

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

October 1, 2017

This Week

Sun. Oct. 1	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 Discussion on 7.5% to Social Action
	4:30 Small Group Ministry
Mon., Oct. 2	1:30 Caregiver Support Group
	7:00 Thoreau as a Spiritual Guide
Tues., Oct. 3	1:30 First Tuesday Group
	3:00 Discussion on 7.5% to Social Action
	6:30 T'ai Chi
	7:00 Nami Family-to-Family
Wed., Oct. 4	9:30 Buddhist Group
	10:00 Catnip Ball Workshop
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Oct. 5	7:00 Small Group Ministry
	7:30 By Your Side Singers
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Oct. 6	6:30 AWE Movie Night
Sun. Oct. 8	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
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Parish Notes

Scholarships for Students in Székelykeresztúr

Many thanks to those who have already volunteered to donate a scholarship to support a deserving incoming freshman at the Hungarian Unitarian High School in Székelykeresztúr. We still need a few more donors to make sure that all the eligible incoming freshmen Hungarian minority students from rural villages will be supported. To learn more, or to sign up to be a scholarship donor, please visit our partnership table at coffee hour, or contact Dana Booth at dana.a.booth@gmail.com (preferred) or 978-369-5702.

Small Group Ministry Groups: Fall 2017

Aging and Becoming (6 sessions) Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

October 17 and 31, November 14 and 28, December 12 and 19

We are all growing older all the time. This group will explore together questions such as: How are we changing spiritually as we age? What matters most to us now? Are your interests and expectations transforming, and are you able to embrace the new? What is on your "spiritual bucket list"? What fears and hopes do you have for this time of life? Cofacilitated by Dana Snyder-Grant and Laura Bernstein. Limited to 9 participants.

Ourselves, Our Faith, Our Turbulent Times (6 sessions)

Thursdays, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

October 5 and 19, November 2, 16, and 30, December 7

We will share our stories as we draw from the UUA Small Group Ministry's curriculum, *A Call to Faith in Turbulent Times*. Sessions include Call to Love, Call to Vision, Call to Imagination, and Call to Relationship. These sessions were designed to nurture, support, and strengthen UU's in this moment of significant societal challenges. The group will create a safe space to explore feelings regarding current events and will affirm our commitment to being in community. We will ask ourselves: how am I learning, how am I in relationship, how can I cocreate change, and what do I need to sustain me as I work for change? Specific focus topics include immigration and race. Beginners to these topics are encouraged to attend. Cofacilitated by Merrill Comeau and Zach Roe. Limited to 13 participants.

Simple Gifts (5 sessions)

First Sundays of the Month, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

October 1, November 5, December 3, January 7, 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 or 203-931-5239, or sign the sheet in the front office. Facilitators will contact you the week before the first session.

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's Toby Smith will discuss next year's congregational vote on 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.)

Catnip Ball Workshop, October 4

The WPA will hold a Catnip Ball Workshop on October 4 from 10:00 a.m. to noon to prepare catnip balls for the Artisans Fair. Check the announcement board for the room. Please bring any collected bottle caps and knitted covers with you or leave them on the exchange shelf in the office ahead of time. This is a fun project and all are welcome to help. Our feline friends especially thank you for your help and contributions!

The Women in Thoreau's Life

"Her Finer Instincts: The Women in Thoreau's Life" will be presented by Prof. Sandra Petrulionis on October 20 at 7:00 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish in Concord and the Women's Parish Association. Contact Dian Pekin, pekindc@comcast.net, or the church office, 978-369-9602, by Oct. 19. Reservations are not required but highly recommended to help the planning committee. The latest books of Prof. Petrulionis will be available for sale during the evening.

First Parish Mom's Night Out (MNO) Fall Fling!

First Parish's MNO group is organizing a casual gathering on Friday, October 20, at 7:30 p.m. at The Red Raven in Acton. Come share a drink, lively conversation, and ideas for other MNO events with your fellow FP moms. No need to RSVP. Just come ready to have fun. Moms' Night Out was created by FP moms as a way to get together to socialize, build a support network, and share ideas about raising kids in today's world. All FP moms and guardians are welcome! For more information, join the MNO listserv by sending an email to valvallancourt@gmail.com.

"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.

Concord Crop Walk on October 22

The Concord Crop Walk (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) will take place, starting at First Parish, on Sunday, October 22; registration is at 1:30 p.m., step-off at 2:15 p.m. This walk raises funds for nine local area food pantries and suppers, as well as the global disaster relief and projects of Church World Service, including responses to the recent hurricanes. You are welcome to do one or both of the loops available. Invite people to sponsor you or support our Neighboring Activists (6th grade) team. Please plan to walk or sponsor a walker; Rev. Jo VonRue (our Minister in Residence) is seeking sponsors. Come to the coffee hour table, or see concordcrop.org for more information. You may also register to walk or make a donation online.

**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 for more information.

Holiday Artisans Fair

Plans are well under way for this year’s Holiday Artisans Fair, which will be held on November 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Women’s Parish Association will hold its popular WPA Boutique again at this year’s fair and is looking for donations of handmade items as well as high-quality regifting items such as jewelry, artwork, home decorating items, etc. Please contact the office at 978-369-9602, or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to arrange for your donations or to offer your help in making catnip balls.

**A Mom’s Night Out event, Ladies Night at the Theatre
Thursday, November 2**

Join us at Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) in Lowell to see “Silent Sky,” based on the true story of women astronomers working at Harvard Observatory in the early 20th century. The complimentary wine, cheese, and chocolate reception begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by the 7:30 p.m. showing. All are welcome! To buy discounted tickets of \$32 per person, use promo code FPLADIES, call the Box Office at 978-654-4678, or visit mrt.org. MRT is located at 50 East Merrimack Street, Lowell. Contact Jeanne Williams at 978-578-7515, jeannie4of7@hotmail.com, with questions.

Social Action

7.5% for Social Action? What Do You Think?

Today, 11:30 a.m., Emerson Room

For 20 years now First Parish has set aside 7.5% of its annual pledges for social action. Should we keep doing this or fund social action work in different ways? Next June, the congregation will vote at annual meeting to reaffirm, revise, or revoke this policy. Today is the final scheduled open discussion before the congregational survey (more will be scheduled after the survey results are acquired). Contact Kristin Haddad at 617-875-0903 or kristin.haddad@gmail.com (email preferred) with questions.

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 in 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, visit <http://www.m4rjri.info>.

Dessert with Zach

Are you are interested in the future of Social Action at First Parish? Would you like to talk with our Social Action Coordinator, Zach Roe, in a casual setting, to share ideas about the future? If so, please join us for dessert at Kristin Haddad’s home at 7:30 on Wednesday, October 4, at 7:30 p.m. RSVP’s to Kristin, kristin.haddad@gmail.com or (978) 254-5012, are appreciated to help in food planning, but are not required.

AWE First Friday Film Series

Friday, October 6, 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

The Advocates for Women’s Empowerment First Friday Free Film series kicks off with “Hidden Figures” on October 6. Three brilliant African-American women at NASA are the brains behind the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. Contact Lou Toussaint at mloutoussaint@gmail.com.

AWE Retreat

Sunday, October 15, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., at First Parish

Calling activists and feminists interested in women’s empowerment social justice initiatives! Join the Advocates for Women’s Empowerment at a reflective retreat on October 15. We’ll look back at what we’ve accomplished and look forward to where we are going. Contact Colleen Mischel at colleen.mischel@gmail.com.

Advocates for Women’s Empowerment Monthly Meeting

Saturday, October 21, 8:00 a.m., Serendipity Cafe in Maynard

Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month. We’ll meet on October 21. To join the mailing list, contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

AWE Book Group

Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 p.m., First Parish

The Advocates for Women’s Empowerment book group resumes November 7 with “Evicted,” a Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Matthew Desmond. Books are chosen to connect us to action by helping us understand and motivate. This book highlights eight families on the edge in Milwaukee and relates to our work at Rosie’s Place. All are welcome. No RSVP needed. Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com.

Religious Education News

This Week, October 1: Religious Exploration

9:00 a.m. – 3rd Grade RE Breakfast, Parlor
9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths– Brooks Room
10:00 a.m. – UU Explorers, Grade 8, Chapel

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, Grade 9– Emerson Room
6:00 p.m. – Youth Group– Loft

Hey Teens—Let’s Hang Out!

Today, October 1, 6:00 p.m., in the Loft

We will talk about our hopes for the new youth year. A pizza dinner will be provided! For any questions, contact Rev. Jo VonRue at jvonrue@firstparish.org.

Next Week, October 8: Kids Yoga, Multi-age program

Following the Children’s Message, a special Yoga session on *course* will be offered in the Emerson Room. Our yoga instructor will be Laura Grundstrom, 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 on Sunday. Laura is looking forward to teaching our children and sharing with them her passion for yoga and fun! Parents are asked to pick up their kids in the Emerson Room following the service.

Family Social Action—Gleaning*

Saturday, October 28

What is gleaning? Harvesting surplus crops from farmers’ fields. In partnership with Boston Area Gleaners, First Parish in Concord is gathering volunteers to go gleaning. Everything collected will then be distributed to Boston area food pantries, meal programs, and low-income markets. Time and exact location TBD (with be in Concord area). Contact: Zach Roe, First Parish Social Action Coordinator, for more information and registration information at zroe@firstparish.org.



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.

November Meeting House News Deadline:

Tuesday, October 17

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

The November 2017 edition will be published on October 25.