

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

## June 3, 2018

### This Week

Sun. June 3	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Annual Budget Discussion
	11:30	Congregational Conversation
	6:00	Standing Committee Meeting
Mon. June 4	1:30	Caregiver Support Group
	7:00	Immigration Justice Task Force
	7:30	Environmental Leadership Team Meeting
Tue. June 5	8:00	Finance Committee Meeting
	1:30	First Tuesday Group
	6:30	T'ai Chi
Wed. June 6	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. June 7	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri. June 8	9:00	Pastoral Care Cooking
Sat. June 9	9:30	Photo Club Meeting
Sun. June 10	9:00	Gospel Choir
	11:30	Annual Meeting
	6:00	Standing Committee Meeting

### Parish Notes

#### Offering Envelopes

New offering envelopes are in and may be picked up downstairs after the service. If you would like to begin using envelopes, there are unused numbers available.

#### Annual Budget for FY19—June 3, 11:30, Brooks Room

Join members of the Finance Committee and Fifi Ball, Director of Operations, to review the proposed budget for FY19. The budget reviews the results of the annual pledge campaign and spending priorities in our coming year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Fortier, Treasurer, at [mfortierhome@gmail.com](mailto:mfortierhome@gmail.com).

#### First Parish Ice-Cream Social

**Today, 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.

#### Lunch and Learn

**Today, June 3, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

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. Come 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. Lunch will be provided. Please check out [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org).

#### First Tuesday Group—"Concord before Concord" Tuesday, June 5, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

First Tuesday Group (65+) will assemble for Concord native Sarah Blodgett's discussion on Native Americans in Concord, and how colonization transformed the local scene. The discussion will reference Lisa Brooks' new book, *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Phillip's War*. The day will also include a list of likely topics for next year's programs, and our traditional June ice-cream social. Come

participate in this stimulating mix of end-of-the-year activities! While our focus is seniors, please come expand your reading list, whatever your age.

#### Come to Cook

The Caring Connection provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition. It is time to fill the freezer again. We are going to cook on Friday, June 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the First Parish kitchen. If you are willing to help please RSVP to Judy Dembsy at [judydembsy@gmail.com](mailto:judydembsy@gmail.com) or 978-263-3272. Email preferred.

#### Upcoming Vote on Social Action Funding Sunday, June 10, 11:30 a.m., in the 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](mailto:kristin.haddad@gmail.com) or 978-254-5012.

#### "The Adventure of Friendship—a Men's Spirituality Retreat at First Parish"

**Saturday, June 16, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., starting in the Chapel  
Lunch together—bring \$10 to cover the cost**

**All men connected to First Parish are welcome**

Join retreat leaders Rev. Howard N. Dana and Jeff Clanon as we explore ways to deepen existing friendships among men and make new ones. We will ask questions like: What do you value most about your friendships with other men? What helps you make or deepen these friendships? What gets in the way or inhibits these friendships? Because friendship is an adventure, we will carpool to Boston for a group lunch. We ask everyone to make a commitment to attend the full retreat—no late arrivals or early departures, please. Reply to Jeff Clanon's email ([jclanon@solonline.org](mailto:jclanon@solonline.org)) or call the church office to sign up for this retreat.

#### Herb Garden Coffee Hour Party—June 17

It's been an unpredictable spring this year, and it will be a special treat to visit the Deborah Greeley Herb Garden again! The Women's Parish Association will hold its popular Coffee Hour Herb Garden Party on June 17, immediately after the worship service. Surrounded by fragrant herbs, we'll have a chance to celebrate and thank Rev. Jo VonRue, our wonderful Minister in Residence, and celebrate Father's Day. Join fellow parishioners and enjoy herb-flavored savorys and sweets as the surrounding herbs nourish your soul! All are warmly invited. There is no charge and reservations are not necessary.

### Social Action

#### Urgent Drive for Lowell Families

Jericho Road and the Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) are organizing an emergency "Summer Secret Santa" drive for three displaced Puerto Rican moms and their children living in Lowell motels without transportation or cooking facilities. Some have severe health challenges. One mom can't get to her dialysis treatments. They need children's summer clothing (new or gently worn), laundry money, Uber gift cards, and scholarships to summer camp. Select a name during coffee hour on June 3, or contact Jen Izzo ([jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com)) or Jan Goddard-Taylor ([jangoddard-taylor@comcast.net](mailto:jangoddard-taylor@comcast.net)). Drop off donations at coffee hour on June 3 or 10, or at 12 Pleasant Street in Concord.

#### 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 (PPC) 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. Fossil fuel, chemical, and

other industries have been allowed to poison our air, water, and land, contributing to an estimated 9 million premature deaths in 2015 worldwide. Rallies in Boston, 39 other state capitals, and Washington, D.C. started taking place concurrently on five consecutive Mondays in May. The theme for the rally on Monday, June 4, at 2:00 p.m. is "Ecological Devastation and Health." If you are interested in attending with others from First Parish, please contact Zach Roe, [zroe@firstparish.org](mailto:zroe@firstparish.org).

### **Cultural Competence Training on June 18—Spots Still Available!**

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. The June 18 training will take place in the Emerson Room from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. To register or learn more, contact Katharine Roberts at 978-377-8898 or [katharine@goodstory.works](mailto:katharine@goodstory.works).

### **Congregational Conversation on Climate Justice Resolution Sunday, June 3, 11:30 a.m.**

The Environmental Leadership Team invites all First Parish members to attend a congregational conversation about the climate justice resolution that will be brought to Annual Meeting next Sunday. Check in at the ELT table at coffee hour for more information and copies of the resolution. Contact Bob Andrews at 978-771-3282 with questions.

### **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. Afterward, 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](mailto:sara@sb.org) or 978-371-0723 if interested.

### **AWE End-of-Year Celebration**

#### **Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 p.m., Terrace / Brooks Room**

Join the Advocates for Women's Empowerment for socializing and good company to wrap up our year! Bring a finger food appetizer, a dessert, or a beverage to share. This gathering will replace our regular meeting scheduled for June 16. Our monthly meetings will resume on September 15. Contact: Suzie Weaver ([skatesuzie@aol.com](mailto:skatesuzie@aol.com)).

### **AWE Book Group**

#### **Tuesday, July 17, 7:00 p.m., First Parish**

The Advocates for Women's Empowerment will read and discuss "The Power," by Naomi Alderman. In a novel of speculative fiction, an award-winning author contemplates a world where teenage girls now have immense physical power—they can cause agonizing pain and even death, drastically resetting the balance of the world. All are welcome (even if you haven't yet read the book). The book group complements AWE's mission to advance women's rights through advocacy, direct action, and education. The book group aims to broaden our awareness, hone our empathy, nourish our spiritual selves, and spark action. Contact: Jen Izzo ([jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com)).

### **SAC Board Meeting**

A SAC Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 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.

## **Religious Exploration**

### **RE Registration Now Open!**

New and returning families are encouraged to register children and youth for the 2018-2019 church year 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. Register at <https://goo.gl/forms/KiwflrDqeT03am1l1>.

### **Volunteer RE Teacher Sign-Up**

Our program for children and youth is a cooperative model. We depend on each family signing up to teach or volunteer to support our RE program. Like this year, teachers will work in teams, and each member will volunteer for eight Sundays across the church year. We found this approach gives you more flexibility, and helps you develop closer connections to the children and coteachers. You will receive a follow-up email confirming your assignment. Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/ya3jn5ta>.

### **RE FIELD DAY at Emerson Playground**

#### **Today, June 3, 10:15 a.m. (Rain date: June 10)**

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.

### **Afternoon Fun on the River**

First Parish teens are invited for an afternoon on the water next Sunday, June 10, at 3:00 p.m.! We will head to the South Bridge Boat House (<https://www.southbridgeboathouse.com/>) to spend a few hours on the river. RSVP for this event so we can arrange for drivers. Email Youth Coordinator, Rev. Jo VonRue, at [jvonrue@firstparish.org](mailto:jvonrue@firstparish.org).

### **Teacher Appreciation**

We are so grateful to the nearly 70 volunteers in our Religious Education Program this year. We hope you know how much your caring, stories, ideas, and presence means to the young people of our First Parish community. On Sunday, June 17, we will have Teacher Appreciation as part of our Flower Communion service. If you are available, we hope all RE teachers, mentors, and volunteers come forward to be celebrated and to receive a small token of our gratitude.

### **Summer 2018 Kids Program**

#### **Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

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, June 3:**

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level  
10:00 a.m. – Middle OWL (Grade 5) – Wright Tavern  
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room  
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service – Sanctuary  
10:15-11:15 a.m. RE Field Day – Emerson Playground, 90 Stow Street, Concord (K-Grade 4)  
10:15 a.m. – Neighboring Activists prepare to host MARE Lunch & Learn – Emerson Room  
11:15 a.m. – Ice-Cream Social – Terrace  
12:00 p.m. – MARE Lunch & Learn – Emerson Room

### **Next Sunday, June 10:**

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level  
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service – Sanctuary  
10:15-11:15 a.m. – "Transylvania Pilgrimage Show and Tell," Multiage Program. Come find out about our recent trip to visit our Partner Congregation!

**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).

The Sunday News can be read online at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).