

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

## September 17, 2017

### This Week

Sun. Sept 17	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	<b>Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.</b>
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	11:30 Social Action Meeting
	7:00 Coming of Age Orientation
Mon., Sept 18	7:00 Thoreau as a Spiritual Guide
Tues., Sept 19	6:00 SAC Board Meeting
	6:30 T'ai Chi
	7:00 Nami Family-to-Family
	7:00 Amnesty International
Wed., Sept 20	9:30 Buddhist Group
	11:30 WPA Luncheon Program
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Sept 21	7:00 Membership Committee Meeting
	7:30 By Your Side Singers
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Sept 22	7:00 Spiritual Audacity Book Launch
	7:30 Rise Up Singing
Sat., Sept 23	10:00 Discussion of the 7.5% to Social Action
Sun. Sept 24	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	<b>Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.</b>
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 Environmental Leadership Team
	11:30 Transylvania Pilgrimage Session
	7:00 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

### Parish Notes

#### Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

**Today, September 17, 11:30 a.m.**

"Resist and Rejoice with UU's Worldwide." The General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where attendees worship, witness, sing, learn, connect, and make policy for the association through the democratic process. The GA delegates, both on-site and off-site, will share some of those moments and hopefully inspire you to attend GA in the future. They also bring back resources that will benefit First Parish as we attempt to understand how we can change some of our own patterns.

#### Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group

The first selection for the Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group for this year is *The Wonder*, by Emma Donoghue. All women of First Parish are welcome to join a discussion and there's no need to sign up—just come to either the morning or evening session! This month's discussions will be Monday evening, September 25, 7:30-9:00 p.m., and Tuesday morning, September 26, 9:30-11:00 a.m., both in the Brooks Room at First Parish. If you would like to be added to the Book Group email list for reminders, contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).

#### WPA Luncheon Program and Annual Meeting

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 [pekind@comcast.net](mailto:pekind@comcast.net) by September 17 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 [diannemweiss@comcast.net](mailto:diannemweiss@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. Contact Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom at [jimsherblom@gmail.com](mailto:jimsherblom@gmail.com) or 781-439-4806.

#### April Pilgrimage to Transylvania Informational Meeting

**Sunday, September 24, 11:30 a.m., Emerson Room**

The Partner Congregation Committee (PCC) and Rev. Amy Freedman invite parishioners on a multigenerational pilgrimage to our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania (Romania), that will leave either Thursday or Friday, April 12 or 13, and return Monday, April 23, 2018. There is still time to register and join Howard, Beth, Amy, Dawn, and 14 other adults, youth, and children who have already signed up. The cost will be \$1,800 - \$2,200 per person (depending on airfares). This is open to all congregants, individuals and families alike. Scholarship assistance is available by contacting Amy. To learn more, please visit the PCC table at coffee hour and/or attend this meeting. Contact Lillian Anderson at [lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net) or Amy Freedman at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org) with any questions.

#### Scholarships For Students in Székelykeresztúr

Since 1996 our congregation has provided scholarships to make it possible for deserving Hungarian minority students from rural villages in the Hungarian areas of Transylvania to get a high school education at the Hungarian Unitarian High School in Székelykeresztúr. We are now collecting donations for the coming school year. Look for upcoming announcements about our new scholarship program team, and information for donors for the new freshmen class and for continuing high school and college students. Visit the Partnership table at coffee hour for more information.

#### Family Night Out at First Parish in Concord

**Saturday, September 30, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

Join other parents and guardians of school age children for a fun and relaxing family night out at First Parish. Adults will have the opportunity to get to know one another better over a prepared three course dinner (BYOB). There will be fun, age-appropriate activities for children and youth held in conjunction with the dinner (kids will be fed pizza and pasta). Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. for kids and 7:00 p.m. for adults. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child with a maximum contribution of \$35 per family. Sign up at this link: <http://bit.ly/2xky5D9>. For questions, contact Leah Russell at [leahkrussell@gmail.com](mailto:leahkrussell@gmail.com).

#### 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](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 203-931-5239.

#### Leadership Workshop —"Harvest the Power"

**Saturday, September 30, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Parish Hall**

Through interactive activities, we will all have a chance to learn how to channel our collective power to make a stronger congregation. We'll be

considering big concepts like leadership, management, power, authority, and integrity. Whether you're a seasoned leader, someone who wishes to become one, or a person who is intrigued by the idea—we invite you to participate! Please RSVP to Kate Svrcek at [katesvrcek@hotmail.com](mailto:katesvrcek@hotmail.com) or 781-472-0714 (email preferred).

### 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 dealing 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](mailto:ccooper@westfordconsulting.com) or 978-692-8994. Visit [nami.org](http://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](mailto:twilson@wilsongroup.com) or 617-281-1198 (email preferred).

### Thoreau Bicentennial Events at First Parish in Concord

#### “Her Finer Instincts”: The Women in Thoreau’s Life

**Friday, October 20, 7:00 p.m.**

Professor Sandra Petrulionis lifts up the principled women who shaped Henry Thoreau’s thinking during his formative years and early maturity. Find out what these women taught Henry, and how they influenced the direction of his life. Prof. Petrulionis is a distinguished Professor of English and American Studies, Pennsylvania State University, Altoona. She is the author of *Thoreau in His Own Time*, among many other volumes. Suggested donation: \$5 at the door.

#### “A Visit from Henry David Thoreau”: A Dramatic Performance

**Saturday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.**

Encounter Henry David Thoreau, America’s mid-nineteenth-century apostle of the wilderness, social critic, and political dissenter, on the eve of the Civil War. After his dramatic monologue, “Thoreau” will answer questions from the audience, followed by Professor Radaker responding to questions as himself. Radaker is Professor of English at Anderson University in Indiana, a Thoreau scholar, and accomplished actor. Cosponsored by the Concord Museum, The Thoreau Society, and the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish. Admission: adults \$10, students \$5. For reservations, contact the Concord Museum at 978-369-9763, ext. 216.

## Social Action

### Amnesty International, Group 15

**Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room**

First on the agenda is to sign letters to support human rights activists determined by Amnesty/USA to be “urgent” cases. A new undertaking will be to map out a plan to address the refugee/asylum crisis. Ongoing projects include Massachusetts prison reform, death penalty abolition, the prevention of violence against women worldwide, and the freeing of two Azerbaijanian student activists. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons at [njlyons22@gmail.com](mailto:njlyons22@gmail.com) or 978-369-6109.

### 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](mailto: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 (3:00-5:00 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](mailto:skatesuzie@aol.com).

### Race Conversations Group

The Race Conversations Group (RCG) meets the second Thursday of the month (October 12) at 7:00 p.m. in the Brooks Room. For sale at coffee hour: Bracelet \$6.00; Black Lives Matter pins: 50¢ each, 3 for \$1.00; Black Lives Matter signs \$10.00 each.

## Religious Education News

### Welcome Families!

We are so glad you are here! First Parish in Concord is a vibrant community of all ages. Following the service, please join Amy (our Minister of Religious Education) on the stage of the Parish Hall. She will be there to meet you in person and answer any questions you may have about our RE program or community. There are muffins available on the stage especially for families. Every Sunday during coffee hour, the stage is set up for children and families to connect.

### This 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 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

6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age Orientation, Grade 9 and Parents, Emerson Room

### Coming of Age Orientation

**Sunday, September 17, 6:00- 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.

### Next Week, September 24

### Register Children and Youth for Fall Program

New and returning families are asked to register children and youth for the 2017-2018 church year. Please register online today at <https://goo.gl/forms/nHIXFXbJUpxRb0B52>. This will help our teaching teams to be better able to welcome young people and connect with families. Thanks!

### The Next Monthly Meeting House News Deadline is

**Tuesday, October 17.**

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

The November 2017 edition will be published on October 25.

### The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns at [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).

The Sunday News can be read online at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).