

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

## October 22, 2017

### This Week

|                |       |                                     |
|----------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Sun. Oct. 22   | 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       |
|                | 12:15 | Contemporary Vocal Ensemble         |
|                | 1:30  | CROP Walk                           |
| Mon., Oct. 23  | 7:30  | Thoreau as a Spiritual Guide        |
| Tues., Oct. 24 | 4:00  | Beginner Ukulele Class              |
|                | 6:30  | T'ai Chi                            |
|                | 7:00  | Nami Family-to-Family               |
| Wed., Oct. 25  | 9:30  | Buddhist Group                      |
|                | 7:45  | Adult Choir Rehearsal               |
| Thu., Oct. 26  | 7:30  | Buddhist Group                      |
| Fri., Oct. 27  | 7:30  | Rise Up Singing                     |
| Sat., Oct. 28  | 7:30  | Peter Mayer Concert                 |
| Sun. Oct. 29   | 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       |

### Parish Notes

#### Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary Today, October 22, 11:30 a.m.

The Clover Foundation's mission is to enable young children living in Kampala, Uganda, to have the health, confidence, and ability to grow and become a source of change in their community. Clover supports the education of 71 children from impoverished families. To provide for Clover families, a nano-finance program, Kisoboka, gives mothers interest-free loans to build their small businesses. Come hear about how Clover changes lives from Peter Hilton, chair of the board of Clover, and from others who have visited Kampala. They will report on the SAC grant Clover received for an early literacy program created by MIT and Tufts and would like to explore partnering with First Parish children and teachers. Contact Pat Brinkman at [pabrinkman@comcast.net](mailto:pabrinkman@comcast.net) and Alan Whitney at [awhitney@alum.mit.edu](mailto: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 or 978-369-5702 or [dana.a.booth@gmail.com](mailto:dana.a.booth@gmail.com) (preferred). We now have confirmation about returning students and class coordinators are reaching out to scholarship donors,

#### Concord Crop Walk—Today

The Concord Crop Walk will take place today; registration is 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](http://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](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net) for more information.

#### The Sanctuary Movement

##### Sunday, October 29, 11:30, Sanctuary

We are being bombarded by immigration news. For many, this news provokes serious concerns about human rights. That's why we formed an Immigration Justice Task Force here at First Parish. We invite you to join us to hear about what we can do to make a difference. For more information, contact Tony Rodriquez at [trod.rodriquez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriquez@gmail.com), or Laurie VanLoon at [lyanloon@comcast.net](mailto:lyanloon@comcast.net).

#### 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](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).

#### Regional Gathering of Partner Congregations

##### Celebrating Halottak Napja (All Souls Day)

##### Wednesday, November 1, 6:45 to 9:00 p.m., First Parish in Bedford

As many partnerships do, members of our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr visit the cemeteries and decorate graves with flowers and candles to honor the lives of family and friends. Some of us have been there to join them in this beautiful celebration. For many years, First Parish in Bedford has also observed this day by gathering at their Memorial Garden to light candles and remember those who have died. This year they are inviting other congregations to join them for this remembrance and to stay for coffee, dessert, and partnership conversation. If you are interested in participating, please RSVP to Lillian Anderson at [lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net).

#### 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 nice 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](mailto:pekincd@comcast.net) to arrange for your donations or offer your help.

#### 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](http://mrt.org). MRT is located at 50 East Merrimack Street, Lowell. Contact Jeanne Williams at 978-578-7515 or [jeannie4of7@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannie4of7@hotmail.com) with questions.

#### All Souls: Remembering Well

##### Sunday, November 5, 10:00 a.m.

During our All Souls service this year, we will create a Communal Altar of Remembrance. Bring a small photo (or a copy of a photo) of loved ones who have died. There will be an opportunity for you to place them on our Communal Altar. For those who don't have a photo with them,

there will a slip of paper with the order of service on which you can write their names and place on the altar.

### **“Men’s Spirituality Retreat—A Conversation among Gay and Straight Men.”**

**Saturday, November 11, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Lunch Included**

Led by Rev. Howard N. Dana and Jeff Clanon. Come engage in a conversation about the similarities and differences between gay and straight men. Three openly gay men, Steve Cadwell, Howard Dana, and Zach Roe, will talk about their experiences growing up gay in three different eras. All participants will reflect on these questions: What does our own sense of masculinity tell us about ourselves and other men? How can we broaden our spirituality as it relates to our masculinity? There will be large and small group opportunities for sharing. All straight, gay, bi, and transgender men connected with First Parish are welcome. Please plan to stay for the whole retreat—no latecomers or early departures. Please call the church office to sign up at 978-369-9602.

### **Shopping for a Cause!**

**Friday, November 17, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

The First Parish Moms’ Night Out is sponsoring a private shopping party at the new woman-owned clothing and jewelry boutique Wish, located at 525 Massachusetts Avenue, West Acton. Come get a jump start on your holiday shopping while enjoying a glass of wine and hanging out with friends. 15% of the proceeds will be used to support the Secret Santa program at First Parish which helps people in our community during this holiday season. All are welcome! Contact Jen Izzo at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com) or 617-869-5563 (email preferred) with any questions.

### **Save the Date—Holiday Concert and Tea**

It’s not too early to start planning your holiday season calendar. Our annual Holiday Concert and Tea will be held on Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m. All are warmly welcome. There is no charge for this festive event. Stay tuned for further details, which will appear in the *Meeting House News* and future notices.

### **Social Action**

#### **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 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](mailto: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](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com).

### **Amnesty International, Group 15**

**Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room**

This month we’ll finalize our annual December Write for Rights tabling at various faith groups. Also on the agenda are updates/actions on Massachusetts legislation re: criminal justice reform, access to contraception, and child marriage. Ongoing advocacy includes death penalty abolition and the freeing of two Azerbaijani 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.

### **Religious Exploration News**

**This Sunday, October 22: Religious Exploration**

Neighboring Faiths (7th Grade) – Visit Sri Lakshmi Temple, Ashland, Mass.

UU Explorers (8th Grade)– Visit First Parish in Weston, Mass.

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

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 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

**Next Sunday, October 29: 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 to First Parish on Sundays, October 22 and 29. The photo could be of someone you miss, like a relative, friend, or pet, or an ancestor or hero you never met. Please bring a shoebox with you (we have extras). We will make Memory Boxes on October 22 and 29. On November 5, K-4 will have a special Chapel with Amy and Dawn. If you would like to share about a recent death in your family or have any questions, please contact Rev. Amy Freedman at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org). Donations of extra shoeboxes may be dropped off in the RE office anytime. Thanks!

#### **CROP Hunger Walk**

**Today, October 22, 1:30 p.m.**

Walk as a family to end hunger locally and globally. Come join the fun! 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 that take about one hour each. 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. The minimum age requirement is 13. 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](mailto: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](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).

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