

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

June 4, 2017

This Week

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
	5:00 "Be the Change" Small Group Ministry
	6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
Tue., June 6	1:30 First Tuesday Group Meeting
	6:30 T'ai Chi
	7:00 Immigration Justice Task Force
Wed., June 7	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., June 8	7:30 Sharing and Learning: Education in Transylvania
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., June 9	7:00 Women's Wellness Event
Sat., June 10	8:30 Nonprofit Training
	9:30 Photo Club
Sun., June 11	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 Mother/Daughter Book Group
	11:30 Annual Meeting
	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.

"The Nature Connection: How It Works"

Tuesday, June 6, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

The First Tuesday Group (65+) will meet 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 Mattlage, 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.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 11, 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Members who come to the Annual Meeting will hear reports from last year, vote on officers and committee members, and approve next year's budget. This year, there is also an informational presentation on Social Action spending and an advisory vote on the status of the "Black Lives Matter" sign in front of our Meeting house. We hope to see you there. For more information, please contact John Stevens, Moderator, at john_stevens43@comcast.net or 978-369-6061, or Kristin Haddad, Chair of the First Parish Standing Committee, at Kristin.haddad@gmail.com or 978-254-5012.

Men's Spiritual Retreat

Saturday, June 17, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

The Second Men's Spiritual Retreat is titled "Walking the 'Amble': A Men's Spiritual Retreat in the Steps of Emerson and Thoreau." Our own Jim Sherblom will be leading us on our amble. Please sign up, if you are interested and haven't already, on sheet in the office. The retreat will begin and end at First Parish. We will gather in the Parlor at 10:00 a.m. and return there by 3:00 p.m. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a bag lunch and some water. We look forward to an informative, rich, and fun experience.

Great Craft Fair and Flea Market and Plant Sale!

Thanks to the many volunteers and visitors, we had another great Craft Fair and Flea Market with our special plant sale included this year. Items, including plants left over from yesterday, will be on sale today during coffee hour. Drop by for some terrific bargains!

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.

Native-American Study Group

Today, June 4, 11:30 a.m. in the Loft

The Native-American Study group will meet to continue exploration of indigenous life and experience. We will discuss the future of the group.

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 today at 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 at skatesuzie@aol.com or 978-369-5352.

A Women'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 at 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 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Contact Jennifer Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com.

Religious Education News

This Sunday, June 4:

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

10:00-11:15 a.m.

Middle OWL– Wright Tavern

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 6 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for their classrooms 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. – Religious Education Classes

Little OWL– Lower Level

Kindergarten & Grade 1– Lower Level

Grades 2– Greeley Room

Grade 3– Ripley Room

Grade 4 & 5– Emerson Room

Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)– Chapel

11:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths meet in the First Parish Parlor to attend Common Cathedral, an ecumenical service for the homeless on Boston Common; Return ~ 3:00 p.m.

Next Sunday, June 11:

Yoga with Laura Grundstrom

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m., Emerson Room

Kindergarten through 3rd graders will enjoy Yoga with Laura who is a certified YogaKids teacher. Some yoga mats will be available. If your family has any yoga mats, please bring them to First Parish that morning.

Kindness Rocks!

10:15–11:15 a.m., Brooks Room

Fourth graders and up will make "Kindness Rocks" with Dawn Van Patten and Rev. Amy Freedman. Why are thousands of people painting rocks for strangers to find? Kindness is contagious! Come join the fun.

Coming of Age Information Meeting

Parents and 8th graders are invited to an informal meeting following the service today. We will meet in the Sunroom of the Wright Tavern (the historic red building next to First Parish) at 11:30 a.m. for an 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. 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, dvanpatten@firstparish.org, or our Minister of Religious Education, Amy, 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 to 11:00 a.m. (except on July 2). Join us for Messy Art, a "Science & Spirituality Scavenger Hunt," Afro-Brazilian Drumming, 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.