

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

November 24, 2019

## This Week

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
Tues. Nov 26	9:00	Sunday News Deadline
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Wed. Nov 27	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	12:00	Office Closes at Noon
Thu. Nov 28		Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Fri. Nov 29		Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Sat. Nov. 30	7:00	Darwin, Thoreau, and the "Origin of Species"
Sun. Dec 1	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Service and Ordination of Hannah Gallo
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	3:00	Margaret Fuller and the Female Divine
	4:00	Adult Drum Fusion Circle

visit [uusc.org](http://uusc.org). Questions? Email Rev. Amy Freedman at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

### Organ Concert This Afternoon: Ken Cowan

Ken Cowan, regarded as one of North America's finest concert organists and praised for his dazzling artistry, impeccable technique, and imaginative programming by audiences and critics alike, will be performing at First Parish in Concord this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Admission is free.

### 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 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](mailto:shelley_hawks@msn.com). Scholarships available upon request.

### Adult Drum Fusion Circle

#### Sunday, December 1, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., in the Chapel

An adult drum fusion circle will begin on Sunday, December 1, at 5:00 p.m., and will be held monthly. No experience is necessary, beginners and experienced drummers are welcomed. A variety of drums and smaller handheld percussion instruments will be provided. If you have a drum, please bring it along. Our circle will help you to discover your inner rhythm at your own pace. We will drum for one hour followed by a half hour sound bath to slow things down. The intention for this gathering is to have fun listening to each other while we collaborate to create some great sounding rhythms together. For additional information or questions contact Daniel Shea 781-439-8891. Sponsored by Music Ministry.

### First Tuesday Group: "Winter Holiday Memories"

#### Tuesday, December 3, 1:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall

The First Tuesday Group (65+) will gather around the fireplace in the Parish Hall for a Winter Holiday Celebration, which will feature a story and a skit about the aspirations that Jewish and Christian traditions share. After the skit, there will be an opportunity to share a holiday memory that has been transformative. An object or photo to accompany the story is welcome! Refreshments will include eggnog, cookies, coffee, tea, and your favorite holiday treat if you bring a plate to share. While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years. Also, if you are interested in an additional opportunity to gather with First Parish friends for coffee and conversation one morning a month, contact Berni Jenkins at [bernijenkins2@gmail.com](mailto:bernijenkins2@gmail.com).

### 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.

## 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.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com).

### Sunday News Submissions Due Early

#### Tuesday, November 26, at 9:00 a.m.

Because the office will be closed for most of the week for the Thanksgiving holiday (see blurb below), we will be collecting Sunday News submissions earlier than usual. Please have all articles for the December 1 edition of the Sunday News to Sarah Burns, [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org), by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 26. We will be printing early in the week, so late submissions cannot be accommodated. Thank you!

### Thanksgiving Hours at First Parish

The First Parish office will close early on Wednesday, November 27, at 12:00 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](mailto:wortman2@verizon.net), 978-392-9226 (email preferred).

### Welcoming a Guest at Your Table

#### Return boxes by Sunday, December 15

Over the holiday season, we invite a "Guest at Your Table," a traditional fundraising practice for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC's grassroots partners make a big difference in their communities, and so does your participation in GAYT. This year's program theme is "Women Leaders, Strong Communities." Boxes will be distributed today and will be available in the front office after that. Please return your box on Sunday, December 15, so our 8th graders can count your contribution. Otherwise, please write a check for the amount payable to UUSC. For more information,

### **Committee Chairs Breakfast**

**Wednesday, December 4, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.**

All committees at First Parish are invited to a breakfast meeting on Wednesday, December 4. This meeting will be an opportunity for committees and groups to share what they are up to in a group setting, and to provide opportunities for collaboration and exchange of ideas. Each chair or representative will briefly (2 minutes each) describe current or future committee activities. Coffee and light breakfast will be available. If your chair is not available or there isn't one, a representative is welcome. Rev. Dana will be in attendance. Sponsored and facilitated by the Standing Committee. RSVP to [daveelwood@hotmail.com](mailto:daveelwood@hotmail.com).

### **Third Sunday Supper**

**Sunday, December 15, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

All ages are invited to gather for Sunday Supper. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, with a maximum of \$20 per family. Youth Group members eat free. We will make our own crepes for dessert. Feel free to bring a beverage of your choosing, and/or your favorite topping for crêpes: berries, bananas, whipped cream, lemon curd, fudge, caramel, Nutella, or chocolate chips. Please sign up online at <https://forms.gle/QgBUhuCDPpfNwNgi9>. Even if you haven't signed up, you are welcome! Questions? Contact Sue Ryan at [susanryan101@comcast.net](mailto:susanryan101@comcast.net).

### **Transylvanian Fundraising Goal Reached**

We are pleased to report that we've reached our fundraising goal to bring our 25 Transylvanian guests here. 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 guests feel welcomed, and who donated funds to cover their travel expenses. Wonderful memories were made, and bonds of our international partnership were renewed and made stronger.

## **Social Action**

### **Secret Santa**

Each year, First Parish reaches out to the Walden Street School, the Eliot Center, and UU Urban Ministries to provide Christmas Wish lists from their clients. At coffee hour on November 24, December 1, and December 8, you will have an opportunity to select from these lists. After purchasing the present(s), you return them to First Parish, unwrapped but tagged with the person's first name and organization. The deadline for gift delivery is Sunday, December 15. The gifts will be delivered to the organizations before Christmas. If you have any questions, or you would like to help out with distributing wish lists or organizing donations, please contact Bob Brack at [brackrobert@gmail.com](mailto:brackrobert@gmail.com) or 508-735-6394 (email preferred).

### **Racial Justice Action Group**

**Monday, December 2, Potluck at 6:00 p.m.; Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

We will meet on Monday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m., for a potluck, followed by a business meeting from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. We welcome all who are interested in joining us for a part or all of the evening. This month's potluck will focus on discussion of the second episode in the New York Times's 1619 series that reframes our history to center considerations of race. Here are the links: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/slavery-capitalism.html>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/30/podcasts/1619-slavery-cotton-capitalism.html>

We are a warm and welcoming group with a serious commitment to deepening our understanding of racism within ourselves, our congregation, and our community, and finding ways to take action. Please join us.

### **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 Helen Mirren and other well-known British actresses in key supporting roles. Contact Lou Toussaint ([mloutoussaint@gmail.com](mailto:mloutoussaint@gmail.com)).

### **Save the Date for a Huddle**

A "huddle" is a dedicated time to join with others from FP and beyond to write to legislators and neighbors about the critical, time-sensitive issues you believe

in. The Immigration Justice Taskforce is sponsoring this event with Concord Indivisible on Sunday, December 15, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., in West Concord. It will be fun and festive! Details to follow. For questions, contact [reginacorraoconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:reginacorraoconsulting@gmail.com).

### **IJTF Recommendation**

What do U.S. asylum officers believe about the work they do, when it includes sending desperate migrants back to Mexico? For first-hand accounts, listen to NPR's "This American Life" podcast, episode 688, from November 15, 2019, "The Out Crowd, Act One, Goodbye Stranger." Members of IJTF found it an informative, emotional and powerful piece.

### **Holiday Gift Bags for Those in Prison**

Again this year, Concord Prison Outreach (CPO) is sponsoring the Holiday Gift Bag Project for our neighbors in the two Concord prisons. For information on how you can help, get the flyer at coffee hour, see them attached to the big green bucket in the coat room, or read the article in the Concord Journal or other towns' local papers. To learn more about the Holiday Gift Bag Project and other CPO programs, visit [concordprisonoutreach.org](http://concordprisonoutreach.org). Additional information can be obtained from: Don Miller, [donaldbmiller@comcast.net](mailto:donaldbmiller@comcast.net); or 978-610-6298. Sponsored in partnership with SAC.

### **Goods for Jamaica**

Have items you don't want? They are needed in the rural community of Carawina: clothing, tools, toiletries, dictionaries, canned foods, and more. Don't have anything? Funds are also needed for transport. We'll pack barrels in early January, and Jennipher Burgess will take them to Jamaica. Drop off items at church on Sundays or at CC King's home (for drop off, contact: [ckinginterplay@gmail.com](mailto:ckinginterplay@gmail.com)). Learn more at coffee hour or [jamaicad49@gmail.com](mailto:jamaicad49@gmail.com). Sponsored by RJAG and SAC.

## **Religious Exploration**

**This Sunday, November 24: Thanksgiving Service for All Ages**

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

11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. – Parent Circle – Wright Tavern

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

### **Child Dedications at First Parish in Concord**

Today's service will include a Child Dedication. This is a Unitarian Universalist rite of passage for babies and young children including 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(ren) dedicated, please contact Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education, at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

**Parent Circle: "Holding On to What is Good This Holiday Season" Sunday, November 24, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wright Tavern**  
**Childcare is Available in the Brooks Room**

Before rushing headlong into the holiday season, let's take a moment to reflect together. What traditions are most meaningful for you and your family members? Join Rev. Amy Freedman and Dawn Van Patten for a session that will offer some strategies and resources to help you "hold on to what is good" this holiday season. Drop-ins are welcome!

**Next Sunday, December 1: Multi-age Program**

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

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. – Kids Yoga (Kindergarten- 6th Grade) – Emerson Room

### **Kids Yoga**

**Sunday, December 1, 10:00 to 11:15 a.m., Emerson Room**

Kindergarten through 6th graders are invited to join Jaime Andrews for yoga in the Emerson Room during the service time. Jaime is a certified Kidding Around Yoga instructor. This unique class incorporates singing, jogging, dancing, games, and so much more to improve strength, flexibility, and coordination. Children will learn how to focus and center themselves with various breathing and visualization techniques. They will also learn self-respect and respect for others with the practice of fun and challenging poses, partner and group poses, lots of yoga games, breathing, and basic anatomy.