

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

November 6, 2016

This Week

Sun., Nov. 6	9:00 Chalice Choir
	9:00 Gospel Choir
	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.
	11:00 WPA Boutique Sale
	11:30 Junior Choir
	11:30 Sunday Forum in the Parlor
	11:30 Congregational Conversation About Finances
	11:30 Mother/Daughter Book Group
	11:30 Environmental Leadership Meeting
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	7:00 Sarasa Concert
Mon., Nov. 7	7:00 Congregational Conversation On Finances
Tues., Nov. 8	2:00 Shawl Ministry
	6:30 Tai Chi
	6:30 Women's Retreat Committee
Wed., Nov. 9	9:30 Buddhist Group
	10:00 Small Group Drop-In Ministry
	5:45 The Conchords Rehearsal
	6:00 Post-Election Potluck
	7:45 Adult Choir
Thur., Nov. 10	7:00 Partner Church Committee
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Nov. 11	12:00 SAC Board Meeting
	12:30 Tai Chi
	6:30 WPA Friday Night with Friends
Sat., Nov. 12	9:00 Photo Club
	9:00 Nonprofit Leadership Training
	10:00 Flower Arranging Workshop
Sun., Nov. 13	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
	11:30 Nominating Committee Meeting
	11:30 Mother/Daughter Book Group
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	6:00 Standing Committee Meeting

Sunday Forums

Today, November 6—"Our International Connections." Sixth in our "Shedding Light on Our History" series, this Sunday's Forum will take us from our earliest connections to Odell, England, to our more recent ones with Transylvania. Prompted by First Parish's portrait of Peter Bulkeley, one of our first ministers from 1636 to 1659, Peter Mitchell will discuss the considerable difficulties he and John Jones, who was minister from 1636 to 1644, faced in their relations with church authorities in Odell, England. Over the last 25 years, our congregational partnership with Székelykeresztúr has resulted in many gifts—spiritual, financial, and physical. Rodger Matlage will discuss the many partnership-related objects you see around our meeting house in the context of our ongoing partnership.

Thanks for Another Great Fair!

Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, browsers, and shoppers who made this another successful Holiday Artisans Fair! Great community effort and wonderful support for all the participating artists, artisans, and crafters who add much beauty and joy to our world!

WPA Boutique at Today's Coffee Hour

Continuing from yesterday's fair is the WPA Boutique with lots of treasures at good prices. There's also an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets at the boutique for a magnificent handmade quilt and a wonderful art print. The boutique will be found on the Parish Hall stage.

Election Day

To encourage First Parish staff and congregants to participate in "get out the vote" efforts, First Parish offices will be closed on Election

Day, Tuesday, November 8. The building will be open—with minimal staff on hand—for previously scheduled and volunteer activities.

First Parish Helps Get Out the Vote!

First Parish will provide rides to the polls for Concord residents who need them 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 vote that day may contact First Parish for a ride from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 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. If you, or someone you know, needs a ride to the polls that day, please contact Fifi Ball at First Parish on Election Day.

Post-Election Potluck Dinner and Discussion

Having feelings about the upcoming presidential election? After you've voted, watched the returns come in that evening, and 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. Our time together will include a brief worship circle to lift up our prayers for our country.

Congregational Conversation about Finances

Sunday, November 6, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday, November 7, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Come join the Finance Committee for a conversation about the First Parish financials and more. We'll review the results from last year and how we translated our priorities into our budget for this year. We want to discuss three important topics with you: any suggestions for priorities for 2017-2018, discussion about the initial plan for the First Parish Legacy Giving Program, and discussions about how to make the annual pledge campaign simpler, more meaningful, and more efficient. We would appreciate your thoughts and ideas on these topics. Contact Tom Wilson, Treasurer, at twilson@wilsongroup.com.

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, 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 sessions as you wish. Contact Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239.

Potluck Supper Sunday November 27 For Transylvanian Visitors

From November 25 to December 5, First Parish will host eight members from our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, including their new minister, Csaba Todor and his wife Eva. There will be several opportunities to share activities and become acquainted with them; visit the PCC table at coffee hour for more information and to sign up for events. Please join us for an all-church potluck supper to welcome them on Sunday, November 27, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall; there will be stories and singing. Sign up to bring a dish to share.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The Women's AM/PM Book Group will read and discuss one book for November and December, and the selection is *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion*, by Fannie Flagg. The evening discussion will be Monday, December 5, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning one on Tuesday, December 6, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., both in the Brooks Room. 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 Children's Holiday Craft Workshop **Saturday, December 3, 2016, 1:30-4:30 p.m.**

The First Parish Elves are busy at work to make sure this holiday season is magical, with *many new crafts*! Ways to have fun at the Children's Holiday Craft Workshop:

- Be a child and make up to 16 different crafts, including woodworking, printed bags, soap, and candlesticks for your family, teachers, or friends.
- Be a "Crafty Elf" (adults and teens) and help at one of the craft stations from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Be a "Clean-up Elf" (adults and teens) and help clean up from 4-5:30 p.m.
- Volunteer to prep some things ahead of time, like the FP (secret recipe) gingerbread cookie dough, wood projects, etc.

Cost is \$15/child, \$45/family. Snacks and drinks provided. No need for children to sign up in advance.

Social Action

"Down to Earth": A Film Depicting Climate Activists' Stories **Sunday, November 6, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Emerson Room**

View an inspiring film about climate activists—of all ages and experience—in South Portland, Maine, who protested an oil pipeline through their city. From the film's producer: "Today I believe there is no bigger problem we face than global climate change. Here in Maine I've met a number of activists of all ages who are putting their values and passion to work for climate justice. My experience in the Midwest has led me to believe in the power of stories to change hearts and minds. Now I'm working with videographer Charlie Hudson to bring these Maine stories, told by a new generation of activists, to audiences that might need a gentle nudge." Among those featured in the film is Hilary Clark, daughter of First Parish member Debbie Clark. She tells of her experience participating in a Healing Walk at Tar Sands in Alberta, Canada, in 2014. We all need inspiration. We all need role models. We all need hope. This film offers all of these and is sponsored by the Direct Action subgroup of the Environmental Leadership Team.

Our Schools in Transition: Making Progress on Racial Equity and Cultural Proficiency

Monday, November 7, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The Concord-Carlisle School Committee is in the process of hiring a new superintendent and seeks public input during the month of November. This panel discussion will help us think about the qualities we might seek in a leader responsible for educating a diverse group of students and preparing them for a multicultural world. Panelists will include Jonathan Saphier (Founder and President of Research for Better Teaching, Inc.), Johnny Cole (Assistant Principal at Needham High School and former English Teacher at CCHS), and Jacqueline Hodge (Civil Engineer for the State Department of Transportation and mother of Concord METCO students). The program is open to the public so please invite anyone who might be interested. Refreshments and babysitting will be available; contact Marilyn Lowitt at marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net if you need babysitting.

Black Lives Matter Items for Sale

Black Lives Matter signs (\$10.00) and buttons (50¢ each, 3 for a \$1.00) are for sale at the Social Action table every Sunday during coffee hour.

Nonprofit Leadership

We are thrilled to offer members of First Parish the opportunity to learn how to serve the nonprofits that they serve, better. Jericho Road will be hosting a series of educational sessions for members this fall and winter. Each session has a focused topic, with a goal-setting component as well. The curriculum builds on the previous week's learnings and experiences which can be applied as necessary, based on an individual's background and skill set. Alternatively, attendees can choose to attend the sessions on a one-off basis. The sessions will be held at First Parish on Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please contact Dan Bush, dbush@jerichoroadproject.org, to register.

1. November 5—Fundamentals of Nonprofit Board Governance

This overview describes the inter-related components of nonprofit governance including executive supervision, strategic planning, board development, board and executive director responsibilities, revenue generation, and more.

2. November 12—Fiscal Stewardship of Nonprofit Organizations

This session examines the board's role in overseeing the financial and legal activities of nonprofits, including the basic financial budgeting and reporting principles, as well as the director's role as a legal steward of the nonprofit.

3. December 3—Strategic Revenue Generation

The final session looks at a variety of ways nonprofits can raise funds, some of the common benefits and risks associated with each method, and a focus on the best method of all. Participants then apply their storytelling skills to make a pitch to a prospective donor.

Religious Education News

This Week, November 6—RE Program

9:45 a.m.

UU Explorers (Grade 8) – Meet in the Parish Hall, VisitFirst Parish Church in Weston, Expected return time: 12:15 p.m. Lead Teacher, Jan Power: (cell) 978-764-8569.

10:00 a.m.

Neighboring Activists (Grades 6 & 7)—Scavenger Hunt! *Start in Emerson Room this Sunday!

9:50 a.m.

Little RE (0-4yrs)—Lower Level

10:00 a.m.

Worship Service

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 Rooms
Grade 4—Brooks Room
Grade 5—Bulkeley Room

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Coming of Age (Grade 9) and parents,
"Climbing the Family Tree"—Emerson Room

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 online for one or more Sundays : 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 and 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 applesauce, 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. Preparing Kids' Bags is a fun way for our middle schoolers to help others.

Reminder:

The First Parish offices will be closed November 8 and 11, in observation of Election and Veterans Day.

Next Meeting House News deadline:
Tuesday, November 15
Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to
Wendy Wolfberg at
wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday 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.

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

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

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at firstparish.org