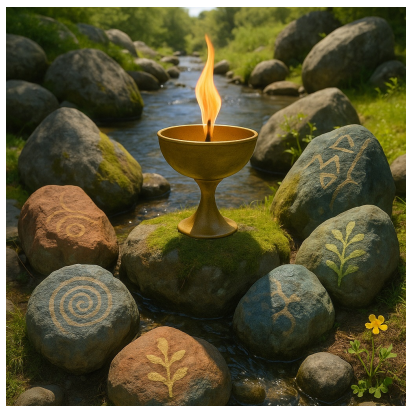




# The eBulletin

July 2, 2025  
A weekly newsletter

Worship online ~~ Sunday at 10am



## "The Middle Spirit"

Lyn Fulton-John, Worship Leader  
Sunday, July 6, 2025, at 10am

Have you ever found yourself in that space in life between what was and what's next—where the old story has ended, but no new one has begun? It's a place of waiting without promise, and it is profoundly spiritual. This reflection is an invitation to honor the in-between, to find meaning not in fixing, but in staying—with love, with presence, and with the quiet truth that even in the cracks, the light gets in.

During the summer our Zoom-only worship is led each week by a member of our congregation. Lyn Fulton-John has been an active member of First Parish since arriving in Boston in 2017. Active in STAR and Choir, she has also led a program on art and meditation and enjoys providing graphic design support for other First Parish events. She has a Master's degree in Theology, and is a program manager in the Office of Culture and Community Engagement at Harvard Medical School.

Join us [online!](#) View the Order of Service [Here](#)

## Wednesday Community Potlucks

During the summer months, First Parish Community potluck dinners are held in the courtyard **every Wednesday (Vestry if rain) from 6:00-7:30**. Tonight's potluck will be hosted by the Social Justice Committee and the Reckoning and Repair group. Everyone is welcome! Bring a dish to share.



## Religious Education News

Over the summer months, our Religious Education program enters a season of rejuvenation & reorganization, planning & preparation. Regular programs for children, middle school OWL, and Youth group all resume on Sept 7th.

If you would like to connect with Stevie

## Calendar

July 2: [Weekly Potluck](#)  
July 3: [Lectio Divina](#)  
July 4: [Independence Day](#)  
July 6: [Zoom Meditation](#)  
July 6: [Worship Service](#)  
July 7: [Spirit Talks](#)  
July 7: [In-Person Meditation](#)

## First Parish Summer Office Hours

Starting this week, the First Parish office will be open reduced hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and

about the program or your family during the summer, use this [Calendly online scheduling link](#). If you would like to volunteer in the RE program this upcoming year, reach out to Stevie by email ([stevie.carmody@firstparish.info](mailto:stevie.carmody@firstparish.info)).

**Stevie will be off for the month of July.** In the event of an emergency with your children or in your family, reach out to the Office for a minister, and contact his cell phone.

**July 9: [Weekly Potluck](#)**

**July 10: [Older Men's Lunch](#)**

**July 12: [Memorial for S. Leonard](#)**

Thursday, 10am - 2pm.

Ebiere and Allison will be checking emails regularly. To reach us, please email [office@firstparish.info](mailto:office@firstparish.info); that email directs to both of us.

### **Ministers' Hours:**

**Stevie:** Vacation until August

**Rev. Erica:**

- **Study Leave:** Until July 12
- **Vacation:** July 13 - Aug. 1

**Thank you!**



### **Roses of Recognition: Marta's Retirement Party Crew**

With joy and appreciation, the Parish Committee extends Roses of Recognition to the exceptional crew responsible for Rev. Marta Flanagan's Retirement Party on May 31. Led by the Committee on Ministry (Tina Silberman, Chair, Andrea Winslow, Ebonié Smith-Cooper, Jim Ptacek, Julius Pereli and Marc Jacobson) dozens of First Parishioners lent their considerable talents to making the celebration fun, beautiful, tasty and heartwarming.

The success of that memorable evening was the result of the time and energy of countless artists, decorators, chefs, servers, planners, musicians, child carers, greeters, dessert-makers, presenters, speakers, and truly impressive setup and cleanup crews.

We can be proud of the way we said farewell to Marta over the course of the winter and spring, and the party was a fitting culmination. Marta departed amidst myriad expressions of our deep affection for and immense gratitude to her. Many thanks to the Committee on Ministry for their leadership, and to all who made the party swing!

### **Sharen Leonard honored Saturday, July 12 at First Parish**

First Parish member Sharen Leonard died on June 17. Sharen and her husband Andrew have been members of First Parish for over 30 years. Sharen has brought many gifts to our congregation, most recently through her service on the Alliance. Sharen's obituary can be found [here](#).

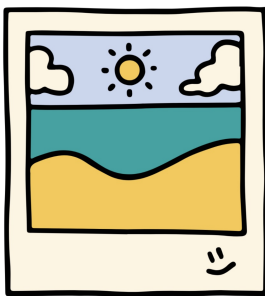
We hold her husband Andrew, also a First Parish member, son Michael, his wife Erika Weisz, and grandsons Calvin and Zander in our prayers. Andrew welcomes condolence cards at 7 Court Street Place, Arlington, MA 02476.



Rev. Erica Richmond will officiate at a memorial service on **Saturday, July 12th at 10 am at the Meetinghouse**. It will also be [live streamed via Zoom](#). The Alliance will provide the collation. All are welcome to attend as a sign of love for Sharen and support to her family.

### **Ferry Beach Registration is OPEN!**

Registration for the Ferry Beach Retreat (Oct 3-5 at Ferry Beach in Saco, ME) is NOW OPEN! Register today for this beloved weekend retreat. All are welcome! [See the Ferry Beach page on the First Parish website for more information](#) and the link to register.



## Opportunities for Engagement this Summer

This church year has concluded, but First Parish has a number of ways for you to get involved and stay connected this summer! Here are just a few recurring options:

**Online worship services:** Sundays, 10:00am, [Zoom](#). Each summer, the Worship Associates organize and support lay-led worship services on Zoom each Sunday. These services are a great way to hear from your fellow congregants about issues

and questions they are reflecting on.

**Weekly Potluck Dinners:** Wednesdays, 6:00pm, Courtyard (Vestry if rain). Community potluck dinners are held in the courtyard every Wednesday (Vestry if rain) from 6:00-7:30. Everyone is welcome! Bring a dish to share.

**Lectio Divina:** Tuesdays (7am), Wednesdays (9am), Thursdays (8am), [Zoom](#). If you haven't tried Lectio yet, summer is a great time to start! Each week on Zoom, lay leaders facilitate reflection and discussion inspired by a short passage from the Bible. This beloved tradition was originally introduced at First Parish by Rev. Marta Flanagan.

**Click on the link to learn more about these upcoming First Parish events:**

[Weekly Community Potluck](#), July 2

[Memorial Service for Sharen Leonard](#), July 12

## Weekly or Bi-weekly

- **Lectio Divina:** *(Meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays ALL YEAR 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); and Monday, 6pm (in person)* 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)
- **Bell ringer rehearsals:** *From September through May*, we meet most Thursdays 8-9pm in the Sanctuary after choir rehearsal. All interested are welcome - being able to read music is helpful. Contact [ringers@firstparish.info](mailto:ringers@firstparish.info) for more details.
- **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 [oldermen@firstparish.info](mailto:oldermen@firstparish.info) for more information. The sessions will be held at noon every other Thursday.

## Monthly

- **Covenant Groups** Each group meets once a month from *September through June*. Through discussion of a monthly theme, participants make meaningful connections with others. Covenant groups are opportunities for us to engage in deep sharing as we speak from the heart, and are heard by others.

- **The Diversity Book Club** generally meets on the third Tuesday of *alternate* months from *September through June*. 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. *Will not meet in July or August.*
- **Transition to Retirement.** *Does not meet in summer months.* You are welcome to this drop-in group that meets approximately once a month to provide support around the emotional (not financial) aspects of the retirement transition. Contact the Lay Ministry, [layministry@firstparish.info](mailto:layministry@firstparish.info), to receive the Zoom link.
- **Women Aging Well:** Join our vibrant community of women over 50 as we explore the joys and challenges of aging together. Through discussions of a variety of topics we foster meaningful connections and learning from one another. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month from *September to June* from 11am to noon. Meetings may be on zoom or in person.
- **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.
- **Women's Book Group** The women's book group meets the first Thursday of each month at 7pm from *September to June*.

Get the "Workings" Booklet for 2024 - 2025

First Parish publishes events and news from our community. Click this banner to submit your news or event.

## First Parish Playlist



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