

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

May 13, 2018

This Week

Sun. May 13	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
Tues. May 15	5:00	SAC Board Meeting
	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:00	Amnesty International
	7:00	AWE Book Group
Wed. May 16	8:00	Trustee's Meeting
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	11:30	WPA Luncheon Program
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. May 17	7:00	Membership Committee Meeting
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. May 18	7:00	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sat. May 19	8:00	AWE Meeting
Sun. May 20	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Congregational Conversation: Climate Justice
	2:00	Annual Photo Club Exhibit and Reception
	6:00	Standing Committee Meeting

pekincd@comcast.net by May 13. Note: You must RSVP again even if you reserved for the postponed March luncheon.

Photo Club Annual Exhibit

Sunday, May 20, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Bring your family and friends to the Annual First Parish Photo Club Show and Reception. Members' work will be displayed on the Stage Gallery, and two slide shows will run continuously. First, in the Parlor, ten of each member's photos, and second, on the Stage, Field Trip Highlights. Choose from an assortment of costumes and props and have your picture taken in the popular "Photo Booth." A variety of delicious foods and beverages will be served at no charge. Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

The Role of Faith Communities in Times of Social Unrest May 29, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

The Reclaim Our Democracy group at First Parish in Concord has organized a panel discussion of local church leaders to discuss the current democracy challenges facing this country and the role that our local faith groups can play in addressing these challenges. Participants will include Rev. Howard Dana, Senior Minister, First Parish in Concord; Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom, former Senior Minister, First Parish in Brookline; Fr. Austin Fleming, Pastor, Holy Family Parish; Rev. Hannah Brown, Pastor, West Concord Union Church; and Rev. Nancy Hagner, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church. For more information, please contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

First Parish Ice-Cream Social

Sunday, June 3, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All ages are invited to enjoy homemade ice cream from "Reasons to be Cheerful"! All flavors will be nut-free, with two vegan options. We will also unveil a special "First Parish in Concord" flavor designed by our kids! This event will be held outdoors weather permitting. Sponsored by the RE Council.

May Is National Foster Care Month

Our Neighboring Activists (6th graders) are helping to raise awareness about foster care in our community. There are approximately 4800 foster homes in Massachusetts and 8700 children in some type of foster care. All we can say is, "Wow!" Not ready to be a foster parent? There are hundreds of ways you can help youth in foster care. Learn how you and others in our community can use our time and talents to touch the lives of the 9,000 kids in care. Join us for a "Lunch and Learn" on Sunday, June 3, at noon. 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.

Upcoming Vote on Social Action Funding

Sunday, June 10, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

After 2+ years of study, the congregation votes at this year's Annual Meeting on whether to reaffirm, revise, or revoke our current social action funding policy, which sets aside 7.5% of annual pledges for social action. The Standing Committee is recommending a change to this policy. Want to understand the differences? Look on the First Parish website home page for a link to a document that compares the two funding options. Contact Kristin Haddad at kristin.haddad@gmail.com or 978-254-5012.

Parish Notes

May's Share-the-Plate Recipient

May's Share-the-Plate recipient is CityReach, an overnight urban outreach program for youth, young adults, and college students from churches of any denomination. The program gives these young people the opportunity to learn first-hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. During the 20-hour session, participants join CityReach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food, and clothing. This is followed by times of sharing and reflection. CityReach is a ministry of Common Cathedral (Ecclesia Ministries, Inc.), an outdoor congregation, housed and un-housed, sharing God's love through community, pastoral care, creative expression, and worship on Boston Common.

Meeting House News Deadline—Final Edition until September

The June issue deadline is this Tuesday, May 15, and will be published on May 23. Please send your submission and images in final form as attachments to Wendy at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu, and let her know if you do not receive a receipt confirmation email. Word limit is 100, and images can be either JPEG or PNG. Please review the brochure "Publicizing Events at First Parish of Concord" for details and previous MHN issues for examples.

May 16 Visit to Walden Pond Visitor Center Postponed

The WPA May 16 special tour of the Walden Pond Visitor Center that was advertised in the May *Meeting House News* has been postponed until further notice. See the article below about the May 16 WPA Luncheon featuring the presentation by Shelley Hawks.

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 who will give 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

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. The June 2018 edition will be published May 23.

Social Action

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Did you know that almost 30 percent of families in poverty are led by single mothers? Join us for this rally focused on the unmet needs of women, children, and people with disabilities. The rally will be led by clergy and poor people, simultaneously with similar rallies held in 37 other states. The Poor People's Campaign will hold four additional rallies on later dates to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, militarism, and ecological devastation. Learn more online at <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/index.php/audit/>, or contact Zach Roe at zroe@firstparish.org.

SAC Board Meetings

SAC Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays, May 15, and June 19, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We welcome folks interested in participating in our Social Action program to join us at our Board meetings.

Date Change: AWE Book Group

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 p.m., at First Parish

To avoid a conflict with the *Year for Reflection and Visioning* results summary meeting, we are moving the Advocates for Women's Empowerment book group date to one week later, on May 15, not May 8 as previously publicized. This month, we are trying something different. We will be reading articles on the topic of Women's Bodies. 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 can be found in the First Parish Office or on the AWE Facebook page (www.facebook.com/concordwomen). There is also a hard copy (for photocopying) in the church office. One article, written by a local author who will attend on May 15, is available only as a hard copy in the office. For questions, contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

Our years-long efforts working with others advocating for Massachusetts prison reform culminated in Gov. Baker's signing the Criminal Justice Reform Bill in April, a huge victory. Our May agenda includes ideas for actions directed to death penalty abolition, the prevention of violence against women worldwide, and the freeing of two Azerbaijani student activists. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, njlyons22@gmail.com or 978-369-6109.

AWE Monthly Meeting

Saturday, May 19, 8:00 a.m., at Open Table

33 Main Street, Maynard

Note the change of location for our May meeting! Join the Advocates for Women's Empowerment at the new Open Table facility to discuss initiatives to impact women's lives. We'll discuss upcoming events and want to hear your ideas about advocating for women. All are welcome to our meetings and events (men, women, people of all gender identities and expressions). Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net with questions or to join our mailing list.

Congregational Conversation on Climate Justice Resolution

Sunday, May 20, 11:30 a.m., Emerson Room

The Environmental Leadership Team's Sunday Forum on home composting on Sunday, May 20, at 11:30 a.m. has been cancelled due to a conflict with other ELT priorities. Instead, ELT is extending an invitation to all First Parish members to attend at that same time and place a congregational conversation about the climate justice resolution, which will be brought forward for a vote at the Annual Meeting. This will be repeated on June 3. Check in at the ELT table at coffee hour for more information and copies of the resolution. The sponsoring organization is the Environmental Leadership Team. Contact Bob Andrews at 978-771-3282.

Disrupt ICE—Join an Interfaith Group to March Seven Times Around ICE Building in Burlington. Let's Make Some Noise! Monday, May 21, at 7:45 a.m. at the ICE building, 10 New England Executive Park, Burlington

Our immigrant neighbors are being rounded up and held for deportation. Many have been here for years, even decades. Most have no criminal record. Many have children born in the United States. Some have spouses and children who are U.S. citizens. They work, pay taxes, and support our economy and the vibrancy of our shared culture. Our government's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are grabbing them when they come in for their regular reporting to ICE. They are being required to pay for their plane ticket back to a country they may barely remember. We will walk peaceably around the ICE building—with signs, with singing, with chanting. As in the Hebrew story, after seven times, a rabbi will blow the shofar. Please join us. The presence of many tells another story than the one ICE tells. For more information, contact Abby Buhle at abuhle68@gmail.com or Laurie VanLoon at lvloon@comcast.net.

Cultural Competence—What It Is, Why We Need It

Join the Jericho Road Project for "Global Perspectives," an experiential training that helps volunteers work effectively and respectfully in diverse communities. Cultural competence enables us to better understand "others" by exploring the lenses we use to view cultures, including our own. All First Parish members, including Lowell volunteers, are invited to take part in this pilot program and learn new skills. Two dates are available: Sunday, June 3, 11:30 to 1:00 p.m., and Monday, June 18, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. To register or learn more, contact Katharine Roberts at katharine@goodstory.works or 978-377-889.

Religious Exploration

RE Field Day at Emerson Playground

Sunday, June 3, 10:15 a.m. (Rain date: June 10)

Permission forms are now available for the RE Field Day at Emerson Playground. Children and youth are invited to a morning of outdoor fun—including games, bubbles, relay races, and face painting. Little RE will still be available for preschool children. Following the Children's Message, all kids with permission will walk with RE staff and volunteers to 90 Stow Street, Concord. Please email or give your permission form to Rev. Amy Freedman. Questions? Contact Amy at afreedman@firstparish.org.

This Sunday, May 13: Religious Exploration

8:30 a.m. Bus from First Parish in Concord to Boston for Mother's Day Walk for Peace

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary

1:30 p.m. Bus returns to First Parish from Mother's Day Walk for Peace

Next Sunday, May 20: Religious Exploration

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

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 & 4– Ripley Room

Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)– Chapel

11:00 a.m. – Meet in Parlor. Go to Common Cathedral in Boston and return by ~3:15 p.m.

