
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Parish in Concord
Sunday, September 15, 2024

*Please check our weekly e-newsletter, FP Weekly, for Zoom links
for events you are interested in attending virtually.*

Religious Education Begins Today! Outdoors (or Emerson Room)

Join us for the first Sunday of our 2024-25 Religious Exploration program! Our theme this month is "Invitation." Childcare is available 15 minutes before the service in the Milldam Nursery School. Children in Kindergarten through High School begin in the service with their families. Following the "Time for All Ages," young people will go outdoors with Amy, Dawn, Anderson and volunteers. This is our "Music and Art" Sunday. We will learn the "Song of the Month," make posters encouraging people to VOTE, and make pet toys as a fundraiser for "UU the Vote."

Munchkins Outback! TODAY! 11:15 a.m.

Outback (or Emerson Room)

Following the service, caregivers are invited to join your children and teens for munchkins in the backyard. Come learn more about Religious Exploration! Rev. Amy Freedman and Dawn Van Patten will share about our plans and ideas for 2024-25. Learn more about our Family Pick-up Choir and Youth Gospel Choir from Anderson Manuel. We look forward to welcoming you and answering your questions. This will be an opportunity to catch up with friends and meet other families. Hope to see you there!

Youth Gospel Ensemble Begins TODAY! 11:30 a.m.

Chapel

The Youth Gospel Ensemble, our musical group for singers in 5th through 12th grade, begins rehearsals today at 11:30 in the Chapel. Youth who revel in the beauty of harmonizing and seek a community of kindred spirits may join this vibrant and inclusive group of singers who cherish the gospel tradition while also embracing songs that reflect our Unitarian beliefs.

Questions? Contact Anderson Manuel at amanuel@firstparish.org or Beth Norton at bnorton@firstparish.org.

Let's "Do Something" to Promote Democracy TODAY! Stop by during Coffee Hour

Reclaim Our

Democracy will be back at coffee hour

today and every Sunday until the election. We will have information for text

banking and phone

banking. We will have postcard packets to take home or blank postcards to fill out. Please stop by and get involved. Signups are still open at <https://forms.gle/UAJSi1Q55Ak8pcLN6>. There are many things to do, and small contributions add up.

Register to Participate:

<https://forms.gle/UAJSi1Q55Ak8pcLN6>



**Welcome! We are so glad you are here. Please stop by the Welcome Table after service
or fill out a Connection Card located in your pew.**

**Special Fundraiser for UU The Vote
TODAY! Stop by during Coffee Hour**

Attention Cat and Dog Ladies and Gentlemen!
The Women's Parish Association is running a special fundraiser during Sunday coffee hours in the Parish Hall during September and October to support UU The Vote projects. Donors will be given special edition catnip balls and dog bandanas for their beloved furry friends. This is also a fun way to remind ourselves and others to vote and to participate in UU the Vote activities to help preserve our precious democracy. See *FP Weekly* for further details.

**First Parish Trivia Night
Saturday, October 5, 6:00 p.m.**

Sign up TODAY during Coffee Hour
Sign up for Trivia Night at coffee hour. It will be a night of fun, lots of laughs, and friendly competition. Trivia Night, sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee, will be held on October 5th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Teams of six will compete. Sign up to create a team of 6 members or to join a team and make new friends. High school age and older invited. Admission is \$10 per person. Light dinner and lots of fun provided! Bring your own beverage and snacks. Festive attire encouraged.

**A Transylvania Partnership Celebration
Saturday, September 28, 6:00 p.m.**

Sign up TODAY during Coffee Hour
All are invited to attend a festive dinner to celebrate our extraordinary partnership with our sister congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, hosted by the Partner Congregation Committee. Dinner is provided; please bring your own beverages. Share great company, food, songs, and stories. Come learn about an important upcoming travel opportunity. Please either sign up to attend at coffee hour today, or email lillianand@comcast.net and indicate the number in your party. We hope you can join us!

Please Register for Religious Education

Whether you are a new or returning family, please register your children and teens for the 2024-2025 RE program. We are excited to offer fun, engaging, and meaningful experiences in the Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons. This year we will be exploring monthly themes along with our First Parish congregation. Please sign up today so we can plan and be prepared to welcome your family! Register online at firstparish.org/wp/learning/re/.

Volunteering in Religious Education

One of the joys of being a part of First Parish in Concord is spending time with our young people! There are many opportunities to connect, educate, and play in our religious education program. These include assisting on Sunday morning, helping in Little RE, preparing supplies at home, helping with service projects, being a mentor, leading an activity, and more. Please be in touch with Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education, if you would like to explore the possibilities: afreedman@firstparish.org.

**RE Care Package Donations Needed
Through September 21**

Please donate to RE's care package project. Packages will be sent to recent graduates and remind our young adults they always have a home at First Parish. Donations can be left in the box outside the RE office through September 21. Donation ideas include individually-wrapped snack-size chips, pretzels, popcorn, sunflower seeds, dried fruit, cookies, candy, gum, granola bars, hot chocolate packets, travel-size tissue packs, pens, pencils, highlighters, and small fun things like stickers, party-size play dough, etc. Please contact Dawn Van Patten with any questions at dvanpatten@firstparish.org.

Welcome Circle – Social Event
Sunday, September 29, 3:00 p.m.
Parish Hall / Parlor

This is a Social Time event! All are Welcome! Come socialize as we broaden the First Parish Welcoming Culture. Whether it's Sunday greeting, the pastoral caring, the religious exploration programming, newcomer and new member welcoming, or being kind and open to all in our community—we are all part of the Welcoming Culture. Let's nurture that openness together, support and grow our collective efforts, and learn about and from each other. In a casual social environment. Expect fellowship, friendship and refreshments! Contact Liz Rust at Liz@therusts.net.

First Parish Connections Fair
Sunday, October 6, 11:00 a.m.
During the Coffee Hour

Get Involved and Make a Difference!
Want to get involved at First Parish but not sure how? The Congregational Life Committee invites you to participate in the FP Connections Fair. Learn how you can:

- Serve the church by volunteering, in front of or behind the scenes
- Join a committee or affinity group
- Take part in FP social and spiritual group activities

Questions on getting involved or for information on how to have a table for your group? Contact conglife@firstparish.org.

A Talk by Editor Geoff Wisner on this new book: *A Year of Birds*
Saturday, October 26, 7:00 p.m.
Wright Tavern and on Zoom

In partnership with the 2024 Concord Festival of Authors, editor Geoff Wisner will discuss his new book, *A Year of Birds*, featuring 150 watercolors and field sketches by artist Barry Van Dusen and a foreword by naturalist Peter Alden, the author of numerous Audubon Field Guides. This is a hybrid event. Admission is free, but you must register at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ThoreauBirds>. In-person seating at the Wright Tavern is limited, and you will only be sent a link to the livestream on Zoom if you register. Contact Shelley Hawks via the First Parish office (978) 369-9602.