
SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Parish in Concord
Sunday, November 3, 2024**

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

Reclaim Our Democracy is Back! TODAY! During Coffee Hour

Thank you for working together to earn the “Good Trouble Congregation” distinction from UU the Vote! There are 2 days until the polls close and we hope to finish strong! Reclaim Our Democracy is back at coffee hour with information about last minute get out the vote opportunities. There will also be information about the election night open house and Saturday's Emma's Revolution concert available. We hope to see you there!

WPA Boutique TODAY! During Coffee Hour

Many thanks to all who helped and shopped at yesterday's Holiday Artisans Fair! For your shopping convenience and pleasure and as an extension of the fair, the WPA Boutique will be operating in the Parlor at coffee hour today featuring quality vintage and up-cycled women's accessories, clothing, jewelry and more. Happy shopping!

Bake Sale Success!

THANK YOU! To all who brought their appetites and cash to coffee hour on Sunday and supported the Hakimi boys' bake sale. They raised \$310 for the Lowell Youth Soccer Association. They enjoyed baking a lot and interacting with so many of you. They got to practice their English, make change, and now can hand over their earnings to an organization that has given them so much.

Cluster Hospitality Update

The Blue Boat Home Cluster sails again soon! We're waiting for new migrant(s) to begin their stays with collaborating families from FP Concord and FP Bedford. Each cluster family will offer hospitality in

sequence, providing safe housing while advocating that State programs grant a place of their own. Interested in hosting or helping? Contact Regina Corrao: reginacorraoconsulting@gmail.com

Shelter Under Threat

IJTF member Kathleen Bean attended last Sunday's Protect Right to Shelter rally at FP UU in Arlington. Massachusetts had been the only right-to-shelter state in the country. But on July 23rd, Governor Healey announced new policies forcing families to choose: stay 5 days in a temporary shelter and then become ineligible for 6 months, or remain on the waiting list even if homeless. Reach Governor Maura Healey's office by phone and/or email and ask her to reverse this policy. 617-725-4005; <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/email-the-governors-office>.

From the Transylvanian Scholarship Committee:

Thank you to all who have sent in their scholarship donations! We have one freshman and one junior in high school who each need a donor of a \$300 partial scholarship for their high school years. We also have three college students in need of either a full or shared scholarship. We're searching for three donors; one for \$300 a year, one for \$500 a year, and one for a full scholarship of \$600 a year. Please contact Kathy Spang at katalinspang@yahoo.com if you would like to be a donor in this wonderful program.

**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.**

Men/Masculine Identified folks: A Practical Exploration of Spirituality
TODAY! 11:30 a.m.

Emerson Room

4 Monthly two-hour sessions. facilitated by Paul Langston-Daley and Jeff Clanon. Limited to 12 First Parish Men First Sunday of the month beginning Nov. 3. At our September Retreat a group of men/masc identified folks focused on Spirituality. This program is a continuation of the in-depth conversation that occurred there. It is an opportunity for First Parish men and masculine identified folks to have a clearer sense of the value of spirituality in their lives and enhance their practice in whatever ways they find most meaningful and beneficial.

Diwali Celebration
TODAY! 3:30 p.m.

Parish Hall

This year we are delighted to partner with the Indian community in Concord to celebrate Diwali at First Parish. Diwali, Festival of Lights, is a major Indian festival celebrating the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Diwali is a time for renewal, reflection, and celebration, with a focus on spreading joy, love and light. It involves lighting oil lamps, decorating homes, exchanging sweets, and gathering with loved ones. Please join us for live performances, fellowship, and fun as we celebrate Diwali together. All ages are welcome!

First Tuesday Group: Is it the Teachers?
Tuesday, November 5, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Emerson Room

The First Tuesday Group (senior focus, all are welcome) will meet at 2:00 p.m. on November 5, in the Emerson Room. Individual schools across the country with children who have the litany of disadvantages, (poverty, racism, marginalized populations) outperform affluent suburbs around them. How come? Jon Saphier, Founder and Chairman of Research for Better Teaching, will talk about the complexity of the knowledge and skill required to educate children well. He will ask whether we have enough teaching expertise in our educator workforce and how we could get more of it for more children in more classrooms more of the

time. In short, "What does it take to teach really well?" (*If you need a ride, please let us know.*) Questions? Please contact Anne Fortier. Our ministerial contact is Rev. Elizabeth Ide or leave a message at 978-369-9602.

"MOVING FORWARD" CONCERT BY EMMA'S REVOLUTION

Saturday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary & Zoom

Activist singer/songwriting duo Emma's Revolution will perform their "Moving Forward" concert in our Sanctuary on Saturday November 9th at 7:30pm. Co-sponsored by Reclaiming our Democracy and the First Parish Music Ministry. As one of their first concerts after Election Day, the energy at the Saturday concert will be sure to be electric. Tickets may be purchased on line

<https://emmasrevolution.com/tickets-nov-9th-concord-ma>.

In-Person Tickets: \$25 In Advance/\$30 At The Door/\$18 Low & No Wage.

Livestream Tickets: \$20/\$15 Low & No Wage

Annual Pledge Campaign Brainstorming
Wednesday, November 13, 6:00 p.m.

Brooks Room

Have ideas about our annual pledge campaign? Feedback? Complaints? Do you know what we could do better? Are we respectful and efficient? Our annual pledge campaign is months away but we will convene an open brainstorming session Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:00-7:30 pm (Brooks Room). Pledge campaign stewards, past pledge team members, those with fund-raising experience, those with ideas – come and give us your input! Let Dave Elwood know if you are interested (daveelwood@hotmail.com or 508-572-0490). Could only attend by Zoom? Can't attend but have some input? – email or text Dave.

Emerson Reading Group

Wednesday, November 13, 7:15-9:00 p.m.

Emerson Room

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:

- 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.

Richard Higgins discusses his book *Thoreau's God*

Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary & Zoom

Come hear author Richard Higgins discuss his new book *Thoreau's God*. Thoreau devoted his life to communicating his experience of an infinite, wild, life-giving God. By recovering this vital thread in Thoreau's life and work, *Thoreau's God* opens the door to a new understanding of an original voice in American religion. Higgins is a former staff writer at the Boston Globe and the author or editor of four books, including *Thoreau and the Language of Trees*. Registration required. \$10 per person, Register at: <https://thoreaufarm.org/thoreaus-god/>

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Sunday, November 24, 10:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

As a part of our Thanksgiving Service, First Parish will host a food drive to help our neighbors. Open Table supplies many of the "fixings" for a Thanksgiving meal. They are looking for the following food items to round out this holiday feast. Baking: Flour, Sugar, Baking Powder, Chocolate Chips, Chopped Nuts, Quick Bread Baking Mix, Brownie Baking Mix, Cornbread Baking Mix Beverages: Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Herbal Tea All ages will be invited to bring forward donations during the service. Thank you for any help you can offer!

Sharing Bread Stories

Sunday, November 24, 10:00 a.m.

Sanctuary & Zoom

Do you have a favorite kind of bread? What kind of bread honors your family heritage? Are there traditions or a funny story related to bread that you'd

like to share? On Sunday, November 24 we will have a Thanksgiving Service celebrating the many kinds of bread that nourish and sustain us! All ages are invited to participate and bring bread to share at Coffee Hour. If you would like to share a story, please email Rev. Amy Freedman: afreedman@firstparish.org.

**Children's Holiday Craft Workshop
Saturday, December 7, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

First Parish

Save the Date! First Parish children and teens are invited to join us for a magical afternoon of crafting, gift-making, and holiday spirit. You can simply show up, no registration needed, and friends are welcome; but parents should stay with young children. \$15/child, \$45/family. Calling All Elves: Adults and older teens can join the fun by volunteering to be elves, just visit our table at Sunday Coffee Hour or email jeannie4of7@hotmail.com.

**Women's Away Retreat Registration and
At-Home Retreat Dates**

Friday, January 10, 5:00 p.m.

Rolling Ridge, North Andover, MA

The Women's Retreat weekend at Rolling Ridge in North Andover will start on Friday evening Jan 10 and run through Sunday lunch on Jan 12, 2025. All FP women are invited! Registration opens on Nov 15, online only. Find the registration link in FP Weekly on that date. Space is limited and we expect to fill quickly. The At-Home Retreat at First Parish will take place on Fri evening Mar 7 and Sat Mar 8, 2025. Registration info TBA. Sponsored by the Women's Retreats Committee.