

THE SUNDAY NEWS

First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

September 18, 2016

This Week

Sun., Sept. 18	9:00 Chalice Choir 9:00 Gospel Choir Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Sunday Morning Youth Discussion Circle 11:30 Junior Choir 11:30 Sunday Forum 11:30 Ministerial Intern Committee Meeting
Mon., Sept 19	7:30 MNS Fall Meeting
Tue., Sept. 20	2:00 Pastoral Care Lay Ministers' Meeting 6:30 Tai Chi 7:00 Amnesty International Meeting 7:00 Membership Committee Meeting 7:30 Diversity Committee Meeting
Wed., Sep. 21	9:30 Buddhist Group 11:30 WPA Luncheon Program 6:00 The Conchords Rehearsal 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Sept. 22	6:30 Race Conversations Group 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Sept. 23	7:30 Rise Up Singing
Sat., Sept 24	9:30 Small Group Ministry Facilitator Training
Sun., Sept. 25	9:00 Chalice Choir 9:00 Gospel Choir Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.

Call for Small Group Ministry Facilitators

There was a positive response to Small Groups last year! People are enthusiastic about groups that nurture and deepen. Participants and facilitators recommend the experience. But Small Group Ministry can't exist without facilitators! If you are interested in facilitating a group, please let us know by September 15th.

HOLD the morning of Saturday, September 24 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 978-369-9602 x 414,
or 203-931-5239 (cell)

Sunday Forums

Today, September 18—"Unnatural Gas Pipeline." Dr. Colin Lonsdale, director of MIT Haystack Observatory, will take us on a journey through the challenges and perils of major natural gas pipelines. Recently, strong backlash against construction of a large new pipeline through New Hampshire and Massachusetts caused the project to be cancelled, but others are awaiting approval and construction. Understanding the pros and cons of various approaches to energy policy and the merits of specific projects is challenging because of the influence of powerful vested interests, political opportunism, both inadvertent and deliberate media filtering, and the inherent complexity of the subject matter. Dr. Lonsdale will help us to sort the wheat from the chaff in this contentious and confusing landscape.

Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group

The Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group begins the year with the novel *My Brilliant Friend*, by Elena Ferrante (Ann Goldstein, Translator). The evening discussion will be Monday, September 26, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and the morning on Tuesday, September 27, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., both in the Brooks Room at First Parish.

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current 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, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

The First Parish Moms' Night Out

The MNO group is hosting its Annual Back to School Gathering on Friday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m. Come join other FP moms as we kick off the school year with a casual gathering at the home of Dana Lissy. Moms' Night Out was created by FP moms as a way to get together from time to time to socialize, build a support network, and share resources and ideas about raising kids in today's world. All FP moms are welcome! For details on this event and other upcoming MNO gatherings, including a Holiday Cookie Swap and Game Night, please join the MNO list by sending an email to valvallancourt@gmail.com.

Finance Committee Seeking New Member

The Finance Committee is looking for one individual to serve a three year term to replace an outgoing member. We seek to find an individual who has particular interests in financial policies and programs of First Parish to fill this role. The Finance Committee is a subcommittee of the Standing Committee. The Finance Committee serves in a resource, policy and advisory role to the Standing Committee, the Senior Minister/Head of Staff and the Director of Operations. The full charter for the committee can be found under Standing Committee reports at firstparish.org. If you have an interest and wish to contribute to our future, please send your name to Tom Wilson (twilson@wilsongroup.com), Treasurer, and please indicate why you are interested in the Committee. Someone will contact you regarding setting up an interview with a representative from the Standing Committee.

Student Scholarship Program

One of the essential elements of our partner relationship is our support of the scholarship program for deserving students at the Berde Mózes Unitarian high school in Székelykeresztúr. Once again it is time to start thinking about donations for the coming school year. The school started on Monday and we are looking for Scholarship Donors for incoming freshmen. Please visit the Partnership Table at coffee hour, or contact Rodger Matlage at rmatlage@mac.com.

Choirs for Children and Youth—Rehearsals Begin Today, September 18!

Our choirs for children and youth will have Sunday morning rehearsals this year, beginning today.

Junior Choir (grades 1-3) meets from 11:30 to noon in the Chapel.

Chalice Choir (grades 4-6) meets from 9:00 to 9:45 in the Chapel.

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Carey at gcarey@firstparish.org.

Gospel Choir (7-12) meets from 9:00 to 9:45 in the Bulkeley Room. For more information, contact Anderson Manuel at AManuel@firstparish.org. If you can't make it this week, you are welcome to begin next week or later in September. All are welcome. There is no need for any singing experience.

WPA Luncheon Program and Annual Meeting September 21

Reminder: Sign up today at coffee hour for this event or by email to dcepin@gmail.com.

Social Action

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room
Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room
We'll be wrapping up final details for our community event to be held at First Parish at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening. October 25: An evening with Shujaa Graham, exonerated death-row inmate and criminal justice activist. In addition to death-penalty abolition, our other ongoing concerns include Massachusetts prison reform, violence against women, and global human rights. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Kathy Taylor, 781-275-0791, Kly.taylor@gmail.com.

FP Spanish Affinity Group

Atención a todos que quieren gozar de compañerismo y conversación en Español:

Heads up to all who'd like to enjoy company and conversation in Spanish:

La primera reunión del grupo de aficionados al mundo hispano tendrá lugar el Jueves 29 de Septiembre, a las 7:00 p.m. en la casa de Laurie VanLoon, 95 Martha's Point Road, Concord MA 01742.

The first meeting of First Parish's Spanish-speakers' affinity group will be on Thursday, September 29, at 7:00 p.m. at Laurie VanLoon's house, 95 Martha's Point Road, Concord MA 01742.

Favor de traer algo de comer y/o beber para compartir.

Please bring food and/or a beverage to share.

Para más información, manda un correo electrónico a Laurie ivanloon@comcast.net e invita a tus amigos hispano-parlantes!

For more information, email Laurie ivanloon@comcast.net or call 978-369-8528, and invite your Spanish-speaking friends!

Race Conversations Group

This group will meet on Thursday, September 22 at First Parish in the Emerson Room from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.. If you are interested in race relations and Black Lives Matter, we hope you will come. This is an important meeting as we will choose our next book on racial justice for an all-congregation read, as well as setting a schedule for possible exciting programs for the upcoming year. To be aware of the current conversations, please join Race_Conversations@googlegroups.com. If you have any questions contact CC (ccking.interplay@gmail.com) or Margie (margie.king.saphier@gmail.com) who are the co-chairs.

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee will hold their first meeting of the church year this Tuesday, September 20, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Brooks Room. We are looking for some new members to help us plan projects, outreach, and events to help make First Parish a more welcoming and inclusive place for diverse minorities. We have some exciting things already planned for the coming year, and anyone who is interested in this important work is welcome to come as a visitor or new member. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org with any questions.

Get Your Tickets for Holly Near

Renowned folk singer and social activist Holly Near and her backup band will perform a concert at First Parish on Sunday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are \$25 and are available at <http://firstparish.org/hollynear> or in the office during the week. This is sponsored by the Diversity Committee.

Religious Education News

Welcome, New Families!

We are so glad you are here! First Parish in Concord is a vibrant community of all ages. Following the service, please join Amy (our Minister of Religious Education) on the stage of the Parish Hall. She will be there to meet you in person and answer any questions you may have about our RE program or community. There are muffins available on the stage especially for families. Come make connections with other families too!

RE Registration

Whether you are a returning family or new to First Parish, please register your child(ren) and youth for our Religious Education Program. Visit our new website firstparish.org and click on "Religious Education." For more information contact Amy, our Minister of Religious Education: afreedman@firstparish.org.

This Week, September 18—RE Classes Start

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

UU Explorers, Grade 8— Chapel

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 7 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for their classroom with their teachers. All RE classes are held until 11:15 a.m. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their classrooms listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten & Grade 1— Lower Level

Grades 2 & 3— Ripley & Greeley Room

Grade 4— Brooks Room

Grade 5— Bulkeley Room

Neighboring Activists, Grades 6 & 7— Emerson Room

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Deep Discussion Group, High School Youth— Loft

Next Week, September 25—RE Classes Start

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

UU Explorers, Grade 8— Chapel

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten & Grade 1— Lower Level

Grades 2 & 3— Ripley & Greeley Room

Grade 4— Brooks Room

Grade 5— Bulkeley Room

Neighboring Activists, Grades 6 & 7— Emerson Room

Coming of Age Orientation

Sunday, September 25, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

This will be an opening celebration and an opportunity for 9th graders and their parents to learn the goals and expectations of our COA program. Please bring your favorite potluck appetizer or dessert to share. During this gathering, Rev. Amy Freedman will introduce our new Youth Program Director, Christa Champion, and our Coming of Age mentors.

Fall Youth Programming Gets Under Way

The youth have decided to try holding this "deep discussion" group two or three Sunday mornings per month, meeting *after* the service (this time was requested by the youth themselves, who don't want to miss out on sermons and singing). In addition, once or twice a month, we'll hold Sunday evening youth group from 6:00 to 9:00, focusing on fellowship and fun, including a potluck dinner. The initial schedule is below—all 9th through 12th grade youth are encouraged to join us!

Sun September 18—Deep Discussion Group—11:15 to 12:30, in the Loft

Sun September 25—Evening Youth Group—6:00 to 9:00 p.m., start in Parish Hall*

Sun October 2—Deep Discussion Group—11:15 to 12:30, in the Loft

**COA Orientation takes place immediately prior to the September 25 Youth Group meeting; all COA youth will be encouraged to participate in Opening Circle, and can then stay on for as much of the evening as their schedule allows.*

For more information, contact Christa, our Youth Programs Director: cchampion@firstparish.org.

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesdays at noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns at sburns@firstparish.org.

The Sunday News can be read online at www.firstparish.org.