

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

May 7, 2017

This Week

Sun. May 7	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
		Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	11:30	Mother/Daughter Book Group
	12:30	Native American Study Group
	5:00	"Be the Change: Small Group Ministry"
	6:00	Standing Committee Meeting
	7:00	The Conchords Concert
Mon., May 8	7:00	Small Group Ministry
Tues., May 9	2:00	Shawl Ministry
	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:00	Smoothie Making Class
Wed., May 10	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	Newton Mayor Speaking
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., May 11	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., May 12	12:30	T'ai Chi
Sat., May 13	9:30	Photo Club
Sun. May 14	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
		Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary, Today

"Health Care in the Time of Trump," with Phil Villers. What does health care look like in the time of Trump? What are the consequences for the American people? What is happening now that the Republicans have failed to abolish Obamacare? What can we each do to limit the damage and help in the plan to rebuild? Come hear someone who has been working on health care reform since 1982. Phil and his wife Katherine founded the Families USA Foundation, and he currently serves as president. The foundation's major focus is on achieving universal access to high quality, affordable, health and long-term care for all Americans.

Mother's Day Cards to Benefit Open Table

This Mother's Day, honor the special women in your life with a bouquet of healthy food for others! First Parish's own Margot Kimball has designed a beautiful Mother's Day card to benefit Open Table. Open Table will email you a print-at-home format of this card. For more information, please visit www.opentable.org/mothers-day.

The Conchords Concert Today

Sunday, May 7, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Reception in the Parish Hall

The Conchords, a six-member vocal ensemble comprised of current and former members of the First Parish Adult Choir, will perform selections from the Great American Songbook, music for the stage, and favorites of the Boomer generation. While most pieces will be performed a cappella, the Adult Choir's accomplished rehearsal accompanist Grace Choi will accompany some selections. No tickets are required. A freewill donation at the door will be gratefully accepted.

Interested in Learning More about Native Americans?

All those sharing an interest in learning more about Native Americans are welcome to join us at the meeting of the Native American Study Group today at 12:30 p.m. in the Greeley

Room. We are reading about the history of Native Americans and sharing what we learn with each other. We are hoping to sponsor a Forum focusing on Native Americans in the Concord area, and are looking for other ways to bring what we have learned to the congregation as a whole.

A New Small Group Is Starting in May: "Think Big, Act Small: A Small Group Ministry of Joyful Resistance"

Unitarian Universalism invites us to commit to putting our values into action to resist hate, fear, and bigotry. Challenged by what we see in the wider world, we gather to remind ourselves of the values of our UU principles and our First Parish benediction. Participants will share hopes, thoughts, and stories of how we may joyfully act according to our beliefs. There will be four meetings: Mondays, May 8, 15, 22, and June 5, from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in the Brooks Room. Facilitated by Merrill Comeau. Sign up by contacting Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239. Please provide your name, email address, and phone number. Merrill will contact you before the first meeting.

WPA May 17 Luncheon Meeting

Open Table has been providing delicious meals, lovely gatherings, and groceries for its guests for 25 years, and the Women's Parish Association will be honoring its great accomplishments with a special luncheon and program. Come to the May 17 WPA Luncheon Meeting and learn about Open Table's great work and its future plans to further serve the Concord area communities with a newly purchased building and expanded offerings. Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the program. Charge for the lunch is \$15. Proceeds will be donated to Open Table for its important work. Reservations are required by contacting the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by May 14.

WPA Craft Fair and Flea Market

While you're doing your spring cleaning, remember that the Women's Parish Association will be holding its Craft Fair and Flea Market on June 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and will be collecting items to sell at its table. Start collecting high quality items to donate—such as jewelry, household items, gift items, children's items, collectibles, antiques, etc. While you're thinning out your gardens, consider donating plants as well. You may also want to rent a table to sell your treasures. To rent a table or to arrange for donations of high quality gift items or plants to the WPA table, contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net. Don't miss this popular event. Bring friends and neighbors!

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The final selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group for this church year is *Spinster: Making a Life of One's Own*, by Kate Bolick. The evening discussion will be Monday, May 22, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., and the morning discussion will be Tuesday, May 23, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.; both are 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 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.

Social Action

“Black Lives Matter” Signs Available

“Black Lives Matter” signs will be sold at coffee hour today until they are sold out. They are \$10 each, or three for \$20.

Mother’s Day Walk for Peace

Sunday, May 14, is the 21st anniversary of the Mother’s Day Walk for Peace. Come walk with families from Boston, as well as First Parish families and those from other UU congregations. The Peace Walk is the major fundraiser that supports the vital work of the Louis D Brown Peace Institute. You can visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour today to make a donation and/or to sign up to participate in the Peace Walk. If you have questions, email Margie King Saphier at margie.king.saphier@gmail.com or call 781-424-2179.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

Ongoing actions include supporting individuals who've been punished for peaceful human rights activities, Massachusetts prison reform, death penalty abolition, and women’s rights, including health rights through Planned Parenthood. We are advocating for the release from prison of two young Azerbaijanian student activists. We are looking into the possibility of organizing a public screening this spring of the film “Tickling Giants.” We welcome all to join us. For more information, contact Kathy Taylor at Kly.taylor@gmail.com or 781-718-7640.

Reverence for Life Smoothies Cooking Class

Tuesday, May 9, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Emerson Room

Smoothies give you energy. Learn how to make your own almond milk, plus four recipes that taste like dessert but are amazingly nutritious (nuts in recipes). The class is free. Registration required. Contact Jeannie at Jeanniegen@yahoo.com. Hope to see you! Sponsored by Reverence for Life and Vegan Metro West Network.

Newton Mayor, Setti Warren, to Speak in Concord

Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at First Parish Church

You are invited to a discussion in Concord with Newton Mayor, Setti Warren. Mayor Warren, who is considering a run for governor in 2018, is eager to hear our thoughts on our community’s needs and our state’s future. This is an opportunity to hear from a leading public servant in Massachusetts and make your voice heard. Setti was asked to address the following three topics during the evening: the Human Rights Agenda (undocumented immigration, immigrant rights, etc.), money in politics and how it affects the two parties, and Massachusetts’ leadership in combating climate change. Please join us for an interesting and important evening. All are welcome. This event is cosponsored by Group 15 of Amnesty International, Concord Rising, and the Concord Town Democratic Committee.

“Requiem for the American Dream”

Monday, May 15, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

How did we become a nation that is so far removed from our core beliefs? In this extraordinary 2016 documentary, “Requiem for the American Dream,” Noam Chomsky discusses how the concentration of wealth and power among a small elite has polarized American society and brought about the decline of the middle class. Through interviews filmed over four years, Chomsky unpacks the principles that have brought us to the crossroads of historically unprecedented inequality. Join Reclaim Our Democracy members to view this 75-minute film which will be followed by discussion and refreshments. For more information contact, Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Religious Education News

RE Family Survey

We are blessed to have an active and committed Religious Education community at First Parish in Concord. Every week, First Parish is filled with children and families having fun, creating new connections, enjoying longtime friends, and embracing our community and our liberal religious tradition. We want to know more about how you experience First Parish. Please take the anonymous survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDDRGLW>. If you have any questions, please call, text, or email RE Council Chair, Leslie Pelton Nichol, at 781-929-1147 or lpelton@ljpcconsult.com.

This Sunday, May 7

9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs)– Lower Level

10:00-11:15 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths—Brooks Room

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service—Sanctuary

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 6 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children’s Message, the children leave the Sanctuary with their teachers. Today we have a walking Field Trip to the Old Manse, details below. Parents of Little RE and Little OWL are asked to pick up their children on the lower level. Older children and youth will be dismissed to Coffee Hour.

10:15-11:15 a.m.- Religious Education Classes

Little OWL–Lower Level

Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)– Emerson Room

10:15-11:30 a.m. – May Day at the Manse (K-5), walking field trip, pick-up your children between 11:30 and 11:45 a.m. at the Old Manse, 269 Monument Street in Concord

11:30-1:00 p.m. – Parent Circle: “Parenting Children with Special Needs,” Wright Tavern, childcare available

7:00-8:30 p.m. – SNUUYFF (Sunday Night UU Youth Fun & Fellowship), High School Youth Group, Parish Hall

May Day at the Manse

Following the Children’s Message, Kindergarten, 1st graders (who are not in OWL), 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will walk together to the Old Manse today. Please see the RE Greeter for a permission form if needed. A snack of apples, Tostitos, and water will be provided. *OWL Parents:* Please note that *1st grade OWL* is in session today and will head downstairs following the Children’s Message (no early drop-off in the classroom). *Middle OWL* does not meet this week. We hope 5th graders will join the field trip. Please pick up your children at the Old Manse between 11:30 and 11:45 a.m. at 269 Monument Street. Parking is across the street.

First Parish Parent Discussion Circle

“Parenting Children with Special Needs in our First Parish Community”

Today, May 7, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Wright Tavern

Parent Circles are an opportunity for parents to connect and share with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. This one is intended for parents of children with special needs—physical, emotional, and learning. Our Minister of Religious Education, Amy Freedman, will join us for spiritual guidance and support. Child care is available. Contact Amy Freedman, afreedman@firstparish.org, or Leslie Pelton Nichol, lpelton@ljpcconsult.com, with any questions.

Mother’s Day Coffee Hour—Multiage RE Program

May 14, following the Children’s Message, Kindergarteners through sixth graders will meet in the Parish Hall for a special program. We will decorate the hall and prepare refreshments to host a Mother’s Day coffee hour for our First Parish community. There will also be an opportunity to write a poem or song for mom (or grandma or a special person in your life) to put in a card, and/or perform during an “Open Mic” on the Parish Hall stage. 5th graders in Middle OWL will meet on May 14, 10:00 -11:15 a.m. in the Wright Tavern.

Next monthly Meeting House News deadline is Tuesday, May 16.

Keep article length to 100 words and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. It is recommended committees schedule a week for the committee review so the final submission is ready by deadline.

The June 2017 edition will be published on May 24.