

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

May 27, 2018

This Week

Sun. May 27	10:00	Sunday Service
Tue. May 29	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:30	Role of Faith Communities
Wed. May 30	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. May 31	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. June 1	7:30	AWE Movie Night
Sun. June 3	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Annual Budget Discussion
	11:30	Congregational Conversation
	6:00	Standing Committee Meeting

Parish Notes

May's Share-the-Plate Recipient

May's Share-the-Plate recipient is CityReach, an overnight urban outreach program for youth, young adults, and college students from churches of any denomination. The program gives these young people the opportunity to learn first-hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. During the 20-hour session, participants join CityReach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food, and clothing. This is followed by times of sharing and reflection. CityReach is a ministry of Common Cathedral (Ecclesia Ministries, Inc.), an outdoor congregation, housed and unhoused, sharing God's love through community, pastoral care, creative expression, and worship on Boston Common.

Offering Envelopes

New offering envelopes are in and may be picked up downstairs after the service. If you would like to begin using envelopes, there are unused numbers available.

The Role of Faith Communities in Times of Social Unrest Tuesday, May 29, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

The Reclaim Our Democracy group at First Parish in Concord has organized a panel discussion of local church leaders to discuss the current democracy challenges facing this country and the role that our local faith groups can play in addressing these challenges. Participants will include Rev. Howard Dana, Senior Minister, First Parish in Concord; Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom, former Senior Minister, First Parish in Brookline; Fr. Austin Fleming, Pastor, Holy Family Parish; Rev. Hannah Brown, Pastor, West Concord Union Church; and Rev. Nancy Hagner, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church. For more information, please contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeusen@gmail.com.

Annual Budget for FY19—June 3, 11:30, Brooks Room

Join members of the Finance Committee and Fifi Ball, Director of Operations, to review the proposed budget for FY19. The budget reviews the results of the annual pledge campaign and spending priorities in our coming year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Fortier, Treasurer, at mfortierhome@gmail.com.

First Parish Ice-Cream Social

Sunday, June 3, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All ages are invited to enjoy homemade ice cream from "Reasons to be Cheerful." All flavors will be nut-free, with two vegan options. We will also unveil a special "First Parish in Concord" flavor designed by our kids! This event will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Sponsored by the RE Council.

Lunch and Learn

Sunday, June 3, 12:00- 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room

Our Neighboring Activists (6th graders) are helping to raise awareness about foster care in our community. There are approximately 4800 foster homes in Massachusetts and 8700 children in some type of foster care. All we can say is—wow! Not ready to be a foster parent? There are hundreds of ways you can help youth in foster care. Come learn how you and others in our community can use our time and talents to touch the lives of the 9,000 kids in care. Lunch will be provided. Please check out www.mareinc.org.

First Tuesday Group—"Concord before Concord"

Tuesday, June 5, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

First Tuesday Group (65+) will assemble for Concord native Sarah Blodgett's discussion on Native Americans in Concord, and how colonization transformed the local scene. The discussion will reference Lisa Brooks' new book, *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Phillip's War*. The day will also include a list of likely topics for next year's programs, and our traditional June ice-cream social. Come participate in this stimulating mix of end-of-the-year activities! While our focus is seniors, please come expand your reading list, whatever your age.

Upcoming Vote on Social Action Funding

Sunday, June 10, 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

After 2+ years of study, the congregation votes at this year's Annual Meeting on whether to reaffirm, revise, or revoke our current social action funding policy, which sets aside 7.5% of annual pledges for social action. The Standing Committee is recommending a change to this policy. Want to understand the differences? Look on the First Parish website home page for a link to a document that compares the two funding options. Contact Kristin Haddad at kristin.haddad@gmail.com or 978-254-5012.

"The Adventure of Friendship—a Men's Spirituality Retreat at First Parish"

Saturday, June 16, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., starting in the Chapel

Lunch together—bring \$10 to cover the cost

All men connected to First Parish are welcome

Join retreat leaders Rev. Howard N. Dana and Jeff Clanon as we explore ways to deepen existing friendships among men and make new ones. We will ask questions like: What do you value most about your friendships with other men? What helps you make or deepen these friendships? What gets in the way or inhibits these friendships? Because friendship is an adventure, we will carpool to Boston for a group lunch. We ask everyone to make a commitment to attend the full retreat—no late arrivals or early departures, please. Reply to this email or call the church office to sign up for this retreat. Questions: contact Jeff Clanon at jclanon@solonline.org.

Herb Garden Coffee Hour Party—June 17

It's been an unpredictable spring this year, and it will be a special treat to visit the Deborah Greeley Herb Garden again! The Women's Parish Association will hold its popular Coffee Hour Herb Garden Party on June 17, immediately after the worship service. Surrounded by fragrant herbs, we'll have a chance to celebrate and thank Rev. Jo VonRue our wonderful Minister in Residence, and celebrate Father's Day. Join fellow parishioners and enjoy herb-flavored savories and sweets as the surrounding herbs nourish your soul! All are warmly invited. There is no charge and reservations are not necessary.

Social Action

Urgent Drive for Lowell Families

Jericho Road and the Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) are organizing an emergency "Summer Secret Santa" drive for three displaced Puerto Rican moms and their children living in Lowell motels without transportation or cooking facilities. Some have severe health challenges. One mom can't get to her dialysis treatments. They need children's summer clothing (new or gently worn), laundry money, Uber gift cards, and scholarships to summer camp. Select a name during coffee hour on June 3, or contact Jen Izzo (jbizzo@hotmail.com) or Jan Goddard-Taylor (jangoddard-taylor@comcast.net). Drop off donations at coffee hour on June 3 or 10, or at 12 Pleasant Street in Concord.

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, June 1, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

The Advocates for Women's Empowerment will show "She's Beautiful When She's Angry," a documentary that resurrects the buried history of the outrageous, often brilliant women who founded the modern women's movement from 1966 to 1971. The film series will break for the summer and resume in October. Contact Lou Toussaint, (mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

Cultural Competence—What It Is, Why We Need It

Join the Jericho Road Project for "Global Perspectives," an experiential training that helps volunteers work effectively and respectfully in diverse communities. Cultural competence enables us to better understand "others" by exploring the lenses we use to view cultures, including our own. All First Parish members, including Lowell volunteers, are invited to take part in this pilot program and learn new skills. Two dates are available: Sunday, June 3, 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.; and Monday, June 18, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. To register or learn more, contact Katharine Roberts at katharine@goodstory.works or 978-377-889.

Congregational Conversation on Climate Justice Resolution

Sunday, June 3, 11:30 a.m.

The Environmental Leadership Team invites all First Parish members to attend a congregational conversation about the climate justice resolution that will be brought to Annual Meeting in June. Check in at the ELT table at coffee hour for more information and copies of the resolution. Contact Bob Andrews at 978-771-3282 with questions.

Attend Pride Service and March in the Boston Pride Parade

Saturday, June 9, 11:00 a.m.

The Diversity Committee is organizing a group from First Parish to attend the Pride Service at the Arlington Street Church in Boston, and then march in the Boston Pride Parade (or watch, for those who can't march) on Saturday, June 9. The service will start at 11:00 a.m. Afterward, those attending will take their spot near the front of the parade. Carpools can be arranged. Sign up at coffee hour, or contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org or 978-371-0723 if interested.

AWE End-of Year Celebration

Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 p.m., Terrace / Brooks Room

Join the Advocates for Women's Empowerment for socializing and good company to wrap up our year! Bring a finger food appetizer, a dessert or a beverage to share. This gathering will replace our regular meeting scheduled for June 16. Our monthly meetings will resume on September 15. Contact: Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com).

AWE Book Group

Tuesday, July 17, 7:00 p.m., First Parish

The Advocates for Women's Empowerment will read and discuss "The Power," by Naomi Alderman. In a novel of speculative fiction, an award-winning author contemplates a world where teenage girls now have immense physical power—they can cause agonizing pain and even death, drastically resetting the balance of the world. All are welcome (even if you haven't yet read the book). The book group complements AWE's mission to advance women's rights through advocacy, direct action, and education. The book group aims to broaden our awareness, hone our empathy, nourish our spiritual selves, and spark action. Contact: Jen Izzo (jbizzo@hotmail.com).

Religious Exploration

Activity Packets for Kids

There are small packets with crayons and fun activities available for children this morning. Please help yourself or ask an usher for one. Enjoy!

RE FIELD DAY at Emerson Playground

Sunday, June 3, 10:15 a.m. (Rain Date: June 10)

Permission forms are now available for the RE Field Day at Emerson Playground. Children and youth are invited to a morning of outdoor fun—including Games, Bubbles, Relay Races, and Face Painting. Little RE will still be available for preschool children. Following the Children's Message, all kids with permission will walk with RE staff and volunteers to 90 Stow Street, Concord. Please email or give your permission form to Amy. Questions? Contact Amy, afreedman@firstparish.org.

RE Registration Now Open!

New and returning families are encouraged to register children and youth for the 2018-2019 church year at the RE table at coffee hour today or on our website. Our Religious Exploration program is year-round, but we offer classes by age group in the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Please sign up today so we can plan and be prepared to welcome your family!

Summer 2018 Kids Program

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., First Parish in Concord

Our church offers programming for kids during the services in July and August. Sunday activities will include art projects, outdoor fun, and yoga. A professional teacher will lead the program, and a teen assistant will care for our youngest children. An adult volunteer will offer support each Sunday. Stay tuned for more exciting information and a summer schedule!

This Sunday, May 27:

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

The youngest children are warmly welcomed in our nursery/toddler classrooms by volunteer teachers and teen assistants. Parents are invited to bring their children to the classroom ten minutes before the worship service begins.

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service – Sanctuary

Next Sunday, June 3:

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

10:00 a.m. – Middle OWL (Grade 5) – Wright Tavern

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service – Sanctuary

10:15-11:15 a.m. RE Field Day – Emerson Playground, 90 Stow Street, Concord (K-Grade 4)

10:15 a.m. – Neighboring Activists prepare to host MARE Lunch & Learn – Emerson Room

11:15 a.m. – Ice Cream Social – Terrace

12:00 p.m. – MARE Lunch & Learn – Emerson Room



The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 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.