

THE SUNDAY NEWS

September 14, 2014

This Week

Sun., Sept. 14	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Contemporary Ensemble Rehearsal 11:30 SAC Candle Writing Workshop 11:30 Sunday Forum 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
Tue., Sept. 16	7:00 Evening Worship 7:00 Amnesty International
Wed., Sept. 17	11:30 WPA Luncheon 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Choir 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Sept. 18	7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Sept. 19	7:00 Jewish Awareness Group 7:00 WPA Mom's Night Out
Sat., Sept. 20	7:30 Men's Group
Sun., Sept. 21	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Sunday Forum 7:30 Sarasa Concert

Next Meeting House News deadline: Tuesday, September 16.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org.

Be aware that all items (including contact information) posted to the *Sunday News* or *Meeting House News*, or on First Parish-related email lists, may be published.

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life." The Pastoral Care Lay Minister on call for September is Sue Dobbie. If you need a meal or support, please contact Sue at 978-456-8432 or susandobbie@gmail.com.

New Caring Connection Coordinator

I am thrilled that Anne Fortier has agreed to help support and strengthen our already wonderful pastoral care program by becoming the new Caring Connection Coordinator. Anne brings a wealth of knowledge and experience about First Parish. She will join me in reaching out to coordinators of our various Caring Connection functions to find out how things are going, to help recruit volunteers or leaders, and to aid in communication among Caring Connection, the Pastoral Care Lay Ministers and Pastoral Care Council, and to find ways to promote and celebrate all the wonderful work of the Caring Connection. Welcome, Anne, and thank you!
—Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care

Homecoming Picnic Last Sunday

What a wonderful evening! Last Sunday 175 of us gathered for a Homecoming Picnic.. Thank you to all who brought picnics and visited with friends old and new. Thank you to all who brought delicious desserts to share. Thank you to the awesome band that created beautiful music and invited some of our teens to sit in. Thank you to all who joined their voices in song. Thank you to the kids who played labyrinth tag. Thank you to those who welcomed us and those who made potholders. Thank you to the ones who

kept the dessert table looking so inviting. Thank you to those who graced the labyrinth with luminaries. Thank you to all who cleaned up behind us. Together we created an evening of joy and fellowship.

Women's Parish Association Luncheon Program Wednesday, September 17, 11:30 a.m.

The Women's Parish Association invites all women and men to its September luncheon and program featuring a presentation by Polly Peterson, who will talk about her latest book, *Missionaries, Builders and Pathfinders: Unitarians and Universalists Stories from the Midwest, West, and South, 1830-1930*. Sales and book signings of her latest two books will follow her talk. Lunch at noon, followed by the program and a brief annual meeting. Charge: ten dollars. To R.S.V.P. contact Dian Pekin or the church office.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

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

Come to a presentation/discussion of the book *Jewish Voices in Unitarian Universalism*, an excellent book about the experience of Jews in our UU faith.

Membership: Benefits and Responsibilities

Joining a spiritual community is an important decision, one that calls for personal discernment and commitment. When you sign the membership book of First Parish, you covenant to participate in and contribute to the life and mission of the congregation. The primary benefit of membership is to be part of an open, diverse and inclusive community of religious seekers that support each person's spiritual journey, and who practice living in kind, compassionate, and healthy relationships with each other. As signed members of a Unitarian Universalist congregation you hold the responsibility to participate in the business of the congregation, vote at annual and special congregational meetings, pledge generously, chair committees, represent the congregation at regional and national events, plus many other benefits.

Before Signing the Membership Book . . .

Explore whether your worldview, beliefs and values resonate thru out Unitarian Universalism and First Parish in Concord. Consider the gifts and strengths you bring to this congregation and how this faith community might support you. Is First Parish "your" faith community? Are you ready to support the mission of First Parish in Concord and Unitarian Universalism in the world today and carry it into the future? If so, then contact Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications, at rbaker@firstparish.org or during coffee hour or Rev. Howard Dana. First Parish in Concord encourages all people interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and the congregation or considering membership to attend the *New to UUism* and *New to FPC* orientations offered in the fall and spring. Details about the orientations are available in the *Meeting House News* and in the *Sunday News*, or contact Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org.

Fall Equinox Celebration

Celebrate the coming of fall, in community, on Monday evening, September 22, with stories, songs, quiet and spoken reflections, a labyrinth walk, and seasonal decorations and refreshments. All are invited; families especially welcome. Meet at 7 p.m. in the Brooks

Room, dressed for the weather. Presented by the Women's Goddess Covenant Circle. Contact bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

Social Action Community

Refugees on Your Mind? Join Amnesty International Group 15 Tuesday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room

All are invited to join the Concord Area Group 15 of Amnesty International. Group 15's regular meetings are the third Tuesday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Ripley Room. In addition to signing letters in support of human rights activists and prisoners of conscience worldwide each month, we also focus on several other issues including solitary confinement, the death penalty, and torture. All are invited. If you'd like more information about the program, or our monthly meetings, contact Kathy Taylor at Kly.taylor@gmail.com or [781-718-7640](tel:781-718-7640).

"Divide in Concord"—Friday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Come see fellow Concordians in "Divide in Concord," an documentary film about the 2012 water bottle bylaw campaign. It highlights Concord's democratic process from voter registration through gathering petition signatures to speaking to a Town Meeting warrant article. Q & A with the film maker follows. Cosponsored by CCHS and Concord on Tap. \$5 to \$10 donation requested. Proceeds will fund scholarships for CCHS Earth Science trips and drinking fountains for the Town of Concord. Please reserve a seat at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/divide-in-concord-official-concord-premiere-tickets-12987007489>.

People's Climate March, New York City—Sunday, September 21

From the People's Climate March organizers: "In September, world leaders are coming to New York City for a UN summit on the climate crisis. UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, is urging governments to support an ambitious global agreement to dramatically reduce global warming pollution. With our future on the line and the whole world watching, we will take a stand to bend the course of history. We'll take to the streets to demand the world we know is within reach: a world with an economy that works for people and the planet; a world safe from the ravages of climate change; a world with good jobs, clean air and water, and healthy communities. To change everything, we need everyone on board. Join Sunday, September 21, in New York City." Contact a member of the ELT to learn more.

Diversity Committee Meeting—Monday, September 22, at 7 p.m.

The Diversity Committee will plan some programs for this coming year, and work on refining their Mission Statement. They invite anyone who is interested in advancing the understanding of LGBTQ, disability, and race/ethnicity issues and rights, and helping to make First Parish a welcoming place for all, to join them. They will meet in the Greeley Room. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org with any questions.

Children's and Youth News

This Week, September 14 – Regular RE Week

9:50 a.m. – Regular Classes, Babies-Preschool

10:00 a.m. – Service

Kindergarten – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

1st Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

2nd & 3rd Grades – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the Children's Chapel, pickup in Emerson Room

4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Bulkeley Room.

5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the

Brooks Room.

6th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Wright Tavern Left-Hand Room.

7th Grades – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Wright Tavern Sunporch

8th Grade – Drama – Meet in the Wright Tavern Sunporch at 4:00 p.m.

9th Grade Mentor Orientation – 4:00 p.m.-7:00p.m. in the Emerson Room

9th-12th Grades, Youth Group – 7:00 p.m. in the Wright Tavern Sunporch

Next Week, September 21 – Regular RE Week

9:50 a.m. – Regular Classes, Babies-Preschool

10:00 a.m. – Service

Kindergarten – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

1st Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

2nd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to the Ripley room, pickup in Emerson Room

3rd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to the Greeley room, pickup in Emerson Room

4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Bulkeley Room, pickup on Parish Hall Stage

5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Brooks Room, pickup on Parish Hall Stage

6th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Wright Tavern Left-Hand Room

7th Grades – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Wright Tavern Sunporch

8th Grade – Drama – Meet in the Wright Tavern Sunporch at 4:00 p.m.

9th-12th Grades, Youth Group – Retreat to Ferry Beach, September 19 to 21

RE Families—A Gathering Place

We have arranged a play space for after Sunday services on the stage of the Parish Hall (and in the Bulkeley room just off the stage). Please come and gather with other parents, meet new friends, and ask Pam and the RE Council any questions you might have about our programming. It is just nice to have a central place to meet after service time that is enjoyable for both kids and parents.

Child Dedication Ceremony

A special Child Dedication Ceremony will be part of service on November 23. This Child Dedication Ceremony encourages families who are part of our congregation to formally bless the life of their children (up to Grade 8). This dedication signifies their hopes as well as the congregation's promise to support and nurture our children throughout their spiritual lives. The RE Council will be hosting a Covenant Circle for parents leading up to the Dedication. We are very excited about this opportunity to come together and contemplate parenting as UU families. An informational will be held on September 28, following the service. Child care for all ages provided. Please visit <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/religious-education> for more information including dates and commitment information. Contact Sarah Wilfert at firstparishcd@gmail.com.

Rev. Howard Dana's email: hdana@firstparish.org

Rev. Marion Visel's email: mvisel@firstparish.org

Brian Chenowith's email: bchenowith@firstparish.org

Visit our website at firstparish.org