

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

September 10, 2017

This Week

Sun. Sept 10	Intergenerational Worship at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Mother/Daughter Book Group 5:30 Opening Sunday Picnic 6:45 Standing Committee Meeting
Mon., Sept 11	1:30 Caregiver Support Group 7:00 Immigration Justice Task Force
Tues., Sept 12	9:00 WPA Board Meeting 12:00 <i>Meeting House News</i> Deadline 2:00 Shawl Ministry 6:30 T'ai Chi
Wed., Sept 13	9:30 Buddhist Group 7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Sept 14	7:00 Race Conversations Group 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Sept 15	7:00 Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sat., Sept 16	7:00 "Go Granny D!"
Sun. Sept 17	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 7:00 Coming of Age Orientation

Parish Notes

First Parish Homecoming Picnic Today, September 10, 5:30 p.m.

All ages. All First Parish. Bring your whole family. Visit with your friends, catch up on the summer news, and meet other First Parish folk. Enjoy the music, labyrinth, and a family activity. This is an evening for everyone. Potluck dessert. Please bring a finger food dessert to share or your own picnic, food and beverage; lawn chairs and blankets. The party will be on the lawns of First Parish, weather permitting, or in the Parish Hall in case of rain. No admission charge. Mark your calendar now.

First Parish Contributions to Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief

First Parish will donate \$5,000 in Social Action Community funds to aid Houston-area victims of Hurricane Harvey. Parishioners can add to these funds during today's service. All non-pledge cash and checks—made out to First Parish in Concord, with "Hurricane Harvey relief" on the memo—collected during the offertory will increase the funds to be sent to Houston. Anyone unable to attend the September 10 service may contribute to this fund any time from now through Thursday morning, September 21, by dropping off cash or checks designated for "Hurricane Harvey relief. Online donations can also be made at firstparish.org in the "Giving" section. Collected funds will go to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, which will distribute the money for disaster relief.

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, September 12, 12:00 Noon

Submissions in final form for the October *Meeting House News* are due by noon, Tuesday, September 12. Please send your submission and images in final form as attachments to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. For dates and guidelines, please review the brochure "Publicizing Events at First Parish in Concord" available on the small table outside the church office, or you can request a PDF from the Editor. After you email your submission and image(s), you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, be sure to contact the Editor. For ideas and examples, you can download and review last year's kickoff newsletter and all newsletters on the First Parish

website at firstparish.org. Submission is limited to 100 words and sent as a Word or Text file. Images can be either JPEG or PNG. Please be sure to send all files as attachments. Thank you!

"Go Granny D!"

Saturday, September 16, 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Come enjoy this 50-minute theatrical performance followed by discussion, sponsored by "Reclaim Our Democracy" and "People Govern. Not Money." The *Monterey Weekly* said of the show, "At age 90 Doris 'Granny D' Haddock blazed a 3200-mile trail across the U.S. for campaign finance reform, precipitating the passage of the McCain-Feingold Act. Off-Broadway actress Barbara Bates Smith and musician Jeff Sebens highlight the story of this crusader who took the world by surprise and was elevated to national fame." For more information, email Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Thoreau as Spiritual Guide

6 Mondays beginning September 18 (no meeting on October 9) 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Rev. Marion Visel will facilitate a series of conversations focused on Thoreau's classic, *Walden*. We will read it as a do-it-yourself guide to simple living, as we wrestle with the questions it raises for us personally. Attendance is limited to 15 participants. For registration and information, contact Rev. Visel at marion.visel@gmail.com, or by a note in her First Parish office mailbox.

WPA Luncheon Program and Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall

The Women's Parish Association cordially invites you to its Luncheon Program and Annual Meeting on September 20 at 11:30 a.m. Enjoy a delicious lunch and program, which will include a celebration of the wonderful activities of First Parish's women's groups and the WPA's Annual Meeting. Luncheon cost is \$12.00. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by September 16 for reservations. All are welcome!

Guided Tour and Gallery Talk at the Walden Woods Project Thursday, September 21, at 11:00 a.m.

Thoreau Institute Library

44 Baker Farm Road, Lincoln, MA 01773

Join us for a session with the Walden Woods Project's Curator of Collections, author, and Thoreau scholar Jeffrey S. Cramer, in the Thoreau Institute Library; a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility. The library maintains the most comprehensive body of Thoreau-related material available in one place. Mr. Cramer will discuss Thoreau's life and writings as they relate to historical items on display in the library. Come with your questions and comments to spark discussion! Limited to 20 people. Carpooling is recommended due to limited parking. Free of charge, but preregistration is necessary. Contact Dianne Weiss at diannemcweiss@comcast.net.

Spiritual Audacity Celebration and Book Release

Friday, September 22, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Come celebrate the publication of Jim Sherblom's memoir, *Spiritual Audacity: Six Disciplines of Human Flourishing*. There will be readings, as well as refreshments served. Contact Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom at jimsherblom@gmail.com or 781-439-4806.

Become a Small Group Ministry Facilitator

Saturday, September 30, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Small Groups offered so far have been very well received, and group facilitators have found the experience to be meaningful and

rewarding. People are enthusiastic about growing spiritually and deepening their relationships with each other, but Small Group Ministry can't exist without facilitators! Facilitating a Small Group requires commitment to a regular meeting schedule. A facilitator is responsible for helping manage group process, and clarifying expectations while modeling caring covenantal relationship. Facilitators will be trained and supported by Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, and the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee. Marion is happy to talk with you about becoming a SGM facilitator! Contact Marion at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239.

Coming This Fall: NAMI Family-to-Family Program

The Family-to-Family Education Program is a free, 12-week course for family members or individuals with mental illnesses. Run by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the course is taught by trained family members. The course includes:

- Acquiring strategies for handling crises and relapse.
- Focusing on care for the caregiver; coping with worry, stress, and overload.
- Guidance on locating appropriate supports and services within the community.

The course will be held at First Parish in Concord on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., September 19 through December 5. To register or for more information contact Clare Cooper at ccooper@westfordconsulting.com or 978-692-8994. Visit nami.org for information on this program and information on mental illness.

Survey Volunteers Needed

Do you have professional experience or expertise in survey construction? If so, the Standing Committee could use your input on the upcoming congregational survey that is a part of our “Year for Reflection and Visioning”. If interested, please contact Tom Wilson at twilson@wilsongroup.com or 617-281-1198 (email preferred).

Social Action

Immigration Justice Task Force

Monday, September 11, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Have you heard of Sanctuary? Do you know what a “Dreamer” is? DACA perhaps? First Parish in Bedford is now ready to offer physical sanctuary, as a Level 1 congregation, to immigrants in danger of immediate deportation. The IJTF has voted to support this important work. We invite the First Parish Concord congregation to join us in officially supporting FP Bedford as a Level 2 Sanctuary congregation. The Standing Committee will be voting in October. The SC and the IJTF would like to hear your questions, concerns, and opinions. For the IJTF, please contact Tony Rodriguez at trod.rodriguez@gmail.com or Laurie VanLoon at lvloon@comcast.net.

Advocates for Women’s Empowerment (AWE) Meeting

Saturday, September 16, 8:00 a.m., Trail’s End Café

Calling activists and feminists who wish to engage in social justice initiatives to empower women! Join us on Saturday, September 16, in Concord to discuss plans for the upcoming year. Our prior initiatives include the LunaFest film festival, women’s toiletry drives, volunteering at Rosie’s Place, organizing buses to the Women’s March, raising money to help sex trafficking victims, supporting the ACLU, lobbying days at the State House, a Women’s Health forum, and more! Add your ideas and energy! Meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Women’s “First Friday” Film Series—Friday, October 6

The Advocates for Women’s Empowerment (AWE) presents “First Friday Films.” These are films written about women and often by women. Movies will be shown in the First Parish Chapel at 7:00 p.m. on the first Friday of each month (no charge, no reservations required). The dates this fall are Friday October 6 (Hidden Figures), November 3 (Water), and December 1 (Beatriz at

Dinner). Please join this cozy gathering for a movie and companionship. Contact Lou Toussaint at mloutoussaint@gmail.com.

Volunteer at Rosie’s Place

Sunday, October 29, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Would you like to cook and serve dinner at Rosie’s Place in Boston on Sunday, October 29 (3:00-5:30 p.m., plus drive time)? Rosie’s Place is a sanctuary for poor and homeless women that serves 3 meals a day, 365 days a year. We are looking for 15 volunteers (adults and teens 12 or older) to participate. Our crew who volunteered in June said that the experience was very gratifying and enjoyable. Sign up soon, as the spots will fill quickly. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women’s Empowerment and funded by a SAC grant. Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com.

Religious Education News

This Week, Sunday, September 10: Welcome Sunday, September 10, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

All ages will worship together. Little RE is available on the Lower Level for our youngest children (0-4 years). Parents are welcome to bring their children downstairs 15 minutes before the service.

Register Children and Youth for Fall Program

New and returning families are encouraged to register children and youth for the 2017-2018 church year. Our Fall program will begin on Sunday, September 17. Please register online today so we can be prepared to welcome your family. <https://goo.gl/forms/nHIXFXbJUpxRb0B52>.

Next Week, September 17: Religious Exploration

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs)—Lower Level

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

UU Explorers, Grade 8—Chapel

Neighboring Faiths—Brooks Room

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 classroom with their teachers. All RE sessions are held until 11:15 a.m. Parents of children age 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.

Kindergarten & Grade 1—Lower Level

Grade 2—Greeley Room

Grade 3—Bulkeley Room

Grade 4—Ripley Room

Grade 5—Wright Tavern

Neighboring Activists, Grades 6—Emerson Room

Coming of Age Orientation

Sunday, September 17, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Emerson Room

The First Parish Coming of Age program is designed for 9th Graders to acknowledge the transition between childhood and adulthood. Coming of Age is a transformative experience co-led by Rev. Amy Freedman and Rev. Ken Reeves. Please bring your favorite potluck appetizer or dessert to share. We will review our plans and share a ritual to begin our year together.

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.