

Next issue deadline
Sunday, April 30

The Spire

APRIL 2, 2023

THE FIRST SUNDAY RECORD

VOL. 65, No. 8

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, 630 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476 • Gathered 1733

Summer Services

Take part in the spiritual formation of our shared community: Lead worship at First Parish this summer!

We want to hear your thoughts, your voice, and your stories. Do you have insights to offer? Have you ever thought of a great topic you wish you could share with the community but are just too shy to talk in front of a crowd? Would you share your spiritual truths and experiences if only someone asked you?

We are asking! Our community wants to hear from people who will share their thoughts, spiritual discoveries, and insights about surviving and thriving in this modern world.

Summer services this year will be virtual — 100 percent on-line, via Zoom. There are some distinct benefits to this approach. It eases the pressure of having to get up in front of the congregation, allowing presenters to remain in a comfortable space. It also allows people who travel during the summer to participate, for it doesn't matter where in the world you may be when you lead a virtual service. All that is required is a good WiFi connection.

We all take part in ministry in a variety of ways during our regular program year. But leading a summer service is a particular gift to our settled ministers, enabling Lead Minister Rev. Marta Flanagan and Parish Minister Rev. Erica Richmond to rest, study, reflect, and renew their energies so they may return in the fall restored in mind, body, and spirit to lead and care for our community.

Leading summer worship is also a gift to the whole community, as well as a gift to volunteer speakers themselves. Volunteering to speak is a way to share a diversity of spiritual practices and experiences with the congregation. Sharing a little bit of yourself deepens our connections to one another.

Inviting and empowering members to lead worship services is another way we honor the values in our principles of Unitarian Universalism. We celebrate



the inherent worth and dignity of every person by welcoming members to use their own voices. We build relationships through compassion and acceptance.

An application is online at tinyurl.com/summer-form, or you can speak with any Worship Associate about your ideas. Proposals must be made by April 23.

Practical Details

Summer service leaders need to be available for an on-line training session with Marta and the Worship Associates on Sunday, May 7, from 1 to 3 pm.

Members or groups can work together on a service. Groups need to identify one person to coordinate with the Worship Associates.

Service themes and sermons/reflections must respect people regardless of our differences (income, race, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, class, political affiliation, ways of worshiping, beliefs, educational background, etc.) and offer a message that speaks to people across broad experiences and beliefs.

Submitting a proposal for a service does not guarantee being scheduled to lead a service. We will work to balance the variety of topics and range of voices from the applications submitted.

Leaders will who create the entire service and give the sermon. Pre-recorded music can be provided. Speakers may also play instruments or arrange music on their own. Each summer service worship leader works with a Worship Associate to ensure that all service elements fit well together.

If you have any questions, please e-mail worshipassociates@firstparish.info.



Grief Support

The Grief Support Group had to cancel last month's meeting but will resume its regular gatherings on the fourth Tuesday of each month, via Zoom. The next one is on Tuesday, April 25.

New Date for Ferry Beach

Thanks to the eagle eye of a Ferry Beach fan we were informed that our planned congregational retreat (September 22 to 24) coincided with Arlington Town Day this year. Fortunately, Ferry Beach was able to accommodate our request to change the date.

The 2023 Ferry Beach Retreat will be September 29 to October 1 in Saco, Maine. Visit www.ferrybeach.org to learn more about this wonderful place. Join us for a wonderful weekend of fun, relaxation, and community. All are welcome!

For more information or to volunteer for the Retreat Planning Committee, contact ferrybeach@firstparish.info.

A Concert for the Earth

The Halalisa Singers will present Concert for the Earth on Sunday, April 30, at 4 pm here at First Parish. The concert honors Earth Day and features the "Missa Gaia (Earth Mass)." A second show will be in Worcester the previous evening, Saturday, April 29, at the First Unitarian Church of Worcester, at 8 pm.

Composer, singer, and guitarist Jim Scott will perform some of his own works. The concert also features saxophonist/vocalist Stan Strickland, First Parish member Meg Candilore, and local branch members of the national climate-movement organization Mothers Out Front, who will lead a sing-along.

Composed in the early 1980s, "Missa Gaia" weaves lyrical melodies with Latin and Gospel traditions and the calls of wolves and whales. This joyful tribute to our planet reminds us of the incomparable beauty, preciousness, and precariousness of nature.

Visit www.halalisa.org for tickets and information.

Opportunity Calls

During the January Alliance program, "Sharing our Abundance," Andrea Winslow told us about an organization called Household Goods that donates furniture and other items to help people create a home. They support the recently homeless, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, immigrants, victims of disaster, people with low incomes, and those coping with illness or disability. Some 50 families a week benefit from their efforts.

The 30 attendees at the meeting wanted to look into forging a relationship with Household Goods. Jean Rosenberg and Maggie Carey volunteered to lead the effort. As a first step they have arranged for a tour of the Household Goods facility in Acton, followed by a work shift preparing goods for donation, on Wednesday, May 10, from 12:45 to 4 pm.

Participation is limited to 15. Please contact alliance@firstpaish.info if you wish to come and we will provide the address and details.

— Sharen Leonard
The Alliance

Reflections

'Nother Hip

In the film *Twister* some storm chasers watch a cow fly past their windshield in midair. "Cow," notes one calmly. A second bovine tumbles past and is duly identified: " 'Nother cow."

Back in September I had my left hip replaced. It wasn't easy but it was worth it. I regained mobility and stood up straight for the first time in years.

On March 15 they did 'nother hip. The right one had even more bone spurs than the left. Both were very arthritic. I look forward to this one gliding in its socket as smoothly as t'other one. I am now a titanium-based life form.

I have been attending church only via Zoom while doing all this healing, except for one service in which I provided all the music. The virtual services are seductively convenient. You can engage in a variety of activities while they're proceeding. Leave the video off and you can wear whatever you like and combing your hair is optional. I also haven't sung in the choir at all this program year, for the first time in decades. But I still feel very connected to First Parish.

Editing *The Spire* keeps me informed about activities and issues and puts me in touch with those in charge. I know what's on ParCom's collective mind as they oversee a wealth of groups working hard to make our troubled world a better place. Everyone proceeds with admirable energy and goodwill.

I always let those who submit articles know that I have received them, but this system is not perfect. If I don't get something, and they don't know that I always say that I've gotten it, then they won't know I didn't get it if I didn't get it because I won't have told them that I didn't get it. (I think that sentence may involve some elaborate French tenses, perhaps the pluperfect or the imperfect subjunctive.)

Fortunately we are a church full of belt-and-suspenders folks who direct submissions not only to spire@firstparish.info but also to both of my Comcast addresses and sometimes to Diane Taraz, my alternate identity. The more the merrier, I say.

When people ask about the length limits for submissions I love being able to tell them that there aren't any. "Just say what you need to say," I advise. I always find ways to tighten things up to ensure maximum value for reading-time investment.

I should emerge from my recovery cocoon just as the church year starts to finish up. Then we're on our summer break. Next fall I hope to reenter my spiritual home in person, with annoyingly excellent posture.

— Diane Shriver, *Spire* Editor

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CHEWING-GUM LOCKET

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 895,515, dated January 1, 1889
Application filed September 10, 1887. Serial No. 249,894. (No model)

... The object of my invention is to provide a locket of novel form and construction for holding with safety, cleanliness, and convenience for use chewing-gum, confections, or medicines, and which may be carried in the pocket or otherwise attached to the person, as lockets are ordinarily worn; and the improvement consists, essentially, in a locket having an anti-corrosive lining, and it also consists in certain details of construction and combinations of parts, hereinafter particularly described, and designated in the claims. . . .

As the lining B is made of a non-corrosive material, any of which may be employed without departing from my invention, the saliva of the mouth or other substance held within the locket will not act upon it chemically, and a case of any preferred material may thus be used. Chewing-gum may thus be carried conveniently upon the person, and is not left around carelessly to become dirty or to fall in the hands of persons to whom it does not belong, and be used by ulcerous or diseased mouths, by which infection would be communicated by subsequent use to the owner. . . .





Staff and Contact Information

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and mission of First Parish.

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The Spire

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Next issue: Sunday, May 7
Submissions due by Sunday, April 30
Items may be edited for space and clarity.

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If you do not have e-mail, contact the office.

The Spire generally deals with the big picture.
Time-sensitive details belong in the Weekly E-mail
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by Wednesday at noon.

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