

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

September 9, 2018

This Week

Sun. Sept 9	10:00	Sunday Service
	5:30	Homecoming Picnic
Mon. Sept 10	1:30	Caregiver Support Group
	7:00	Immigration Justice Task Force
	7:00	Racial Justice Action Group
Tue. Sept 11	2:00	Shawl Ministry
Wed. Sept 12	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Sept 13	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Sept 14	12:30	T'ai Chi
Sat. Sept 15	8:00	AWE Meeting
Sun. Sept 16	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

September's Share-the-Plate Recipient

Today, and for the rest of September, Share the Plate will benefit Concord Prison Outreach ("CPO") and First Parish (50% to each). A nonprofit organization, CPO recruits, trains, and supports volunteers to work in the two prisons in Concord, the jail in Billerica, and five other correctional facilities. CPO volunteers offer compassion, education, and opportunity to those behind bars. A number of First Parish members are CPO prison volunteers, generally once-a-week during the academic year. Visit the CPO at coffee hour today. For more information, contact Don Miller at donaldbmiller@comcast.net or 978-610-6298.

Parish Notes

First Parish Homecoming Picnic—Today!

The First Parish Homecoming Picnic is today at 5:30 p.m. All ages, all First Parish. Bring your whole family. Visit with your friends, catch up on the summer news, and meet other First Parish folk. Enjoy the music, labyrinth, and a family activity. This is an evening for everyone. Dessert will be potluck style. Please bring a finger food dessert to share, your own picnic food and beverage, lawn chairs, and blankets. The party will be on the lawns of First Parish weather permitting; in the Parish Hall in case of rain. No admission charge. Please join us!

Choirs for Children and Youth

Our choirs for children and youth begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 16. All are welcome! There is no need for any previous singing experience. Gospel Ensemble (grades 7-12) meets from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. in the Emerson Room. Chalice Choir (grades 4-6) meets Sunday from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. in the Chapel. Junior Choir (grades 1-3) meets from 11:30 a.m. to noon in the Chapel. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Gail Carey (Junior Choir & Chalice Choir) at gcarey@firstparish.org, or Anderson Manuel (Gospel Ensemble) at amanuel@firstparish.org.

Call for Small Group Ministry Facilitators

Interested in being a Small Group Ministry Facilitator? Returning facilitators should be in touch about groups they would like to lead this year, and new facilitators are welcome. Most Small Groups meet for 4 to 6 sessions to explore a variety of meaningful topics. Hundreds of session plans are available to choose from, although some facilitators like to create their own. Facilitating a group requires commitment to a regular meeting schedule and helping to manage the group process while modeling a caring covenantal

relationship. If you are interested in facilitating a group, please contact Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5230 by September 15. Hold the morning of Saturday, October 6, for the Small Group Ministry facilitator training.

WPA Luncheon Program and Annual Meeting Wednesday, September 19, 11:30 a.m.

The Women's Parish Association cordially invites you to its Luncheon Program and Annual Meeting on September 19. Catch up on each other's summer adventures and enjoy a delicious lunch with old and new friends and the program, which will include a celebration and update of the wonderful activities of all of First Parish's women's groups and the WPA's Annual Meeting. Luncheon cost: \$12.00. For reservations, sign up at coffee hours or contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by September 16. All are warmly welcome!

Calling All History Enthusiasts!

Sunday, September 23, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Emerson Room

Please join us for an open meeting of the Transcendentalism Council to discuss history programs for 2018-2019. New members, program volunteers, and history enthusiasts welcome. We'll assess interest in broadening the scope of our programs in order to cover additional historical periods. A name change for our committee will also be considered. Enjoy some refreshments and talk about history programs at First Parish!

Circle Supper Hosts Needed

Host Sign-Up Deadline: September 24

Hosts are still needed for the Saturday, October 20, Circle Supper—a fun casual evening open to all at First Parish. Host sign-up deadline is only a couple of weeks away. Can you help? Hosts do not have to cook or handle logistics; simply provide coffee and tea at dessert time. To sign up, contact Wendy Wolfberg at 978-578-1077, or wolfberg@post.harvard.edu; or visit the coffee hour table on Sunday, September 23. Guest sign-ups will begin on September 30.

Concord Area Humanists

David Ropeik: "Cognitive Limits on Human Reason Wednesday, October 3, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall (Postponed from February Due to Snow)

Humans claim superiority to reason and make choices. However, the brain is more an organ with which we "think" than we think. David Ropeik, author and consultant on risk-perception psychology, will discuss research on human cognition that established that our "thinking" is a mix of thinking and feeling, that reasoning is "motivated," and perception is ultimately subjective. David will cite his book, *How Risky Is It, Really? Why Our Fears Don't Always Match the Facts*, which is available for sale afterward.

Save the Date—Special WPA Luncheon Monday, October 15, 11:30 a.m.

In light of dangers facing our country's democratic foundations, people are nervous about the mid-term elections this November and are seeking insight as to how things are going and what the future holds. The WPA is delighted to offer a special luncheon program, featuring John Della Volpe, Polling Director at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School, who will talk about the elections and impacts. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, October 15. Reservations: Sign up at coffee hour, or contact the office at 978-369-9602, or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net, by October 12.

First Parish Auction

The First Parish Auction is Saturday, October 27. Check out the flyers in the hallways for a sampling of some of the early donations! If you haven't already made a donation, there's still time. Be creative! Make a donation that showcases your talent or interests, or give gift cards, event tickets, or tangible goods for the silent auction—think of early holiday gifts! We also need art for an art sale (new or gently-used, high-quality art). Lastly, we need volunteers to assist with a myriad of tasks. Contact Val Vallancourt (valvallancourt@gmail.com) or Jen Izzo (jbizzo@hotmail.com).

Holiday Artisans Fair News

It's not too early to start planning for this year's Holiday Artisans Fair, which will be held on November 3. The Women's Parish Association will hold its popular WPA Boutique again at this year's fair and is looking for donations of handmade items as well as high-quality, like-new regifting items, such as jewelry, artwork, holiday and home decorating items, etc. Please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Melita Teichert at mmtconcord1@gmail.com to arrange for your donations or to offer your help in making catnip balls.

Concord Area Humanists New Committee Members Event Date, Time, and Room to Be Confirmed Later

Now is an excellent time! Please consider joining our committee to help develop our program for the coming year. We are thinking of a special social event for greeting potential new committee members. Save the date! If interested in participating, please email Patrick Everett, preferably at pne@aol.com; otherwise telephone 978-369-1589. Thank you.

Social Action

Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) KickOff Meeting

Saturday, September 15, in the Parlor

Join us at our fall kickoff meeting to brainstorm initiatives for the coming year! Bring your ideas for events and actions to advance women's rights and improve their lives. Whether you'd like to spearhead an event or participate as a volunteer, we are looking for your great ideas and positive energy! Feel free to bring a breakfast item to share (e.g., fruit, muffins). AWE meetings and events are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions. Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Volunteers Needed to Cook and Serve Dinner at Rosie's Place Sunday, September 23, 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., in Boston

Are you looking for a meaningful, intergenerational social action event for ages 12+? Volunteer to cook and serve dinner at Rosie's Place in Boston, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women. We'll carpool from church at 1:30 p.m. and return by 6:30 p.m. There are just a few openings for this date, so please sign up quickly. Sponsored by AWE. Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com.

Save the Dates—Jericho Road Project's Opening Reception, and More!

Come celebrate Jericho Road's Concord-Lowell reconnection on Saturday, October 20, 6:30-9:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Enjoy an interactive talk with UMass-Lowell Historian Robert Forrant, whose stories highlight turning points in Lowell's history. You can also join Bob for a follow-up historical walk in Lowell on Sunday, October 28, at 1:00 p.m. Meet nonprofit leaders over dessert. Child care will be provided. The following day, Sunday, October 21, join us for a Forum talk with Budget Buddies, an award-winning financial literacy program for low-income women. Mark your calendars. More to come!

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.

Religious Exploration

This Week: Homecoming Service

Today, September 9, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

All ages come together for worship this week, including a Water Communion ceremony. If you forgot to bring some water, you are still welcome to participate. Little RE is available on the Lower Level for our youngest children (0-4 years). Parents are welcome to bring their children downstairs 15 minutes before the service.

Register Children and Teens for Fall Program

Our Fall Religious Exploration program begins next Sunday, September 16. Please register children and teens on our website, firstparish.org. Our cooperative program depends upon parents, grandparents, and First Parish members volunteering. You can sign up online or contact Amy Freedman at afreedman@firstparish.org or Dawn Van Patten at dvanpatten@firstparish.org to explore the possibilities.

Coming of Age Orientation

Sunday, September 16, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

The First Parish Coming of Age program is designed for 9th Graders to acknowledge the transition between childhood and adulthood. Coming of Age is a transformative experience, co-led by Kristin Moore and Rev. Ken Reeves. Please bring your favorite potluck appetizer or dessert to share! We will review our plans and share a ritual to begin our year together.

Youth Leader Meeting

Today, September 9, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Brooks Room

First Parish in Concord will be offering new Youth Programs for High School teens, designed with youth input. Do you have ideas to share about Youth programming? Would you like to lead or support Youth programming? This is an open meeting led by Rev. Amy Freedman and Madzie Burnham. We will also be joined by Peter Bowden (Amy's husband), who advised the Youth Group in his home congregation for a decade and worked in our national UUA Youth Office. If you have ideas but cannot attend this meeting, please email Amy Freedman at afreedman@firstparish.org.

Youth Meet-Up at Homecoming Picnic

Today, September 9, 5:30 p.m.

All High School teens are invited to come hang out with Madzie at the all-church picnic. Bring your own food for the picnic and a blanket or lawn chair if you wish. There are always lots of delicious desserts to share. We will have lawn games like corn hole, washers, and bocce. This will be a chance to hang out with other youth and share ideas and thoughts about youth stuff!

Openings in Neighboring Faiths Team

We are looking for three more adult volunteers to help lead Neighboring Faiths this year. This is a commitment of one term of 8 Sundays: fall, winter, or spring. NF is designed for First Parish 7th graders, who learn about the history and practice of different faiths and then visit local religious communities, such as Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, or Christian denominations, and more. By experiencing different traditions, we reflect not only about the beliefs of others, but also what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Amy Freedman at afreedman@firstparish.org.

October 2018 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, September 11, 12:00 Noon

Keep the article length to 100 words and send to the Editor,

Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The October 2018 edition will be published September 19.