

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

October 23, 2016

This Week

Sun., Oct. 23	9:00 Chalice Choir 9:00 Gospel Choir Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Junior Choir 11:30 Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary 1:30 CROP Walk
Mon., Oct. 24	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tues., Oct. 25	9:30 Women's Book Group 6:00 An Evening with Shujaa Graham, Death Penalty Exoneree and Criminal Justice Activist 6:30 Tai Chi
Wed., Oct. 26	9:30 Buddhist Group 10:00 Drop-In Small Group Ministry 5:45 The Conchords Rehearsal 7:45 Adult Choir
Thur., Oct. 27	6:30 Race Conversations Group 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Oct. 28	7:00 Climate Solutions Event 7:30 Rise Up Singing
Sat., Oct. 29	9:00 What We Sing Is Who We Are
Sun., Oct. 30	9:00 Chalice Choir 9:00 Gospel Choir Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Junior Choir 11:30 Sunday Forum in the Parlor 12:00 The Conchords' Meeting

Sunday Forums

Today, October 23—"Paintings and Photos and Gardens." Bill and Sherry Seaver will be telling the refugee story of Tom Diepto, his family, and the Peace Crane painting. Dian Pekin will be talking about Ellen Emerson and the Memorial Gardens. Jack Nevison will provide two minutes of comic relief, talking about R. W. Emerson, and Kathleen Elcox will invite us all to learn more about the Photography Club.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The October book for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, by Elizabeth Kolbert. The evening discussion will be Monday, October 24, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning discussion on Tuesday, October 25, 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.

What We Sing Is Who We Are Saturday, October 29, 9:00 a.m.

A congregational singing workshop with Rev. Jason Shelton. Sponsored by New England Region UUA. This workshop is for anyone who believes in the future of Unitarian Universalism, but will be especially appreciated by music directors, choir members, clergy, and anyone else who loves to sing. No experience necessary! Vibrant congregational singing is a sure sign of a healthy, thriving church. Why? Because congregations that sing with vitality are congregations that know who and why they are. Revitalizing congregational singing is one of the best growth strategies available and it's easier to do than you might think. After exploring the treasure trove of hymnody at our fingertips, we'll open the doors for a robust Community Sing where we can put our new tools to work.

Drop-In Small Group Ministry Series with Jan Hutslar, Ministerial Intern—Small Groups That Nourish and Connect

Jan Hutslar will facilitate a series of Drop-in Small Group Ministry sessions: Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon; , October 26,

November 9, and November 16 in the Brooks Room. Come and explore a topic of meaning as we hear one another's stories and experiences, and get to know a few others better. No need to sign up; just show up! Attend as many or as few of these four sessions as you wish. Contact Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239.

The First Tuesday Group (65+) Tuesday, November 1, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Volunteering: What and Why

Five First Parish members will speak about volunteer experiences they have had since retiring—what they did or do, why they chose it, and what satisfactions they have found in it. John Lang: formerly from Analog Devices, volunteering at Household Goods Recycling Ministry; Margie King Saphier: U.U. Minister supporting the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute; Sue Dobbie: former hospice nurse volunteering at the Nature Conservancy; Richard Fortier: engineer and developer of medical devices, now at the Restoration Project; and Anne Gibbs: former psychiatric nurse, now at Jumpstart. Come prepared to share your own experiences in a small group! Contact Virginia Taylor at virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net.

First Parish Moms' Night Out Wine Tasting Friday, November 4, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

First Parish Moms' Night Out: Come share company and a favorite bottle of wine (or other beverage) with us. We will meet in one of our member's homes; spouses/significant others are invited! For more information and to RSVP, please contact Anne at annee5678@yahoo.com. To join the MNO Listserv, send an email to valvallancourt@gmail.com.

Holiday Artisans Fair—November 5

Our annual Holiday Artisans Fair is coming up fast! Over 40 outstanding artists and artisans will be selling their latest handmade items. Our WPA Boutique at the fair is looking for donations of handmade items, as well as high-quality, like-new, special regifting general items as well as jewelry and nice accessories Please contact Marilyn Lowitt at marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net or 978-793-0267 for questions and to arrange for collection of your donations. .

Election Day

To encourage First Parish staff and congregants to participate in local and regional "get out the vote" efforts, First Parish offices will be closed on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2016. The building will be open—with minimal staff on hand—for previously scheduled and volunteer activities (please see below).

First Parish Helps Get Out the Vote!

First Parish will provide rides to the polls for Concord residents who need transportation on Election Day. In an arrangement with the Concord Council on Aging and the Concord-Carlisle Community Services Coordinator, Concord residents who contact either of those agencies and need a ride to the polls will be given First Parish's phone number (978-369-9602) as a ride resource. Any Concord resident needing transportation to the voting polls that day may contact First Parish for a ride from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. To make this happen, First Parish needs volunteers. On Election Day, as calls come in to First Parish from voters needing rides, FP dispatchers will pair callers with available drivers. Drivers will pick up voters at home, drive to the appropriate polling site, wait for their passenger to vote, then return the voter home. To volunteer to drive or to answer phones/dispatch drivers, please email Fifi Ball, FP Director of Operations, at fball@firstparish.org, or call 978-369-9602, x456. Please let Fifi know your name, address, phone number, and the hours on Election Day you will be available to drive or to be here at First Parish to answer phones and connect callers with drivers. If you, or someone you know, needs a ride to the polls that day, please (have them) contact Fifi Ball at First Parish on Election Day at 978-369-9602 x456.

Post-Election Potluck Dinner and Discussion

Having feelings about the upcoming presidential election? After you've voted on Tuesday, November 8, watched the returns come in that evening, and (probably) heard the final results by Wednesday morning, come recap and discuss with other interested First Parishioners. Let's gather Wednesday evening, November 9, to talk about election results and ramifications over a potluck dinner in the Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m. Bring the whole family! Our time together will include a brief worship circle to lift up our prayers for our country. We will be done in time for adult choir practice at 7:45 p.m.

Veterans Day

First Parish offices will be closed for Veterans Day, Friday, November 11. The building will be open—with minimal staff on hand—for previously scheduled activities.

Save the Date: The Moms' Night Out (MNO)

Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange—Friday, December 9 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

The holidays will be here before you know it! Bake a batch (or two, or three, or four) and come swap cookies and recipes with fellow members of the First Parish community. Celebrate the season, bring a snack or drink to share, and take home some delicious treats. Held in the First Parish Parlor. RSVP to Leah Russell, leahkrussell@gmail.com, 978-266-1216, or Jean Chandler, jeanjeanc2@aol.com. Stay tuned for more details and mark the date on your calendar!

Social Action

Concord CROP Walk today at First Parish

The Concord CROP Walk for the Hungry will take place today here at First Parish, with registration and music by the CCHS Pep Band starting at 1:30 p.m., and the step-off at 2:15 p.m.. Rev. Howard Dana will be walking; you can sign up to sponsor him at coffee hour today, or make a donation for him or another First Parish walker online at <http://tinyurl.com/z39v7e9>. You may also register to walk online, or at coffee hour, if you'd like to join us this afternoon for a beautiful walk. The funds raised help feed the hungry around the world through the disaster relief and development programs of Church World Service, and closer to home through ten local food pantries and supper programs the Walk supports. If you are parked in the circle in front of the church, please move your car by 1:00 p.m., as the band will be setting up on the front steps for the opening ceremony, which takes place in front of the church.

An Evening with Shujaa Graham, Death Penalty Exoneree and Criminal Justice Activist

Tuesday October 25, 7:00 p.m.

Amnesty International Group 15 is sponsoring Shujaa Graham, an exonerated death row inmate and criminal justice activist. Shujaa will speak about his experience on death row at San Quentin State Prison in California. He will give us a deep, intimate look at the death penalty in the United States and help us understand how we can move toward its abolition. Since 1999, Shujaa has traveled around the country sharing his story, working for criminal justice reform and racial equality, and reaching out to young people. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.; refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Kathy Taylor at amnestygroup15@gmail.com or 781-718-7640.

Is Civil Disobedience Justified on Climate Change?

An Evening with Tim DeChristopher

Friday, October 28, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Renowned climate activist Tim DeChristopher will speak about the role of civil disobedience in the fight against climate change. Tim's courageous personal experience of serving two years in prison for climate civil disobedience is featured in the 2012 documentary, "Bidder 70." A Unitarian Universalist, Tim cofounded the Climate Disobedience Center and is now a student at Harvard Divinity School. This special evening is enthusiastically recommended by our Environmental Leadership Team, and is organized by the Climate Solutions Speaker Series, a coalition of local organizations including First Parish. For questions, please contact Bob Andrews, bob.andrews3@verizon.net.

Just Mercy

Monday, November 28, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

And One More Date To Be Determined

The Race Conversations group announces an "all-church read" of *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson. *Just Mercy* tells the story of this Harvard Law grad's heroic work in Alabama to bring justice to poor defendants, particularly those on "death row." He says, "The criminal justice system treats you better if you are rich and guilty than if you are poor and innocent." The book can be bought at coffee hour. There will be two one-session evening discussions, on November 28 and a date in early December to be determined. Contact Don Miller at donaldbmiller@comcast.net, or 978-610-6298.

Religious Education News

This Week, October 23—RE Program

9:50 a.m. Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00-11:15 a.m. UU Explorers (Grade 8) Attend Service in the Sanctuary

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 11:15am. 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 Room & Greeley Room
Grade 4– Brooks Room
Grade 5– Bulkeley Room
Neighboring Activists, Grades 6 & 7– in the Emerson Room
6:00-9:00 p.m. SNUUYFF

Youth Stuff This Sunday:

(1) **CROP Walk**, 2:00-3:15pm—Interested in supporting FPC's efforts to feed the hungry? Come join Christa as she "walks the talk" (you do not need to collect pledges to walk). The CCHS pep band will rev up the crowd starting at 1:30 p.m. The walk steps off at 2:15 for a one-hour loop through MNHP (second loop around Nawshawtuc Hill optional).
(2) **Youth Fellowship**, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.—Come to our second SNUUYFF* meeting, beginning with another mystery potluck (just bring any kind of food that YOU like to eat). Theme for the night's activities: "Spirits & Spirituality." Your friends are welcome too, UU or not, so invite them to join in the spookiness! Questions? Contact Christa Champion, Youth Programs Director, cchampion@firstparish.org.

Interested in Volunteering for 15 Minutes on a Sunday Morning?

We need RE Greeters to welcome new families as they arrive in the front foyer on Sunday mornings. From 9:45 to 10:00 a.m., the greeter would help orient new families and show them how to find their RE classrooms. Please take a moment to sign up for one or more Sundays online: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4EA9AB22A3FF2-15minute Questions? Contact RE Council members Jean Chandler jeanjeanc2@aol.com or Caroline Minkin, carolineminkin@gmail.com.

Wanted: Nonperishable Food for Open Table Kids' Bags

In early November, our Neighboring Activists (Grades 6 & 7) will be assembling Kids' Bags for Open Table. As many of you know, Open Table provides a bag of snacks to each child who comes to dinner in Concord and Maynard (in addition to a bag of groceries for their family). Please help us gather items for the Kids' Bags by bringing the following:

- Juice boxes
 - Snack-size boxes of cereal
 - Snack-size apple sauce, fruit cups, pudding (snack-size)
 - Granola bars
 - Snack-size bags of cookies, pretzels or crackers
 - Boxes of macaroni and cheese
 - Cans of Spaghetti-Os, Chicken Noodle Soup or Tomato Soup
- (No candy please!) Donations may be dropped off anytime in the Collection Box in the coatroom. Thanks so much! Preparing Kids' Bags is a fun way for our middle schoolers to help others.