

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

September 16, 2018

This Week

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
Mon. Sept 17	7:30 Environmental Leadership Team
Tue. Sept 18	7:00 Amnesty International
	7:00 SAC Board Meeting
Wed. Sept 19	9:15 Cancer Support Group
	9:30 Buddhist Group
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Sept 20	7:00 Membership Committee
	7:30 Buddhist Group
	7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri. Sept 21	7:00 Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sun. Sept 23	9:00 Chalice Choir
	9:00 Gospel Choir
	10:00 Sunday Service
	11:30 Junior Choir
	11:30 Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

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 percent 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 table at coffee hour today. For more information, contact Don Miller at donaldbmiller@comcast.net or 978-610-6298.

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

Today, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Visit to the Arizona-Mexico Border

Members of First Parish in Lincoln will share a video of their recent trip to the Arizona-Mexico border. The video includes photographs of the trip and post-trip interviews with several participants. The trip was facilitated by the national Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which took the group to an educational facility run by a Tucson organization named Borderlinks. Borderlinks provides help to immigrants and hosts visiting groups, arranging for them to visit both sides of the border. Following the video, there will be time for questions and discussion. This Forum is sponsored by the First Parish Immigration Justice Task Force and the Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters. Everyone interested in immigration is welcome to attend. For more information or to join the Forum Committee, contact the co-chairs: Pat Brinkman (pabrinkman@comcast.net) and Alan Whitney (awhitney@alum.mit.edu).

Homecoming Picnic

We had a wonderful party last Sunday. More than 100 people enjoyed an abundance of desserts, our own fabulous jazz band, and joyous balloon hats. Most importantly, we visited with each other. Thank you to all who made the evening possible—sharing your music, providing desserts, and doing all the unseen tasks that made the evening work. And thank you to all who came—for it is always the people who make the party.

Choirs for Children and Youth

Our choirs for children and youth begin rehearsals today. All are welcome! There is no need for any previous singing experience. Gospel Ensemble (grades 7-12) meets 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the Emerson Room. Chalice Choir (grades 4-6) meets 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the Chapel. Junior Choir (grades 1-3)

meets 11:30 a.m.-12:00 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.

Cancer Support Group

Wednesdays: September 19; October 3 and 17; November 7 and 21; December 5 and 19—9:15-10:30 a.m.

All cancer patients and survivors (FP member or not) are welcome to join this free, confidential, and caring support group at First Parish. The group provides gentle, embodied support through the sharing of stories while being present to others. Drawing on the practice of InterPlay®, we'll explore our experiences through simple movement, words, sound, and stillness; and engage in ways of moving through them. The emphasis will be on our present experiences to know better the next steps on our path. For more information on InterPlay®, visit www.interplay.org. For questions and to sign up, contact C.C. King, MA in Expressive Therapies, certified InterPlay® Leader and Trainer, visual artist, teacher, and workshop facilitator, at ccking.interplay@gmail.com.

WPA Luncheon Program and Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 19, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall

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. The program will include a celebration, an update on the wonderful activities of all of First Parish's women's groups, and the WPA's Annual Meeting. Luncheon cost: \$12. For reservations, sign up at coffee hours or contact Dian Pekin today at pekindc@comcast.net. All are warmly welcome!

Calling All History Enthusiasts!

Sunday, September 23, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 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 are 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 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 week 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.

Welcome to the Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group!

Monday, September 24, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Tuesday, October 2, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Brooks Room

The Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group begins the year with the novel *The Weight of Ink*, by Rachel Kadish. Please note that the date for the morning group has changed since the September newsletter was published. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join a discussion—there's no need to sign up! If you would like to be added to the Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

Spiritual Pilgrim Book Launch Party

Friday, September 28, 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom has traveled on pilgrimages with Sufi's, Taoists, Shamans, Buddhists, Christians, and Transcendentalists. His new book, *Spiritual Pilgrim: Awakening Journeys of a Twenty-First Century Transcendentalist*, tells the stories of those mystic journeys. You are invited to join the celebration in the Parish Hall for this delightful spiritual memoir, where both of Jim's books will be available for purchase. For additional information, contact Jim at jimsherblom@gmail.com or 781-439-4806.

Honoring Our Partner Church

“New Eyes in Transylvania”

Sunday Service, September 30, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

“The Meaning of Partnership: Concord & Székelykeresztúr”

Sunday Forum, September 30, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

We will celebrate Transylvanian Thanksgiving through music and stories at our Sunday service to honor our partnership with the congregation in Székelykeresztúr. We'll hear about their experiences from several of those who traveled there last April on the First Parish Family Pilgrimage. This will be followed by a special Forum focusing on many aspects of our partnership. It will give an overview of the partnership, and why this relationship has touched so many lives on both continents. Please come to the service and Forum to learn more about the wonderful partnership we share with our friends in Keresztúr.

“The Play’s the Thing”

Tuesday, October 2, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

The First Tuesday Group (65+) will kick off the season with The Concord Players Traveling Troupe, a group of senior actors who will present a program of staged readings and skits, featuring amusing views of seniors as we age “gracefully” and with a little pizzazz! The program will also feature musical interludes with the Traveling Troubadour, Tom Ruggles. Enjoy this variety entertainment as we raise the curtain on a new church year! (While our focus is seniors, please come enjoy the show, whatever your years.)

Concord Area Humanists New Committee Members’ Event

(Date, Time, and Room to Be Confirmed Later)

Now is an excellent time to consider joining our committee and helping develop our program for the coming year! We are thinking of a special social event to meet and greet potential new committee members. If you are interested in participating, please email Patrick Everett at pnc@aol.com (preferred), or call 978-369-1589. Thank you.

Save the Date—Special WPA Luncheon, October 15

In light of dangers facing our country’s democratic foundations, people are nervous about the midterm elections this November and are seeking insight as to how things are going and what the future holds for our democracy. The Women’s Parish Association 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, contact the office at 978-369-9602, or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by October 12.

Holiday Artisans Fair News

Saturday, November 3, Parish Hall

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

Social Action

Concord Progressive Activists Afternoons

Come one, come all to First Parish SAC’s Concord Progressive Activists Afternoons on Sundays after the service (11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) in the RE Loft, starting September 23. Plug in to organized activities to take action in these critical weeks leading up to the mid-term elections. We will be phone-banking, texting, post-carding, handling voter registration, canvassing, and partnering with Swing Left, Indivisible, MA Democrats, and Ballot 2 and 3. To phone bank or text, please bring a well-charged laptop and a cell phone; earbuds will be helpful. Join your neighbors, meet new friends, and make a difference! To register, complete the form at <http://bit.ly/2x1jA6a>. Contact Kate Kavanagh at 508-397-6507 or katekav@gmail.com. Visit the Facebook page for Concord Progressive Activists.

Volunteers Needed to Cook and Serve Dinner at Rosie’s Place

Sunday, September 23, 1:30-6:30 p.m., Boston

Are you looking for a meaningful, intergenerational social action event for ages 12+? Volunteer to cook and serve dinner at Rosie’s Place, 889 Harrison Avenue, 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 Advocates for Women’s Empowerment. Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com.

Sing for Justice!

Friday, October 12, 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Join singer and drummer, Soyinka Rahim, for an all-ages, uplifting, musical program entitled, “I Let My Light Shine.” Enjoy a dessert-and-fruit potluck at 6:00 p.m.. The program will start at 7:00 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by SAC and RE. A free-will donation of \$10-\$25 per family is suggested, but all are welcome! Soyinka will also bring her beautiful music and lead “Changing the Race Dance” at First Parish in Milton, Massachusetts, on Saturday, October 13, starting at 10:00 a.m. For more details, contact C.C. King at cking.interplay@gmail.com or Amy Freedman at First Parish at 978-369-9602 x415. More program background information is also available at http://interplay.org/index.cfm/go/events:event/happening_id/2232/returnEvent/byLocation/.

Religious Exploration

This Week, September 16: Religious Exploration

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

UU Explorers, Grade 8 – Chapel

Neighboring Faiths – Brooks Room

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 6 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children’s Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for their classrooms with their teachers. All RE sessions are held until 11:15 a.m. Parents of children age 0 through Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their classrooms listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 – Lower Level

Grade 3 – Ripley and Greeley Rooms – Upper Level

Grades 4 & 5 – Wright Tavern

Grade 6 – Emerson Room

4:00 p.m. – Coming of Age Orientation, Grade 9 and Parents, Emerson Room

Next Week, September 23: Religious Exploration

Neighboring Faiths Parent Orientation

Sunday, September 16, 11:15-11:45 a.m., Brooks Room

The Neighboring Faiths (NF) teachers look forward to seeing your child at 10:00 a.m. and to meeting parents at 11:15 a.m. today! 7th graders start in the Brooks Room instead of attending the first part of the service. Please send at least one parent per family to the Orientation. The kids can go to coffee hour during the meeting. Parents will meet our NF team, receive a schedule, learn more about this program, and fill out a permission form for our visits to other houses of worship throughout the church year.

Coming of Age Orientation

Sunday, September 16, 4:00-6:00 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.

Openings in the Neighboring Faiths Team

We are looking for two more adult volunteers to help lead Neighboring Faiths (NF) this year. This is a commitment of one term of eight Sundays, 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, and Christian. By experiencing different traditions, we reflect not only on the beliefs of others, but also on 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 18, 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 26.

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns, sburns@firstparish.org.

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