

Next issue deadline  
Sunday, November 27

# The Spire

NOVEMBER 6, 2022

THE FIRST SUNDAY RECORD

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

## The Fair is Back!

Our Harvest Moon Fair will take place on Saturday, November 19, in the church, for the first time since 2019. We have held some fair-like events but this is the full-blown, wonderful deal!

Donations can be dropped off in the Vestry starting on the Sunday before the fair. Please do not bring anything in sooner than that, as there is nowhere to put it.



We have learned much over the years about what sells and what does not. It is distressing and a lot of extra work to have to throw things away or haul them to Goodwill, so please read on to avoid saddling your beloved spiritual home with unwanted stuff.

**YES to books!** I honestly don't know what folks are doing with these things but they buy an awful lot of them. We want interesting books; please do not give us old textbooks, however they may interest you.

### **NO to CDs, DVDs, and associated furniture.**

As a UU I don't want to use the word *hate* for anything, even the way the configuration of the Fan Room results in just enough head trauma to make me forget what happened last time. But CDs, DVDs, and their racks and sleeves raise very negative feels. Someone should want them, but nobody does.

**YES to kitchen wares.** Pots, pans, spatulas, baking dishes, and appliances sell well. Again, not sure what everyone does with these when a bowl of Total has 100% of the vitamins you need in a day, but they are popular. Items should be working, intact, and clean; there is no nostalgic value to toast bits from last year.

**NO, NO, NO to old dish sets.** It's a tragedy, but year after year sets of china end up in the Goodwill box after the fair. We can move the more modern, durable sets in white or fiesta-style, but not the fussy older collections, no matter how lovely they are.

**YES, YES, YES to Jewelry.** The Jewelry Box is a key part of fair revenue every year. Costume jewelry sells well, and modest sterling silver and gold pieces are especially welcome. The booth also takes handbags, purses, scarves, and jewelry boxes.

**YES to electronics.** Computers, monitors, laptops, tablets, and audio equipment are great for the cause — and don't forget mice, keyboards, and other accessories. Not using your home office anymore? Send it to the fair. Computers in particular can take a while to set up, so bring them in as early as possible.

**BUT NO to old electronics.** The only reason I can think of to donate a VHS player is if you have that tape from *The Ring* and you watched it and are trying to get someone to watch the copy that you made so that Samara will come through their TV instead of yours. And that's not really something we want to encourage. So, no VHS players. Any monitors under 20 inches are also questionable. Computers should be no more than ten years old.

**OH, YES YES YES! to baked goods.** Every year the Buttery sells every single crumb it receives. We are obviously leaving revenue behind. If you've got a hankering to bake, bring your yummys in the night before or the morning of the fair. Items should be individually wrapped and include a list of ingredients, very important to keep people with allergies safe. And although it would do wonders for Café sales if patrons were stoned, we cannot yet accept cannabis-laden items, dudes.

Questions? Shoot me a note at [fair@firstparish.info](mailto:fair@firstparish.info).

— Aaron Kitzmiller  
Head Honcho, Harvest Moon Fair

## Joys and Concerns

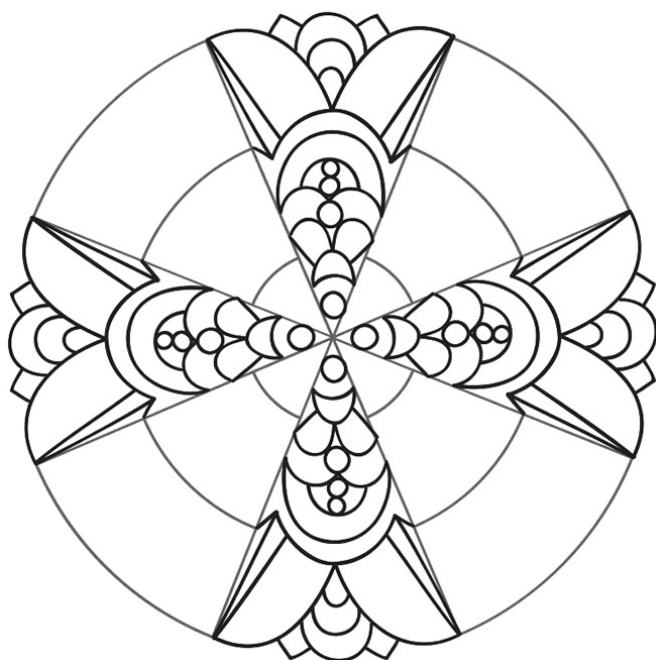
After listening deeply to the thoughts and feelings of the congregation, the Worship Associates have decided to maintain our custom of giving individuals the opportunity to speak about joys and concerns at most services. Occasionally our ritual will be silent, or skipped altogether, due to other demands on our worship time, as has been our practice for years. Cards will always be available for sharing written joys and concerns with the ordained and lay ministers, but will not be read aloud during worship. We appreciate all the feedback we've received and the widely shared commitment to meaningful worship at First Parish.

— The Worship Associates:  
Loren Gomez, Ruben Hopwood,  
Elizabeth Hunter, Bill Licea-Kane, David Whitford,

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## Navigating the Holidays

On Monday, November 7, join Lori Kenschaft for a Zoom gathering to talk about Thanksgiving and the winter holidays. This time of year can be challenging, and many people have had their holiday traditions disrupted by the last few years. We will explore three questions: What have we found challenging about these holidays? What strategies have helped us in the past? What might we find good and meaningful to do this year? E-mail [star@firstparish.info](mailto:star@firstparish.info) to receive the link. The program runs from 7 to 9 pm.



## Transition to Retirement

Whether you are planning for retirement, have a date, or are already retired, join this drop-in group on Monday, November 7, at 7 pm. We focus on the emotional aspects of the retirement process, not the financial ones. Contact [layministry@firstparish.info](mailto:layministry@firstparish.info) for more information and to receive the Zoom link.

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## Men's Group Meets Twice a Month

Men of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to meet with each other in First Parish's Men's Group. The group meets on-line every other Sunday from 7 to 8:30 pm to connect and support each other on our spiritual journeys. This month that's tonight, November 6, and on November 20. To receive the Zoom link e-mail [mensgroup@firstparish.info](mailto:mensgroup@firstparish.info).

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## November Giving First

In November half of our Sunday Offering will support the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness, a fitting recipient in Native American Heritage Month.

President Biden issued this proclamation in 2021:

Far too often in our founding era and in the centuries since, the promise of our Nation has been denied to Native Americans who have lived on this land since time immemorial. . . Native American roots are deeply embedded in this land — a homeland loved, nurtured, strengthened, and fought for with honor and conviction. This month and every month, we honor the precious, strong, and enduring cultures and contributions of all Native Americans and recommit ourselves to fulfilling the full promise of our Nation together.

The Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness seeks to preserve Native American cultural traditions, assist Native American residents with basic needs and educational expenses, advance public knowledge and understanding that helps dispel inaccurate information about Native Americans, and work toward racial equality by addressing inequities across the region. The nonprofit was founded in 1989 by Burne Stanley-Peters and her late husband, John Slow Turtle Peters, executive director of the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs. They saw many unmet needs, along with a lack of knowledge about Native American concerns.

## Lasting Memorials

The Memorial Garden Committee is accepting orders for pavers in the Remembrance Corner, just beyond our courtyard. We also take pre-need orders for the burial of ashes in the First Parish Memorial Garden. To learn more, visit the Remembrance Corner page on our church website, at [firstparish.info/memorials-funerals/remembrance-corner/](http://firstparish.info/memorials-funerals/remembrance-corner/).

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## A Conduit to Our Ministers

You may or may not have heard of the Committee on Ministry. As more of our gatherings take place in person, we're hoping to build our committee's visibility to better meet the needs of both the congregation and our ministers.

The committee keeps the ministers advised of conditions in the congregation and works to strengthen the relationship between them and the congregation. This happens both formally, by annual evaluations, and informally, by helping to facilitate congregational feedback.

Acting as a liaison to the ministers, we let them know what we're hearing, and we also help connect congregants directly with the ministers to voice their concerns and comments. We do not accept anonymous feedback, but we are committed to holding your words confidentially. We see it as essential to the congregation's health and well-being to be open and transparent in communicating both the successes and concerns within the congregation.

Members of the committee serve three-year terms and are selected by the Parish Committee. Please feel free to reach out to any of us individually, or at [com@firstparish.info](mailto:com@firstparish.info). We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to nurture the shared ministry of our vibrant faith community.

— The Committee on Ministry:

Elizabeth Hunter, Marc Jacobson, Julius Pereli, Tina Silberman, Ebonie Smith Cooper, Andrea Winslow

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## Spirit Talks Resume

Every Monday at 4 pm feel free to join a small group to reflect on a spiritual theme, via Zoom. Spirit Talks are drop-in; you don't need to register. To be added to the reminder list and receive the link, please e-mail [spirittalk@firstparish.info](mailto:spirittalk@firstparish.info).

## Halalisa Singers Celebrate Nick Page

On Saturday, November 12, the Halalisa Singers honor founder Nick Page in a concert of his many compositions called "Shine On!" After decades as a Boston area musical treasure, Page is relocating to Missouri. The concert is here at First Parish and begins at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$25. Audience masks are required. For information call 781-648-5579 or visit [halalisa.org/concerts](http://halalisa.org/concerts).

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## A Conversation on Inclusion

On Sunday, November 20, please join Rev. Erica and lay leaders for a conversation on LGBTQ inclusion at First Parish. In 1996 we became a Welcoming Congregation, our denomination's designation that a community has done needed work around issues of sexuality, gender, and identity. It is time to recommit our efforts and renew our status as a truly welcoming place. If you are interested in making this happen, please come to the Parlor at 11:45 am.





## Staff and Contact Information

**Rev. Marta Flanagan** Lead Minister  
*marta@firstparish.info*

**Rev. Erica Richmond** Parish Minister  
*erica@firstparish.info*

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**Hours** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
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## The Spire

Diane Shriver, Editor

Next issue: Sunday, December 4  
Submissions due by Sunday, November 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.

*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.

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