

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

April 29, 2018

## This Week

Sun. Apr 29	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Standing Committee Conversation
	4:00	Mother/Son Cooking Class
Tue. May 1	1:30	First Tuesday Group
	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:00	Annual Pledge Campaign Meeting
Wed. May 2	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. May 3	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. May 4	6:30	AWE Movie Night
Sat. May 5	9:00	Meadville on the Road
Sun. May 6	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Nominating Committee
	5:00	Oriana Consort
	6:00	Standing Committee Conversation

at most two, books that you wish to share with others.

## Roy Speckhardt Humanist Event

**Wednesday, May 2, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

Roy Speckhardt, Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, will draw from his latest book, *Creating Change Through Humanism*. Roy will discuss how the modern Humanist movement has been at the forefront of such social issues as civil rights, women's rights, religion-free science, LGBTQ equality, and environmental preservation. He will argue for the need to be open about being "good without god" and combating the antihumanist prejudice of the Religious Right. Sponsored by the FP Humanist Council. Contact Pat Everett at [pne@aol.com](mailto:pne@aol.com) with any questions.

## Meadville on the Road

**Saturday, May 5, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

First Parish is cohosting a day of worship and learning with Meadville Lombard Theological School, our UU seminary in Chicago. It will be a day filled with intellectual discussions and spiritual inspiration to lift up our justice work and give us tools for faith-based social engagement. The theme of the day is, "How Can We Save Our Democracy? Religion and Politics in an Uncertain World." The event is free and includes a box lunch. Required online registration closes on April 27. Go to [www.meadville.edu](http://www.meadville.edu) for more information.

## Oriana Consort at First Parish, Reception Following Sunday, May 6, 5:00 p.m.

In this concert, Oriana presents beautiful but infrequently-performed choral works by several lesser-known composers. Sixteenth-century Swiss composer Ludwig Senfl gives us a sacred motet and a lively mimetic piece that sounds like bells in a cathedral tower. The first half ends with three small-ensemble choruses by Boston's own Amy Beach. The program ends with Gerald Finzi's sensitive choral settings of seven poems of Robert Bridges (later England's Poet Laureate).

## Parish Notes

April's Share-the-Plate recipient is the Climate Disobedience Center. New fracked gas infrastructure has an estimated lifetime of 40 years. The CDC trains and educates citizens who want to take action around climate change. Give generously, and if you are writing a check, please make your tax-deductible contribution out to First Parish in Concord with "Social Good with Climate Disobedience Center" written on the memo line.

## Thanks for a Successful Flea Market!

The Women's Parish Association extends hearty thanks to all those who supported yesterday's Flea Market! Treasures remaining from the WPA Boutique will be on sale at bargain prices during today's coffee hour. Do stop by! Your purchases will help fund the WPA's programs and its support of First Parish facilities and charities.

## 7.5%?: Standing Committee Conversation

**Today, April 29, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary**

Throughout this year, the Standing Committee has gathered information and opinions from the congregation about our 20-year-old policy that reserves 7.5% of pledge revenue for social action purposes. This process has resulted in the Standing Committee crafting a new policy on spending to present for a vote at the annual meeting on June 10. Please come to the Sanctuary on today at 11:30 a.m. to hear about our process and discuss our current proposal.

## Draft Summary Report on SAC Grants

A summary of key information about the SAC grants supported by the 7.5% of pledges is posted on the Social Action Community's SAC Grant website. It also includes early results from our Share-the-Plate Pilot. Copies will be available at the Standing Committee's presentation of its proposed policy for the 7.5%, or you can download it from the website.

## "Books That Have Inspired Us"

The First Tuesday Group (senior focus, but all are welcome) will discuss one or two "Books That Have Inspired Us" in the Parish hall on May 1, 1:30-3:00 pm. When we read a book, we feed our brain. We improve language skills that affect how we think. We widen our mental horizons. And sometimes, as we learn about ourselves from the characters in the book, we may improve our character. This session will consist of discussion in small groups. Please come with at least one, and

## HeatSmart Program

Through the state-sponsored HeatSmart program, residents can purchase advanced air-source and ground-source heat pumps from installers selected for high quality work and competitive pricing. These systems can greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy costs, and improve the comfort of your home. Please come to the HeatSmart Meet-the-Installers event on Monday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m. at First Parish Church in Concord to learn more and meet the installers. For further information, please visit [HeatSmartCCL.org](http://HeatSmartCCL.org). HeatSmart Carlisle/Concord/Lincoln is a volunteer-led program supported by MassCEC, MassDOER, the Towns of Carlisle, Concord, and Lincoln, and has been endorsed by the First Parish Environmental Leadership Team.

## Still One More Chance

There is still one more chance to hear preliminary results from the massive data collected this year during our *Year for Reflection and Visioning*. Please join representatives of the Standing Committee Tuesday, May 8, at 7:00 p.m. Your input on interpreting this data is essential because it will help set goals for the Senior Minister, Staff, and Standing Committee for the next five years.

## Tour the Historic Fourth Meeting House

**Wednesday, May 9, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

Senior Minister Rev. Howard N. Dana will show a group around the church grounds and building, explaining various aspects of the congregation's nearly 400-year history. Come learn about the Puritan founders, the church's role in the American Revolution, and its famous Transcendentalist members. The tour will take roughly 90 minutes, with plenty of opportunities to sit down and ask questions. Thanks to Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Hidden Treasures program, for grant support. Free and open to the public. RSVP: 978-369-9602. Meet in the church vestibule.

### **Mother's Day Walk for Peace—Sunday, May 13, 8:30 a.m.**

All ages are invited to join the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace! A free bus from First Parish in Concord will leave at 8:30 a.m. to take walkers to Boston and return by 1:30 p.m. We will walk three miles, from Madison Park High School to City Hall. Register online for "First Parish Concord" team at <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org>. All walkers are asked to register and contribute at least \$10 per walker. Come visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour to sign up for the bus to the Peace Walk, or contact Margie King Saphier at [margie.king.saphier@gmail.com](mailto:margie.king.saphier@gmail.com) or 781-424-2179.

### **Program by Shelley Hawks Now at WPA May Luncheon**

Rescheduled to Wednesday, May 16, at 11:30 a.m., the Women's Parish Association will introduce fellow parishioner Prof. Shelley Hawks as she gives an illustrated presentation about her latest book, *The Art of Resistance, Painting by Candlelight in Mao's China*. Her findings present a compelling picture of what dedicated resisters against oppression can accomplish. For reservations, contact the office at 978-369-9602, sign up at coffee hour, or email Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) by May 13. Note: You must RSVP again even if you reserved for the postponed March luncheon.

### **Ferry Beach Retreat—Friday, May 25, to Monday, May 28 Registration through April 29**

Join families, couples, and singles from our own congregation and First Parish in Lexington for this relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine, over Memorial Day Weekend. Registrations will be taken through today's coffee hour. The Registration Packet is available at [www.firstparish.org/forms](http://www.firstparish.org/forms). For questions or to inquire about scholarship assistance, contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com). Also, to check out the campus plus summer camps and conferences for all ages at Ferry Beach, see [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org).

### **Adoption Lunch and Learn**

#### **Sunday, June 3, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

Please join us for a Lunch and Learn session with the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) on ways your small contributions can make a big difference in the lives of foster children. Our own Kristen Ferguson will be presenting for MARE. Lunch will be provided. This session will give you ways to help raise awareness about foster children, help make contributions for needed items like backpacks and toiletries, and present information on ways to be a "buddy family" for foster kids. This event is sponsored by our Neighboring Activists (Grade 6). Please check out the "Heart Gallery" on the Parish Hall stage; and to find out more about how you could make a difference, check out [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org).

### **Annual Meeting Is June 10**

The Annual Meeting is on Sunday June 10, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. At Annual Meeting, the congregation receives reports from staff and committees, votes on officers and committee members, approves delegates to General Assembly, approves the budget for next year, and more. Our bylaws state that First Parish members who have signed the book at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting may vote. If you are considering joining our community and would like to participate and vote, you must sign the book by Friday, May 11. The warrant for this year's meeting will be approved by the Standing Committee at its second May meeting. If you have any questions or ideas you would like to share about Annual Meeting, warrant articles, etc., please contact Kristin Haddad, chair, Standing Committee, at [kristin.haddad@gmail.com](mailto:kristin.haddad@gmail.com) or 978-254-5012.

### **June 2018 Meeting House News Deadline (Final Edition until September)**

**Tuesday, May 15, 12:00 Noon**

Keep the article length to 100 words and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu). The June 2018 edition will be published May 23.

## **Social Action**

### **AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series**

#### **Friday, May 4, 4:00 p.m., in the Chapel**

Join us to watch "Whale Rider," Only males are allowed to ascend to chieftom in a Maori tribe in New Zealand. This ancient custom is upset when the child selected to be the next chief dies at birth. However, his twin sister survives. At age twelve, she enlists the help of her grandmother and the training of her uncle to claim her birthright. But to break with convention, she'll have to do the impossible: win over her ultra-traditional grandfather. Contact Lou Toussaint at [mloutoussaint@gmail.com](mailto:mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

### **AWE Book Group**

#### **Tuesday, May 8, 7:00 p.m., at First Parish**

For our next meeting, the Advocates for Women's Empowerment book club is trying something different. We will be reading articles on the topic of Women's Bodies. Join us for a lively discussion! We have provided links to ten articles grouped in three subject areas: reproduction, body image, and sport. Please read at least one article on each subject. The article links and a copy (for photocopying) can be found in the First Parish Office, on the AWE facebook page at [www.facebook.com/concordwomen](http://www.facebook.com/concordwomen), or by contacting Jen Izzo at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com).

## **Religious Exploration**

### **Coming of Age Service**

#### **Sunday, May 6, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

#### **9th graders and their Mentors**

with Revs. Amy Freedman, Ken Reeves, and Howard Dana  
Our Coming of Age Service will be the culmination of our 9th grade program. The youth will present their credos, personal statements of belief, to our congregation as well as lead other parts of the service. This is always a moving rite of passage. We encourage children who are in the 5th grade and older to attend the service. All ages are welcome!

### **Are You A Teenager Who Likes Working with Young Children?**

First Parish welcomes youth who will be in grades 9-12 next year to join the Teen Assistant Program. Assisting during the morning services is a wonderful way to stay engaged in the First Parish community while providing valuable and much-needed support for the classrooms with our youngest children. Teen Assistants work Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and earn \$12 per hour. Please email Dawn Van Patten, [dvanpatten@firstparish.org](mailto:dvanpatten@firstparish.org), with any questions or for information on how to apply to work in the program next year.

### **This Sunday, April 29: Religious Exploration**

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level  
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room  
10:00 – 11:15 a.m. – Middle OWL (Grade 5) – Wright Tavern  
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
10:15-11:15 a.m. – Religious Exploration  
Kindergarten & Grade 1–Lower Level  
Grade 2–Emerson Room  
Grade 3–Bulkeley Room  
Grade 4–Ripley Room  
Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)–Chapel  
4:00 - 5:30 p.m. – OWL (Grade 8), Session 10–Emerson Room  
5:30 - 6:00 p.m. – OWL Closing Celebration with Parents–Parish Hall  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Coming of Age with mentors–Emerson Room

### **Next Sunday, May 6: Religious Exploration**

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level  
10:00-11:30 a.m. – Coming of Age Service (Grade 5 & older encouraged to attend. All ages are welcome!)  
10:15-11:30 a.m. – Kids Yoga (Kindergarten- Grade 4), Emerson Room

### **The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.**

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to Sarah Burns at [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).