

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

October 20, 2019

This Week

Sun. Oct 20	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:30	CROP Walk
	6:00	Community Supper
Mon. Oct 21	7:00	"The Spiritual Experience"
Wed. Oct 23	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	10:00	Catnip Ball Workshop
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Oct 24	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	Transylvanian Welcome Dinner
Fri. Oct 25	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sat. Oct 26	5:00	PCC Dinner and Folk Dance Program
Sun. Oct 27	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

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.

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/yxc7teds>. 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/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.

Help Welcome our Transylvanian Guests on October 24

Our 25 Transylvanian guests from Székelykeresztúr will arrive the evening of Thursday, October 24. After being picked up at the airport, they will be brought to First Parish for a brief welcoming ceremony and simple supper, before being taken to the homes of their hosts; the meal is for our guests only. We would love to have a contingent of parishioners waiting at the church to greet them when they arrive, so please consider being there to welcome them. We expect they'll arrive at First Parish around 8:00 pm, so please show up before then.

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.

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.

Concord Area Humanists: Dr. Nancy Murray

On Wednesday, November 6, Dr Nancy Murray will present "The Gaza I knew." Social starts at 6:30 p.m. From the 1987 Intifada to the Great March of Return in 2018, Gaza Strip has dominated resistance to the Israeli occupation. "I would like Gaza to sink into the sea," said Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, "but that won't happen and a solution must be found." It hasn't. Gaza Strip has been largely sealed off for 12 years. The UN says it will soon be unlivable. Nancy first visited West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1988, and has long been a 'peace with justice' activist. Her BA is from Harvard and Ph.D. from Oxford. For more, contact Pat Everett at pne@aol.com.

Social Action

Thank You from the Immigration Justice Task Force

A heartfelt thank you to all who joined the Immigration IJTF and our faith community neighbors at First Parish last Sunday. The Vigil for immigrant children who have died or who are being held apart from their families was attended by many and gave us a space to come together to sing, pray, and bring our combined outrage to this travesty. We were so grateful for your presence.

"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”.

**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.

**AWE Postcarding for Women’s Health
Saturday, October 26, 10:00 a.m., West Concord**

Awe is not having a regular meeting in October. Instead, we are focusing on community building through action. Join AWE and Concord Indivisible on Saturday, October 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center (1276 Main Street, West Concord) for ROE ACT postcarding with coffee and friends. The ROE Act supports important access issues to abortion and would improve healthcare and lower risks associated with pregnancy and abortion in Massachusetts. The ROE Act would put principles of reproductive freedom into state law. The vote is in November, so now is the time to act! Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net or Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com.

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, leslifisher@treitman.com, and let her know if you’d be interested in going in early to have lunch at a locally owned restaurant.

Partakers’ College Behind Bars Forum

Partakers’ College Behind Bars (CBB) Mentoring Program has been transforming lives and building futures since 1997. At the forum on Sunday, October 27, at 11:30 a.m., Arthur Bembury, Executive Director of Partakers and a former participant in CBB, will talk about the program and how FPC can become involved. In addition, two graduates will share the transformation that education can foster, as well as the impact of building trusting relationships through mentoring. Please come and learn how members and friends of First Parish in Concord can be a part of this dynamic program. Questions? Contact margie.king.saphier@gmail.com.

Support Detainees at South Bay Detention Center

This may be one of your last chances to bear witness and bring comfort to those held at South Bay Detention Center. The Boston Globe reports that this center will be closing in December, relocating the detainees to other facilities around the country, most probably separating them further from their families. Join the Immigration Justice Taskforce on Sunday, October 27, at 2:00 p.m., meeting at Suffolk County House of Corrections, 20 Bradston St., Boston. For more information or to carpool, contact Tony Rodriguez, trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

Change of Date for RJAG October Meeting

The Racial Justice Action Group meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, has been postponed until Tuesday, October 29, to allow members to attend the speaker event sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy on October 22. On October 29, RJAG will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck and discussion of a shared reading of the first essay from Hannah Nicole-Jones “1619” project. Our business meeting will start at 6:45 p.m. and end by 9:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. For more information contact Cindy Soule, cindysoule@gmail.com, or 978-502-9871. (Email preferred).

**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.

Discussion with Attorney Heater Yountz

Join a discussion with Attorney Heather Yountz at the Immigration Justice Taskforce monthly meeting, Monday, November 7, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Brooks Room. Attorney Yountz will speak about her experiences as an immigration lawyer here and on the border. All are welcome.

Religious Exploration

This 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

Next Sunday, October 27: Worship Service for all ages, Little RE available for 0-4 year olds

Adopt-a-Box for a First Parish Youth

Last Sunday, our children created care packages for First Parish Youth who are away at college or who have embarked on other adventures. Would you be willing to help us by adopting a box to send? You can add another note or simply make sure it is delivered. Addressed boxes will be available for adoption on the stage during Coffee Hour.

CROP Hunger Walk Today!

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

Come join the fun while making a difference locally and globally! 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. Thank you!

Youth Lunch and Craft with Transylvanian Guests

Sunday, October 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 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.

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.