

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

October 15, 2017

This Week

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
Mon., Oct. 16	7:30 Thoreau as a Spiritual Guide
Tues., Oct. 17	2:00 Shawl Ministry
	6:30 T'ai Chi
	7:00 Nami Family-to-Family
	7:00 Amnesty International
Wed., Oct. 18	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Oct. 19	7:00 Membership Committee Meeting
	7:30 By Your Side Singers
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Oct. 20	12:30 T'ai Chi
	6:00 Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
	7:00 The Women in Thoreau's Life
Sat., Oct. 21	10:00 SAC Intersectionality Conversation
	5:30 A Visit from Henry David Thoreau
Sun. Oct. 22	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
	1:00 CROP Walk

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary Sunday, October 8, 11:30 a.m.

Meet the Trustees of Parish Donations. Learn who they are and what they do. Hear how and why they have changed the investment management of the Legacy Investment Fund. The Trustees oversee the management of First Parish's three million dollar Legacy Investment Fund, and manage the ancillary buildings on the Church Green. Meet the new investment advisor to the Trustees, First Parish member George Gagliardi, and hear how the investment management approach to the fund has changed. Learn how the Trustees support First Parish's mission and operations, and how the two bodies work together. Watch for information on the November 12 Forum, sponsored by the Legacy Giving Committee, which will describe a recently initiated program to build up the Legacy Investment Fund; over time, a larger fund will increase the support that the Trustees can provide to the Church. Contact Pat Brinkman at pabrinkman@comcast.net or Alan Whitney at awhitney@alum.mit.edu.

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 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. We now have confirmation about returning students and class coordinators are reaching out to scholarship donors.

Ourselves, Our Faith, Our Turbulent Times (5 sessions remain) 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.

November Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, October 17, 12:00 Noon

Submissions in final form for the November *Meeting House News* are due by noon, Tuesday, October 17. Please send your submission and images as attachments to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. For dates and guidelines, please review the brochure "Publicizing Events at First Parish of 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 at <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/meeting-house-news/>. 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. The November *Meeting House News* will be published on October 25, 2017. The deadline for the December edition will be November 14, with a publication date of November 22; and the January edition deadline will be January 12, with a publication date of January 20.

The Women in Thoreau's Life

"Her Finer Instincts: The Women in Thoreau's Life" will be presented by Prof. Sandra Petrulionis on Friday, 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's 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. The Café is 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 pekindc@comcast.net to arrange for 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 or jeannie4of7@hotmail.com with questions.

Social Action

AWE Retreat

Today, 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 Activities

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 and/or purchase a copy of his book.

Ongoing: Coffee hour provides an opportunity to pick up a list of resources for learning more about white supremacy.

Beloved Conversations: Talk to us about an opportunity to participate this winter in a UU program developed to help us hone our skills and habits of mind in order to work toward healing the wounds of racism. For more information, contact Margie King Saphier at 978-369-4467 or margie.king.saphier@gmail.com.

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 15: Religious Exploration

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:00 a.m. – UU Explorers, Grade 8, attending service together

10:00 a.m. – 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, Grade 9 – Parish Hall

Next Sunday, October 22: Religious Exploration

Bring Photo and Box for Memory Boxes

Children in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 are invited to bring a photo of a loved one who has died with them to First Parish on Sunday, October 22. The photo could be of someone you miss—like a relative, friend or pet, or an ancestor you never met. Please bring a shoebox or small box with you. We will be making Memory Boxes on October 22 and 29. On Sunday, November 5, we will have a special service in the Chapel. Donations of extra shoeboxes may be dropped off in the RE Office. Thanks!

CROP Hunger Walk

Next 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 7-km 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 to 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: 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. The minimum age requirement is 13. Time and exact location TBD (will be in the 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.