

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

October 13, 2019

Parish Notes

October's Share The Plate: Partakers' College Behind Bars

Partakers' College Behind Bars (CBB) is a nonprofit helping to reduce recidivism by promoting higher education and providing mentoring for incarcerated women and men. The power of the Partakers mentoring can be seen in the success of our graduates and the trusting, caring relationships the mentors and students build with each other. The long-lasting benefits of Partakers' CBB Program are evident in their success after they graduate. Come to the Forum on October 27, at 11:30 a.m. to hear the stories of 3 successful graduates and consider creating a First Parish in Concord Mentoring Team(s). More information at partakers.com. Contact margie.king.saphier@gmail.com or 781-424-2179.

Second Catnip Ball Workshop

Have fun making catnip balls for the Holiday Artisans Fair WPA Boutique. These popular items are some of the best fundraisers in the history of the fair! No experience is necessary for this easy assembly work. This workshop will take place on Wednesday, October 23, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. For further information, contact Irmi Doane and igdoane@gmail.com.

WhaleCoast Alaska UU Trips Presentation

Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room

Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska and see the sights, but also get to know the people? The four Unitarian Universalist Congregations of Alaska sponsor two such tours every summer, called WhaleCoast Alaska. You get to see all the sights and animals, and have home stays with UU's along the way. Learn more about these trips at First Parish and still watch the debate. Two members of the Fairbanks UU Fellowship will be here to describe the tours, along with nine recent participants from First Parish. Light refreshments (maybe salmon) will be served. Sponsored by the Denominational Affairs Committee.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

The Children of Chabannes

Friday, October 18, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Come watch and discuss the 1999 Emmy Award winning documentary, "The Children of Chabannes," which tells the story of over 400 Jewish children's survival at the Chateau de Chabannes in unoccupied France. The story is told through the children's drawings and journals, and through interviews with the survivors themselves, both children and adults. Please bring a snack or beverage to share with the group. All are welcome. For more info, contact Dana Snyder-Grant at dana.snydergrant@gmail.com or 978-760-1129.

Confluence: John Brown, Harpers Ferry, and the Concord Connection
Friday, October 18, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Experience the whirlwind of abolitionist John Brown through the words of his contemporaries. Join award-winning authors Dennis Frye, retired Chief Historian of Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, and Catherine Mägi, Publications Director of the Harpers Ferry Park Association, as they share excerpts from their new book, "Confluence: Harpers Ferry as Destiny," examining John Brown (and his Concord connections) through letters, journals, and personal voices from the past. Concord historian Richard Smith will moderate the discussion. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish.

Higher Ambition: How Great Leaders Create Economic and Social Value
Saturday, October 19, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall and Parlor

Shareholder value creation has the only purpose of many corporations. However, some CEOs are pursuing "higher ambition," adopting a *multi-stakeholder* perspective, leading their companies in a way that builds trust and commitment with employees, customers, business partners and society at large. Michael Beer, Prof. Emeritus, Harvard Business School, will report on how many such CEOs are organizing, managing, and leading differently. Presented by the WPA. For reservations, contact the office at 978-369-9602 or pekindc@comcast.net.

Crop Walk for the Hungry on October 20

The Concord Crop Walk for the Hungry will start at First Parish on Sunday, October 20, at 1:30 p.m. Stop by the Crop table at coffee hour for more information or to pick up walk papers. Rev. Howard Dana will be walking and would appreciate sponsors; you can sign up to sponsor him at coffee hour. You can also make a donation for him, or register to walk with the First Parish team online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yxc7tcds>. The funds raised help feed the hungry around the world through the disaster relief and development programs of Church World Service, and closer to home through nine local food pantries and supper programs the Walk supports.

You Are Invited to Sunday Supper!

Sunday, October 20, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Please join us every third Sunday for a casual community meal in the Parish Hall. Feel free to bring a beverage of your choosing, and/or a dessert to share, if you wish. The suggested donation is \$5 per person, with a maximum of \$20 per family. Youth Group members eat free. All ages are welcome! It helps your cooks know how much food to provide, so RSVP at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfApPZWRGWctO7V3zFZwKy3UK25w81u30vQC_XmqpcVw5M4Jw/viewform. If you have not RSVP'd, we'd still love to have you! Questions? Contact Sue Ryan, susanryan101@comcast.net, Lora Venesy, venesy@comcast.net, or Kate Svrcek, katesvrcek@hotmail.com. Save the dates: Third Sunday Suppers is part of a new year-long pilot program intended to build community and deepen connections among First Parish members and friends.

Two Evenings of Spirituality

"The Spiritual Experience," Monday, October 21, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

"The Spiritual Journey," Monday, October 28, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

"The Spiritual Experience" looks at the spiritual experience of oneness, belonging, and peace received as grace. We will look at the intensities of this experience, what it does for us, and what we do with it. "The Spiritual Journey" looks at the "once-was-lost-but-now-am-found" experience of exploring unknowns, dying, and being reborn. On this universal journey one receives spiritual support with which to be clearly oneself. The evenings would include conversation, personal reflection, and a presentation. We will meet in the chapel. Hosted by Rev. Ken Reeves. Please RSVP with the office.

All-Parish Potluck and Dance Performance on October 26

Help welcome our 25 Transylvanian visitors on Saturday, October 26, with dinner in the Parish Hall; appetizers and socializing at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish and beverage to share. Please sign up at coffee hour or in the office to help us anticipate how many tables and chairs we'll need to set up. Dinner will be followed by a performance of Hungarian folk dances at 7:30 p.m. by the youth dance troupe and band who will be among our visitors. You may attend the dinner, the performance, or both.

Holiday Artisans Fair Donations Needed

For our Holiday Artisans Fair, which will be held on Saturday, November 2, please set aside handmade items, as well as high-quality, giftable items like jewelry, artwork, home goods, holiday and home decorating items, etc. These items are important fundraisers! You can drop these items off at the Bulkeley Room (behind the stage) on Wednesday, October 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please contact Melita Teichert at mmtconcord1@gmail.com if you have any questions. Heartfelt thanks for your donations!

Holiday Artisans Fair

Saturday, November 2, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Our annual fair will be here before you know it! Over 40 artists and artisans with many new vendors will be selling their latest creations. Food served throughout the day. Wonderful door prize and raffle items! Bring family, friends, and neighbors for a great day of browsing, shopping, and socializing. To volunteer to help for an easy and fun couple of hours, contact the office at 978-369-9602, or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net.

Open House Visits with Rev. Liz Weber

Tuesday, October 29, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., in the Parlor

Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Parlor

Thursday, October 31, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., in the Brooks Room

Thursday, October 31, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., in the Brooks Room

Come get to know Rev. Liz Weber, our new Minister for Pastoral Care! She looks forward to continuing to connect with First Parish. Stop by for conversation, to share some of your story or life at First Parish, or to ask Liz more about who she is. Drop in for a few minutes or an hour. For more information, contact Liz at lweber@firstparish.org.

Save the Date! The Children's Holiday Craft Workshop

Saturday, December 7, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

In this beloved First Parish tradition, children spend the afternoon creating handmade gifts for the holidays. We need lots of merry hands to make it happen! If you would like to be an Elf (helping children make crafts that day) or help prep supplies beforehand, please drop an email to craftsworkshop@firstparish.org before October 15 and you'll receive our volunteer sign up form later this month! Questions? Contact Kristin Moore, Kimberly Brainerd, and Jeanne Williams.

Social Action

"Beloved Conversations" is Back (If You Want It To Be)!

The Racial Justice Action Group plans to sponsor a second offering of this small group ministry approach to deepening our understanding of racism in ourselves, our congregation, and our larger community. Assuming sufficient interest, "Beloved Conversations" will begin in January or early February with a retreat facilitated by a Meadville Lombard trainer. Eight small group sessions will follow, led by FPC volunteers prepared and supported by Meadville staff. For more information, during October coffee hours, visit the RJAG table, then join us in a designated room (TBD) that allows for quiet conversation with someone who has experienced "Beloved Conversations".

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Greeley Room

We'll have updates on Massachusetts prison reform and the state of the death penalty in the U.S., as well as actions in support of immigration reform. With the release last spring of our two Azerbaijani prisoners of conscience, we will begin work on a new case this month. Our monthly letter-writing supports individuals worldwide whose lives are in jeopardy because of their human rights work. Please join us. For more information: Nancy Lyons, nilyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.

Born on Third Base: Engaging Wealth and Power to Reverse Inequality: Reclaim Our Democracy Presents Speaker Chuck Collins

Tuesday, October 22, 7:30 p.m.

With the heart of an agitator and the soul of a storyteller, inequality expert Chuck Collins upends our assumptions about America's deep wealth divide—one that for the first time in recent history, locks the nation's youth into a future defined by their class and wealth at birth; limits our ability to address crises like climate change; and creates a world that no one, not even the rich, will ultimately want to live in. In "Born on Third Base," Collins busts the myths that define our views of rich and poor, and offers bold new solutions for bridging the economic divide and reengaging the wealthy in rebuilding communities for a resilient future.

Rescheduled Roxbury Youth Program Tour

Saturday, October 26, 2:15 p.m., First Church, 10 Putnam, Roxbury

Carpool with us into Roxbury to learn about the rich history of the Highland Park neighborhood and support the Roxbury Youth Program at the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. The youth-led tour lasts 45 minutes and will be followed by discussion. Cost is \$10, payable that day. Sponsored by the Racial Justice Action Group. To register contact Leslie Fisher, lesliefisher@treitman.com, and let her know if you'd be interested in going in early to have lunch at a locally owned restaurant.

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, November 1, 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

AWE (Advocates for Women's Empowerment) will be featuring *Maiden* for the First Friday Film in November. *Maiden* documents the journey of Tracy Edwards, a 24-year-old cook in charter boats, and how she became the skipper of the first ever all-female crew to enter the Whitbread Round the World in 1989. Tracy's inspirational dream was opposed on all sides: her male competitors thought an all-women crew would never make it, the

chauvinistic yachting press took bets on her failure, and potential sponsors rejected her, fearing they would die at sea and generate bad publicity. But Tracy refused to give up and completed this amazing round the world race.

Secret Santa 2019—We Need Your Help!

Every year, First Parish helps three local organizations with gifts for their guests at holiday time. Eliot House, The Walden Street School, and Renewal House depend on the generosity of First Parish. Many hands are needed to make this effort a success! There are many jobs, and it is a fun way to work with others here at First Parish! If you'd like to help, please contact Bob Brack at brackrobert@gmail.com for more information.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, October 13: Multiage program, Emerson Room

Children in K-7 are invited to create care packages for First Parish Youth who are away at college or who have embarked on other adventures. Please join us in writing letters, making pictures, and filling boxes with treats for our far-away family.

Next Sunday, October 20: Religious Exploration

9:15 a.m. – UU Explorers meet in the Parlor, Visit First Parish in

Arlington, Return to First Parish in Concord ~ 11:50 a.m.

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Neighboring Faiths meet in the Parlor, Visit Sri

Lakshmi Temple (Hindu) in Ashland, MA, Return ~ 12:30 p.m.

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Spirit Play, Kindergarten and Grades 1– Lower Level

Living Our 7 UU Principles, Grade 2– Greeley Room

Living Our 7 UU Principles, Grade 3– Ripley Room

Bibleodeon, Grades 4 & 5– Wright Tavern

Neighboring Activists, Grade 6– Emerson Room

1:30 p.m. –CROP Hunger Walk Kick-off– First Parish front steps

4:00- 6:00 p.m., Coming of Age–Emerson Room

6:00- 8:00 p.m. Youth Group: Third Sunday Supper– Parish Hall, Movie– Wright Tavern

All Ages Make a Difference in CROP Hunger Walk

Next Sunday, October 20, 1:30 p.m.

Walk as a family to end hunger locally and globally. Come join the fun! Nine local food pantries and community suppers are supported by the Concord CROP Walk. The 2 ¼ mile CROP Walk route starts and ends at First Parish in Concord. You can register to join the First Parish team or donate online. See www.concordcrop.org for more information.

Halloween Costume Drive for Transylvanian Youth

We are collecting costume items for the youth visiting from Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania later this month. Halloween is not celebrated in Transylvania and we are hoping to help our friends experience Halloween with pumpkins, trick-or-treating, and Costumes! If you have wigs, glasses, hats, capes, or other costume items you are willing to donate, please leave them in the collection box in the coat closet.

Youth Lunch and Craft with Transylvanian Guests

Sunday, October 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the Emerson Room

Teens in 7th grade and older are invited to a special gathering with the 15 youth visiting with us from Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania. Following the all-ages service led by our Partner Church and featuring their folk dance and music groups, we will have a special lunch in the Emerson Room. This afternoon is designed especially for our teenagers to connect. We will also be making necklaces and touchstones with symbols of our shared UU faith.

Where is the Calendar?

The calendar that is typically at the beginning of the Sunday News was removed this week to accommodate for the higher-than-average number of submissions without reducing the font to an unreadable size. A full calendar of events can be found in the FP Weekly email or on the web at firstparish.org/wp/news/calendar.

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.

The Sunday News can be read online at www.firstparish.org.