

Next issue deadline
Sunday, September 3

The Spire

JUNE 4, 2023

THE FIRST SUNDAY RECORD

VOL. 65, No. 10

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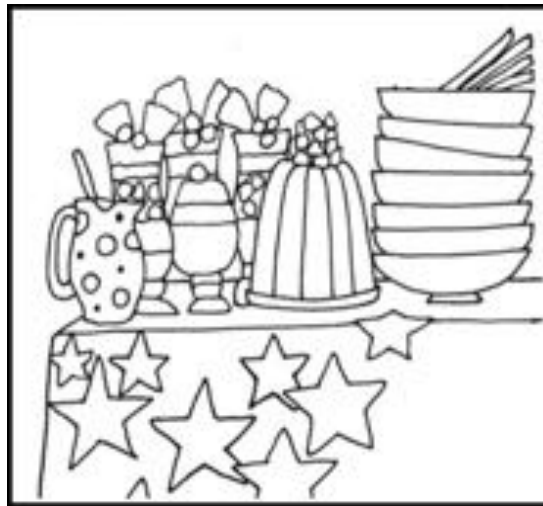
A Summer Blend

Our summer hiatus will combine on-line services and in-person togetherness. Each Sunday morning volunteers will lead us in spiritual explorations of many topics, via Zoom, and each Wednesday we will gather for a pot-luck dinner to see other people live and in person.

Wherever you may wander in the coming months you can Zoom into the Sunday service. If you're at home you can choose a favorite location, perhaps enjoying the blessings of air conditioning.

The pot-luck dinners from 6 to 8 pm in the Courtyard will be informal; bring something to share, or just bring yourself. The first one will be June 21.

May our summer be filled with inspiration and a strengthening of our beloved community.



Second, sign up to help or contribute a dish at: <https://tinyurl.com/4y8rw63r>.

Third, contribute to the Honor Tina Fund, a financial gift to acknowledge Tina's hard work and contributions to First Parish for nearly three decades. If you'd like to contribute, learn more at <https://firstparish.info/news/join-the-honor-tina-fund/>.

All these links are available on our church website. If you have any questions, please e-mail TeamTina@firstparish.info.

A Celebration for Tina

After the June 11 service we will celebrate Tina Schultz on her last Sunday with us as our Director of Religious Education.

There are several ways to get involved.

First, Tina has requested a montage of brief videos from friends. To create a video follow the instructions at <https://tinyurl.com/c3d7j5hd>.

If you're not sure what to say, we've provided some prompts to get you started. Please include your children or have them make their own video. Tina would especially love to hear from RE kids and former Youth Group members. The deadline for submitting a video is today, June 4.

Memorial Service for Woody Kay

On Saturday, June 10 we will honor Woody Kay. Woody, his wife, Jen, and their children Mel and Will have been members of First Parish for 18 years. During that time Woody was a beloved Worship Associate, taught Religious Education classes, and served on the Music Committee. He is dearly missed. The service begins at 2 pm. All are welcome.

Games in Depth

Do you enjoy board games that have a little more depth and take a little longer to play – such as Wingspan, Tigris & Euphrates, or Seven Wonders? Are you willing to give one of them a try? Please join us for a longer-games gathering on Friday, June 16, in the Parlor.

We will gather promptly at 7 pm, for instructions. Feel free to bring a game that you would enjoy teaching to others. Andy Kobayashi, Randy Smith, and Lori Kenschaft will share games they like and hope you will, too.

E-mail star@firstparish.info if you have any questions.

A Tale of Multi-fold Generosity

The Alliance was surprised and delighted to receive a bequest from Lydia Thayer of \$6,900 to use “as we saw fit.” We have fond memories of Lydia’s joy in life and of her lovely presentation of a trip she made to Antarctica – narration, slides and music – an inspiration to us all.

We had an immediate need for her gift. After years of struggling to set up projection screens for Alliance programs, we had managed to break a tripod. I suggested we replace the collapsible screen with a permanently installed pull-down one. Our trustees upped the ante by suggesting that we use Lydia’s legacy to upgrade all the video and audio in our Vestry.

This was over my head so I asked for help. Alan Schweitzer provided a good plan for the video installation; John Shriver worked on the audio upgrade and gave general engineering advice; Julius Pereli provided installation know-how, coordination, and action; and Sarah Hidalgo, Nick Minton, Jason Merrill, and Nina Duncan pitched in with advice and help along the way. Work happened in pairs and trios, with lots of informal consulting and much learning. Their generosity was invaluable and appreciated.

Many thanks to Lydia and the team of volunteers for creating this much-needed improvement in our tools for gathering in community.

– Cheri Minton

See How Our Gardens Grow

On two Thursdays, June 8 and July 13, all ages are welcome to join Peggy Gardiner and Cathie Desjardins to tour our church gardens from 6:30 to 8 pm. Come to one or both evenings; no registration is required. Meet in the Courtyard and wear comfortable clothing and sturdy shoes.

Peggy and Cathie will give away sturdy plants from what’s on site and share garden basics and best

practices. See what’s happening in our pollinator gardens and learn about new native plants, their habits and bloom times, and what keeps them happy. Learn to identify common weeds and invasives such as swallowwort and garlic mustard (yikes, on site!).

Peggy and Cathie will walk the grounds and do some hands-on tending: deadheading, planting, filling birdbaths, weeding, mulching. You are invited to share your garden expertise and/or learn new skills.

Check Out the Annual Report

The 2022-2023 First Parish Annual Report can be found on our church website at www.firstparish.info. Take a peek to find out all about our spiritual community and its many volunteers and activities.

Art Shows Past and Future

We so enjoyed the creativity of over 25 people who shared their works at our annual Congregational Art Show. The Art Exhibit Committee is looking ahead to next year, setting dates and thinking up themes.

There will be three shows. A Congregational Art Show in the spring will begin on March 3. Each participant may enter two pieces. A midwinter Photography Show will start on December 3. Each person can enter two photographs. A third show, which is in progress, may involve a single artist from the community. As has become a welcome tradition, there will be a reception in the Parlor to celebrate each opening.

Participating in these shows is a great way to share your talents with others at First Parish. We hope you will think about entering one next year.

Art Exhibit Committee:
Carol Chamberlain Saunders,
Peggy Gardiner, Steph Miserlis,
Jim Ptacek, and Deb Lewis, advisor





Staff and Contact Information

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

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan Lead Minister
leadminister@firstparish.info

Rev. Erica Richmond Parish Minister
parishminister@firstparish.info

Office 781-648-3799 *churchoffice@firstparish.info*
website: *www.firstparish.info*

Hours Monday to Wednesday, 10 am to 4 pm
Thursday, noon to 6 pm / Friday, 10 am to 3 pm

Sara Hidalgo Office Manager
officemanager@firstparish.info

Joe Cook Office & Communications Manager
office@firstparish.info

Jose Ferraz Sexton

Religious Education

Tina Schultz Director of Religious Education
dre@firstparish.info

Rowan Wheeler Religious Education Assistant
youthadvisor@firstparish.info

Rose Sawyer Marsh Youth Program Coordinator
youthadvisor@firstparish.info

Music

Jonathan Colby Director of Music
musicdirector@firstparish.info

Kenneth Seitz Director of Music, Emeritus

Parish Committee *parishexec@firstparish.info*

Sara Galantowicz (Chair), Anne Quaadgras (Vice
Chair), Carolyn Hodges (Treasurer), Celia Wcislo
(Clerk), Tom Estabrook, Jeff Keffer,
Steve McMullin, Marie Meteere, Allan Tosti

Finance Committee *finance@firstparish.info*
Eric Segal

Human Resources *humanresources@firstparish.info*
Diane Barry

Lay Ministry *layministry@firstparish.info*
Jerry Silberman

The Spire

Diane Shriver, Editor

Next issue: Sunday, September 11
Submissions due by Sunday, September 3
Items may be edited for space and clarity.

E-mail to *spire@firstparish.info*.
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
Bulletin – send to *weekly@firstparish.info*
by Wednesday at noon.

Leadership Development

leadership@firstparish.info Helene Newberg

Membership *membership@firstparish.info*
Susan Moore

Music *music@firstparish.info*
Alice Austin

Property *property@firstparish.info*
John Galantowicz

Religious Education *re@firstparish.info*
Ellen Robie

Social Justice *socialjustice@firstparish.info*
Alan Linov

Stewardship *stewardship@firstparish.info*

The Alliance *alliance@firstparish.info*

Trustees of Trust Funds
trustees@firstparish.info
Annette Sawyer

Worship Associates
worshipassociates@firstparish.info
Elizabeth Hunter