

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

November 19, 2017

## This Week

Sun. Nov. 19	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	<b>Intergenerational Worship at 10:00 a.m.</b>
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Mon., Nov 20	7:30 Environmental Leadership Team
Tues., Nov. 21	4:00 Beginner Ukulele Class
	7:00 Nami Family-to-Family
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Wed., Nov. 22	9:30 Buddhist Group
Thu., Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed
Fri., Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed
Sun. Nov. 26	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	<b>Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.</b>
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

## Parish Notes

### Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

**Today, November 19, 11:30 a.m.**

“Living Transcendentally.” What would it be like to live transcendentally in Concord, Massachusetts as a spiritual pilgrim? This can be a fun exploration for spiritual seekers to deepen their own spiritual journey while practicing living transcendentally. All human beings have a capacity for joy in the midst of suffering, resilience in the face of despair, love in the midst of strife, and peace in times of turbulence. Come hear Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom, who has traveled as a spiritual pilgrim with Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Shamanic, and Taoist mystics learning their techniques. Jim is an author, mystic, theologian, entrepreneur, investor, company creator, spiritual seeker, and Laughing Buddha living a transcendental existence with his wife Loretta in Concord, Massachusetts.

### 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. Helen will match the highest bid, up to five thousand dollars.

### Come View the Completed Banner Book

The Banner Book Project Committee has completed a document of the pulpit and celebration Sunday banners in photo and storybook form. Come to coffee hour and see Barbara Wheeler for a view of this book and perhaps to order one of your own.

### Come Join the Ushers and Sound Team

Are you friendly and helpful? Come join us on Sundays. It’s an easy, once-a-month commitment to welcome fellow parishioners, hand out an order of service, and pass the collection plate. We’re seeking ushers/greeters and sound operators for the 3rd and 4th, and rarer 5th, Sundays of the month (sound training provided). It’s flexible, as ushers switch among themselves to fit the job into their lives. This is a great way to learn faces and make friends! Contact volunteer

head usher Maile Hulihan at [mailehulihan@earthlink.net](mailto:mailehulihan@earthlink.net) or 978-443-7020 if you are interested.

### Scholarships for Students in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania

We have letters and photos of incoming freshman scholarship students. We need two more donors to ensure that we can help them all. Please visit our partnership table at coffee hour today to select and make a donation for a freshman, or to make your scholarship donation for a continuing student. To learn more, contact Dana Booth at [dana.a.booth@gmail.com](mailto:dana.a.booth@gmail.com) (preferred) or 978-369-5702, or Kathy Spang at [katalinspang@yahoo.com](mailto:katalinspang@yahoo.com). Many thanks to all who have already volunteered to support a deserving incoming freshman, or who have already sent in their scholarship donations. Your support is much appreciated.

### The Children’s Holiday Craft Workshop Saturday, December 2, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

First Parish children are invited to spend the afternoon creating beautiful handmade gifts for the holidays, with the help of an intergenerational community of adult and teen helper elves. Cost: \$15 per child, maximum \$45 per family; no RSVP needed. To see what volunteer spots are open, visit our table at coffee hour today, or contact 978-254-5037, [craftsworkshop@firstparish.org](mailto:craftsworkshop@firstparish.org), or a head elf: Kimberly Brainerd, Dave Elwood, Kristin Moore, and Jeanne Williams.

### “Holiday Hijinks”; Auction Party Spots Available

The auction party originally planned for October 2016 has been rescheduled for Saturday, December 2, at 7:00 pm, at Sara and Stoney Ballard’s house in Concord. More guests are welcome. Enjoy a fun evening with old and new First Parish friends. Decadent desserts and lively libations will be provided by your hosts—the Ballards, Darien Smith, and Biff Holt. Spots are \$25 each and limited to 50. If you’d like to attend, stop by the table at coffee hour and sign up, or email Sara Ballard at [sara@sb.org](mailto:sara@sb.org) with the number of spots you’d like. You may pay by check, made out to First Parish in Concord, with “Auction Party” on the memo line.

### Holiday Concert and Tea Sunday, December 3, 3:00 p.m.

This year’s Holiday Concert and Tea, sponsored by the Women’s Parish Association, will add special sparkle to your holiday season. Award-winning classical pianist Julia Zhou, a runner-up in a recent Concord Orchestra’s Young Artist Competition, will be featured. Following the concert, enjoy a festive tea. There is no charge for this event. Attendees, please bring a plate of sweets to share, if you can. Bring family and friends for a joyful afternoon! Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) by December 1 for reservations. All are warmly invited.

### December 6—Dr. Jim Sherblom on “Human Flourishing”

Many spiritually oriented religious people seek salvation and redemption. What do spiritually oriented humanists seek? In his book *Spiritual Audacity: Six Disciplines of Human Flourishing*, Rev. Jim Sherblom suggests resilience, humility, gratitude, generosity of spirit, understanding of mystery, and spiritual awakening. These are humanist fruits of the spirit. Jim is an

author, mystic, theologian, and entrepreneur. If you ever ponder these matters, come join the discussion

### **Moms' Night Out Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange Friday, December 8, 7:30 to 10:00 p.m., in the Parlor**

Bake a batch or two and come swap cookies and recipes with fellow members of our community. Please bring a dozen or more cookies (the amount you wish to exchange), a label listing the ingredients, and a snack or drink to share. Celebrate the season, enjoy a fire in the fireplace, and take home some delicious treats! RSVP to Leah Russell at [leahkrussell@gmail.com](mailto:leahkrussell@gmail.com) (preferred) or 978-266-1216 .

### **Holiday Concert with The Copley Singers December 10, 4:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

The Copley Singers are a long-standing Boston tradition during the holiday season, and now they're making it easier than ever to come and enjoy them. Led by renowned conductor Brian Jones (formerly the music director at Trinity Church in Copley Square, Boston) and featuring the prodigy organist Katelyn Emerson, this beautiful and powerful chorus has been heralded as "sensuous, nuanced, expansive, and full of goodwill." Come and usher in the holiday season with brilliant holiday music performed with flare, excitement, and sheer beauty.

## **Social Action**

### **Secret Santa Begins Today**

Ho, ho, ho! Starting today in coffee hour, AWE will be handing out names of individuals from Renewal House, Walden Street School, and the Eliot Center, to receive Secret Santa gifts. Make someone's holiday wishes come true by secretly adopting them and buying something from their wish list. Names can be selected today and on November 26 and December 3. Unwrapped gifts should be delivered to coffee hour on December 3 or December 10. If you can't make these dates or if you have questions, contact Jen Izzo at 617-869-5563 or [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com) (email preferred).

### **AWE First Friday Feminist Free Film Friday, December 1, 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel**

We will be showing *Eagle Huntress*, a documentary film about Aishol-pan, a 13-year-old girl who trains to become the first female in 12 generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter. She rises to the pinnacle of a tradition that has been handed down from father to son for centuries. Many old Kazakh eagle hunters vehemently reject the idea of any female taking part in their ancient tradition, but Aishol-pan's father believes that a girl can do anything a boy can, as long as she's determined. Free and open to all (men, women, and people of all gender identities and expressions). No RVSP required. Contact Lou Toussaint at [mloutoussaint@gmail.com](mailto:mloutoussaint@gmail.com) with any questions.



**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).

## **Religious Exploration News**

### **This Sunday, November 19: Thanksgiving service for all ages**

Little RE will be available for 0-4 year olds on the Lower Level

### **Next Sunday, November 26: Multiage Sunday**

Join Amy and Dawn the Sunday following Thanksgiving for a fun morning designed for all ages. We will make Advent Calendars for ourselves and holiday gifts to spread cheer among our First Parish staff.

### **Coming of Age**

#### **Sunday, November 19, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

This will be our first session with our mentors! A Coming of Age mentor is to be a spiritual companion, a sounding board, and a support as the youth explores who they are and what they believe. Please bring your journals.

### **Youth Cook Off!**

#### **Sunday, November 19, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Kitchen**

High School youth are invited to create dinner together. Bring all ingredients (and cooking tools) to prepare a (small) dish (appetizer, entrée, or dessert) for our potluck dinner! Dishes will be judged based on several fun categories (no pressure), so remember to be creative! Please keep in mind that our group includes several vegetarians (but not vegans), so if you can make a vegetarian dish, you get bonus points! Please contact Jo, our Youth Group Coordinator, at [jvonrue@firstparish.org](mailto:jvonrue@firstparish.org) if you need financial assistance to purchase ingredients .

### **Guest At Your Table Box**

Over the holiday season, we invite a "Guest At Your Table," a traditional fundraising practice for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC's grassroots partners make a big difference in their communities, and so does your participation in GAYT. That is why this year's program theme is "Small Change Is Big Change." Boxes will be distributed today and will be available in the front office after that. Please return your box on Sunday, December 17, so our 5th graders can count your contribution. Or write a check for the amount payable to UUSC. For more information, visit [uus.org](http://uus.org). Email Amy at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org) with any questions.

### **Little Angels Sunday**

"Little Angels" is a long-standing tradition at First Parish! On Sunday, December 10, our youngest children are invited to dress as "Little Angels" and process into the Sanctuary, singing "This Little Light of Mine" for the congregation. Preschool, Kindergarten, and First Grade will learn the song together during RE time on November 26 and December 3. All children who wish to be "Little Angels" should arrive at their classrooms by 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 10, and wear a white or other light-colored shirt. Please contact Dawn Van Patten with any questions at [dvanpatten@firstparish.org](mailto:dvanpatten@firstparish.org).

### **January Meeting House News Deadline: Tuesday, December 12**

Keep article length to 100 words and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto: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 January 2018 edition will be published on December 20.