

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

May 26, 2019

This Week

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| Sun. May 26 | 10:00 | Sunday Service |
| Tues. May 28 | 10:00 | <i>Climate Change, Climate World</i> |
| | 6:00 | RJAG Meeting |
| | 7:00 | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Wed. May 29 | 9:30 | Buddhist Group |
| | 7:45 | Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| Thu. May 30 | 7:30 | Buddhist Group |
| Fri. May 31 | 7:00 | Walt Whitman Reading |
| | 7:30 | Rise Up Singing |
| Sun. June 2 | 9:00 | Chalice Choir |
| | 9:00 | Gospel Choir |
| | 10:00 | Sunday Service |
| | 11:30 | Finance Committee Meeting |
| | 12:30 | Declaring Independence |
| | 7:00 | <i>Climate Church, Climate World</i> |

Parish Notes

May "Share the Plate":

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Our Share the Plate offering this month is for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). This means that half of what you give this morning will support UUSC and half will support First Parish in Concord. UUSC is a 78-year-old human rights organization grounded in UU values, that advances human rights and social justice through advocacy, research, and partnerships with grassroots organizations in more than 20 countries around the globe, including the United States. Prioritizing local needs and initiatives, UUSC collaborates to advance migration justice, bolster environmental justice, and respond to humanitarian crises. Become a UUSC member or learn more at www.uusc.org.

Submit Your 2018-2019 Annual Reports for the 2019 Annual Meeting And to Retain Chartered Group Status

Deadline: Friday, May 31 at 12:00 Noon
To have your group's annual report included at Annual Meeting, please submit a text file to Sarah Burns, Church Administrator, at sburns@firstparish.org, by noon on Friday, May 31. While the document circulated at the Annual Meeting will not be the full Annual Report, we ask that all submissions be made in final form. With questions, please call Sarah Burns at the church office at 978-369-9602, ext. 410. To maintain your group's chartered status, please submit an annual report, including the group name, current leadership contact information, approximate membership count, and a description of your group's activities during the 2018-2019 church year, to Fifi Ball, Director of Operations, at fball@firstparish.org. Maintaining chartered group status allows free use of FP space for meetings and events, and access to FP communication channels and website. Deadline for chartered group 2018-2019 annual reports, in time for the new church year, is Friday, August 30. Please contact Fifi with questions. Submitting to both Fifi and Sarah at the same time is easiest.

Whitman at 200: The Concord Connection

On Friday, May 31, Walt Whitman's Bicentennial, please join us in the Parish Hall for a celebration of his work from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. There will be readings of some of his best-loved poems. Historian Richard Smith will provide commentary to illustrate how Concord residents and Transcendentalists, such as Emerson and Thoreau, both supported and influenced Whitman. Books by and about Whitman will be for sale by the Thoreau Society Shop. Refreshments will be served. To register, contact Dianne Weiss at diannemweiss@comcast.net or call the church office at 978-369-9602. Please preregister and prepay to help with planning.

Admission is \$10.00. Scholarships are available upon request. Sponsored by The Transcendentalism Council and The Thoreau Society, in collaboration with historian Richard Smith.

Congregational Conversation Regarding Annual Budget Sunday, June 2, 11:30 Brooks Room

Please join Fifi Ball, Director of Operations; Michelle Fortier, Treasurer; and Members of the Finance Committee for a Congregational Conversation about the proposed budget for the July 2019 to June 2020 church year.

"Meditation, Mindful Practices, and Their Benefits" First Tuesday Group—Tuesday, June 4, 1:30 p.m.

Meditation and other mindful practices recharge your body, mind, and spirit while defusing stress. On June 4, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Rev. Marion Visel will engage participants in simple meditation and mindful practices that help sharpen focus, lower blood pressure, reduce chronic pain, and make a real improvement in one's everyday life. The day will also include a list of likely topics for next year's programs, and our traditional June ice cream social. Come participate in this stimulating mix of end-of-the-year activities! (While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your age.)

"Our Fathers, Our Selves: A Men's Spirituality Retreat" Saturday, June 15, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Chapel

We will gather to reflect on our fathers and on the lasting impact of our relationship. The retreat will help men understand their fathers' behavior patterns, (both positive and negative), the lasting impact on their lives, and on their friendships with other men. Bring in a picture of your father and an object strongly associated with your father, something he owned or made. No late arrivals or early departures, please. The retreat is open to all male-identified members and friends of FP. Sign up in the Church Office.

Coffee Hour Herb Party

Once again, the Herb Garden is calling us! The Women's Parish Association invites everyone to its popular Coffee Hour Herb Garden Party on June 16, following the worship service. Among fragrant herbs, we'll celebrate the coming of summer and Father's Day as we offer heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Marion Visel and to Ministerial Intern, Laurel Gray, for their generous gifts of outstanding service to First Parish. Join fellow parishioners and enjoy herb-flavored sweets and savories as you nourish your soul in one of the most beautiful gardens in Concord. See you in the garden!

Sweet & Savory Garden Party with The Conchords

Join hosts Barry and Carolyn Copp and Dean and Vivienne Aldrich for a lovely summer concert fundraising party in Carlisle on Saturday, June 29, at 7:00 p.m. The Conchords, made up of our FP friends Bob, Larry, Lauren, Rick, Pam, and Rex will perform an eclectic repertoire that covers 1930s to the present, with styles ranging from jazz, the great American songbook, barbershop, doo-wop, and gospel, to popular music. Savory appetizers, sweet desserts, and delightful music will create a magical evening. Tickets are \$25 each, please pay in the office.

Microloans

Did you know First Parish is using \$1,100 in Social Action funds to make microloans to people all around the world? Each month, a member of the Microfinance Group selects loan recipients through the umbrella organization, KIVA.org, based on interests identified within our congregation (women's equality, immigration justice, environmental justice, immigrant and refugee justice, and racism). Want to learn more? Interested in joining our group and selecting recipients? Email Toby Smith Ropeik at tobyasmith@gmail.com.

Social Action

Immigration Justice Taskforce May Vigil Please Join Us, Even at the Last Minute!

Today, May 26, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. p.m.

Suffolk County House of Corrections, 20 Bradston St., Boston, Mass.

A recently released detainee joined the Vigil in April and said, "We wait for you the last Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. We know you'll come." We return today to gather in solidarity for immigrants who are being detained in Boston at the House of Corrections. Gather with the IJTF and neighbors from other faith communities to let those detained know they are not forgotten. The detainees will see us and hear us and hopefully take courage from our Vigil. On street parking is available. If you would like to carpool, please gather at the IJTF table after the service and arrange with others. Questions, contact Pam Chester, pgachester@gmail.com.

Declaring Independence: Then and Now

Sunday, June 2, 12:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

SAC is pleased to sponsor "Declaring Independence: Then and Now." The program is offered in Partnership with Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Society of Cincinnati Massachusetts. What does the Declaration of Independence mean today and what did it mean to citizens throughout the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area when it was conceived and debated during their lifetime? The thought provoking public performance piece, "Declaring Independence: Then and Now," seeks to answer this question by integrating a reading of the Declaration of Independence with first person accounts presented by living history performers. As the 18th-century words and ideas are performed, the narrator explores their meaning to challenge the audience to consider their relevance and power for today.

What is the Immigration Justice Taskforce?

Join Our Next Monthly Meeting

Monday, June 3, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Brooks Room

What do we do and why do we do it? If you're wondering, please come. Or, ask one of the IJTF members. Here are a few: Tony Rodriguez, trod.rodriguez@gmail.com; Laurie Van Loon, lvloon@comcast.net; Abby Buhle, abuhle68@gmail.com; Jessica Bethony, jessicabethoney@gmail.com; Regina Corrao, reginacorraoconsulting@gmail.com.

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, June 7, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

Join us for Ocean's 8, our final film of this church year. This is a fun, feminist heist flick with an amazing cast, which includes Cate Blanchett, Helena Bonham Carter, Sandra Bullock, Rihanna, Mindy Kaling, Awkwafina, and Sarah Paulson. Contact: Lou Toussaint at mloutoussaint@gmail.com.

Attend Pride Service and March in the Boston Pride Parade

Saturday, June 8, 11:00 a.m.

The Diversity Committee encourages our members to join Howard in attending the Pride Service at the Arlington Street Church in Boston, and march together in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 8. Gail Carey will play in the band for the service and would love to see familiar faces there showing their support for the LGBTQ community. The service will start at 11:00 a.m.; afterwards those attending can join the parade line-up. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org or 978-371-0723 for more information.

Accompaniment Training, Open To All

**Sponsored by IFTF with Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network
Wednesday, June 12, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., First Parish in Concord**

Are you concerned about our immigrant neighbors? Do you want to know how you can be supportive? Do your values include presence, solidarity, and compassion? Then join us to receive training to accompany immigrants to district and federal courts for ICE/ISAP check-ins; learn about this network of solidarity and support across Metrowest, and engage in authentic community with our neighbors. Whatever your

schedule, language, or familiarity with these issues, you can make a difference! Space is limited. RSVP to framcompaneras@gmail.com.

Did You Miss Beloved Conversations?

Are you interested in continuing the dialogue on race in our community? Several parishioners have asked if there would be another Beloved Conversation offering soon. The Racial Justice Action Group is planning for next year and we want to know what our fellow congregants want. If you would like to participate, have questions, or other ideas, please speak to us at coffee hour or send us an email. We look forward to hearing from you. Sue St.Croix, sue@suesteroix.com; Ted Bayne, tedbayne@comcast.net; Beth Norton, elizabethhnorton@gmail.com; Jim Synder-Grant, jim.snyder.grant@gmail.com; or Cindy Soule, cindysoule@gmail.com.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, May 26: Memorial Day Weekend

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service for all ages

No Little RE or Religious Exploration

Next Sunday, June 2:

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service for all ages

10:15 a.m. – Little OWL – Lower Level

10:15 a.m. – Middle OWL – Wright Tavern

11:00 a.m. – Neighboring Activists – table at Coffee Hour

11:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths serve at Common Cathedral in Boston, Return around 3:15 p.m.

6:00 p.m. – Youth Group – Wright Tavern

"The Wilderness," A Family-Friendly Show

Saturday, June 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall Stage

Save the date! The Neighboring Activists are staging a play written by our very own Sam Vallancourt. Our 6th graders are putting on this original show to benefit Tomten Farm and Animal Sanctuary in Haverhill, New Hampshire. The show features fun animal characters. Admission is "pay what you like" to support this worthy cause.

Discovering Colonial Life at the Wright Tavern

Sunday, June 9, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Children are invited to discover the fascinating history of our own Wright Tavern, the red building next to First Parish. With educators from the Concord Museum, we will open the first floor. We look forward to a visit from Phebe (Walker) Bliss who will share with us the history of Wright Tavern and the important role it played in the events of April 19, 1775. Phebe was the wife of Concord's minister Daniel Bliss and after he died she married the new minister, Reverend William Emerson. Our morning will also include a colonial clothing try-on, colonial games, and crafts. Come discover this hidden treasure and our special role in the history of our nation!

Summer 2019 Program for Kids at First Parish

Children and youth of all ages are invited to drop in for our fun Summer Program held during every Sunday service, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Each Sunday will feature a professional teacher assisted by a teen and adult volunteer. A schedule will soon be available! Summer sessions will include: art, yoga, cooperative games, creative drama, and more. This program is designed to be fun and enriching for the whole family. Our goal is for you to feel energized and renewed!



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.