

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

October 14, 2018

This Week

Sun. Oct 14	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Sunday Forum
	12:00	Concord Progressive Activists
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Mon. Oct 15	11:30	WPA Luncheon
Tue. Oct 16	12:00	Meeting House News Deadline
	7:00	Amnesty International Meeting
	7:00	SAC Board Meeting
Wed. Oct 17	9:30	Buddhist Group
	10:00	Catnip Ball Workshop
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Oct 18	7:00	Membership Committee Meeting
	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri. Oct 19	6:00	Rock the Vote
	7:00	Articulating Your UU Faith
	7:00	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sat. Oct 20	8:00	AWE Meeting
	3:00	Transcendentalism Council Program
	6:30	Jericho Road Opening Reception
Sun. Oct 21	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Sunday Forum, Sanctuary
	12:00	Concord Progressive Activists
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	1:30	CROP Walk

October's Share the Plate Recipient: Mil Milagros

October's Share the Plate recipient is Mil Milagros—A Thousand Miracles. This organization partners with more than 800 indigenous Maya mothers and teachers to serve more than 1,300 children each year in early childhood development, nutrition, health and hygiene, and education programs. Rates of chronic child malnutrition and stunting have decreased 50% in these communities. An average of 97% of the children supported by Mil Milagros complete the sixth grade. Please consider giving generously to October's Share the Plate Program to help Mil Milagros expand its reach. There are more than 50 schools and 10,000 children on the waiting list.

Parish Notes

"Senior Cohousing—A Community Approach to Aging in Place"

Sunday Forum, Today, October 14, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Cohousing can now be found in most states in the United States, including nearby in Acton. Learn more from the Cohousing Association of the United States at www.cohousing.org. The first senior cohousing community in New England is now being formed. The founders of Middlesex Senior Cohousing, Victoria Thatcher and Mayhew Seavey, will present a slide show and video about senior cohousing, with time afterward for discussion. If you would like more information about this or other Sunday Forums, please contact either Pat Brinkman at pabrinkman@comcast.net, or Alan Whitney at awhitney@alum.mit.edu.

November Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, October 16, Noon; Published October 24

Please send your final form entry and images as attachments by October 16 or earlier to Wendy Wolfberg at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu, and contact her if you do not receive a receipt confirmation email. Word limit is 100, and images can be either JPEG or PNG. Please review the brochure "Publicizing Events at First Parish of Concord" for details and upcoming dates, and previous *MHN* issues for examples.

Circle Supper—October 20

Deadline Today, October 14, at Noon

The Circle Supper is less than a week away! Have you signed up as a guest or host? Need gluten free? Ask Wendy. Remember, no contentious topics allowed—just fun and fellowship! Deadline is noon today. Sign up at coffee or email Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

Come "Rock the Vote" With Us!

Friday, October 19, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Parish Hall

You are invited to a postcard writing and dance party! Now more than ever, we need everyone's voice to be heard this election season. All ages are invited to this family-friendly event. We'll be writing "get out the vote" postcards and tearing it up on the dance floor. Even the smallest can sign their names! Drop in. Pizza and drinks will be served. Suggested donation \$5-\$10 per family to cover food costs.

Articulating Your UU Faith

with Revs. Howard Dana and Amy Freedman

Fridays: October 19; November 9, 16; 7:00-9:00 p.m.

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/nl9Ge5ZmvTxrBTotl> Please email Amy with any questions at afreedman@firstparish.org.

A Concord Festival of Authors Event, Free and Open to the Public

Saturday, October 20, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Parish Hall

In March, 1845, Thoreau borrowed an axe and went *down* to the woods by Walden Pond. Why did he choose the word "down" when his woods were actually higher than his daily life in Concord? Professor Thorson's answer is that *down* is the direction of our instincts for simplicity and stability. We follow this instinct whenever we take "down-time" away from our complex lives, "get down" to the basics, "down-size" from our material clutter, and "down-shift" the pace of our schedules. Thorson explores this *descent* in his book, *The Guide to Walden Pond*. Professor Thorson is a regular visitor to Concord, and author of four books about Thoreau, all of which will be available for purchase as signed copies. An extended Q&A, conversation, and reception will follow his talk. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish and The Thoreau Society.

Planning Meeting for Transcendentalism Council

Sunday, October 28, 11:30-1:00 pm, Brooks Room

Come help plan this year's "Living Our History" programs about church history and Concord authors, Thoreau and Emerson among others. For information, contact Shelley Hawks at Shelley_Hawks@msn.com or Dianne Weiss at diannemcweiss@comcast.net. All are welcome.

Drop-Off Dates for Fair Donations

Your donations to the WPA Fair Boutique can be dropped off either on Wednesday, October 31, or Thursday, November 1. Please bring them to the Bulkeley Room behind the stage on these dates. The WPA is looking for handmade items as well as high-quality, like-new items, such as jewelry, artwork, home goods, holiday decorating items, etc. Please contact Melita Teichert at mmmtconcord1@gmail.com if you have any questions. Heartfelt thanks for your donations!

Bring a Photo to All Souls Service

Sunday, November 4, 10:00 a.m.

During our All Souls service we will create a Communal Altar of Remembrance. Bring a small photo (or copy of a photo) of loved ones who have died. There will be an opportunity for you to place them on our Communal Altar. For those who don't have a photo, there will a slip of paper in the order of service on which you can write their names to place on the altar.

Social Action

Share the Plate Update

The SAC Giving Team is now accepting requests for Share the Plate nominations. In Share the Plate collections, half of the funds raised (other than those designated as fulfilling pledges), will go to the designated recipient organization and the other half will go to First Parish. The congregation has an opportunity to learn about the organization, including ways of getting more involved. The Nomination Form is online in the form of a survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPCSACForm>. The team will be selecting nominations for January through June of this church year from forms submitted by November 9. If you are interested in joining the SAC Giving Team or would like more information, please contact Zach Roe (zroe@firstparish.org) or Liz Rust (liz@therusts.net).

Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE)

Book Group Reading List

Dates and locations to be announced soon, but start reading! AWE's 2018-2019 Book Group reading list is out! November: *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America* by Beth Macy; January: *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi; March: *Not That Bad: Dispatches from Rape Culture*, edited by Roxanne Gay; May: *Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger* by Rebecca Traister; Summer: *Map of Salt and Stars* by Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar. The aim of the book group is to broaden our awareness, hone our empathy, nourish our spiritual selves, and spark action. Visit our Facebook page to learn about other AWE events: <https://www.facebook.com/concordwomen/>.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 p.m., Greeley Room

Amnesty International/USA's senior director of organizing and activism, Cynthia Gabriel Walsh, will bring the group up-to-date on national plans and priorities for the coming year. Ongoing activities include sending letters to support individuals whose dire situations require urgent action, efforts to end the death penalty, and the release of two Azerbaijanian students imprisoned for peaceful protests. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, nilyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.

AWE Monthly Meeting

Saturday, October 20, 8:00 a.m.

Join the Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) for our monthly meeting, where we'll discuss upcoming events. We'll also share our reactions to the recent Supreme Court appointment and brainstorm ideas for how we can empower and support ourselves and other women. Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month and are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions. Contact: Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Jericho Road Project's Opening Reception

Saturday, October 20, 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Celebrate our Concord-Lowell reconnection on Saturday, October 20, 6:30-9:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Enjoy dessert and wine, mingle with Lowell nonprofit leaders, and participate in an interactive talk given by UMass-Lowell Distinguished Professor of History, Robert Farrant. A highly engaging storyteller, Bob shares key turning points in Lowell's history that shift perceptions about the city. Bob has invited us to join him in Lowell for a follow-up historical walk the next Sunday, October 28, at 1:00 p.m. For more about the reception, please visit Jericho Road Project on Facebook!

Jericho Road at the Forum—October 21

Featured Guests: Budget Buddies

Award-winning nonprofit Budget Buddies will share the impact of their work promoting women's financial literacy on Sunday, October 21, 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Hosted by the Jericho Road Project, Budget Buddies' staff will share program stories and how their "coach and buddy" process works to empower women financially. Jericho Road is currently involved in marketing and database projects with Budget Buddies and will talk about their pro bono work with nonprofits since 2003, along with opportunities for interested First Parish members. We hope you will join us!

"How Best to Rescue Our Representative Democracy"

Tuesday, October 23, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Rick Hubbard, a retired Vermont attorney, former economic consultant, and author of *The Democracy Amendments*, will discuss why large numbers of Americans feel we have major problems with the structure and financing of our political system that results in improper representation of broad citizen interests by Congress. You'll each be loaned an iClicker device to record

and present collective audience responses about the following and more: What current practices prevent proper representation? How serious is the threat? What is the best strategy for reform? What most effective reforms include? There will be refreshments! Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com. Sponsored by First Parish's Reclaim Our Democracy group.

"Protecting Transgender Rights: Yes on 3 Campaign"

Sunday Forum, October 28, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

The Diversity Committee will host speakers from LexPride to address the following: LGBTQIA+: What does it all mean? The impact of ballot question 3 on civil rights, and one young man's journey. Valerie Overton, Cochair of LexPride and lifelong civil rights activist, helps lead the local #YesOn3 campaign to ensure that transgender people are treated equally under the law. Daniel Overton, Cochair of Lexington High School's GSA, speaks about LGBTQIA+ issues in high school health classes, teacher trainings, and public meetings. He is an ordinary person who finds himself in the extraordinary position of having to defend his right to exist in public places.

"Dark Money," Free Film Screening and Discussion

Tuesday, October 30, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Produced and directed by Kimberly Reed, "Dark Money" is a political thriller that examines one of the greatest present threats to American democracy: the influence of untraceable corporate money on our elections and elected officials. Jeff Clements, President of American Promise, and the major force behind Massachusetts Ballot Question #2 which would help address these dark money issues, will introduce the film and lead a discussion about the ballot question. This event is sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy in collaboration with POV, the award-winning independent non-fiction film series on PBS, www.pbs.org/pov/. Refreshments! Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Religious Exploration

This Week, October 14: Religious Exploration

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

UU Explorers, Grade 8 – attend service together

Neighboring Faiths, Grade 7 – 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 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 – Lower Level

Grade 3 – Ripley and Greeley Rooms – Upper Level

Grades 4 & 5 – Wright Tavern

Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Emerson Room

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Open House for Grade 6 families – Emerson Room

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age (Grade 9) – Emerson Room

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – High School Youth Group – Wright Tavern

Next Week, October 21: Religious Exploration

High School Youth Group

Sunday, October 14, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wright Tavern

All High School teens are invited to Youth Group this Sunday with Madzie Burnham and Piña Madera. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Questions? Please email Madzie: mfburnham@comcast.net.

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.