



**WORKINGS
2016-2017**

**FIRST PARISH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
OF ARLINGTON**

UPDATED NOVEMBER 14, 2016

WELCOME TO FIRST PARISH!

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion. We believe personal experience, conscience and reason are final authorities in religion. We put religious insights to the test of our hearts and minds. We uphold the free search for truth. We are not bound to any statement of belief or creed. This is a free faith bound by our aspiration to act in love.

To learn more about First Parish, visit our website at www.firstparish.info. Some pages require logging in - use login: firstparish and password: thespire.

First Parish is a welcoming congregation, warmly and openly welcoming to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

First Parish is a proud voluntary member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. www.uua.org

FIRST PARISH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST OF ARLINGTON

630 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476
781-648-3799
office@firstparish.info

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

as listed below or by appointment:

September - June:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Tuesday 1 pm - 7 pm

July & August:

will be announced in June

2016 - 2017

Ingathering Intergenerational Worship 10 AM	Sunday, September 11
Arlington Town Day – Pie Palace, Man-Made Chili	Saturday, September 17
Leadership Roundtable 12 noon	Sunday, September 25
Ferry Beach Church Retreat	Fri. Sept. 30 – Sun., Oct. 2
Fall “Music Sunday”	Sunday, November 13
Harvest Moon Fair	Saturday, November 19
Thanksgiving Intergenerational Worship 10 AM	Sunday, November 20
“Embracing the Darkness” Worship 7 PM	Friday, December 9
Christmas Intergenerational Worship 10 AM	Sunday, December 18
Candlelight Christmas Eve Services 4 PM, 6 PM, & 8 PM	Saturday, December 24
Leadership Roundtable 12 noon	Sunday, January 22
“Youth Sunday” Worship 10 AM	Sunday, February 12
Spring “Music Sunday”	Sunday, March 12
Easter Intergenerational Worship Services 9 & 11 AM	Sunday, April 16
“Alliance Sunday” Worship 10 AM	Sunday, April 23
Annual Meeting 11:45 AM	Sunday, May 21
Coming of Age Worship 10 AM	Sunday, June 5
Flower Communion Intergenerational Worship 10 AM	Sunday, June 11

Parish Committee:

Regular meetings on Tuesdays 7 - 9 pm:

September 13, October 18, November 8, December 13, January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13. Special budget meeting and July /August TBD.

Alliance Meetings:

Fridays: September 30, November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5

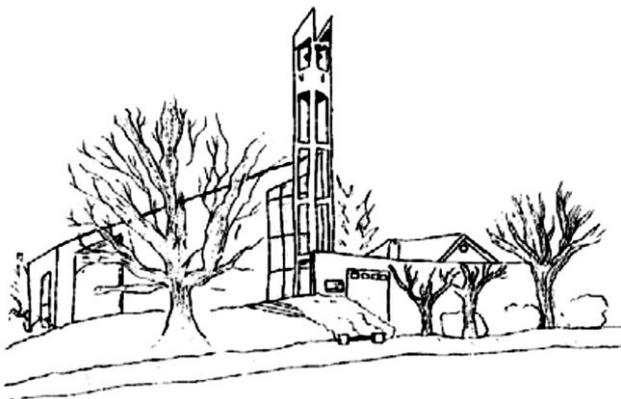
***The Spire* Monthly Newsletter Deadlines**

Sundays: September 25, October 30, November 27, December 25, January 29, February 26, March 26, April 30, May 28, September 3

Blood Drives:

Saturdays: October 1, December 1, February 4, April 1, June 3, August 5

UU General Assembly in New Orleans, Louisiana June 21-25, 2017



COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

First Parish Arlington has roughly fifty committees and groups that engage in a wide variety of activities.

If you would like to connect with other people – or explore your spirituality – or work for social justice – or help children and youth flourish – or use your skills to help First Parish function well – or help individuals in need – or make music with others – or meet people who share similar interests – or meet people who are different from you – or many other things – please continue reading and see what appeals to you.

OFFICERS & STANDING COMMITTEES: The officers and standing committees, in close cooperation with the staff, conduct the basic work of the congregation. (Pages 7–15)

MINISTRY-RELATED COMMITTEES: These committees share with our Minister, Rev. Marta Flanagan, the ministries of pastoral care, worship, and discernment. (Pages 16-18)

The above committees do work that is essential to First Parish, in the name of First Parish, so their membership is formalized. See details in or above the committee listings.

Most of the groups below are open to any interested adult joining at any time, and most welcome youth as well.

Other conditions, if any, are indicated in the group listing. You are invited to join any group that says “new participants welcome,” but an email to the contact person confirming the time and place is wise.

MUSIC: Singers and instrumentalists provide music for our worship services under the direction of our Music Director, Jonathan Brennand. (Pages 19-20)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Our religious education programs support the spiritual growth and community life of children, youth, and adults. Volunteers are guided by our Director of Religious Education, Tina Schultz, and Youth Group Coordinator, Steve Carmody. (Pages 20-22)

GROUPS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MUTUAL SUPPORT: These groups help adults deepen their spiritual journeys and their relationships with others. (Pages 23-26)

SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUPS: Associated with the Social Justice Committee, these groups help fulfill our mission of challenging the excesses and injustices of our time. (Pages 27-28)

Turning Outward Steering Committee: Created by the Parish Committee, this group supports the congregation in living our faith in the world beyond our walls. (Page 29)

PRACTICAL GROUPS: These groups do useful, practical things such as ushering on Sunday morning or organizing the Harvest Moon Fair. (Pages 30-32)

OFFICERS & STANDING COMMITTEES

NOTE: These positions are specified in the First Parish bylaws. If you might be interested in any of these positions, contact the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) at leadership@firstparish.info and/or talk with the committee's chair(s).

Officers and members of standing committees are nominated and elected for three-year terms at the congregation's Annual Meeting each May. The LDC offers a slate of nominees. Nominations, including self-nominations, may also be made from the floor, but people are encouraged to talk with the LDC about their interests.

At other times of year, the Parish Committee may appoint an individual to a standing committee until the following Annual Meeting at the request of that committee's chair or co-chairs.

Terms for officers and members of standing committees begin and end at the Annual Meeting.

The bylaws limit individuals to two consecutive three-year terms on a standing committee unless they receive the approval of the Parish Committee for a third term. Officers and members of the Parish Committee may not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms; they become eligible for re-election at the Annual Meeting a year after their second term ends.

Officers

CLERK: Lori Kenschaft (second term ends 2019)

TREASURER: David Klingsberg (two-year term ends 2018)

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Jean Nagle (second term ends 2019)

AUDITOR: Greg Ruccio (first term ends 2018)

MODERATOR: Andrew Kobayashi (first term ends 2017)

Parish Committee

(Meets the second Tuesday of each month, year round, with additional meetings as needed. Meetings are open to any First Parish member. The Parish Committee is also known as ParCom.)

PURPOSE: To serve as the governing body of First Parish: to create parish-wide policy, hold a long-term vision, oversee and empower committees, foster new initiatives and discern priorities among them, prepare and oversee the annual budget, conduct an annual evaluation of the Minister and overall ministry of the parish, approve non-called program staff, monitor the overall condition of the physical plant, and speak for the congregation on matters of public concern.

MEMBERSHIP: Clerk, Treasurer, and seven other individuals, all of whom must be First Parish members.

CHAIR: Dickie Pereli (first term ends 2017)

VICE-CHAIR: Jerry Silberman (first term ends 2018)

TREASURER: David Klingsberg (two-year term ends 2018)

CLERK: Lori Kenschaft (first term ends 2016)

Maggie Carey (first term ends 2018)

John Hodges (second term ends 2017)

Steve McMullin (first term ends 2019)

Carol Orme-Johnson (first term ends 2017)

Jeff Roberts (first term ends 2019)

CONTACT: Chair and Vice-Chair – ParishExec@firstparish.info

NOTE: The Executive Committee of the Parish Committee consists of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, and the Minister as a non-voting *ex officio* member. The Executive Committee is empowered to make a variety of small and/or urgent decisions and brings larger issues to the full Parish Committee.

Denominational Affairs Committee

PURPOSE: To keep the congregation informed of UUA projects and affairs, connect with the larger UU world, connect with like-minded and like-hearted groups and individuals beyond UU, conduct an annual poll related to UUA resolutions, and nominate prospective delegates to represent First Parish at the regional and continental levels.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all.

CO-CHAIRS: Quin Christensen (first term ends 2018) and Rachael Stark (first term ends 2018)

CONTACT: *denomination@firstparish.info*

Finance Committee

(Meets at least every other month, and more often as needed)

PURPOSE: To monitor and oversee the church's financial condition and to prepare a draft of the annual budget for approval by ParCom and the church membership.

MEMBERSHIP: Must be a First Parish member; a numbers background is helpful but not essential.

CHAIR: David Dreyfus (first term ends 2018)

Bill Bogstad (first term ends 2019)

Julian Chu (first term ends 2017)

Rich Fields (first term ends 2018)

EX OFFICIO MEMBER: David Klingsberg, Treasurer (two-year term ends 2018)

CONTACT: *finance@firstparish.info*

Human Resources Committee

(Meets monthly or as needed)

PURPOSE: To support the congregation and its Parish Committee in the arena of human resources, including creating and maintaining employee procedures and policies, job descriptions, clear organizational reporting lines, and hiring and termination practices (e.g., offer letters, exit interviews, and grievance process); to assist the congregation in adhering to fair compensation guidelines

and providing competitive benefits in line with our budget; to assist the staff in its process to set annual goals as well as conducting annual performance reviews and feedback; and to serve as counsel to the staff and Parish Committee on the above topics.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all; human resources experience is helpful but not essential.

CO-CHAIRS: Rainer Dressler (first term ends 2017) and Paul Hollings (first term ends 2017)

Rick Eastwick (first term ends 2018)

Nora Frederiskson (first term ends 2019)

Sue Mapel (first term ends 2019)

Lauren Melton (first term ends 2018)

CONTACT: *humanresources@firstparish.info*

Leadership Development Committee

(Meets monthly, September–June)

PURPOSE: To encourage and facilitate participation in First Parish committees, support our lay leaders by promoting leadership development throughout our congregation, and nominate individuals to fill vacancies on standing committees and as parish officers prior to the Annual Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all; past participation in one or more First Parish committees is ideal.

CO-CHAIRS: Carolyn Hodges (first term ends 2018) and Aaron Kitzmiller (first term ends 2018)

Debbie Botos (first term ends 2018)

Julie Dunn (first term ends 2017)

Lynne Jacoby (first term ends 2019)

Martha Pereli (first term ends 2017)

Tina Silberman (second term ends 2018)

Josh Stillerman (first term ends 2017)

Jean Renard Ward (first term ends 2018)

David Whitford (first term ends 2019)

Celia Wcislo (first term ends 2019)

CONTACT: Co-chairs - *leadership@firstparish.info*

Membership Committee

(Meets one Sunday per month, September–June)

PURPOSE: To welcome newcomers to First Parish and help them learn about our community, guide those who wish to become active and involved members on the path to membership, and nurture awareness of how to welcome newcomers and include them in the life of First Parish.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all.

CO-CHAIRS: Susan Marsh (first term ends 2017) and Phil Speare (first term ends 2017)

Jamie Aronson (first term ends 2017)

Jen Birenbach (first term ends 2017)

Lilia Cuervo (first term ends 2019)

Jay Doyle (first term ends 2019)

Mary Finn (first term ends 2017)

Janis Fleishman (second term ends 2019)

Peggy Gardiner (first term ends 2018)

Kathleen Hennessey (first term ends 2019)

Bonnie Zimmer (first term ends 2019)

CONTACT: *membership@firstparish.info*

Music Committee

(Meets the second Thursday of each month, September–June)

PURPOSE: To work closely with the music director and organist in creating a music program serving the mission of First Parish, to serve as a congregational liaison for music staff and a sounding board for ideas and projects, to be actively involved with equipment and instruments relating to the music program, and to coordinate music events at First Parish.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all; a musical background is helpful but not essential.

CHAIR: Robin Baker (first term ends 2018)

CLERK: Anthony Fernandez (second term ends 2019)

TREASURER: Alan Schweitzer (second term ends 2019)

Jo Guthrie (second term ends 2018)

Jason Merrill (second term ends 2019)

Cheri Minton (second term ends 2017)

Amy Pohl (first term ends 2019)

Carl Schlaikjer (first term ends 2017)

ASSOCIATED STAFF: Jonathan Brennand, Music Director

CONTACT: Chair and Music Director - *music@firstparish.info*

Property Committee

(Meets the third Thursday of each month, year-round)

PURPOSE: To maintain and enhance the First Parish buildings and grounds, making the First Parish property an inviting and safe environment with minimal environmental footprint.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all; new participants welcome.

CO-CHAIRS: Clarissa Rodriguez (first term ends 2019) and Al Tosti (third term ends 2019)

Mike Birenbach (first term ends 2018)

John Chamberlain (second term ends 2017)

Grant Gibian (first term ends 2018)

Patricia Hawkins (first term ends 2019)

David Landskov (second term ends 2017)

Frank Snyder DiCesare (second term ends 2017)

Jean Renard Ward (first term ends 2019)

Mark Wilke (second term ends 2018)

CONTACT: Co-chairs - *property@firstparish.info*

Religious Education Committee

(Meets the first Thursday of each month, September–June)

PURPOSE: To provide oversight of and support to the RE program at First Parish.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all.

CHAIR: Jennifer Davis-Kay (first term ends 2018)

TREASURER: Ginger Mara (first term ends 2017)

Mary Breen (first term ends 2017)

Janis Fleishman (first term ends 2019)

Wendy Fields (first term ends 2019)

Sara Galantowicz (second term ends 2019)

Barbara Grim (first term ends 2019)

Shay Pokress (first term ends 2019)

Ellen Robie (first term ends 2018)

Sarah Trilling (second term ends 2018)

ASSOCIATED STAFF: Tina Schultz, Director of Religious Education (DRE), and Steve Carmody, RE Assistant

CONTACT: Chair – re@firstparish.info Full committee and DRE – recommittee@firstparish.info

Social Justice Committee

(Meets the first Wednesday of each month, September–June)

PURPOSE: To support opportunities to live our faith, both within First Parish and in the larger world; to raise funds at the annual Pie Palace, support the social justice working groups (see pages 20-21), plan the annual Shinn and Living Our Faith Services, oversee the Giving First program, and serve as a clearinghouse for social justice initiatives emerging from within and external to our congregation.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all.

CHAIR: Helene Newberg (second term ends 2017)

Mary Cummings (first term ends 2019)

Maureen Dolan (first term ends 2019)

Tom Estabrook (second term ends 2017)

Patricia Hawkins (first term ends 2019)

Hilary Rappaport (first term ends 2017)

Allan Schramm (first term ends 2018)

Anne Wright (first term ends 2018)

CONTACT: *socialjustice@firstparish.info*

Stewardship Committee

(Meets as needed)

PURPOSE: To foster a culture of stewardship at First Parish, ensure financial support of First Parish by members and friends via year-long education regarding its financial needs, and oversee the annual pledge canvass.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all.

CHAIR: Bill Gardiner (first term ends 2018)

Pamela Baldwin (first term ends 2018)

Georgia Critsley (first term ends 2018)

Lisa Heisterkamp Davis (first term ends 2018)

Chris DiMeo (first term ends 2018)

Nina Duncan (first term ends 2018)

Sue Mapel (first term ends 2018)

Anne Quaadgras (first term ends 2019)

Kay Snowden (first term ends 2018)

CONTACT: *stewardship@firstparish.info*

Trustees of Trust Funds

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Trust Funds is to ensure the long-term survival of First Parish. The Trustees are fiduciaries for the congregation who are guided by that purpose to manage, invest and distribute the Trust Funds, including both restricted and unrestricted monies. The primary goal for distribution of unrestricted funds is to support the capital needs of First Parish's infrastructure.

MEMBERSHIP: Trustees must be members of First Parish.

CHAIR: Louise Strayhorn (first term ends 2018)

Marlene Hobel (first term ends 2017)

Jeff Keffer (first term ends 2018)

Ted Live (first term ends 2018)

Celia Wcislo (second term ends 2018)

Tim Wright (second term ends 2018)

CONTACT: *trustees@firstparish.info*

MINISTRY-RELATED COMMITTEES

Committee on Ministry

(Usually meets the third Wednesday of each month, September–June)

PURPOSE: To help interpret the scope of the ministry to the congregation and interpret the scope of the congregation to the Minister, and to conduct an annual evaluation of the ministry with the Parish Committee and make recommendations regarding the ministry.

MEMBERSHIP: Members are invited and appointed by the Parish Committee for a three-year term. They may serve for no more than two terms in succession.

CHAIR: John Anderson (2018)

Katja Baker (2016)

Anne Goodwin (2018)

Lida Junghans (2016)

Alan Schweitzer (2018)

Bonnie Zimmer (2016)

ASSOCIATED STAFF: Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Minister

CONTACT: John Anderson, *com@firstparish.info*

Committee on Shared Ministry

PURPOSE: To oversee and support the work of the Lay Ministry and Worship Associates (see next two entries) and to conduct the application process for those wishing to I'm become Lay Ministers or Worship Associates.

MEMBERSHIP: Members are invited and appointed by the Parish Committee. They may serve for a maximum of three two-year terms.

CHAIR: Barbara Tosti (third term ends 2017)

Gwen Hooper (second term ends 2017)

Ruben Hopwood (first term ends 2018)

Kathy Kemp (first term ends 2018)

Muriel Ladenburg (second term ends 2017)

ASSOCIATED STAFF: Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Minister

CONTACT: Barbara Tosti, *sharedministry@firstparish.info*

Lay Ministry

(Generally meets the second Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., year-round)

PURPOSE: To offer care and pastoral support to those in our congregation in a timely and effective manner, working closely with our Minister.

MEMBERSHIP: Lay Ministers are interviewed and selected by the Committee on Shared Ministry (see above). Any First Parish member who has regularly attended services for at least two years and will commit to a two-year term may apply. Lay Ministers may serve three consecutive terms, but must then take two years off before reapplying. For more information, contact *sharedministry@firstparish.info*.

In 2016 Lay Ministers' terms start and end on Sunday, November 13.

CO-COORDINATORS: Jim Jolley (first term ends 2017) and Anne Quaadgras (third term ends 2017)

David Desjardins (first term ends 2017)

Tom Estabrook (third term ends 2018)

Loren Gomez (first term ends 2018)

Kit Hayes (third term ends 2018)

Arleen Kulin (third term ends 2018)

Sarah Trilling (second term ends 2017)

Natalie Tyler (first term ends 2018)

ASSOCIATED STAFF: Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Minister

CONTACT: *layministry@firstparish.info*

Worship Associates

(Meets one Thursday per month, September–June)

Purpose: Worship Associates help shape worship services that serve the spiritual needs of the congregation and run smoothly on a practical level, both during the program year (September–June) and during the summer (when lay people lead services). The Worship Associates work closely with the Minister and coordinate with other church staff and volunteers as needed.

MEMBERSHIP: Worship Associates are interviewed and selected by the Committee on Shared Ministry (see previous page). Any First Parish member who has regularly attended services for at least two years and will commit to a two-year term may apply. Worship Associates may serve three consecutive terms, but must then take two years off before reapplying. For more information, contact *sharedministry@firstparish.info*.

In 2016 Worship Associates' terms start and end on Sunday, October 30.

WORSHIP ASSOCIATES:

Dawn Albright (first term ends 2018)

Lynne Jacoby (first term ends 2018)

Mary-Beth Landy (third term ends 2018)

Pamela Powell (first term ends 2018)

Cindy Tavilla (first term ends 2017)

ASSOCIATED STAFF: Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Minister

CONTACT: *worshipassociates@firstparish.info*

MUSIC

NOTE: Members of the congregation provide music at most Sunday worship services under the direction of our Music Director, Jonathan Brennand. New singers and instrumentalists are welcome!

Adult Choir

(Rehearses Thursdays, 8–9:30 p.m., and many Sundays, 9 a.m., September–June)

PURPOSE: The Adult Choir, our church's most active musical ensemble, sings during most Sunday services during the program year.

MEMBERSHIP: New choir members, grade 8 through adult, are welcome throughout the year. Please also contact Jonathan if you would like to sing occasionally for special services.

ASSOCIATED STAFF: Jonathan Brennand, Music Director, and Brendon Shapiro, Organist/Pianist

CONTACT: Jonathan Brennand, Music Director,
jonathan@firstparish.info

Children's Choir

PURPOSE: To provide children positive experiences with group singing and to provide music at a few worship services a year.

MEMBERSHIP: Children grades 2 to 7 are welcome.

CONTACT: Jonathan Brennand, Music Director,
jonathan@firstparish.info

Instrumentalists

PURPOSE: To provide instrumental music during worship services, and to give instrumentalists in our congregation an opportunity to share their talents with the First Parish community. Instrumentalists play in a variety of large and small groups, depending on their interests.

MEMBERSHIP: New instrumentalists, grade 8 through adult, are welcome throughout the year. Please contact Jonathan if you are interested in contributing to a service with instrumental music.

CONTACT: Jonathan Brennand, Music Director,
jonathan@firstparish.info

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Program

(Pre-K to grade 7 meets Sunday mornings, 10–11:30 a.m.; OWL [Our Whole Lives of Sexuality] and Coming of Age meet Sunday evenings, 7–8:30 p.m., September to June)

PURPOSE: The RE program at First Parish is a place where children learn and discuss liberal religious values to help them navigate life's challenges. Adults and children together discuss the big questions of life and ponder spiritual issues. Children make friends of all ages for life, learn to care about others, and grow spiritually and emotionally. They are encouraged to take the values they learn on Sunday mornings back to their homes, schools, and playgrounds. Our hope is to raise children to act beyond the church doors with open eyes and loving hearts.

MEMBERSHIP: Our religious education program welcomes children in grades Pre-K through 7 for Sunday morning sessions, while OWL (grades 7–8) and Coming of Age (grade 8) meet on Sunday evenings. Our year is divided into three semesters during the program year, with each class led by at least two adults or youth. New teachers are paired with veterans, and all teachers receive ongoing support through orientation sessions and workshops.

Since we are a collaborative program, run primarily by volunteers, we encourage adults in our congregation to contribute their time and energy to support and enhance our Sunday morning and evening programs. Here are some ways you can help:

- Assist with a One-Room Sunday School
- Co-teach a grade during one of our three teaching terms

- Offer to be a substitute teacher
- Share your skills as a musician, artist, baker, storyteller, or field trip driver, as often as you can
- Act as a youth group advisor on Sunday evenings
- Become a mentor for our Coming of Age program
- Lead an intergenerational story in worship
- Volunteer to help in the RE Office with administrative needs

ASSOCIATED STAFF: Tina Schultz, Director of Religious Education, Steve Carmody, Youth Program Coordinator, Carolyn Griffith, Religious Education Assistant, Amy Rogers, Nursery Coordinator, and Nathan Malin, Nursery Assistant

CONTACT: Tina Schultz, dre@firstparish.info

Youth Group

(Meets Sunday evenings, 6:45–8:45 p.m.)

PURPOSE: To offer programming for high school youth (grades 9–12) that enables them to be active, vibrant, essential members of our congregation and community.

MEMBERSHIP: The Youth Group is open to all First Parish youth in grades 9–12. Youth must attend a newcomers' orientation to become participants.

Adults interested in becoming advisors (work regularly with the youth) or friends (participate in more occasional events) must apply to the Youth Program Coordinator.

YOUTH LEADERS:

CO-LEADERS: Will Christmann & Nicole Haas-Loomis

ART COORDINATOR: Julia Angell

CHAPLAIN: Denisa Burt

COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR: Meredith Days

DISTRICT LIAISON: Rowan Wheeler

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR: Ellie Pokress

MUSIC COORDINATORS: Giulia Haible & Tom Kitzmiller

SOCIAL ACTION CHAIR: Claire Kitzmiller

TREASURER: Sorrel Galantowicz

WORSHIP COORDINATORS: Seneca Hart & Sarah Hyde

ADULT REPRESENTATIVES: Paul Franzosa & Sara Whitford

ASSOCIATED STAFF: Steve Carmody, Youth Program Coordinator, Tina Schultz, Director of Religious Education, Carolyn Griffiths, Religious Education Assistant

CONTACT: Steve Carmody, *youthadvisor@firstparish.info*

STAR (Adult Religious Education)

(Meets as needed)

PURPOSE: To offer adult education programs that help people within and outside the First Parish community come together to teach, explore, and share their passions with one another.

MEMBERSHIP: New program leaders and STAR organizers are welcome. If you have an idea for a program you would like to consider offering, please contact STAR.

CONTACT: Lorraine Cooley and Anita Wolf,
star@firstparish.info

GROUPS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MUTUAL SUPPORT

Aging Well In Our Community

(Usually meets the fourth Thursday of each month, 10 a.m.–noon, September–June)

Purpose: An open group, facilitated by Kit Hayes, for women over fifty who wish to explore themes related to planning and consciously living out our later years. Some meetings have guest speakers; others include small-group or large-group conversations.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all women over fifty; new participants welcome.

CONTACT: Kit Hayes, kithayes5@gmail.com, 781/648-0373

The Alliance

(Programs are generally offered the first Friday of the month, October to May)

PURPOSE: To provide occasions for First Parish women to meet for fellowship, deepen their spiritual lives, and engage in common service, and to support the programs of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all women at First Parish; new participants welcome. Programs are open to all, men as well as women.

CONTACT: Annette Sawyer, alliance@firstparish.info

Covenant Groups

(Meet monthly throughout the year)

Purpose: To provide an opportunity to get to know other people at a deeper level, in a consistent small group, while discussing topics that explore our spiritual paths as informed by life experience.

MEMBERSHIP: Recruitment of new members occurs each fall. Groups are limited to nine members, who are expected to

commit to attend for a year. Each covenant group has a convener, and the conveners meet with each other monthly.

CONTACT: Mary Fusoni, smallgroupministry@firstparish.info

Jacob's Mother

(Meets first and third Sundays, year-round, 7–8:30 p.m.)

PURPOSE: To provide a supportive, educational, and confidential environment for parents of children of all ages (including adulthood) who are struggling with mental health challenges and/or addiction.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Mary-Beth Landy, jacobsmother@firstparish.info

Jewish Connections

PURPOSE: To bring opportunities for Jewish learning, ritual, celebration, gatherings, and perspectives to our congregation and our community through worship, study, and conversation. We host a potluck Seder for Passover, a Latke Party for Hanukkah, and Tashlich for Rosh Hashanah most years, plus occasional bagel brunches and Shabbat dinners.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: jewishconnections@firstparish.info

Lectio Divina

(Meets Tuesdays, 7–8 a.m., and Thursdays, 8–9 a.m.)

PURPOSE: To practice Lectio Divina, a method of prayer and scriptural reading intended to promote communion with the Holy and to provide spiritual insights.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Rev. Marta Flanagan, marta@firstparish.info

Meditation Group

(Drop-in groups meet Sundays, 9–9:45 a.m., and Mondays, 6–6:50 p.m., for 35 minutes of silent meditation; four Sangha groups for those who already have a meditation practice meet monthly)

PURPOSE: To provide opportunities for Buddhist meditation, support, and discussion.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants are welcome at the drop-in groups; Sangha groups are limited to nine members each and expect commitment to a meditation practice.

CONTACT: Lynn Rosenbaum, *meditation@firstparish.info*

Men's Group

PURPOSE: To offer a place of fellowship, encouragement, and creative connection for First Parish men of all ages and backgrounds.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all interested men; new participants welcome.

CONTACT: David Dreyfus, *dddreyfus@gmail.com*

Neighborhood Groups

PURPOSE: To encourage people who live near each other to get to know each other, socialize, help each other out, etc.

MEMBERSHIP: Everyone

STATUS: Partly dormant. Some groups are active, others not. If you'd like to connect with people in your neighborhood, contact Kate Tranquada at *community@firstparish.info* for guidance and access to your neighborhood's email list. Active groups are encouraged to carry on!

CONTACT: Eric Segal and Kate Tranquada, *neighborhoodgroups@firstparish.info*

Partnership Church Committee

PURPOSE: To nurture and strengthen the ongoing relationship between First Parish and the Unitarian church in Gagy, Transylvania, Romania, via frequent communication, cultural exchanges, and visits.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Maureen Dolan and Michael Friedman, *partnerchurch@firstparish.info*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

PURPOSE: To knit or crochet simple, warm shawls that are distributed by the Lay Ministers as needed.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Barbara Tosti, abtosti@rcn.com

Stitch and Sew

(Meets Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m., starting in March or April of each year and continuing until the Harvest Moon Fair)

PURPOSE: To knit, crochet, quilt, sew, and otherwise create a variety of handicrafts to be sold at the Harvest Moon Fair.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Jean Nagle, jsnagle@comcast.net

Women's Book Group

(Meets the First Thursday of each month, 7:15–9 p.m.)

PURPOSE: To read and discuss interesting books with other First Parish women.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all women; new participants welcome.

CONTACT: Jean Nagle, jsnagle@comcast.net

SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUPS

NOTE: The Social Justice Committee (SJC) sponsors and supports a variety of working groups that are formed by groups of people who share an interest. New participants are welcome to join any of these working groups. If you have a group of people who want to work together on another issue, contact the SJC at socialjustice@firstparish.info.

Affordable Housing

Purpose: To support the Housing Corporation of Arlington.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Debby Lewis, debnlewis@gmail.com

Blood Drives

(Held six times a year)

Purpose: To coordinate six blood drives each year and to educate the community about the importance of donation.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: John Hodges, blooddrive@firstparish.info

Diversity and Inclusion Group (DIG)

(Meets the first Tuesday of each month, September–June)

Purpose: To engage in the everyday work of social justice by working together to make First Parish as welcoming and inclusive as we can be, and to assist and collaborate with organizations beyond First Parish that share these priorities.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Esther Kingston-Mann, diversity@firstparish.info

Green Sanctuary/Climate Change

(Meets once a month; members set the next meeting time at the end of each meeting)

PURPOSE: To actively respond to our climate crisis at multiple levels, from individual to collective actions,

including political actions, both at First Parish and in our larger communities.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Toby Sackton & David Landskov,
green@firstparish.info

Mass Incarceration Working Group

(Meets on the fourth or third Wednesday of each month)

PURPOSE: To help build a movement to end mass incarceration in Massachusetts.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Lori Kenschaft,
end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info

Refugee Concerns

PURPOSE: To provide practical, helpful assistance to local refugees whom we get to know personally.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Eric Segal, *refugeeconcerns@firstparish.info*

TURNING OUTWARD STEERING COMMITTEE

NOTE: The Turning Outward Steering Committee was created in May 2016 by the Parish Committee to support the congregation in living our faith in the world beyond First Parish's walls. It is a two-year experiment and consists of three subcommittees:

Action Sunday Coordinating Committee

PURPOSE: To organize a day of action, service, and learning in April 2017.

MEMBERSHIP: By interview, inquire if interested. We hope everyone of every age will participate in the Action Sunday.

CONTACT: Carol Orme-Johnson,
actionsunday@firstparish.info

Racial Justice Coordinating Committee

PURPOSE: To identify and support activities that promote racial justice both within the First Parish community and in the broader world.

MEMBERSHIP: Appointed by the Parish Committee.

CONTACT: Lois Fine and Lori Kenschaft,
racialjustice@firstparish.info

Strategic Planning Group

PURPOSE: To provide discernment and leadership around turning outward, especially but not only with regard to First Parish's public witness banner and emergent events.

MEMBERSHIP: Appointed by the Parish Committee.

CONTACT: Tom Estabrook, Allan Linov, and Tish Miller,
turningoutward@firstparish.info

PRACTICAL GROUPS

Art Wall Committee

(Meets a couple times a year)

PURPOSE: To coordinate art shows of work by First Parish artists in the Parlor and Narthex display window, and to host receptions.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Pat Plimpton-Magee (plimag@comcast.net), Debby Lewis (debnlewis@gmail.com), or Carol Chamberlain (c_s_chamberlain@yahoo.com)

Ferry Beach Retreat Planners

(Meets regularly in September and October, intermittently the rest of the year)

PURPOSE: To plan the annual family retreat held at the Ferry Beach Retreat in Saco, Maine, and to establish policies and practices as needed.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome, including Youth Group members.

CONTACT: ferrybeach@firstparish.info

Harvest Moon Fair Committee

(Meets weekly in October and November, intermittently the rest of the year)

Purpose: To organize and run the annual Harvest Moon Fair, First Parish's largest fundraiser, which occurs on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome. Dozens of volunteers are needed to prepare for, run, and clean up after the Fair, and there's a place for everyone.

CONTACT: Katharine MacPhail, fair@firstparish.info

Memorial Garden Committee

PURPOSE: To oversee the Memorial Garden and Remembrance Corner.

MEMBERSHIP: No additional members needed.

CONTACT: Barbara Tosti, *memorialgarden@firstparish.info*

Property Helper Bees

PURPOSE: To assist the Property Committee with special projects, such as raking leaves or fixing sanctuary chairs, without joining the Property Committee.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome. Let us know if you would like to hear about special projects and shared work times.

CONTACT: Al Tosti, *property@firstparish.info*

Room Captains

PURPOSE: To help keep our meeting rooms organized and “share the caring” for our spiritual home. Room captains organize a room, about 15 minutes once a week.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Clarissa Rodriguez, *roomcaptain@firstparish.info*

Safety Committee

(Meets the fourth Monday of the month, September–June)

PURPOSE: To develop and monitor safe practices and emergency protocols in our building.

MEMBERSHIP: New participants welcome.

CONTACT: Phil Lewis & Jennifer Kobayashi,
safety@firstparish.info

Ushers

(Sundays, 9 a.m.–noon)

PURPOSE: To warmly welcome attendees on Sunday mornings, provide information to attendees, and help the service flow in a smooth, safe, and orderly fashion.

MEMBERSHIP: We’re actively recruiting! We need several more fully trained ushers and roughly 30 assistant ushers who help with greeting twice a year. Open to all, grade 5 through adults. If you enjoy welcoming people, please talk with or email the usher coordinator.

CONTACT: Kate Tranquada, *ushercoordinator@firstparish.info*

Wider Network of Care

PURPOSE: To offer support to individuals and families in times of need, including food, rides to medical appointments, and other small gifts and services.

MEMBERSHIP: Coordinated by the Lay Ministers. All are welcome to join the network, and will be contacted if/when help is needed.

CONTACT: layministry@firstparish.info or sign up on the First Parish website at www.firstparish.info



*The Committees and Groups section of this booklet
was created by Lori Kenschaft, Clerk.
Please send updates to clerk@firstparish.info.*

*The calendar, staff, and handy email sections were compiled by
Joan Dyer, Office Manager*

Drawing of First Parish by Jen Navarro.

Drawing of dancing chalice by Kendall Dudley.