

## ~Worship this Sunday in the Sanctuary and on line~



### Reflections on Facing History and Ourselves

Lara James, Guest Speaker  
Sunday, April 28, 10:00 am  
Alliance Service

The Alliance of First Parish supports those who have given much. This Sunday, Lara James, of the organization Facing History and Ourselves, reflects on looking backward and looking forward and what we each can do to make communities more inclusive, resilient and hopeful.

Lara James is Chief Marketing and Communications Officer of her organization, [Facing History & Ourselves](#). Since Lara began in 2017, Facing History's educator network has more than doubled to over 300,000 active educators. Before joining Facing History, Lara served as Vice President of Brand Marketing for MassMutual, and prior to that in a similar position at Capital One. Lara started her career at Temple, Barker and Sloane on Hayden Avenue in Lexington after receiving a BA in History from Oberlin College. Raised in Lexington, her family attended Follen Church Unitarian Universalist before they joined the Religious Society of Friends in Cambridge. Lara and her husband have three adult sons and live in Amherst MA.

Join us in the sanctuary or join us [online!](#) View the Order of Service [Here](#)

### Religious Education

This Sunday morning 4/28

Child Dedication Sunday! Grades Pre-K through 5 begin in Sanctuary and then head to regular classes. Grade 6 gather in the lobby at 10am for a Field Trip. Nursery available at 10am.

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Sunday Evening 4/28:

Youth Group, OWL, and Coming of Age all meet, 7-8:30pm.

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Save the Date: Spring Family BBQ!

After service on Sunday 5/26 in the Courtyard. All welcome.

### Calendar

Apr 27: [Clean-It / Fix-It Day](#)  
Apr 28: [Zoom Meditation](#)  
Apr 28: [Sunday Worship](#)  
Apr 28: [Our Shared Past](#)  
Apr 29: [Monday Spirit Talk](#)  
Apr 29: [In-person Meditation](#)  
Apr 30: [Lectio Divina](#)  
Apr 30: [Zoom Meditation](#)  
May 1: [Lectio Divina](#)  
May 2: [Lectio Divina](#)  
May 2: [Older Men's Lunch](#)  
May 2: [Women's Book Group](#)  
May 3: ["Taste of First Parish"](#)

### Reckoning and Repair Indigenous Justice

Both the [Reckoning and Repair](#) group and the [Indigenous Justice Working Group](#) have been hard at work these past years. The Parish Committee unanimously endorsed both resolutions and voted to add both statements to the May Annual Meeting warrant. The congregation will vote on whether or not to adopt these resolutions on May 19th at the Annual Meeting.

[Click here to read the resolutions.](#)

### [A Taste of First Parish Arlington](#) fundraiser on the evening of **Friday, May 3rd.**

**Register for your Taste of First Parish Arlington tickets!** Join us on Friday, May 3, for an evening of music, art, food and drink, community, and fun to support the important food relief work of World Central Kitchen and the ongoing good work of First Parish. Tickets are available on Realm [here](#), at coffee hour, or at the door on May 3rd - *registering in advance helps with the planning*. Suggested donation of \$50 each, which includes one beer or wine coupon; other donation amounts accepted. *Please note: Child care registration will close at the end of the day on 4/28.*

Questions? Email [TasteofFP@firstparish.info](mailto:TasteofFP@firstparish.info)

### From our Parish Committee

This month the Parish Committee recognizes the extraordinary outcome of the 2024-25 Stewardship Campaign by awarding the Rose of Recognition to the Stewardship Committee, the amazing

leadership provided by Marie Meteor and Amy Spore, the tireless recruiting of stewards by Sue



leadership provided by Marie Meteer and Amy Speare, the tireless recruiting of stewards by Sue Sheffler and all those including the visiting stewards who participated in the campaign. Of course, it is the incredible generosity of this congregation that makes this all possible.

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**The Annual Meeting will be at 11:30 AM on Sunday, May 19**, 2024, at 630 Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington, Massachusetts. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting, both in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

Zoom participants must register at <https://tinyurl.com/FPUUAnnualMeeting2024>.

Annual Meeting is a time to come together and make decisions about the life of First Parish. In addition to electing officers and leaders, members vote on a budget in line with our values; and this year, the congregation will be asked to consider two special congregational votes: a Reckoning and Repair Affirmation and a Land Acknowledgement.

[Click here for more details](#) about lunch, childcare, and Zoom participation.

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**Committee Summaries for Annual Report 2024:** Are you a chair of a committee at First Parish? Committee Summaries for the Annual Report are due Wednesday, May 1. All summaries are to be submitted to Office Manager, Ebiere, at [ebiere.omoregie@firstparish.info](mailto:ebiere.omoregie@firstparish.info) no later than May 1. These reports serve as a blueprint for First Parish, and anyone can use them to get a sense of what goes on. They are a permanent record of the life of the church. Please reach out to Ebiere if you have any questions or would like a simple template.

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**UU General Assembly June 20-23, 2024: "Love Unites Stories Ignite" virtual meeting**

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association of congregations (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may register to attend at [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga). The 2024 annual meeting will be facilitated as a virtual meeting, so no travel is required. Participation does mean committing to being on Zoom for several hours per day for a few days.

**To become a voting delegate:** If you are a member of First Parish and are interested in serving as a voting delegate, to represent our congregation, contact the Parish Executive Committee at [parishexec@firstparish.info](mailto:parishexec@firstparish.info) by May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## Upcoming events -- click the links to learn more.

**Clean-it / Fix-It Day: Saturday, May 27, 9am, meet at First Parish** The entire First Parish community is invited to help out on the fall Clean-it / Fix-it day, Saturday, April 27, 9am-noon. Past days have included gardening, painting, cleaning and just general sprucing up around First Parish.

**Our Shared Past: Arlington's Connection to Indigenous People: Sunday, April 28, after service, Parlor** Please join the Indigenous Justice Working Group (IJWG) after Sunday's service. We will welcome Doreen Stevens, historian and former director of the Arlington Historical Society. She will help us explore Arlington's connection to Indigenous people, especially The Massachusett, on whose land our meetinghouse stands. [Learn more.](#)

- **Three Meditation Groups** meet as follows: **9am Sundays** and **6pm Tuesdays**, both on Zoom. Monday in person meditation meets at [meets at 6pm](#).
- **Weekly Monday Spirit Talks** meet on Zoom at 4pm.
- **Lectio Divina** meets every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. [Learn more.](#)

**Women's Book Group: Thursday, May 2, 7pm, Zoom** Our next book for the First Parish Women's Book Group will be "Joy in the Morning", by P.G. Wodehouse. We will meet Zoom on Thursday, May 2 at 7pm. [Email](#) with questions or for the Zoom link to attend virtually.

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**Announcement for Ferry Beach, 2024** The Ferry Beach Committee is sad to report that there will not be a Ferry Beach retreat in 2024. Unfortunately, the weekend that Ferry Beach reserved for our community coincides with Arlington Town Day, which an important community day and fundraiser for our social justice efforts. Ferry Beach had no reasonable alternative dates available to reschedule our retreat for this year. [Click to learn more.](#)

## Recurring and Ongoing Programs

### Weekly or Bi-weekly

- **Lectio Divina:** (*Meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on Zoom.*) Lectio Divina is a method of reading and listening, lingering with, and sharing personal responses to selected biblical texts. Diverse responses to the text provide new insights and help us grow in our spiritual lives and set intentions for our daily lives.
- **Meditation Groups** *Meets Sunday, 9am (Zoom); Monday, 6pm (in person); Tuesday, 6pm (Zoom).* Beginners and experienced meditators are welcome. Please feel free to drop in whenever you like. For more information, or to be added to the list to receive each Zoom session's unique link, please email [meditation@firstparish.info](mailto:meditation@firstparish.info)
- **The First Parish Bell Choir** practices weekly on Thursdays from 8:15-9:15pm in the Sanctuary during the church year. All are welcome. Some ability to read music is helpful, but not required. Contact [ringers@firstparish.info](mailto:ringers@firstparish.info).
- **Spirit Talks** Weekly discussions provide an opportunity for a small group to reflect together on a spiritual theme

every Monday at 4pm. Email [spirittalk@firstparish.info](mailto:spirittalk@firstparish.info) to be added to the mailing list for Spirit Talk or just check us out by joining a discussion.

- **Men's Group** - Men of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to meet online, every other Sunday at 7pm to connect and support each other on our spiritual journeys. [Email](#) for the Zoom link.
- **Older Men's Lunch Group** continues to meet, on Zoom. Email [mensgroup@firstparish.info](mailto:mensgroup@firstparish.info) for more information. The sessions will be held at noon every other Thursday; we meet next on May 2.

## Monthly

- **Community Potluck** A community potluck dinner sponsored by the STAR committee, will be held indoors, in the Vestry, on the last Wednesday of the month, from 6:00-7:30pm, in February, March, April and May. All are welcome. No sign-up needed. The next Potluck will be on Wednesday, May 29.
- **The Diversity Book Club** generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, so the next meeting is May 21. All are welcome, please join us to discuss our next title. Register by email [diversitybookclub@firstparish.info](mailto:diversitybookclub@firstparish.info)
- **Grief Support Group** Lay Ministry led support for individuals who have lost loved ones. The group generally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:30pm on Zoom. The next meeting is May 28.
- **Women Aging Well: Changing Life Purpose** - Aging Well meets once a month, usually on the fourth Thursday. Our purpose is to foster engagement and build community among women over fifty who wish to explore themes related to planning and consciously living out our later years.
- **The Women's Alliance of First Parish** The Alliance is the women's organization in our church, with a mission to support the women in our congregation, and through that support to advance the interests and efforts of our entire church. Look for our program on the First Parish Website.
- **Women's Book Group** The women's book group meets every first Thursday at 7pm, not including Summer months, so our next meeting is Thursday, May 2, when we will discuss *Joy in the Morning*, by P.G. Wodehouse. [Email](#) with questions or for the Zoom link to attend.

The First Parish publishes events and news from our community. [Click this banner to submit your news or event.](#)

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