Friday, October 12 Dessert 6:00 p.m. Program 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	“I Let My Light Shine”	Family Program
Friday, October 12 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Articulating Your UU Faith	Adult RE with Howard and Amy
Sunday, October 14 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Fourth UU Principle: “We Search for What Is True”	Religious Exploration

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Day, Date, Time	Theme	Description
Friday, October 19 7:00- 9:00 p.m.	Articulating Your UU Faith	Adult RE with Howard and Amy
Sunday, October 21 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Fifth UU Principle: “We Have a Right to Vote”	Religious Exploration
Sunday, October 21 1:30 p.m. Kickoff	CROP Hunger Walk	Social Action for All Ages
Saturday, October 27 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 pm	First Parish Auction (Tickets \$25 per person)	Special Event to Benefit Our Community
Sunday, October 28 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Sixth UU Principle: “We Work for Peace and Freedom”	Religious Exploration

Discover More

Visit 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.

Special Event—Move and Explore

“I Let My Light Shine,” All Ages Celebrate!

Friday, October 12, Dessert Potluck – 6:00 p.m., Program – 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall



We are delighted to welcome back singer and drummer Soyinka Rahim, who is leading a series of interplay experiences in our area. Our gathering is designed for all ages to move and explore together! Hopeful and heart-filled, Soyinka's music and leadership will magnificently uplift anyone struggling to heal and move through and around our understandings and misunderstandings about racism. This event is co-sponsored by our Social Action Community (SAC) and Religious Education (RE). A free will donation of \$10 to \$25 per family is suggested, but all are welcome! More information visit interplay.org.

Contact CC King to register: ccking.interplay@gmail.com.

Articulating Your UU Faith

With Reverends Howard Dana and Amy Freedman

Fridays: October 12, 19; November 9, 16, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.



Have you ever found yourself stumped when trying to talk about Unitarian Universalism? Join us for a class that will explore what Unitarian Universalism is, what it means to you as an individual, and how to talk about it with others. This class is especially designed for people who are newer to the First Parish community. Registration is free. Child care is available upon request. Please reply ASAP to the Evite emailed to you or contact Amy with any questions: afreedman@firstparish.org.

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CROP Hunger Walk

Join Neighboring Activists

Sunday, October 21, 1:30 p.m., First Parish in Concord

Our Neighboring Activists (Grade 6) are working to make a difference locally and globally. In October they are preparing to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk. Funds raised by the Concord CROP Walk go to Church World Service for worldwide emergency relief of disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes. In addition, one quarter of the funds raised provide contributions to the nine local supper and food pantry programs that we support, including Open Table, which we host at First Parish. So we are helping people around the world and right here where we live. We encourage families and First Parish members of all ages to join in this fun and worthwhile event by walking or making a donation online:

www.concordcrop.org/cms/.



Blessings,

Amy

Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education

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



Standing Committee News

Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 7:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Meetings Summary

In recent meetings (July 10, August 14, September 4), the Standing Committee has heard a report from General Assembly delegates, reviewed close of fiscal year numbers, began discussions of goals, prepared an evaluation of our senior minister, planned a Saturday retreat at First Parish, approved hosting the ordination of our former parishioner Mark Richards, welcomed new member Val Vallancourt, and took up other business as required. Minutes are posted at [Standing Committee Meeting Minutes](#).

Year of Reflection and Visioning Follow-Up

The Standing Committee has begun the process of developing a plan to act on the input from First Parish members that was gathered last year in listening sessions, a survey, and at our congregation-wide springtime retreat. The Standing Committee itself held a retreat September 15 to start the process of generating goals to bring about change based on that input. We worked with the three themes that were identified last spring: building connected community, changing who we are, and reaching outward. We discussed transformational change, defined as a significant, sustainable, and long-lasting change. Our overall intent is to move First Parish gently but firmly into new directions that will sustain us for many years to come. More details to follow.



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We Want to Hear from You!

Standing Committee members are always ready 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 Standing Committee members, as well as meeting agendas and minutes, governing policies, operating procedures, and reports, at [First Parish Standing Committee](#).

Dave Elwood, chair, Standing Committee
daveelwood@hotmail.com

Mark Richards' Ordination **Sunday, November 25**

"At their duly-scheduled meeting on September 4, 2018, the Standing Committee of First Parish in Concord voted to ordain Mark Richards to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Mark has been a long-standing member of First Parish. The congregation supported him in seminary and on his journey through the UUA fellowship process. Because only a congregation can ordain a UU minister, Mark requested to have his ordination at First Parish, his home church. We are honored by this request and will enthusiastically celebrate with Mark on this momentous day. I hope you will plan to be in church on Sunday, November 25, 2018, to help ordain Mark."—Rev. Howard N. Dana

Ministering to the Community



On November 25, during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service, I will be honored with ordination by First Parish in Concord. My path to ministry has been circuitous and root-riddled. And now we are here. Although the act of ordination makes no distinction, it is important, I think, to differentiate community ministry from parish ministry. Quite simply, a community minister serves the wider community, either independently or through a community agency. In my case, I serve Door and Kewaunee Counties in Wisconsin as a hospice chaplain working for a not-for-profit hospice agency. As we serve the same population, I have covenanted to be in affiliation with the UU Fellowship of Door County.

Although I practice the same ministerial arts as a parish minister, my focus is on pastoral care for people who are dying and their families, regardless of their belief system. My UU faith gets me to the door. When I enter, I am serving my clients in the context of their own sense of being.

Next month, I will write a bit more about my path to ordination.

In faith,
Mark Richards

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	Oct 5	7:00 p.m.	AWE Movie Night
Wednesday	Oct 10	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting (all welcome)
Friday	Oct 12	7:00 p.m.	"I Let My Light Shine," Soyinka Rahim (all ages)
Saturday	Oct 13	9:30 a.m.	First Parish Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults)
Friday	Oct 26	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly song circle)
Tuesday	Oct 30	7:00 pm	Reclaim our Democracy Film: "Dark Money"

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.

Sing for Justice!

Friday, October 12, Parish Hall

Dessert and Fruit Potluck, 6:00 p.m., Program, 7:00 p.m.

Join an all-ages program, "I Let My Light Shine," with singer and drummer, Soyinka Rahim. A freewill donation of \$10 to \$25 per family is suggested. All are welcome! Soyinka will bring her beautiful music and lead Changing the Race Dance at First Parish in Milton, Massachusetts, on October 13 at 10:00 a.m.

For details, contact CC King at ccking.interplay@gmail.com or Amy Freedman at First Parish: 978-369-9602. Program information at Interplay.org.



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Concert – “The Immigrant Experience”

Sunday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

A concert to support immigration justice by the choirs of First Parish in Concord, Winchester Unitarian Society, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Newton, and others. Directed by composer John Kramer, featuring Gail Carey at the piano.



Social Action Community

Faith into Action

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room



The Amnesty International/USA senior director of organizing and activism, Cynthia Gabriel Walsh, will bring the group up-to-date on national plans and priorities for the coming year. Ongoing activities include sending letters to support individuals whose dire situations require urgent action, efforts to end the death penalty, and the release of two Azerbaijanian students imprisoned for peaceful protests. All are welcome to join us.

For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, njlyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.

Jericho Road Project



Opening Reception

Saturday, October 20, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall
Historical Walk, Sunday, October 28, 1:00 p.m.

Celebrate our Concord-Lowell reconnection. Enjoy dessert and wine, mingle with Lowell nonprofit leaders, and participate in an interactive talk given by UMass-Lowell Distinguished Professor of History, Robert Forrant. A highly engaging storyteller, Bob shares key turning points in Lowell's history that shift perceptions about the city. Bob has invited us to join him in Lowell the next week for a follow-up historical walk. For more about the reception, please visit [Jericho Road Project on Facebook!](#)

Jericho Road Forum

Featured Guest – “Budget Buddies”

Sunday, October 21, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Award-winning nonprofit Budget Buddies will share the impact of their work promoting women's financial literacy. Hosted by the Jericho Road Project, Budget Buddies' staff will share program stories and how their “coach and buddy” process works to empower women financially.



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Jericho Road is currently involved in marketing and database projects with Budget Buddies and will talk about their pro bono work with nonprofits since 2003, along with opportunities for interested First Parish members. We hope you will join us!

Progressive Activists Afternoons

Sundays, September 23 to November 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The First Parish Social Action Committee is sponsoring a weekly space for you to plug into organized activities to support our values of inclusivity, compassion, social justice, and civic engagement. Partnering with Swing Left, Indivisible, Rock the Vote, MA Democrats, Moms Demand Democracy, Beto for Texas, Ballot Questions 2 and 3, your options for activism will include phone banking, texting, post carding, local canvassing and voter registration. Join your neighbors and meet new friends to make a difference. The time is now!



Let us know you are coming! Register [here](https://www.facebook.com/VoteBlueNovember/). Join us on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/VoteBlueNovember/>. Questions? Contact Kate Kavanagh, katekav@gmail.com or 508-397-6507.

Reclaim Our Democracy

Upcoming Events

We have three outstanding events scheduled for this fall.

- “How Best to Rescue Our Representative Democracy”
- *Dark Money* – free film screening and Ballot Question #2 discussion
- *How Democracies Die* – authors’ presentation



Rescue Democracy - Discussion

“How Best to Rescue Our Representative Democracy”

Tuesday, October 23, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Rick Hubbard, a retired Vermont attorney, former economic consultant, and author of *The Democracy Amendments* will lead the event. We'll discuss why large numbers of Americans feel we have major, well-documented problems with the structure and financing of our political system that result in improper representation of broad citizen interests by Congress.

You'll each be loaned iClicker devices to record and present collective audience responses about the following and more:

- What current practices prevent proper representation?
- How serious is the threat?
- What is the best strategy for reform?
- What must effective reforms include?

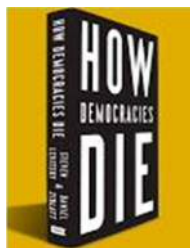
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Dark Money – Film and Discussion

Free Film and Ballot Question #2 Discussion

Tuesday, October 30, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Dark Money, a political thriller, examines one of the greatest present threats to American democracy: the influence of untraceable corporate money on our elections and elected officials. Jeff Clements, President of American Promise, and the major force behind [Massachusetts Ballot Question #2](#), which would help address these dark money issues, will introduce the film and lead a discussion about the ballot question. Free film screening.



How Democracies Die – Presentation

Sunday, November 11, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Donald Trump's presidency has raised a question that many of us never thought we'd be asking: Is our democracy in danger? Harvard professors Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt have spent more than 20 years studying the breakdown of democracies in Europe and Latin America and have written this *New York Times* bestseller. They will be discussing the book, showing us how democracies die, and how ours can be saved. After their talk, the book will be available for purchase and there will be a book signing.

- "Comprehensive, enlightening, and terrifyingly timely."—New York Times Book Review
- "Cool and persuasive . . . *How Democracies Die* comes at exactly the right moment."—The Washington Post

More Information

For more information about any of these events or to join our mailing list, please contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeusen@gmail.com.

Women's News

AWE Upcoming Events

Advocates for Women's Empowerment

- **First Friday Film Series:** Friday, October 5, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
- **October Meeting:** Saturday, October 20, 8:00 a.m., Parlor
- **Bake It 'Till You Make It Fundraiser:** Sunday, November 4, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- **Cook and Serve at Rosie's Place:** Sunday, December 9, 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., Boston



Free Feminist Film Series

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.

Continued next page.

We'll show films on the first Friday of each month in the Chapel, including documentaries, dramas, and light-hearted films that showcase women's social justice issues, their lives and their accomplishments. Contact: Lou Toussaint (mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

October Meeting

Join us for our monthly meeting, where we'll discuss upcoming events and new ideas that you bring for initiatives to advocate for women! Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month and are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions. Contact: Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net).



Bake It 'Til You Make It Fundraiser

Come to a fun-filled event that includes an onsite cookie "bake-off," family-friendly activities, music, prizes, plenty of baked goods, and a mental health resource fair. The event supports the publication of the first ever mental health resilience cookbook, filled with recipes and stories of overcoming mental health challenges, plus resource pages, self-care activities and interactive exercises. Drop by the event, compete in the onsite baking competition, or bring in a baked good from home to be voted on. To preregister for the baking competition, go to [here](#). Admission tickets are available [here](#), at the door or in advance. Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com.

Volunteers Needed at Rosie's Place

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. Slots fill quickly so sign up soon! Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com.



Mailing List

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

Women's AM/PM Book Group

September – The Weight of Ink, by Rachel Kadish

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

Tuesday, October 2, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

October – Lab Girl, by Hope Jahren

Monday, October 29, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

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

The date of the September morning book discussion of *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish has been changed to Tuesday, October 2 at 9:30 a.m., but the evening discussion date remains Monday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m..



October's book is *Lab Girl*, by Hope Jahren. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a discussion. There's no need to sign up!

Continued next page.

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/Oct 2 (note change)	<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

Special WPA Luncheon Meeting

"The Mid-Term Elections"

Monday, October 15, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, October 12



In light of dangers facing our country's democratic foundations, people are concerned about the mid-term elections this November and are seeking insight as to how things are going and what the future holds for our democracy. The Women's Parish Association (WPA) is delighted to offer a special luncheon program, featuring John Della Volpe, Polling Director at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School, who will talk about the elections and impacts. Charge: \$12.

For reservations, sign up at coffee hour, or contact the office at 978-369-9602, or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by October 12.

Holiday Artisans Fair

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

Come and bring family and friends to this year's Holiday Artisans Fair! Over 45 new and former artists and artisans will be offering unique handmade items for all ages. Great holiday shopping and browsing,



Continued next page.

with delicious food to eat in the café!

The WPA Boutique 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.

To arrange for your donations, to help make catnip balls, or to offer your help on this fun-filled day, please contact the church office at 978-369-9602 or Melita Teichert at mmtconcord1@gmail.com. Thanks!

Catnip Ball Workshops

Wednesdays, October 3 and 17, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Brooks Room



Do you want to help make many cats happy and make items for one of the most popular fundraisers in the history of First Parish? Attend one or more Catnip Ball workshops to assemble catnip balls for the Holiday Artisans Fair WPA

Boutique. You don't have to knit. Simple stuffing and sewing is all that's necessary. Bring knitted covers if you have made them or leave them labeled in the office prior to the workshops. This will be one of the most fun gatherings you will ever attend!



Stay as long as you can. Questions? Contact Irmi Doane at igdoane@gmail.com.

Women's Retreats 2019

SAVE THE DATES

Senexet House: January 11-13, January 25, 27; First Parish: February 8-9

The Women's Retreat planning group plans to offer three retreats in the winter again this year, but the timing is a bit different than usual. They will be as follows:

- ♥ **1st Weekend Away:** Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, January 11 - 13, at Senexet House, Connecticut
- ♥ **2nd Weekend Away:** Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, January 25 - 27, at Senexet House, Connecticut
- ♥ **"At Home" Retreat:** Friday evening, February 8, and Saturday morning through afternoon on February 9, at First Parish



Stay tuned for more information about the theme and registration in December. All women of First Parish are invited and welcome to join one of the retreats. If you would be interested in joining the planning group for this year's retreats, please contact Bozena Smith at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

Other Cool Stuff

Children's Holiday Craft Workshop

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

Elves and Children: Save the Date!



Helper elves, we need you! First Parish children spend the afternoon creating beautiful handmade gifts for the holidays. Be a part of our joyful community of crafty helper elves!

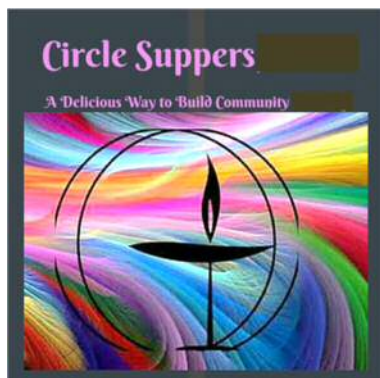
Right now, we are looking for folks willing to be a “Lead Elf,” in charge of gathering supplies for that craft and leading it at the Workshop, and woodworking elves to prep supplies beforehand.

Contact craftsworkshop@firstparish.org, Kristin Moore at 978-254-5037, Kimberly Brainerd, and Jeanne Williams.

Circle Supper – Sign-Ups Open

October 20, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., Parishioners’ Homes

Deadline: October 14



Excitement is growing for the October 20 Circle Supper, and it’s time for guests to sign up! Hosts can continue to sign up too! These potluck suppers are open to all at First Parish. This year’s first supper is focused on adults, but a future family Circle Supper is in the works. A parishioner with Celiac has offered to host a gluten free potluck evening. If interested, discuss with Wendy before the deadline.

After the October 14 deadline, supper groups and food to bring will be assigned. If you’re not handy in the kitchen, you’re welcome to purchase a prepared food. It’s about having fun and getting to know each other in a low-key way. It’s easy—sign up and hang out!

You can sign up at coffee hour or in the church office; or contact Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu, cell 978-578-1077. For more details, there are brochures on the small table outside the church office.

Concord Area CROP Walk 2018

Sunday, October 21, 1:30 p.m., 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, and the global disaster relief and development projects of Church World Service. Please plan to walk with Howard and Amy, or sponsor



Continued next page.

them or another walker. You may register to walk or make a donation online at <https://tinyurl.com/y88bmn7s>. See www.concordcrop.org for more information or stop by the Sunday coffee hour table. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org with any questions or to volunteer to help.

Concord Area Humanists

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

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.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

Kathy Spang Story

Friday, October 19, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room



Kathy has written a memoir about the history of her Jewish parents who brought her and her siblings up Catholic. Come hear excerpts from the memoirs; about her father’s narrow escape from the Nazi’s, about her family’s refugee experience escaping Communism in Hungary in 1956, about being immigrants in New York City. Come visit and take part in the Jewish Awareness Affinity Group.



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.

Partner Congregation News



Special Service

“New Eyes in Transylvania”

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

We will celebrate Transylvanian Thanksgiving through music and stories at our Sunday service to honor our partnership with the congregation in Székelykeresztúr. We'll hear about their experiences from several of those who traveled there last April on the First Parish Family Pilgrimage.

Special Forum

“The Meaning of Partnership: Concord and Székelykeresztúr”

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

Following the Transylvanian Thanksgiving service, “New Eyes in Transylvania” will be a special Forum focusing on many aspects of our partnership. It will give an overview of the partnership and why this relationship has touched so many lives on both continents. Please come to both the service and Forum to learn more about the wonderful partnership we share with our friends in Keresztúr.

Transylvania Student Scholarships

Seeking New Donors

Since 1996, our congregation has provided scholarships to make it possible for deserving Hungarian minority students to get a good high school education at the Hungarian Unitarian 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, visit our partnership table at coffee hour each Sunday, or contact Kathy Spang, our Freshman Class Coordinator, at katalinspang@yahoo.com.

Roaring Twenties Auction

Saturday, October 27

Silent Auction and Art Sale, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Live Auction, 8:15 p.m., Parish Hall



It's coming to First Parish soon! Highlights of the evening include live music from two different groups, a secret Speakeasy room with food and drink, Charleston dancing lessons, a delicious meal, wine and beer from Salt Box Kitchen, and games.

The art sale begins with a complimentary champagne reception in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. The live auction begins at 8:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Don't miss this fun evening! Tickets are on sale during coffee hour for \$25 each.

For questions, contact Val Vallancourt, valvallancourt@gmail.com or Jen Izzo, jbizzo@hotmail.com.

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*? Are you looking for the year's MHN deadlines to put in your calendar? Well, pick up a copy of the brochure "Publicizing Events at First Parish in Concord" on the table outside the church office, and distribute it to new committee members for the latest and greatest!



Update to *The Sunday News*

Some people with an upcoming event several weeks out, request an entry in the *Sunday News* every week to publicize their event. Due to limited space and the increasing number of requests for *Sunday News* entries, we are limiting to three the number of times an article can be printed in the *Sunday News*.

If you need more than one week in the *Sunday News*, when you submit it to Sarah Burns, let her know the three Sundays you want to run your publicity, whether in a row or spaced out. There is no limit to the number of times a request can appear in the FP Weekly email. Questions? Please contact Sarah at sburns@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602.



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 the above brochure! 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
 - b. **Sunday** insert – *Sunday News*; maximum three times for one event, 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. We cannot use copy when sent within an email due to the many added characters and additional editing required.

Publicity Deadlines

Next *Meeting House News* deadline: **October 16, 2018**

Next Publication Date: **October 24, 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.

Continued next page.

Meeting House Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Publication	Holiday*
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 the first week of September.

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/>

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