

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

November 26, 2017

This Week

Sun. Nov. 26	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Tues., Nov. 28	10:00 Small Group Ministry
	4:00 Beginner Ukulele Class
	6:30 T'ai Chi
	7:00 Nami Family-to-Family
Wed., Nov. 29	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:00 Reclaiming Our Democracy
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Nov. 30	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Nov. 1	6:30 AWE Movie Night
Sat., Nov. 2	10:30 Children's Crafts Workshop
Sun. Nov. 3	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	3:00 WPA Holiday Concert and Tea
	4:30 Small Group Ministry

Parish Notes

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 is 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 or 978-443-7020 if you are interested.

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, 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 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 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 (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.

AWE Monthly Meeting Saturday, December 16, 8:00 a.m., at Serendipity

Calling activists and feminists interested in women's empowerment social justice initiatives! Join us at our monthly meeting to discuss and plan upcoming events. This month we'll

meet on Saturday, December 16, at 8:00 a.m. at Serendipity in Maynard. All are welcome to our meetings and events (men, women, people of all gender identities and expressions). Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net with questions or to join our mailing list.

Author Talk: “Transcendentalism and the Cultivation of the Soul” by Rev. Dr. Barry Andrews, UU Minister Emeritus Sunday, December 17, 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall, Free

Transcendentalists developed spiritual practices to nurture their souls and discover the divine: keeping journals, contemplation, walking, reading, simple living, and conversation. Rev. Andrews demonstrates how Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller, and others, pursued rewarding spiritual lives that inspired them to fight for abolition, women’s rights, and education reform. He reveals how these practices are valuable to spiritual seekers and religious liberals today. Books will be available for sale and signing. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council and The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond. Contact Dianne Weiss at diannemcweiss@comcast.net.

Social Action

Secret Santa Update

43 individuals from Renewal House, Walden School, and Eliot Center were on the list to receive Secret Santa gifts. Amazingly, all of those names were taken last week. Your generosity is astounding! You can still contribute in the following ways: select one of the few new names that arrived this week, donate gift cards (\$25-\$50 – Visa, Walmart, Target, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Macys), divide a wish list with another person (some of the lists are too much for one person), donate twin foam mattress pad toppers, Ipods, or portable DVD players to Walden School, or donate your used, refurbished laptop for students. Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com to make a difference this holiday season. These gifts really matter to those receiving them. AWE will be collecting unwrapped, marked gifts and gift cards during coffee hour on Sunday, December 3 and December 10.

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 with any questions.

“Daring Democracy”

Thursday, December 7, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Legendary Diet for a Small Planet author, Frances Moore Lappé, and organizer Adam Eichen will share highlights of their empowering new UU Common Read *Daring Democracy*. “Without democracy there’s almost no chance of tackling distinct environmental, racial justice, labor, poverty, or food justice problems.” We will learn and discuss ways to engage in the movement to save our democracy. Their presentation will be followed by a book signing reception in the Parish Hall. “This book, perhaps better than any other, shows Americans that the democracy they want is possible.”—Lawrence Lessig. Sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy. Contact fredvandeu@gmail.com for questions.

Religious Exploration News

This Sunday, November 26: Multiage Sunday

Following the Children’s Message, all ages will be together in the Emerson Room 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. Little RE is also available on the Lower Level for children 0-4 years.

Next Sunday, December 3: Religious Exploration

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”. Please return your box on Sunday, December 17 so our 5th graders can count your contribution. Otherwise, please write a check for the amount payable to UUSC. For more information, visit uusc.org. Questions? Email Amy Freedman at afreedman@firstparish.org.

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.

Grade 8 OWL Parent Orientation

Sunday, December 3, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Emerson Room

“Our Whole Lives” (OWL), the comprehensive sexuality program, will be offered to eighth graders at First Parish in Concord beginning in January. The goals of the program are to help young people learn about safe sexual relationships in the context of Unitarian Universalist principles, to help them make responsible decisions, and to increase their understanding and respect for themselves and others. For your teen to be enrolled in OWL, both parents are required to attend a First Parish Parent Orientation. Sign-up link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4faaac29a5fe3-owlorientation>.

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.

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. 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.