

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

September 23, 2018

This Week

Sun. Sept 23	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Calling All History Enthusiast
	11:30	Concord Progressive Activists
Mon. Sept 24	7:30	Women's Book Group
Tue. Sept 25	7:00	CPR Training
Wed. Sept 26	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Sept 27	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Sept 28	7:30	Rise Up Singing
	7:30	Jim Sherblom Book Event
Sun. Sept 30	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	11:30	Concord Progressive Activists
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Parish Notes

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.

Calling All History Enthusiasts!

Today, 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!

A Change to Sunday News Submissions

Some people with an upcoming event several weeks out, request an entry in the Sunday News every week to publicize their event. Due to limited space and the increasing number of requests for Sunday News entries, we are limiting to three the number of times an article can be printed in *The Sunday News*. Anyone submitting an article to Sarah Burns for *The Sunday News* must let her know on which three Sundays they wish to include this information, whether in a row or spaced out. There is no limit to the number of times a request can appear in the FP Weekly email. Questions? Please contact Sarah at sburns@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602.

Rides and Drivers—Sunday Drivers Urgently Needed

We need more drivers in the West Concord area who can be contacted when someone needs a ride on Sunday to or from a First Parish service or event. Rides are arranged for by an email being sent to a group of members who have volunteered to be contacted as potential Ride Providers. If there is a match, the Rides Coordinator connects the Ride Provider with the Ride Requestor. If you are

interested in volunteering, please contact the Rides Coordinator, Pat Brinkman, at 781-259-9639 or pabrinkman@comcast.net.

Church Hand Fans Available

Fall may be here, but we could still have some warm days in the next few weeks. We now have some "church hand fans" to help keep parishioners comfortable on hot or muggy days. They are located in baskets in the back and next to the side door of the sanctuary. Feel free to use them, but please return them when you're done so they'll be available for others to use.

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. 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 today. Guest sign-ups will begin on September 30.

Help the League of Women Voters

The Concord Carlisle League of Women Voters is working with Jericho Road to staff voter registration tables in Lowell on Tuesday, September 25. These tables will be in high traffic areas like Market Basket, malls, etc. Sue St. Croix is organizing a group from First Parish in Concord to help with this event. If you are interested, please contact Sue at sue@suestcroix.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 more 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 they age "gracefully" and with a little pizzazz! The program will also feature musical interludes with the Traveling Troubadour, Tom Ruggles. Enjoy this variety of

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

**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.

Auction Highlight: The Speakeasy Room

Each week, we will be highlighting a different aspect of the upcoming Roaring 20's Auction on October 27. This week's focus is the Speakeasy Room—a secret lair, complete with special food, including a hooch recipe created by Kate Svrcek, Charleston lessons, and games. Between the Speakeasy Room, live music, Silent and Live Auctions, Art Sale and buffet, this will be a night not to be missed! Tickets (\$25 each) go on sale this Sunday during coffee hour. [Note: there is an additional charge for the Speakeasy Room.] Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com or Val Vallancourt at valvallancourt@gmail.com.

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 today, 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.

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 Farrant, 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. On 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!

Concord C.R.O.P. Walk

The Concord Crop Walk for the Hungry will take place starting from First Parish on October 21 at 1:30 pm. Stop by the Crop table at coffee hour for more information or to pick up walking papers. Rev. Howard Dana will be walking; you can sign up to sponsor him at coffee hour. You can also make a donation for him, or register to walk online at <https://tinyurl.com/y88bmn7s>. The funds raised help feed the hungry around the world through the disaster relief and

development programs of Church World Service, and closer to home through ten local food pantries and supper programs the walk supports.

Religious Exploration

This Week, September 23: Religious Exploration

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – 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 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their classrooms listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15-11:15 a.m. – Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 – Lower Level

Grade 3– Ripley and Greeley Rooms –

Upper Level

Grades 4 & 5 – Wright Tavern

Grade 6 – Emerson Room

12:30 p.m. – Grade 9 returns from Fall Retreat, Camp Takodah, New Hampshire

Next Week, September 30: Religious Exploration

Would You Like to Join an RE Team?

Sunday, September 30, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Emerson Room

We are currently forming teams or working groups focusing on particular areas of our Religious Education program. These teams will meet at First Parish in the fall, winter, and spring with a shared meal and child care. The teams may choose to meet at other mutually agreeable times and/or communicate online to work together on their areas of focus: Social Action Team, Teacher Resource Team, Welcome Team, Youth Team. Our first RE Team gathering will be Sunday, September 30. If you'd like to join a team or learn more, contact our Minister of Religious Education, Amy, at afreedman@firstparish.org.

Articulating Your U.U. Faith

with Revs. Howard Dana & Amy Freedman

Fridays, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

October 12, 19, and November 9, 16

Have you ever found yourself stumped when trying to talk about Unitarian Universalism? Join us for a class that will explore what Unitarian Universalism is, what it means to you as an individual, and how to talk about it with others. This class is especially designed for people who are newer to the First Parish community. Child care available upon request. Register online at <https://goo.gl/forms/nl9Ge5ZmvTxrBTot1>. Please email Amy with any questions at afreedman@firstparish.org.

October 2018 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, October 16, 12:00 Noon

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

Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The November 2018 edition will be published October 24.

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.