

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

November 17, 2019

This Week

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
Mon. Nov 18	7:00	Reclaim Our Democracy Film
Tues. Nov 19	7:00	Amnesty International
	7:00	Social Action Meeting
Wed. Nov 20	8:00	Trustees Meeting
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Nov 21	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri. Nov 22	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sun. Nov 24	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	3:00	Ken Cowan Concert

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 or contact IJTF at trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

In Search of An Office Volunteer!

Are you interested in volunteering your time in the church office? We are currently looking for a volunteer to take over the weekly Tuesday spot from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Duties include answering the phone, directing visitors, and helping with light office work. You are not required to work holidays, and we have a group of substitutes who can take your place if you need a day off. If you would like to join our team of friendly faces or have questions about the position, please email Church Administrator, Sarah Burns, at sburns@firstparish.org, or call the office at 978-369-9602.

Thanksgiving Hours at First Parish

The First Parish office will close early on Wednesday, November 27, at 12:00 p.m. noon for the Thanksgiving weekend. The offices will also be closed Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29. Office hours will resume normally on Tuesday, December 3, at 9:00 a.m. We wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

Volunteer Opportunity on the First Parish Sound Team

Are you interested in volunteering at First Parish in Concord? Join the Sound Team! We are seeking a Sound Operator to record the Sunday Morning Worship Service on the second Sunday of each month. It is an easy, once-a-month commitment to help us preserve a recorded record of each service. Training and ongoing support will be provided. This is a flexible commitment as the Sound Team trade Sundays among themselves to fit it into their schedules. For more information, contact Keith Wortman, wortman2@verizon.net, 978-392-9226 (email preferred).

You are invited to Sunday Supper!

Sunday, November 17, 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 (no pressure to bring anything). The suggested donation is \$5 per

person, with a maximum of \$20 per family. Youth Group members eat FREE. All ages are welcome! If you have questions, please contact Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net) or Kate Svrcek (katesvrcek@hotmail.com). Third Sunday Suppers are part of a new year-long pilot program intended to build community and deepen connections among First Parish members and friends.

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. 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 Margaret 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. Scholarships available upon request.

The Open Door: Evening Contemporary Worship

Every First Tuesday of the Month, 6:00 p.m., in the Chapel

Come gather with us for vibrant evening worship and real connection! Please join us the first Tuesday of each month, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., in the chapel. Services will be led by Gail Carey, Assistant Director of Music Ministry, and Rev. Liz Weber, Minister for Pastoral Care. Musicians from the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble will help lead congregational singing. First Parish leaders will share reflections on their call to social justice work. Learn what inspires us forward together in kindness. Come as you are. Save the dates of Tuesdays, December 3, January 7, February 4, March, April 7 and May 5.

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. Reservations are greatly appreciated for planning purposes. Contact pekincd@comcast.net or the office at 978-369-9602.

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, or twilson@wilsongroup.com to reserve a place in the class.

Thanks to All Who Helped Welcome Our Transylvanian Guests

Our 25 Transylvanian guests have safely returned home after ten wonderful days in Concord, Maine, and Vermont. The performances and workshops by the folk dance troupe and musicians were fantastic and enthusiastically received by the audiences. The Partner Congregation Committee would like to thank the many people who made this visit so successful; those who hosted our visitors in their homes, who organized meals and other activities, who attended events and made our guest feel welcomed, and who donated funds to cover their travel expenses. Wonderful memories were made, and the bonds of our international partnership were renewed and made stronger.

Social Action

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.

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.

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.

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) or Suzie Weaver (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!

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, December 5, 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

AWE (Advocates for Women's Empowerment) will be featuring Calendar Girls, a comedy about the power of women to support a cause. Calendar Girls is based on the true story of a group of middle-aged Yorkshire women who produced a nude calendar to raise money for Leukemia Research under the auspices of the Women's Institutes in April 1999 after the cancer death of one of their members' husband. The film stars an ensemble cast including by Helen Mirren and other well-known British actresses in key supporting roles. Contact Lou Toussaint (mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

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) to sign up (pre-registration required).

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, November 17: Religious Exploration

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

10:00 a.m.

Neighboring Activists, Grade 6–Sleepy Hollow Tour, Return ~ 11:30 a.m.

Neighboring Faiths, Grade 7– Brooks Room

UU Explorers, Grade 8– Chapel

Worship Service– Sanctuary

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 classroom 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

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 8th Grade OWL Parent Orientation– Emerson Room

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

4:00 p.m., Youth Group helps cook, serve and clean 3rd Sunday Supper– Kitchen

6:00- 7:00 p.m., 3rd Sunday Supper– Parish Hall

Next Sunday, November 24: Thanksgiving Service for All Ages

Rev. Gary Smith Offers Tour of Sleepy Hollow

Today our 6th graders will meet at 10:00 a.m. on the front steps for our annual tour of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Rev. Gary Smith, our Minister Emeritus will offer stories about our spiritual ancestors buried there. The group will lay roses on the graves as a sign of our respect. The group 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/30e0b4faaac29a5fe3-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.

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

Rev. Howard Dana's email: hdana@firstparish.org

Rev. Liz Weber's email: lweber@firstparish.org

Church office: 978-369-9602

Visit our website: www.firstparish.org.