

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

November 10, 2019

## This Week

Sun. Nov 10	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	“Write Here, Write Now”
Tues. Nov 12	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	2:00	Shawl Ministry
	7:00	Standing Committee Meeting
Wed. Nov 13	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Nov 14	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Nov 15	7:00	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sat. Nov 16	9:00	Men’s Retreat
Sun. Nov 17	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	2:00	Partakers Mentors Training
	6:00	Community Supper

## Parish Notes

### November’s Share the Plate: Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN)

BIJAN, also known as Beyond, is a network of faith communities and activist groups working together with those who are detained and facing deportation, to reduce the escalating harm and racism of our immigration system. We provide support in court and at ICE check-ins, clergy visits, legal referrals, help paying bonds and legal fees, housing, and rides to legal and medical appointments and for families visiting loved ones in detention. Help free our neighbors from immigration prison. For more information, go to [beyondbondboston.org](http://beyondbondboston.org) or contact IJTF at [trod.rodriquez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriquez@gmail.com).

### Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

#### Being Modest About Judaism

Friday, November 15, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room

In his provocative article, “Judaism is Not a Major Player in the History of Humankind,” Yuval Harari argues that Judaism’s particular story has had a relatively minor impact on world history and theology. Harari provides much material for an animated debate. We hope you will join us for a lively and engaging discussion facilitated by Jessica Bethoney. We’ll share food, wine, blessings, and conversation. All are welcome. For more info, contact Dana Snyder-Grant at [dana.snydergrant@gmail.com](mailto:dana.snydergrant@gmail.com) or 978-760-1129.

### First Parish Men’s Retreat

#### “Creating the Life You Want”

Saturday, November 16, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Chapel

First Parish men, here’s an opportunity to assess where you are in your life’s journey. We will explore five areas: your time, financial well being, relationships, health, and identity. There will be time for reflection, discussion, and planning next steps. Tom Wilson will join Rev. Howard Dana and Jeff Clanon in facilitating. Please sign up in the front office. Lunch provided.

### A Sudden New Creation:

#### Darwin, Thoreau and “The Origin of Species”

Saturday, November 30, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Celebrate the 160th anniversary of Darwin’s “On the Origin of Species” with a special living history presentation! Darwin’s work profoundly challenged and influenced Henry David Thoreau. In this entertaining performance, Kenneth Noll and Richard Smith will bring Darwin and Thoreau to life. Kenneth Noll is a Professor of Microbiology at the

University of Connecticut. Richard Smith is a Concord historian, who frequently appears in character as Thoreau. Sponsored by Transcendentalism Council. Tickets \$10. For reservations, contact [diannemcweiss@comcast.net](mailto:diannemcweiss@comcast.net). Scholarships available upon request.

### Margaret Fuller and the Female Divine

Sunday, December 1, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Margaret Fuller scholar, Ariel Clark Silver, explores how Margaret Fuller transformed American letters and society in her 1845 book, “Woman in the Nineteenth Century,” and inspired the literary flowering of American women in the work of Nathaniel Hawthorne. Ariel Clark Silver is the author of “The Book of Esther and The Typology of Female Transfiguration in American Literature” and has spoken widely about Fuller and other writers of the American Renaissance. Sponsored by Transcendentalism Council and Women’s Parish Association. Tickets \$10. For reservations, contact [shelley\\_hawks@msn.com](mailto:shelley_hawks@msn.com). Scholarships available upon request.

### Save the Date: Holiday Concert and Tea

Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m.

All men, women, youth, and children are warmly invited to our annual Holiday Concert and Tea. Jazz legendary band, *Sonic Explorers*, will perform followed by a festive tea. There is no charge for this event. More details to follow.

### Coming of Sage

At some point in our lives, often in our mid-60s or -70s, many of us cease to define ourselves by our *doing* and increasingly identify our better selves with our fundamental *being*. Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom and Tom Wilson will help guide a small group of First Parish elders into Coming of Sage, meeting at 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 16, and then every Monday evening in January and February 2020, culminating in a Sunday morning Coming of Sage worship service on February 23, 2020. Please contact the office, [jimsherblom@gmail.com](mailto:jimsherblom@gmail.com), or [twilson@wilsongroup.com](mailto:twilson@wilsongroup.com) to reserve a place in the class.

### Save a Weekend for a Women’s Retreat!

All women of First Parish are invited to attend one of the Away retreats at Senexet House (January 24 to 31 or January 31 to February 2) or the At-Home retreat at First Parish (February 8 and 9). The theme this year is “Simplify,” and we encourage you to mark your calendar now for a weekend you can attend! See the FP Weekly for more information and stay tuned for registration in December. Questions? Contact registrar Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).

## Social Action

### Help Ensure Fair Elections in 2020

The 2020 elections are less than a year away, and the Nation’s election system remains in danger. The House has approved \$600 million for election security but the Senate is currently considering less than half that amount, which will not be nearly enough to replace local paperless voting machines and take other measures essential to preventing election interference. Today coffee hour, please come by our UUSJ *Write Here! Write Now!* table and write to senators. Background and other materials will be provided. Your letters will be hand-delivered in Washington, D.C. Questions? Contact: [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com).

### New Environmental Team Webpage

The First Parish Environmental Team invites the congregation to visit our new web page at [firstparish.org/wp/the-climate-crisis-and-what-we-can-do-about-it](http://firstparish.org/wp/the-climate-crisis-and-what-we-can-do-about-it). We welcome your suggestions and input on this issue. To submit information for listing on the site, please email [fpeat1@googlegroups.com](mailto:fpeat1@googlegroups.com).

### Thank You from IJTF

The Immigration Justice Taskforce would like to thank all of you who participated in the winter outerwear clothing and boot drive for refugees. Twelve huge bags of warm winterwear were collected in just two weeks and brought to The International Institute of Lowell. We asked, you delivered, and we are so grateful.

### **Jericho Walks: Stand up against Immigration Injustice!**

Your support and presence are needed at the November Jericho Walks. Join the Immigration Justice Taskforce to once again protest the cruel policies on the treatment of immigrants and their children. This is a silent prayer walk that will speak volumes. Thursday, November 14, 8:00 a.m. and Tuesday, November 19, 1:00 p.m. Meet at ICE Office, 1000 District Avenue, in Burlington, MA. If you can, please bring a sign calling for immigration justice and a stop to deportations or separating families. For more information or to carpool contact Tony Rodriguez, [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com).

### **Training to Become a Partakers' College Behind Bars Mentor**

Arthur Bembury, Ex. Director of Partakers, will hold a mentor training Sunday, November 17, at 2:00 p.m., at First Parish. The training takes an hour to an hour and a half. If you are curious but not sure you want to become a mentor, you are more than welcome to join. If you cannot attend the meeting but want to become a mentor or have any questions, call Margie King Saphier at 781-424-2179, or email at [margie.king.saphier@gmail.com](mailto:margie.king.saphier@gmail.com).

### **Singing in Solidarity With Our Immigrant Neighbors!**

**Sunday, November 17, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., at Greater Framingham Community Church**

On November 17, join the Immigration Justice Taskforce and the Metrowest Immigration Solidarity Network at the Greater Framingham Community Church, 44 Franklin Street, in Framingham for an afternoon of inspiring music from many faiths and cultures. This is a free will offering event. Funds will be used to support immigrants who need legal or bail assistance and families in crisis. Please be generous. For more information call Laura, at 508-308-9261.

### **UU the Vote 2020: Suppressed: The Fight to Vote**

**Monday, November 18, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

UU President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray has challenged UU churches to "UU the Vote" in 2020 and First Parish will be participating. On November 18, come view the short film *Suppressed: The Fight to Vote*, a story of voter suppression in Georgia during the 2018 election. After the film, to learn more, we have three knowledgeable speakers: Diane Proctor, former President of the League of Women Voters, Concord-Carlisle; Susan Leslie, UUA Congregational Advocacy & Witness Director; and Kate Kavanagh, founder of Concord Indivisible. This event is sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy and the Racial Justice Action Group. Questions? Contact [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com).

### **AWE Postcarding for Women's Health**

**Saturday, November 23, 10:00 a.m., West Concord**

AWE is not having a regular meeting in November. Instead, we are focusing on community building through action. Join AWE and Concord Indivisible on Saturday, November 23, 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. Contact Lora Venesy ([venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net)) or Suzie Weaver ([skatesuzie@aol.com](mailto:skatesuzie@aol.com)).

### **Immigration Taskforce Meeting**

**Monday, December 2, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Brooks Room**

Did you know that no refugees were resettled in the United States during the entire month of October? And that the quota for next year will be 18,000 down from over 200,000 during the 1980s? If you are outraged, interested in learning more, or compelled to do something, please mark your calendars for the next Immigration Justice Taskforce monthly meeting on Monday, December 2. You are needed, you are welcomed!

### **Volunteer at Rosie's Place**

**Sunday, December 15, Boston**

We are looking volunteers (age 12+) to join us to cook and serve dinner at Rosie's Place on Sunday, December 15. We'll carpool from church at 1:30 p.m. and return by 6:30 p.m. Rosie's Place is a sanctuary for poor and homeless women in Boston and serves 3 meals a day, 365 days a year. Past volunteers have found this to be a meaningful way to do direct social action work. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE). Contact Suzie Weaver ([skatesuzie@aol.com](mailto:skatesuzie@aol.com)) to sign up (pre-registration required).

## **Religious Exploration**

**This Sunday, November 10: Religious Exploration**

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

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Activists, Grade 6– Hugh Cargill Community Garden

No Neighboring Faiths, Grade 7 this Sunday!

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

*Children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 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.*

10:15-11:15 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

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

**Next Sunday, November 17: Religious Exploration**

### **LREDA Fall Conference**

**November 7-10, Baltimore, MD**

Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education, and Dawn Van Patten, Assistant Director of RE are attending the Fall Conference of the Liberal Religious Educators Association in Baltimore. The conference theme is "Theologies of Suffering and Wholeness". The conference will balance going deep into these theologies while also providing concrete tools and skills for religious professionals to use when we encounter suffering and work for collective liberation.

### **Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)**

**Meet on Front Steps at 10:00 a.m. to Walk Together**

This Sunday, we will do some Fall clean up at the Hugh Cargill Community Garden on Walden Street. We will meet on the front steps and walk to the garden together. Please dress to work outside and if possible bring a rake and a pair of gardening gloves. If any parents would like to join us, you are welcome! We will return to First Parish by 11:30 a.m..

### **8th Grade OWL Parent Orientation**

**Sunday, November 17, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Emerson Room**

"Our Whole Lives" (OWL) 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 UU principles, to help them make responsible decisions, and to increase their understanding and respect for themselves and others. One parent/guardian must attend the Orientation and all parents/guardians must sign an OWL Permission Form. Sign-up Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4faac29a5fe3-parent>.

**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).

**Rev. Howard Dana's email:** [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

**Rev. Liz Weber's email:** [lweber@firstparish.org](mailto:lweber@firstparish.org)

**Church office:** 978-369-9602

Visit our website: [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).