

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

## September 24, 2017

### This Week

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
Mon., Sept. 25	7:00 Thoreau as a Spiritual Guide
	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tues., Sept. 26	9:30 Women's Book Group
	6:30 T'ai Chi
	7:00 Nami Family-to-Family
Wed., Sept. 27	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:30 Discussion on the 7.5% to Social Action
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Sept. 28	6:30 Partner Church Community Potluck
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Sept. 29	8:00 Eric Huenneke's Organ Recital
Sat., Sept. 30	8:00 Leadership Workshop
	9:30 Small Group Ministry Facilitator Training
	5:00 Family Night Out
Sun. Oct. 1	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 Discussion on the 7.5% to Social Action
	4:30 Small Group Ministry

### Parish Notes

#### 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).

#### April Pilgrimage to Transylvania Informational Meeting Today, 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 1997, more than 115 First Parish families, individuals, and groups have helped make it possible for 191 minority Hungarian students from rural areas in Transylvania, Romania, to afford a high school education at the Hungarian Unitarian school in Székelykeresztúr. Each annual scholarship donation pays almost one half of the cost of a student's room and board in the school's dormitory. We are looking for donors to help 9 to 12 deserving incoming freshmen selected by the local scholarship committee. To learn more, or to sign up to be a scholarship donor, please visit our partnership table at coffee hour. You may also contact Dana Booth at [dana.a.booth@gmail.com](mailto:dana.a.booth@gmail.com) (preferred) or 978-369-5702.

### 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 (SGM) Facilitator

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

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.

### "Simple Gifts" (5 sessions)—One of Three Upcoming SGM Groups First Sundays of the Month, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

**October 1, November 5, December 3, January 7, and February 4**  
This group will explore deepening spiritually through practices and topics often thought of as "small" or "simple." Topics will include gratitude as a spiritual practice, simplifying busy lives to make space for spirituality, exploring meaningfulness and fulfillments, acts of kindness as spiritual practices, and cultivating experiences of grace. Facilitated by Roselyn Romberg. Limited to 10 participants. Sign up by contacting Rev. Marion Visel at [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 203-931-5239, or sign the sheet in the front office. Facilitators will contact you the week before the first session.

### Leadership Workshop — "Harvest the Power"

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

Please join the Standing Committee and Rev. Howard Dana for a highly interactive leadership workshop, as we learn how to channel our collective power to make a stronger congregation. We'll work in small groups to examine big concepts like leadership, management, power, authority, and integrity. We'll consider some key attributes of effective congregational leadership, along with how to break through positions that limit our creativity and vision. Whether you're a seasoned First Parish 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 Svrccek at [katesvrccek@hotmail.com](mailto:katesvrccek@hotmail.com) or 781-472-0714 (email preferred).

### First Tuesday Group (65+) Presents "The Memoir: How to Write One" October 3, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

The First Tuesday Group will host Nancy Shohet West's presentation on how to write a memoir, including how to get started, what to explore, and how to work with a professional to write your own. Erica Morrison will report on how, with Nancy's help, she has recently completed her own memoir. (A post-meeting get-together with Standing Committee member Toby Smith will discuss next year's congregational vote on whether to continue the 7.5% budget set aside for social action.) Come participate in this stimulating mix of start-of-the-church-year activities! (While our heading says 65+, please come if you are interested, whatever your age.)

### Intergenerational Square Dance!

**Saturday, October 14, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Hall**

Save the date! Beth Parkes is back as our caller for an evening of square dancing and music. Fantastic fun and so easy to learn, with plenty of time to socialize with new friends and old. Bring a finger food snack and drinks to share. All ages are welcome and no partner is necessary! To offset the cost of the caller, we're asking for a suggested donation of \$5 per person, with a maximum of \$20 per family. RSVP's would be helpful, but are not required. Contact Kate Svrccek at [katesvrccek@hotmail.com](mailto:katesvrccek@hotmail.com). Sponsored by the Membership Committee.

**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.

**Peter Mayer “Blue Boat Home” Concert  
Saturday, October 28, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary**

Singer/songwriter Peter Mayer, author of our very popular hymn, “Blue Boat Home,” will be performing in concert on Saturday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Peter has performed across the country in many UU congregations and we are delighted that we can welcome him to First Parish, both in concert and in worship the following day. Tickets are \$20 and are available at <http://firstparish.org/peter-mayer-concert>. The event is sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy. Contact Lillian Anderson at [lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net) for more information.

**Calling All Helper Elves!**

**Save the Date for the Children’s Holiday Craft Workshop  
Saturday, December 2, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

First Parish children are invited to spend the afternoon creating beautiful handmade gifts for the holidays, with the help of an intergenerational community of adult and teen Helper Elves. We need people to help prep woodworking supplies in October; then we’ll be looking for lots of Helper Elves for the event. Be part of the fun! Please contact Kristin Moore, [kmoore.gm@gmail.com](mailto:kmoore.gm@gmail.com), 978-254-5037. Your Holiday Planning Elves are Kimberly Brainerd, Dave Elwood, Kristin Moore, and Jeanne Williams.

**Social Action**

**March for Racial Justice**

**October 1, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Indian Point Park, Providence, Rhode Island**

Join First Parish in Concord as we march for racial justice. We will be meeting in front of the Hilton Garden Inn Providence, 220 India Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, at 2:45 p.m. The march will begin across the street from the hotel at 3:00 p.m. For more information, contact Zach Roe at [zroe@firstparish.org](mailto:zroe@firstparish.org), or visit <http://www.m4rjri.info>.

**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).

**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).

**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 Dawn Van Patten (our Assistant Director 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.

**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: <https://goo.gl/forms/nHIXFXbJUpxRb0B52>. This will help our teaching teams be better able to welcome young people and connect with families. Thanks!

**This Week, September 24: Religious Exploration**

9:45 a.m. – UU Explorers, Grade 8, Walk the Emerson-Thoreau Amble

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

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths, Grade 7 – Brooks Room

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 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

**Family Night Out at First Parish**

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

Come enjoy a fun evening with other First Parish families! Adults will get to know one another over dinner. Children and youth will enjoy the evening too! Dinner will be served separately to kids, followed by a variety of supervised activities to choose from:

- The Screening Room: Movie shorts and cartoons playing all night long
- The Transformation Room: Wild and creative activities for a crazy make-over
- The Hands-On Room: Board games, crafts and puzzles galore
- The Youngsters’ Room: Toys, games, and books especially for the younger set

Sign up online: <http://bit.ly/FamNite>. Cost: \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (family maximum of \$35). Questions? Contact Leah Russell at [leahkrussell@gmail.com](mailto:leahkrussell@gmail.com).

**Next Week, October 1: Religious Exploration**



**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.