

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

November 5, 2017

This Week

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
	3:00 Rev. David Billings Program
	4:30 Small Group Ministry
Mon., Nov. 6	1:30 Caregiver Support Group
	7:00 Race Conversations Group
	8:00 Immigration Justice Task Force
Tues., Nov. 7	1:30 First Tuesday Group
	4:00 Beginner Ukulele Class
	6:00 Empty Bowls
	6:30 T'ai Chi
	7:00 Nami Family-to-Family
Wed., Nov. 8	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:00 Gas Leaks Forum
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Nov. 9	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Nov. 10	12:30 T'ai Chi
Sat., Nov. 11	9:00 Men's Retreat
	9:30 Photo Club Meeting
Sun. Nov. 12	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
	6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
	7:00 "Wild and Precious" Film

Parish Notes

Thanks For Another Great Fair

The Women's Parish Association extends heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who helped make yesterday's Holiday Artisans Fair another great event. At coffee hour this morning, on the stage in the parish hall, you can still purchase items remaining from yesterday's WPA Boutique. Thanks again!

Scholarships for Students in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania

We now have letters and photos for the incoming freshmen. To select and make your scholarship donation for a freshman, to make your scholarship donation for a continuing student, or to learn more, please visit our partnership table at coffee hour, or contact Dana Booth at dana.a.booth@gmail.com (preferred) or 978-369-5702, or Kathy Spang at katalinspang@yahoo.com. Many thanks to all who have already volunteered to support a deserving incoming freshman, or who have already sent in your scholarship donations. Your generous support is much appreciated.

"What's That Smell?—Concord Gas Leaks Forum"

Climate Solutions Speaker Series

Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Far from being safe and environmentally clean, methane gas can pose serious health, safety, and environmental problems—especially when it leaks. Concord alone has over 115 methane leaks. On Wednesday evening, November 8, in the First Parish lower hall, Nathan Phillips, Ph.D., Regina LaRocque,

MD, Audrey Shulman of HEET (Home Energy Efficiency Team), and Marcy Reed, National Grid's U.S. Chief of Business Operations will discuss the impact of leaking gas and what can be done. A reception will follow at 8:30 p.m. The event is organized by the Climate Solutions Speaker Series, of which First Parish is a cosponsor.

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

Sunday, November 12, 11:30 a.m.

"Estate Planning and the Legacy Giving Program." Ever wondered what is important to include in an estate plan or in your legacy giving plan? Come to this special Forum introduction, sponsored by the First Parish Legacy Giving Committee, and learn, discuss, and discover what you may need or ways to improve your plan. The program will feature a panel of experts and good discussion. Come learn about the new First Parish Legacy Giving Program and how you can make this new plan work for both you and First Parish. Plus, we will be announcing our new Peter Bulkeley Living Legacy Program, named in honor of our founding minister. Bring your questions, and be prepared for some important information and engaging discussion. If you have questions or particular areas of interest, contact Tom Wilson, Chair, Legacy Giving Committee, at twilson@wilsongroup.com.

Shopping for a Cause!

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

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. Fifteen percent 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 or 617-869-5563 (email preferred) with any questions.

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.

Holiday Concert and Tea

Our Holiday Concert and Tea on December 3 will add special sparkle and delight to your holiday season, featuring award winning classical pianist Julia Zhou, who was a recent runner-up in the Concord Orchestra's Young Artist Competition. Concert begins at 3:00 p.m., followed by a festive tea. There's no charge for this event. Bring a plate of sweets to share, if you wish. Invite family and friends for a joyful afternoon! Reservations are not required, but are greatly appreciated for planning purposes. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by December 1 for reservations. All are warmly invited.

Social Action

Talk by David Billings

Today, 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.

"Men's Spirituality Retreat—A Conversation among Gay and Straight Men"

Saturday, November 11, 9:00 a.m.-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.

"Wild & Precious" Film Prescreening

Sunday, 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.

Secret Santa 2017

Make a difference this holiday season. Come to coffee hour on Sunday, November 19, November 26, or December 3, to pick

names to receive Secret Santa gifts. Gifts will be collected during coffee hour on Sundays December 3 and December 10, in time to be delivered to the recipients before Christmas. Be a part of this beloved First Parish tradition! These gifts truly matter to those receiving them at Renewal House, Walden Street School, and the Eliot Center. AWE is organizing the program this year. Questions? Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com or 617-869-55763 (email preferred).

Religious Exploration News

This Sunday, November 5: Religious Exploration

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Activists (Grade 6) – Emerson Room
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room
10:00 a.m. – UU Explorers (Grade 8) – Parlor
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.

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten & Grade 1– Lower Level, Pick-up in Chapel

Grade 2– Greeley Room; pick-up in Chapel

Grade 3– Bulkeley Room; pick-up in Chapel

Grade 4– Ripley Room

Grade 5– Wright Tavern

6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age with Parents – Emerson Room

Next Sunday, November 12: Religious Exploration

"Remembering Well," Chapel (Kindergarten- 4th) Sunday, November 5

On Sundays, October 22 and 29, Kindergarteners through 4th graders shared photos of loved ones who have died. Children have been making Memory Boxes to honor the memories of relatives, pets, ancestors, or heroes during RE time. This Sunday all four groups will come together for a special service in the Chapel led by Rev. Amy Freedman and Dawn Van Patten. Children who did not make a box will be able to write down a name if they wish. Anna Huckabee Tull will offer music. Parents and the First Parish community are welcome to come by the Chapel following the service to see the Memory Boxes.

Attention, Teens

Our next gathering will take place today, November 5, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Loft. Pizza will be provided. We have some planning to do for the Children's Craft Fair and are looking ahead to events and trips! We will also meet on Sunday, November 19, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for something fun (details TBA). Please get these dates in your calendars. I would love to see you all there! All teens are welcome who are in grades 10-12, and 9th graders who are not in Coming of Age. Contact Rev. Jo VonRue, First Parish Youth Coordinator, with any questions at jvonrue@firstparish.org or 570-899-0457.

December 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.