

Next issue deadline
Sunday, April 27

The Spire

APRIL 6, 2025

THE FIRST SUNDAY RECORD

VOL. 67, No. 8

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

Facing Change

Many of us are grieving losses — the passing of family or friends; transitions in our community; major shifts in our country. On Tuesday, April 22, at 7 pm, join others for Conversations on Grieving in Community, moderated by Michele Bograd, an end-of-life doula and psychologist. We will tackle such questions as:

- What are you grieving?
- How have you felt accompanied or isolated in your grief?
- What messages have you gotten about the “right” way to grieve?
- What social and cultural norms affect how we care for those who grieve?

Our goal is to enrich our experiences of loss, and to think creatively about how to support one another. Registration is required; contact star@firstparish.info.

Parish Committee Notes

In February, the Parish Committee (ParCom) voted unanimously to ask the congregation to vote at the Annual Meeting in May on whether to give *emerita* status to Rev. Marta Flanagan, showing that she has provided exceptional service. A vote is required to bestow this lifelong honor, which would also make her eligible to receive delegate credentials at the UUA General Assembly.

Although the Annual Meeting will be streamed, ParCom has decided that Zoom participants will not be able to speak or vote. This will reduce security risks, make it easier to count votes, and keep us in line with



A Book of Memories & Blessings for Marta

What will you contribute?

- *Good wishes and blessings
- *Funny and/or touching memories
- *Lessons learned, lasting impacts



12" x 12"
scrapbook

- *Letters
- *Poems
- *Essays
- *Photos
- *2-D Art



**Submissions to be collected
between April 5 and May 17.**

Contact **Kate Tranquada** at
coffee hour or via email:
ktranquada@gmail.com

our bylaws. Any member who would like to vote must do so in person.

We thank the Interim Search Committee for providing opportunities for the congregation to give feedback and ask questions as the process to find an interim minister continues. The turnout at the session on March 30, both in person and on Zoom, was fantastic!

We are also extremely grateful to the Stewardship Committee for their hard work. First Parish is self-governed and self-funded. Without the dedication of Joel Carlton-Gysan, Jessica Farman, Amy Speare, and Maryglenn Vincens, along with all the visiting stewards, we could not have had such a smooth and

successful campaign to keep doing the good work of First Parish.

Thank you to all those involved in the many community events, from the pancake breakfast to the teen/parent pizza night, from giving a testimonial at the pulpit to calling and celebrating those who pledged and saying thank you. What a generous and loving community we have!

Joanna Pushee, Clerk

Community Potluck

This month's dinner is Wednesday, April 30. All are welcome; no sign-up is needed. Bring a dish to share, and your own dishes and utensils, but come even if you can't — there's always plenty of food.

Ferry Beach in October

Save the date! If you'd like to help plan our Ferry Beach Retreat on October 3 to 5 in Maine, please contact the committee at ferrybeach2firstparish.info.



Staff and Contact Information

Staff serve the members, leaders,
and mission of First Parish.

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The Spire

Diane Shriver, Editor

Next issue: Sunday, May 4
Submissions due by Sunday, April 27
Items may be edited for space and clarity.

E-mail to *spire@firstparish.info*.
If you do not have e-mail, contact the office.

Time-sensitive details belong in the Weekly E-mail
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by Wednesday at noon.

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