

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

October 29, 2017

This Week

Sun. Oct. 29	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
	5:00 "Grub's Place" Reunion Potluck
Mon., Oct. 30	7:30 Thoreau as a Spiritual Guide
	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tues., Oct. 31	9:30 Women's Book Group
	10:30 Small Group Ministry
	4:00 Beginner Ukulele Class
	6:30 T'ai Chi
	7:00 Nami Family-to-Family
Wed., Nov. 1	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Nov. 2	7:30 Buddhist Group
	7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Nov. 3	7:00 AWE Movie Night
Sat., Nov. 4	10:00 Artisans Fair
Sun. Nov. 5	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 Artisans Sale on the Stage
	Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 Transylvania Pilgrimage Meeting
	11:30 Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	3:00 Rev. David Billings Program
	4:30 Small Group Ministry

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

Today, October 29, 11:30 a.m.

"The Sanctuary Movement: What is First Parish doing?" Come learn about our neighbor's decision to offer sanctuary: What does the word "sanctuary" mean for faith communities? Why might people seek sanctuary, and what is it like for them? Why has First Parish in Bedford chosen to provide physical sanctuary, and how did they decide? What can sanctuary mean for us at First Parish (a neighboring congregation)? Sponsored by First Parish in Concord's Immigration Justice Task Force.

Silent Auction for Thoreau Book

The Women's Parish Association is holding a silent auction for a delightful illustrated book by Helen Stoddard entitled, *H.D. Thoreau, Scenario of His Early Life*. The bidding sheet will be available at coffee hour today. Proceeds will be used for First Parish maintenance.

Scholarships for Students in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania

Donors who have already volunteered to support incoming freshmen: we now have the application letters and photos. A few more donors are needed to provide scholarships to incoming freshman minority students from rural villages. To make your scholarship donation for a continuing student, sign up to be a scholarship donor, or learn more, please visit our table at coffee hour, or contact Dana Booth at dana.a.booth@gmail.com (preferred) or 978-369-5702.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The October selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *The Hungry Ocean: A Swordboat Captain's Journey*, by Linda Greenlaw, the captain herself. All women of First Parish are

welcome to join. No need to sign up—just come to either 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., in the Brooks Room. If you would like to be added to the Book Group email list, contact Darien Smith at 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

Members of our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr visit the cemeteries and decorate graves to honor the lives of family and friends. Some of us have joined them in this celebration. First Parish in Bedford has also observed this day by gathering at their Memorial Garden to light candles and remember those who have died. They are inviting other congregations to join in this remembrance and stay for coffee, dessert, and conversation. If you are interested, please RSVP to Lillian Anderson at lillianand@comcast.net.

Holiday Artisans Fair

November 4, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Over 40 artists, old and new, will showcase their works at the Holiday Artisans Fair. Bring loved ones for shopping, door prizes, and raffle items. The café will be open all day. The WPA Boutique is looking for donations of handmade items and re-gifting items like jewelry, artwork, home goods, etc. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net to arrange for pickup of donations or to offer your help.

A Mom's Night Out Event, Ladies Night at the Theatre

Thursday, November 2, Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT)

Join us 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., with the showing at 7:30 p.m. Buy discounted tickets for \$32 per person, using 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.

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 a loved one who has died. There will be an opportunity for you to place it on our Communal Altar. For those who don't have a photo with them, there will be a slip of paper with the order of service on which you can write the person's name instead.

The Children's Holiday Craft Workshop

Saturday, December 2, 2017, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Children are invited to spend an afternoon creating gifts for the holidays, with the assistance of helper elves—no need to register. Cost: \$15 per child, \$45 max per family. Calling all elves: volunteer by filling out this online form: <https://goo.gl/forms/VuPpQgUCFEt4Ao0W2>, visit our coffee hour table, email craftsworkshop@firstparish.org, or call Kristin Moore at

978-254-5037. Some open spots include those of Lead, Crafty, Helper, Setup, and Cleanup Elves. Thank you for helping us create a cozy, creative day for the Parish's children.

Social Action

AWE's First Friday Free Feminist Film Series Friday, November 3, 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

Join the Advocates for Women's Empowerment to see "Water," a 2005 film written and directed by Deepa Mehta. Set in 1938, it explores the lives of widows at an ashram (home for widows) in Varanasi, India. The unspoken subtext is that an ancient religious law has been used in the service of family economy, greed, and a general feeling that women can be thrown away. No RSVP needed. Contact Lou Toussaint at mloutoussaint@gmail.com.

Upcoming Event: Talk by David Billings Sunday, November 5, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Race Conversations Group and the Robbins House are hosting Rev. David Billings, antiracist activist and historian. Author of *Deep Denial*, he will discuss white supremacy in our country, past and present. A discussion session will be held on Monday, November 6, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Brooks Room. Stop by our coffee hour table to learn more and/or to purchase his book. 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. We choose books that connect us to action by helping us understand and motivate one another. This book highlights eight families in Milwaukee on the edge and relates to our work at Rosie's Place. All are welcome. No RSVP needed. Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com.

"Wild & Precious" Film Prescreening

Saturday, November 12, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Congregant Steve Cadwell premiered his production of his poems, stories, music, and photographs at First Parish in 2014. It chronicles his journey, coming out, navigating life as a gay man, and creating a family. The Diversity Committee will present a prescreening for friends and sponsors, followed by a talk-back with Steve. Suggested donation is \$10, which will benefit the LGBT Asylum Task Force.

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 or 978-369-6109.

Religious Exploration News

This Sunday, October 29: Religious Exploration

8:45 a.m. – UU Explorers (Grade 8) – Visit First Parish in Medfield, Mass., Return 12:30 p.m.

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

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Activists (Grade 6) – Sleepy Hollow walking tour. Return 11:30 a.m.

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.

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten & Grade 1 – Lower Level

Grade 2 – Greeley Room

Grade 3 – Bulkeley Room

Grade 4 – Ripley Room

Grade 5 – Wright Tavern

6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age, Grade 9 – Parish Hall

Next Sunday, November 5: Religious Exploration

Three Cheers for Neighboring Activists Team!

Congratulations to our Neighboring Activists team of 6th graders who helped to end hunger one step at a time by participating in this year's CROP Hunger Walk last Sunday. They exceeded their goal and raised \$525! Nine local food pantries and community suppers are supported by the Concord CROP Walk, including Open Table, which is hosted at First Parish in Concord every Thursday evening. Keep up the good work!

UU Explorers Learn about Unitarian Universalism

Following Neighboring Faiths as a 7th grader, we are offering "UU Explorers" for our 8th graders. This gives our young people the opportunity to learn more about our liberal religious traditions, including Transcendentalism and spiritual practices. Last Sunday, this group visited First Parish in Weston, which is a Christian Unitarian Universalist congregation. Leader Peter Nobile writes, "Continuing our journey of cross-pollination, this Sunday our intrepid explorers will experience Rev. Lilia Cuervo's *Day of the Dead* service at First Parish in Medfield. This service, a culturally Mexican tradition, is a very sweet and often powerful remembrance of our ancestors."

Rev. Gary Smith Offers Tour of Sleepy Hollow

Today our 6th graders will meet at 10:00 a.m. on the front steps for our annual tour of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Rev. Gary Smith, our Minister Emeritus, will offer stories about our spiritual ancestors buried there. The group will lay roses on the graves as a sign of our respect. The group will return to First Parish by 11:30 a.m..

November Meeting House News Deadline: Tuesday, November 14

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 December 2017 edition will be published on November 22.

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.