

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

June 10, 2018

This Week

Sun. June 10	9:00 Gospel Choir 10:00 Sunday Service 11:30 Annual Meeting 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
Tue. June 12	8:00 Finance Committee Meeting 9:00 WPA Board Meeting 2:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 AWE Celebration
Wed. June 13	9:30 Buddhist Group 7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. June 14	7:00 Race Conversations Group 7:30 Buddhist Group
Sat. June 16	8:00 AWE Meeting 9:00 Men's Spirituality Retreat
Sun. June 17	10:00 Sunday Service 11:00 WPA Herb Garden Tea

Parish Notes

Send June 17 Sunday News Submissions to Fifi Ball

Our church administrator, Sarah Burns, will be on vacation from June 9 to 17. Fifi Ball will be handling the June 17 *Sunday News* in her place. Submissions should be sent to Fifi at fball@firstparish.org by Wednesday, June 13, no later than noon. This will also be the final edition of the *Sunday News* until September.

Annual Meeting—Check In to Vote!

All are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m. today in the Sanctuary. However, only signed members of First Parish are eligible to vote at the meeting, and they must have an official voting slip/ballot in order to do so, whether by hand or by written ballot. To receive your voting slip/ballot, please go to the Check-In table in the Parlor immediately following the service.

Vote on Social Action Funding

Today, June 10, 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

After two-plus 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.

“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) 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 honor Father's Day. Join fellow parishioners and enjoy herb-flavored savories and sweets as the surrounding herbs nourish your soul! All are warmly invited. There is no charge and reservations are not necessary.

Summer Hours Start Soon

Summer hours at First Parish begin on Tuesday, June 19. The office will be open Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The office is closed on Mondays. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, September 4.

First Parish Directory Fall 2018 (No Photos)

On Homecoming Sunday, September 9, 2018, an updated First Parish in Concord paper directory of active members and friends (photocopied, not including photos) will be available for First Parishioners. If you do not pick up your household's copy of the directory by Sunday, September 30, it will be mailed to you. To be included in the directory, you need do nothing. If your household would prefer NOT to be included in the directory, please email Fifi Ball, fball@firstparish.org, by June 30, 2018.

“What Lies in the Muck of Walden Pond and What Can We Learn from It?”

Sunday, July 1, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Climate historian and ecological researcher Prof. J. Curt Stager, Ph.D., will discuss Walden Pond's ecological past and future, and the legacy of Henry David Thoreau. Stager is the author of the 2018 book, *Still Waters: The Secret World of Lakes*. Books will be available for sale and signing. Sponsored by Walden Pond State Reservation, the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish, and The Thoreau Society. Free and open to the public.

“Surely Joy is the Condition of Life”: Art Inspired by Henry David Thoreau, by Children's Author, Illustrator, and Educator Donna Marie Przybojewski Exhibit, July 12-15 and 17, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Altshuler and Parish Hall Galleries

Artist Talk, “Transcending Joy: A Personal Journey,” July 17, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Parish Hall, with Reception

Donna Marie Przybojewski will exhibit and share her experience creating illustrations that “reflect the joy Thoreau

radiated when he sauntered in nature.” She has written and illustrated three books and two coloring books during the past two years. A teacher at St. Benedict Catholic School in Garfield Heights, Ohio, Przybojewski served as a Thoreau Bicentennial Ambassador for the Thoreau Society, creating and implementing a multidisciplinary, all-school curriculum based on Thoreau’s life and work. Books will be available for sale and signing after the Artist Talk on July 17. The exhibit and talk are free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish in Concord.

Social Action

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).

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.

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.

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 to this July meeting, 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).

Religious Exploration

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 will come forward to be celebrated and to receive a small token of our gratitude.

Register Children and Youth for 2018-2019

Please register children and youth for the next 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 online today so we can plan and be prepared to welcome your family! Registration Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/KiwlfrDqeT03am1i1>.

Join a Religious Exploration Team

Our teachers work in teams, and each member volunteers for eight Sundays across the church year. This model gives you flexibility and helps develop closer connections between children and coteachers. Volunteer sign-up is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ya3jn5ta>. Links are also on our website. You will receive a follow-up email confirming your assignment. Please contact our Assistant Director of Religious Education, Dawn, at dvanpatten@firstparish.org or our Minister of Religious Education, Amy, at afreedman@firstparish.org for more information or to explore the possibilities!

Afternoon Fun on the River

First Parish teens are invited for an afternoon on the water today at 3:00 p.m.! We will head to the South Bridge Boat House to spend a few hours on the river. Please contact Rev. Jo VonRue at jvonrue@firstparish.org.

Summer 2018 Kids Program

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

Children and youth of all ages are invited to drop in for our fun Summer Program, held every Sunday during the service time, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (except on July 2). Please sign your children in in the Emerson Room (Upper Level) or outdoors before the service. Our goal is for your family to feel energized and renewed!

This 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—Emerson Room

Come find out about our recent trip to visit our Partner Congregation!

Next Sunday, June 17: Flower Communion Service

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service for All Ages– Sanctuary

Each person is invited to bring a flower to the service. We will join many other UU congregations in celebrating the Flower Communion.