
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord
Sunday, September 29, 2024**

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

Soul Work and Wiggle Room TODAY!

As you enter our Sanctuary, you will find a table with Soul Work resources. Help yourself to sewing circles, coloring pages, clipboards, and pipe cleaners for creating. Research finds that certain kinds of handiwork stimulate the same brain activity as meditation and prayer. You are welcome to take your creation, including the sewing circles, home with you but please return the supplies following the service. There's also plenty of "Wiggle Room" in the Parlor downstairs where children may play with toys and our service is live-streamed. Religious Education will resume next Sunday, October 6.

Apple Picking at Westward Orchards TODAY! 10:00 a.m.

178 Mass Ave., Harvard, MA

Come treat yourself and those you love to a morning of apple picking with other First Parish families. Meet us there at 10:00 a.m. or later, no advance registration needed. We will pick apples, explore the orchards, connect with friends (old and new), and enjoy refreshments from the Farm Store including Apple Cider Donuts made fresh daily. www.westwardorchards.com. Questions? Contact Amy at 617-599-5998.

Meet Mary Margaret Earl and UUUM Staff TODAY! 11:30 a.m.

Emerson Room

RJAG is hosting a get together with Rev. Mary Margaret Earl and other UUUM staff after the service to connect in a quiet space and discuss areas of mutual interest. UUUM has been reviewing their history to shine light on their mixed legacy and pursue their mission toward greater racial justice. This effort is of parallel interest to many in our congregation. UUUM is also continuing their partnerships with Roxbury grassroots organizations, and has expanded youth programming in exciting directions. You are invited to join in the dialog. (There will be snacks to keep our energy up!)

Reclaim Our Democracy TODAY! during Coffee Hour

The Reclaim Our Democracy team is back at coffee hour with information about how we can all "Do Something" on behalf of democracy before the 2024 election. Sign up to be part of our campaign and help us reach our goal of at least 20% of our membership doing at least one thing to promote our UU values in this election. Pick up a postcard packet with all that you need to share voting information with eligible voters in Texas. Come by for information on opportunities for text banking, phone banking and door knocking. We hope to see you!

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

**An Evening of Dinner and Games
Saturday, October 19, 6:00 p.m.**

Purchase Tickets TODAY during Coffee Hour
Come enjoy soups and stew, fresh salads and warm bread on Saturday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be followed by a variety of games for both the extroverted (Charades) and the stage-shy (cards)! Buy your ticket for this fundraiser sponsored by the Governing Board at the designated table in the Parish Hall immediately after today's service. Questions? Contact Virginia Taylor at virginiarosstaylor@gmail.com.

**Welcome Circle – Social Event
TODAY! 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.

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.

Join a Small Group Ministry Group!

Participants in Small Group Ministry groups get to know people in the congregation whom they might never have encountered otherwise, and also to deepen connections with individuals they may already know. The groups consist of 6-8 people who meet for 90 minutes twice a month to discuss important topics and are led by a trained facilitator. They will meet from late October through April/May. All are welcome to participate. Any questions contact Lillian Anderson (lillianand@comcast.net). The Registration deadline is October 15. See the registration link in *FP Weekly*.

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.

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.

**The 2024 Massachusetts Provincial Congress:
“Exploring Democracy – Our Rights and Our
Responsibilities”**

Friday, October 11, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

First Parish and Wright Tavern

Friday, October 11, 2024 will be the 250th anniversary of the First Massachusetts Provincial Congress. Here in First Parish and at the Wright Tavern, this Congress made several critical decisions in the founding of our country. The 2024 Massachusetts Provincial Congress will be an exercise in civic education and engagement. Come explore, learn, and engage in discussions on rights and democracy. The program will run from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, with a box lunch available for purchase. “Exploring Democracy” will be held at First Parish with a reception to follow in the Wright Tavern. To register, visit Wrighttavern.org/Programs. We hope to see you here.

**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.

Save the Dates!

Women’s Retreats 2025

The Women’s Retreats weekend at Rolling Ridge in North Andover will start on Friday evening, January 10 and run through Sunday lunch on January 12, 2025. All FP women are invited! Registration opens in mid-November. Information coming soon about an At-Home Retreat being planned for early next year. Sponsored by the Women’s Retreats Committee. Questions? Contact Bozena Smith at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.