

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

October 8, 2017

This Week

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
Mon., Oct. 9	7:00 Immigration Justice Task Force Meeting
Tues., Oct. 10	2:00 Shawl Ministry
	4:00 Beginner Ukulele Class
	6:30 T'ai Chi
	7:00 Nami Family-to-Family
Wed., Oct. 11	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Oct. 12	7:00 Race Conversations Group
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Oct. 13	6:30 T'ai Chi
Sat., Oct 14	9:30 Photo Club Meeting
	6:30 Intergenerational Square Dance
Sun. Oct. 15	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
	11:30 Transylvania Pilgrimage Meeting
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	3:00 AWE Retreat
	6:00 Standing Committee Meeting

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

Sunday October 8, 11:30 a.m.

"Continuing the Conversation." Join Jo VonRue, Minister in Residence, after worship to continue the conversations on race and white supremacy in our country and in our UUA. Here, we mean: "White supremacy as a set of institutional assumptions and practices, often operating unconsciously, that tend to benefit white people and exclude people of color." In 2017, actual "white supremacists" are not required in order to uphold white supremacist culture. Building a faith of people who understand that key distinction is essential as we work toward a more just society in difficult political times. Contact Pat Brinkman at pabrinkman@comcast.net or Alan Whitney at awhitney@alum.mit.edu.

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 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. 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.

Scholarships for Students in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania

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 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. We are waiting for confirmation about returning students.

Intergenerational Square Dance

Saturday, October 14, 6:30-9:30pm, Parish Hall

Beth Parkes is back as our caller for an evening of square dancing and music. Fun and easy to learn, with plenty of time to socialize with friends. Bring finger food 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 Svrcek at katesvrcek@hotmail.com. Sponsored by the Membership Committee.

Meet the Trustees

Sunday, October 15, 11:30 a.m.

Ever wondered what our Trustees do? How they invest our money in socially responsible ways? How they support First Parish? What they have done and what they can do? Come to the Sunday Forum on October 15 to learn, discuss, and see what our legacy investments do for First Parish.

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 at pekincd@comcast.net, or the church office, 978-369-9602 by October 19. Reservations are not required, but appreciated. 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 First Parish moms. No need to RSVP. Moms' Night Out was created by moms as a way to get together to socialize, build a support network, and share ideas about raising kids in today's world. All First Parish moms and guardians are welcome! For more information, join the MNO listserv by sending an email to valvallancourt@gmail.com.

Host Family Needed for October 20 and 21

Prof. Kevin Radaker is performing a "Visit with Henry David Thoreau" at First Parish in Concord on October 21. He will be arriving late in the afternoon on October 20 and needs housing in a pet-free home, with a well-lit bathroom so he can apply his make-up and costume; preferably within walking distance of Concord Center so he can walk to the Thoreau exhibit at the Concord Museum and the Visitors Center at Walden Pond. If you can help, please notify Victor Curran at vacurran@comcast.net. Thank you!

"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 is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. For reservations, contact the Concord Museum at 978-369-9763, ext. 216.

Concord Crop Walk on October 22

The Concord Crop Walk will take place, starting at First Parish, on Sunday, October 22; registration at 1:30 p.m. and 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. You can do one or both of the loops available. Invite people to sponsor you, or support our Neighboring Activists team. Please plan to walk or sponsor a walker; Rev. Jo VonRue 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 October 28. Peter has performed in many UU congregations and we are delighted to 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.

Women’s AM/PM Book Group

The October selection for the Women’s AM/PM Book Group for this year is *The Hungry Ocean: A Swordboat Captain’s Journey* by Linda Greenlaw, the swordboat captain herself. 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, October 30, 7:30-9:00 p.m., and Tuesday morning, October 31, 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, darien@smithquest.com.

Holiday Artisans Fair

It’s time to get ready for this year’s Holiday Artisans Fair, which will be held on November 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Over 40 artists and artisans will be showcasing and selling their latest works. There will be many new vendors as well as old favorites. Bring your neighbors, family members and friends for a fun day of browsing, shopping, and socializing. Café open all day. 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, like-new items such as jewelry, artwork, holiday and general home decorating items, etc. Contact the office at 978-369- 9602 or Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net to arrange donations.

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 the 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 for \$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

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.

Race Conversations Event: Save the Date Sunday, November 5, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

First Parish and the Robbins House are hosting Rev. David Billings, antiracist activist and historian from Mississippi. Author of the book *Deep Denial*, he will discuss the intricacies of white supremacy in our country, past and present. Stop by our coffee hour table today to learn more. The next meeting of Race Conversations Group is this Thursday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

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 Exploration News

This Sunday, October 8: Kids Yoga, Multiage program

Following the Children’s Message, a special Yoga session exploring COURAGE 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.

Next Sunday, October 15: Religious Exploration

CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 22, 1:30 p.m.

Sign up to walk as a family to end hunger locally and globally! Nine local food pantries and community suppers are supported by the Concord CROP Walk. The 7km route starts and ends on the front steps of First Parish in Concord. The walk has two loops: the first loop goes through the historic National Park, taking one across the North Bridge: while the second loop takes walkers up the beautiful Nashawtuc Hill area. You are welcome to do one loop or both. Invite people to sponsor you or support our Neighboring Activists (6th grade) team: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/concordma/Team/View/47929/Neighboring-Activists>.

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.