

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

May 20, 2018

This Week

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
Mon. May 21	7:30	Women's Book Group
Tue. May 22	9:30	Women's Book Group
	6:30	T'ai Chi
Wed. May 23	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. May 24	7:30	Buddhist Group
Sun. May 27	10:00	Sunday Service

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 unhoused, sharing God's love through community, pastoral care, creative expression, and worship on Boston Common.

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.

Calling All Ferry Beach Families with Kids Ages 5 to 11

Would your child like to participate in the Ferry Beach Talent Show with a group? Please have your child (or children) bring anything silver, or sparkly, or robot- themed costumes. We will provide extras! We will meet for a few brief rehearsals for a fun dance routine! Please contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net with any questions.

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. Also 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.

An Invitation from the Standing Committee

As you may know, each year the Standing Committee conducts an evaluation of the Senior Minister, with input from our members, the staff, and a small number of the parishioners who have worked directly with Howard during the year. The annual evaluation offers us an opportunity to support Howard's ministry by providing constructive feedback. As we wrap up the Year for Reflection and Visioning, we'd like to gather information more widely from the congregation. During the course of this year, we have asked a lot of questions about your experience at First Parish, and tried to make the process as transparent and inclusive as possible. If you would like to share your perspective on Howard's ministry over the past five years, we invite you to join us in this last piece of the process. Simply send an email to Kate Svrcek (katesvrcek@hotmail.com) or Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net), and we will forward a link to a confidential questionnaire that should take only a few minutes to complete. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this year's activities. It has been an honor to hear your thoughts, your hopes, your fears, and your vision. The high level of participation in a year when we are not in transition speaks to how important this community is to all of you. Thank you for sharing this journey with us. We will spend the next several months processing all the information we have gathered before developing end statements and policies that reflect the priorities you have shared with us.

Social Action

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 partake in 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.

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

Supported by both the UUA and the UU Ministers' Association, the Poor People's Campaign is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, militarism, ecological devastation, voter suppression, immigrant rights, economic inequality, and the nation's distorted morality. Rallies in Boston, 39 other state capitals, and Washington, D.C., will take place concurrently on five consecutive Mondays, starting on May 14. The theme for the rally on Monday, May 21, at 2:00 p.m., is "Connecting Systemic Racism and Economic Justice—Voting Rights and Just Immigration." If you are interested in attending, please contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

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 ivanloon@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.

Attend Pride Service and March in the Boston Pride Parade Saturday, June 9, 11:00 a.m.

The Diversity Committee is organizing a group from First Parish to attend the Pride Service at the Arlington Street Church in Boston, and then march in the Boston Pride Parade (or watch, for those who can't march) on Saturday, June 9. The service will start at

11:00 a.m. Afterwards, those attending will take their spot near the front of the parade. Carpools can be arranged. Sign up at coffee hour, or contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org or 978-371-0723 if interested

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 Amy. Questions? Contact Amy, afreedman@firstparish.org.

RE Registration Now Open!

New and returning families are encouraged to register children and youth for the 2018-2019 church year at the RE table at coffee hour today or on our website. Our Religious Exploration program is year-round, but we offer classes by age group in the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Please sign up today so we can plan and be prepared to welcome your family!

Summer 2018 Kids Program

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., First Parish in Concord
Our church offers programming for kids during the services in July and August. Sunday activities will include art projects, outdoor fun, and yoga. A professional teacher will lead the program, and a teen assistant will care for our youngest children. An adult volunteer will offer support each Sunday. Stay tuned for more exciting information and a summer schedule!

This 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
10:30 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7)– meet in Parlor, depart for Common Cathedral in Boston by 10:45 a.m., return by about 3:15 p.m.
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. – Youth Group – Loft

Next Sunday, May 27

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary



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.

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