

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

May 28, 2017

This Week

Sun., May 28	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal 9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
Mon., May 29	Holiday—Memorial Day
Wed., May 31	9:30 Buddhist Group 7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., June 1	7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., June 2	12:30 T'ai Chi
Sat., June 3	9:00 WPA Craft Fair and Flea Market
Sun., June 4	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal 9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Native American Experience Discussion 11:30 Mother/Daughter Book Group 5:00 "Be the Change" Small Group Ministry 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting

Parish Notes

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the new year (beginning July 1) are in, and will be available downstairs after the service today.

Membership Committee News

So many people have joined our church this year! The members of the Membership Committee are dedicated to making sure every person feels welcomed with a smile, and given the information they need. After someone signs the book, we assign each new member a mentor to help them integrate into the First Parish community. We meet monthly on the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room. Meetings are short and fun. If you would like to join the Membership Committee, please contact Karen Sullivan at consul.3@verizon.net, or Suzanne Lowe at suzanne.campbell.lowe@gmail.com.

WPA Craft Fair and Flea Market

It's time to get ready for the WPA's Craft Fair and Flea Market on June 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The WPA will be collecting items to sell at its table, so get high quality items ready to donate—such as jewelry, household items, gift items, children's items, collectibles, antiques, and more. While you're thinning out your gardens, consider donating plants as well. You may also want to rent a table yourself to sell your treasures. To rent a table or to arrange for donations of plants or high quality gift items to the WPA table, contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net. Don't miss this popular event. Bring friends and neighbors!

"The Nature Connection: How It Works"

First Tuesday Group (65+) will meet June 6, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., for Sophie Wadsworth's presentation on how The Nature Connection combines seasonal natural materials, live animals, and hands-on activities to connect individuals with nature's capacity to heal, teach, and create joy. The day will include live animals, a videotape of a Nature Connection visit,

a list of likely topics for next year's programs, and our traditional June ice-cream social. Come participate in this stimulating mix of end-of-the-year activities! (While our heading says 65+, please come if you are interested, whatever your age.)

Sharing and Learning—Education in Transylvania and Our Scholarship Programs

Thursday, June 8, 7:30 p.m. in the Emerson Room

Please join our Partner Congregation Committee and help greet PCC's from neighboring communities to discuss the educational systems in Transylvania and how our scholarship programs support students. This discussion will be moderated by Cathy Cordes of First Parish in Bedford, previous Executive Director of the UUPCC. Rodger Matlage, cochair of First Parish's PCC, will have just returned from three weeks in Székelykeresztúr, and will have lots to share with us. Refreshments will be served.

Celebrate the Thoreau Bicentennial—Events at First Parish

Celebrating the Life, Works, and Legacy of Henry David Thoreau

Wednesday, July 12, to Sunday, July 16.

Registration and fees available at www.thoreausociety.org.

Keynote Address by Terry Tempest Williams.

Bicentennial Worship Service—Rev. Howard Dana preaching Sunday, July 16, 10:00 a.m.

Thoreau as Spiritual Guide

6 Mondays beginning September 18 (not October 9), 7:30-9:00 p.m., in the Chapel

Rev. Marion Visel facilitates conversations based on *Walden*.

Limit: 15. Preregister by emailing mvisel@firstparish.org.

Gallery Talk and Tour, Thoreau Institute Library, Lincoln

Thursday, September 21, 11:00 a.m.

Limited to 20 people. Carpooling suggested, due to limited parking. Preregister by emailing Dianne Weiss at diannemcweiss@comcast.net.

Two Events cosponsored by the Transcendentalism Council and Women's Parish Association

"Her Finer Instincts:" The Women in Thoreau's Life

Friday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Sandra Petrulionis, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, Altoona. Cosponsored by the Transcendentalism Council and Women's Parish Association. Contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net or call the office at 978-360-9602. \$5.00 at the door.

"A Visit from Henry Thoreau:" A Dramatic Performance by Kevin Radaker

Saturday, October 21, 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary.

Reception to follow. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council, the Concord Museum, and The Thoreau Society.

Adults, \$10; students \$5. Reserve online or by phone through the Concord Museum at <http://www.concordmuseum.org/concord-museum-adult-and-family-programs.php> or call 978-369-9763, ext. 216.



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.

Boston Pride Parade

Saturday, June 10, at 12:00 Noon

The Diversity Committee will take a group to march with our First Parish banner in the Boston Pride Parade on June 10, starting near Copley Square at noon. This is a fun, festive event; all are welcome to join us to show our support for the LGBTQ community, including kids, youth, and adults. Sign up to attend at the June 4 coffee hour, or email Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org to sign up or ask questions.

Volunteer at Rosie’s Place on Sunday June 18

Would you like to cook and serve dinner at Rosie’s Place in Boston on Sunday, June 18 (3:00-5:30 p.m.)? We are looking for 15 volunteers (adults and teens 12 or older) to participate. Rosie’s Place is a sanctuary for poor and homeless women that serves 3 meals a day, 365 days a year. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women’s Empowerment and funded by a SAC grant. Contact Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com, 978-369-5352).

A Woman’s Wellness Event

Join us on Friday, June 9, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. for a special workshop at First Parish about how we, as women, can maintain our sense of balance, hope, and purpose in the midst of everything that is happening in the world today. Let’s get together to take a collective breath and refocus on what’s important in our own lives. We will be joined by two preeminent women’s empowerment coaches—Amy Smalarz and Paula Greico. There will also be healthy smoothies and a yoga meditation. More details to come. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women’s Empowerment. Contact Jennifer Izzo (jbizzo@hotmail.com).

AWE’s Summer Book Group—Save the Dates

Start reading and join the Advocates for Women’s Empowerment to discuss books on topics relevant to women. Join us for any or all of these dates: three Thursdays, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. *June 22, at First Parish*, with “We Should All Be Feminists,” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie; *July 13, location TBD*, with “Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity,” by Katherine Boo; and *August 10, location TBD*, with “Americanah,” by Ngozi Adichie. Contact Jennifer Izzo (jbizzo@hotmail.com).



Religious Education News

What’s Happening This Sunday, May 28?

All ages are invited to worship together this Sunday. Our 10:00 a.m. service will be family-friendly, as Jan Hutslar and her sister Julie delve into the gifts and challenges of committed relationships. They will use their own stories, puppets, and poetry as examples, and encourage others to find connection with these stories and their own important relationships.

Next Sunday, June 4: RE Classes

Coming of Age Information Meeting

Parents and 8th graders are invited to an informal meeting following the service on Sunday, June 4. We will meet in the sunroom of the Wright Tavern (the historic red building next to First Parish) at 11:30 a.m. for a brief overview of our program for 9th graders. A calendar of Sunday sessions and three retreats will be available at the meeting. This year each participant will choose a personal mentor to help guide them in expressing their beliefs, values, and aspirations. I look forward to answering your questions about this exciting year for your family at First Parish. Contact: Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education, afreedman@firstparish.org

RE Registration Now Open!

New and returning families are encouraged to register children and youth for the 2017-2018 church year. Our program is year-round, but we offer classes by age group in the fall, winter and spring seasons. Please sign up today so we can plan and be prepared to welcome your family!

Registration for Children and Youth: <https://goo.gl/forms/nHIXFXbJUpxRb0B52>

Teacher Sign-Up Now Open!

This year teachers will work in teams, and each member will volunteer for eight Sundays across the church year. We hope that this new arrangement will give you more flexibility, and help develop closer connections between children and co-teachers. *Volunteer Sign-Up:* <http://tinyurl.com/ConcordRETeacher2017-18>. Links are also on our website. Please contact our Assistant Director of Religious Education, Dawn Van Patten, dvanpatten@firstparish.org or our Minister of Religious Education, Amy Freedman, afreedman@firstparish.org for more information or to explore the possibilities!

Kids Summer Program at First Parish

Children and youth of all ages are invited to drop in for our fun Summer Program held every Sunday during the service time, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (except on July 2). Join us for Kids Yoga, Drumming, “Fireflies & Mindfulness,” and more! This program is designed to be fun and enriching for the whole family. Our goal is for you to feel energized and renewed.

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.