

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

November 4, 2018

## This Week

Sun. Nov 4	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:00	Concord Progressive Activists
Mon. Nov 5	1:30	Caregiver Support Group
	7:00	Thoreau's Walking Discussion
	7:00	Immigration Justice Task Force
Wed. Nov 7	9:15	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Nov 8	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Nov 9	12:00	T'ai Chi
	7:00	Articulating Your UU Faith
Sat. Nov 10	9:00	Photo Club
	12:00	Men's Spirituality Retreat
Sun. Nov 11	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:00	Buddhist Retreat
	4:00	Reclaim Our Democracy Program

## Parish Notes

### Székelykeresztúr Student Scholarship Program

Concord-Keresztúr scholarship news: We have one more freshman student attending the Berde Mózes high school in Székelykeresztúr in need of a \$400 per year scholarship. These scholarships are so important to these Hungarian students to get the quality education that they want. If you would like to be a sponsor, please come to the Concord-Keresztúr table at coffee hour, or contact Kathy Spang at [katalinspang@yahoo.com](mailto:katalinspang@yahoo.com). Thank you to all the donors who have already signed up and who have sent in their donations! If you are a donor of an upperclass person, please do send in your yearly donation now!

### Thanks for Another Great Fair!

The Women's Parish Association extends heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful volunteers and attendees who helped make this year's Holiday Artisans Fair another great success! This was a fantastic communal effort executed with great skill and joyful spirit on everyone's part. Our fair is a favorite among the artists, artisans, and customers. Great work all around! Items remaining from the WPA Boutique will be on sale during today's coffee hour. Unique treasures at reduced prices! Good shopping for children as well.

### First Parish Auction

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Auction a success. Thanks to you, we raised about \$50,000 for the church. There are still items left to bid on, including tickets to amazing parties and events. The online Auction site remains active. Visit [www.auctria.com/auction/firstparish2018auction](http://www.auctria.com/auction/firstparish2018auction) to buy your tickets and place your last few bids. If you won something during the silent auction, it is waiting for you in the First Parish office or you will be put in touch with the donor soon.

### Register Now for "Living Our History" Programs!

#### Discussion Group: Thoreau's "Walking," Led by Richard Smith Monday, November 5, 7:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room

"Walking" will be sent to registrants. Smith will present Thoreau's reasons for writing "Walking." Participants will discuss their opinions of the essay, and how it relates to modern life. Smith has been a Concord historian for 20 years, portraying Thoreau and lecturing on the Concord authors, Transcendentalism, and the abolitionist movement. To register, drop by or call the First Parish office, 978-369-9602, or contact Dianne Weiss, [dianneweiss@comcast.net](mailto:dianneweiss@comcast.net). Preregistration with payment is required. Limit: 25 attendees. Fee: \$10.

### Concord Area Humanists

#### "Saving Massachusetts Forests for Climate, Nature, and People"

**Wednesday, November 7, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

Forests are vital in storing carbon to fight climate change: providing critical habitat for native plants and wildlife; preserving historic and sacred sites; and offering opportunities for nature-based recreation. Yet almost all of our forests are currently open to resource extraction. We must protect our forests. Michael Kellett is cofounder and executive director of "RESTORE: The North Woods," a Massachusetts-based conservation organization. Having over 30 years of experience working to create national parks and wilderness, save forests, and protect wildlife, he will review our challenges and strategies for solving them. Questions? Email Pamela Dritt, [pamela@dritt.net](mailto:pamela@dritt.net); or Franklin Davis, [franklin.davis@gmail.com](mailto:franklin.davis@gmail.com).

#### "The Spiritual Practice of Realizing We Will Die"

#### A Men's Spirituality Retreat at First Parish

**Saturday, November 10, 12:00 to 4:30 p.m., Begin in the Kitchen  
Lunch together—Bring \$5 to Cover the Cost**

Join Rev. Howard N. Dana and Jeff Clanon as we engage in spiritual practices related to our own mortality. What would I do if today was my last? How do I want to be remembered? What is my relationship with those who have died? We will eat lunch together, be in conversation with one another, and take a long walk. Please wear good walking shoes and weather-appropriate gear. We ask everyone to make a commitment to attend the full retreat—no late arrivals or early departures, please. Call the church office to sign up. Questions: contact Jeff Clanon at [jeff@systemspectivellc.com](mailto:jeff@systemspectivellc.com).

#### "Communing with Our Own Saints": Tour the Old Hill Burial Ground Saturday, November 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m. (rain or shine); Meet in Parlor

Learn more about the early history of First Parish. Join local historian Barbara Forman on this tour of our early ministers' portraits in the Parlor, then visit their burial ground across the street. Terrain is steep, so wear comfortable shoes. To register, drop by or call the First Parish office, 978-369-9602, or contact Shelley Hawks at [Shelley\\_Hawks@msn.com](mailto:Shelley_Hawks@msn.com). Pre-registration with payment required. Limit: 15 attendees. Fee: \$10.

#### Restoring the Mukpakhar Monastery in Bhutan

Just over the border from Tawang, India, where the Jhamtse Gatsal school is located, nestled in the hills of Bhutan, is a small monastery dating back to the 1400's. This monastery is in need of restoration of its precious art: thangkas (wall murals) and statues. Join First Parish member Heidi Kaiter in helping to restore the monastery. Stop by and learn more about the project at the table during coffee hour on Sunday, November 11. Donations will be accepted to sponsor the lighting of butter lamp offerings; and in return, the monks of the monastery will chant your name in a special prayer ceremony.

#### Buddhist Retreat

**Sunday, November 11, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

David Tucker will teach on the Buddhist concepts of Emptiness and Compassion. This is a great chance to explore two challenging concepts central to understanding Buddhism. No prior experience necessary; just bring an open mind. There is a suggested donation of \$25 for this retreat, although it is not a requirement and should not be a barrier to attending. Contact Bill Seaver at 978-505-5369.

#### "Social Action Opportunities at FPC"

Because of members' get-out-the-vote activities on Election Day, November 6, the First Tuesday Group will meet on the second Tuesday, November 13, 1:30-3:00 p.m. A panel will discuss the many exciting Social Action Opportunities at First Parish, featuring Zach Roe, director of Social Action; Tony Rodriguez, chair of Immigration Justice Task Force; Peter Lowitt, chair of Environmental Action Team; and Margie King Saphier, member of Racial Justice Action Group. Come learn how you can get more involved! (While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.)

**The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.**

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns, [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).

The Sunday News can be read online at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).

## A Change to the Red Mugs

Have you ever wondered what the red mug at coffee hour means? It means the person holding the mug is eager and willing to engage in conversation, answer any questions, or provide information pertaining to First Parish. It will often be a member of the Membership Committee (but not necessarily), as the goal is to invite interactions among our congregational community. The role has been reversed from what it was. The Membership Committee felt that often a new person may have felt uncomfortable taking the first step, and therefore may have chosen not to take the mug. We hope that this new approach will encourage many new relationships among our growing congregation.

## Thanksgiving Hours and Publication Deadlines

First Parish will be limiting office hours in observance of Thanksgiving. The office will close at noon on Wednesday, November 21, and will be closed all day on Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23. The office will reopen with normal hours, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., on Tuesday, November 27. To accommodate the early closure of the office the week of Thanksgiving, any *Sunday News* submissions for the November 25 service are due to Sarah Burns, Church Administrator, by Monday, November 19 at noon, instead of the usual Wednesday deadline. Submissions received after noon on November 19 will not be included.

## Social Action

### Share the Plate Nominations—Deadline Next Thursday!

This is a great opportunity to support a worthy organization. The easy-to-complete nomination form is available online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPCSACForm](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPCSACForm). If you are interested in joining the SAC Giving Team or would like more information, please contact Zach Roe at [zroe@firstparish.org](mailto:zroe@firstparish.org) or Liz Rust at [liz@therusts.net](mailto:liz@therusts.net).

### How Democracies Die— Sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy Sunday, November 11, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Donald Trump's presidency has raised a question that many of us never thought we'd be asking: Is our democracy in danger? Harvard professors Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt have spent more than 20 years studying the breakdown of democracies in Europe and Latin America and have written this *New York Times* best seller. They will be discussing the book, showing us how democracies die, and how ours can be saved. After their talk, the book will be available for purchase and there will be a book signing. Refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Lillian Anderson at [lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net).

### Amnesty International, Group 15 Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room

Amnesty International/USA's senior director of organizing and activism, Cynthia Gabriel Walsh, will bring the group up-to-date on national plans and priorities for the coming year. Ongoing activities include sending letters to support individuals whose dire situations require urgent action, efforts to end the death penalty, and the release of two Azerbaijani students imprisoned for peaceful protests. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, [nilyons22@gmail.com](mailto:nilyons22@gmail.com) or 978-505-1936.

### “How to Have Difficult Conversations about Race without Losing Your Cool or Your Voice”

Talk by Dr. Amanda Kemp, Author of *Say the Wrong Thing* and creator of the Racial Justice from the H.E.A.R.T. Method Thursday, November 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Join us for a rare opportunity to learn from an African-American racial justice mentor who offers clear advice for staying mindful and finding our voice as we navigate difficult conversations about race at home and in the wider world. Sponsored by the Racial Justice Action Group and Robbins House. Contact Mary Ann Barton, [mabartonst@gmail.com](mailto:mabartonst@gmail.com), 978-580-5852.

### AWE Monthly Meeting

#### Saturday, November 17, 8:00 a.m., Parlor

Join us for our monthly business/planning meeting where we'll discuss the status of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities at those events. Ideas for new initiatives may bubble up as well! If you are thinking about a specific initiative to advocate for women, please come so we can explore making it happen! Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month and are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions. Contact: Lora Venesy ([venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net)).

### A Concert for Immigrant Justice

A Concert for Immigrant Justice will take place at First Parish on Sunday evening, November 18, at 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Cosponsored by the

Music Ministry and the Immigration Justice Task Force of First Parish, this event will feature the cantata *The Immigrant Experience*, by area composer John Kramer, as well as songs for soprano and piano. A coalition of singers from several UU churches will be directed by the composer. A suggested donation of \$20 will be collected for Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network. For information, contact Tony Rodriguez at [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com). A reception will follow.

### AWE Book Group Discussion

#### Wednesday, November 28, 7:00 p.m.

Our November book is *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors and the Drug Company That Addicted America* by Beth Macy. Come to discuss this important issue whether or not you have finished the book. Feel free to invite interested friends. We'll meet at the home of Merrill Comeau (14 Pleasant Street, West Concord). Please RSVP to Merrill if you think you will attend: [14thebeesknees@gmail.com](mailto:14thebeesknees@gmail.com).

## Religious Exploration

### Child Dedications at First Parish in Concord

Child Dedications are a Unitarian Universalist rite of passage for babies and young children. Many will include the following elements:

A blessing for the new life or adoption of a child

An expression of the parent or guardian's hopes for the child

A dedication of Godparents or a “Nurturing Community”

A promise by the congregation to support and nurture the child and family

This ritual is held during our Sunday service several times a year. If you are interested in having your child dedicated, please contact Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education:

[afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

### Religious Exploration News:

#### This Week, November 4: Religious Exploration

9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:00 a.m. – UU Explorers, Grade 8 – Chapel

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

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Meet on front steps for Fall Clean-up at Hugh Cargill Community Garden on Walden Street (across from courthouse)

*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 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 – Lower Level

Grade 3 – Ripley and Greeley Rooms – Upper Level

Grades 4 & 5 – Wright Tavern

4:00- 6:00 p.m. – “Climbing the Family Tree,” Coming of Age with parents – Emerson and Greeley Rooms

6:00- 8:00 p.m. – Youth Group – Wright Tavern

### Next Week, November 11: Multiage Program: Make Your Own Chalice!

### Grade 8 OWL Parent Orientation

#### Sunday, November 18, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Emerson Room

“Our Whole Lives” (OWL), the comprehensive sexuality program, will be offered to 8th 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: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4FAAAC29A5FF2-8thgrade>.

### December 2018 Meeting House News Deadline Tuesday, November 13, 12:00 Noon

Keep the article length to 100 words and send to the Editor,  
Wendy Wolfberg, [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu).

The December 2018 edition will be published November 27.