
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord
Sunday, September 22, 2024**

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

Let's "Do Something" to Promote Democracy: Postcards are Here!

TODAY! Stop by during Coffee Hour

The Reclaim Our Democracy team has many ways to be engaged this fall and would love to see you at coffee hour. Postcard packets with all the information and material to write postcards to people in North Carolina and Georgia are ready for you. The postcards need to be mailed by September 30th. You can pick up one or more packets at coffee hour today or in the church office. Kindly include your name when you pick up your packets. Let's help all citizens understand what is at stake in this election and be able to vote.

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 and toys 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.

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!

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.

**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.**

Transylvanian Scholarship Program TODAY! Stop by during Coffee Hour

Each year generous participants in our Székelykeresztúr Student Scholarship Program, overseen by the Partner Congregation Committee, help make high school and college education possible for 40-50 deserving students from the Hungarian minority population there and area villages. If you would like to become a scholarship donor for one of the new freshmen students in need of financial help, please contact Kathy Spang at katalinspang@yahoo.com for more information, or stop by the PCC table at coffee hour.

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.

There's a Place for You in the Choir!

The First Parish Choir begins each season with "open rehearsals" on Wednesday nights from 7:45-9:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Singers of all voice parts (or "undetermined" voice part) are welcome to attend with no obligation during this time. Come and be a part of this remarkable musical community. There's a place for you in the choir! Please contact Beth Norton, Director of Music Ministry, at 978-369-9602 x420 or music@firstparish.org with any questions.

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.

Emerson Reading Group
Second Wednesdays each month
7:15-9:00 p.m.

Come read together, discuss and enjoy Ralph Waldo Emerson's essays. No homework required! Simply come with a copy of the essay assigned. Open to all. Charles Phillips, longtime fan of Ralph Waldo Emerson, will guide us and answer questions. Charles provides the essays by email, and they are also available at rwe.org. We are reading:

- Oct. 9: Nature - Introduction and Beauty
- Nov. 13: Nature – Idealism.

To sign up or if you have questions, please email Charles Phillips at ctphillips27@gmail.com or call the FP office at (978) 369-9602.

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.

Cluster Hospitality

Success! If you peruse *FP Weekly* regularly, you've read about Cluster Hospitality: How several families band together to keep a migrant family off the streets, each member of the cluster hosting for a chosen number of days. The Blue Boat Home cluster, with families from FP Concord and FP Bedford, has hosted B and her two delightful young children since July! Without this respite, given the current rules, they would have almost certainly been without shelter. Along with other supportive volunteers, we've helped B manage numerous tasks to support her dreams of independence. And now the good news: B and her children have been offered an apartment! Our seven weeks of making sure this family does not live on the street has meant new connections: with this lovely mother and children, and among us in the cluster. There's nothing like direct relationships to make our world's realities real, and to point us toward useful action for human rights. We'll let you know if Blue Boat Home prepares to host another family. To let us know if you're interested, or to find out more, contact Regina Corrao at reginacorraoconsulting@gmail.com.