# The Sunday Teaser

**First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Arlington** November 15, 2026

***dedicated to encouraging you to look at our full array of activities***

**Today**

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00am | Worship |
| 11:30am | Coffee Hour (Vestry) |
| 11:30am | Who are UU? Conversation (Parlor) |
| 7:00pm | Men's Group (Zoom) |
| 7:00pm | RE Evening Programming (see below) |

**Learn more online:**
**www.firstparish.info/events**

Scan this code with your smartphone camera

**Religious Education this morning:**

- Fall term continues for preK through grade 7.
- Nursery care for babies / toddlers (up to age 3) at 9:50am

**Tonight:**

- OWL and Youth Group meet at 7pm.

Questions? Email Rev. Stevie Carmody at mre@firstparish.info.

All-ages event or free childcare available!

## Upcoming Events at First Parish

**Who are UU? Conversations - with Rev. Jonipher Kwong this month!**

*Sunday, November 15, 11:30am, Damon.* Join members of the First Parish Membership Committee for conversations about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist here at First Parish and beyond. While aimed at newer folks, these informal conversations are open to all - no registration is required.

**Transition to Retirement**

*Monday, November 16, 7pm, Zoom.* Wherever you are on your journey to retirement — dreaming, planning, already retired — please join this drop in group which focuses on the emotional, social, and spiritual aspects of the retirement transition. Email group organizers for link to join.

**Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience Vigil**

*Friday, November 20, 7pm, Front Lawn.* Join us on the front lawn of the Meetinghouse for a vigil for our annual observance of the Trans Day of Remembrance and Resilience. Affinity dinner at St. John's Episcopal at 6pm.

**Online Voting at Congregational Meetings - Proposed Bylaw Changes**

*Sunday, November 22, 11:30am, Parlor OR Wednesday, December 2, 8:00pm, Zoom.* Should First Parish allow those who can't attend Congregational Meetings in person to vote and participate online? Join us for conversations about this proposed change and share your thoughts & questions.

Harvest Moon Fair

**Saturday, November 21**
**10:00am - 3:00pm**
**At the Meetinghouse**

Today: Quilt Raffle Sales continue during social hour

**Starting THIS AFTERNOON: Setup begins!** Drop off your Donations in the Vestry all week. Want to volunteer? Email fair@firstparish.info.

**Pathway to Membership: What is Covenant?**

*Sunday, November 22, 11:30am, Damon.* Want to learn more about First Parish and what we believe? Come learn about covenant and what it means. Aimed at newcomers. Email membership@firstparish.info for info.

**Grief Support Group**

*Tuesday, November 24, 7:30pm, Zoom.* Monthly Lay Ministry led support for those who have lost loved ones. Link to join at firstparish.info/series/grief-support-group/.

**November / December Potluck!**

*Wednesday, December 2, 6pm, Vestry.* Hosted by FP Jewish Connections. All are welcome - bring a dish to share if you can!

## This Week

**Mon**
**Fair Donations** ALL DAY (Vestry)
**Spirit Talk** 4pm (Zoom)
**In-person Meditation** 6pm (Parlor)
**Transition to Retirement** 7pm (Zoom)

**Tues**
**Fair Donations** (Vestry)
**Lectio Divina** 7am (Zoom)
**3rd Tues. Covenant Group** 7pm (Damon)
**Parish Committee** 7:00pm (Zoom)

**Wed**
**Fair Donations** (Vestry)
**Lectio Divina** 9am (Zoom)
**3rd Wed. Covenant Grps.** 7pm ( 1 in Parlor, 2 on Zoom)

**Thur**
**HM Fair Donations** ALL DAY (Vestry)
**Lectio Divina** 8am (Zoom)

**Fri**
**Fair Donations + Setup** (Vestry, Sanctuary, etc.)
**Mussar Spiritual Practice** 8am (Zoom)
**Transgender Day of Remembrance Event** 7pm (Front Lawn)

**Sat**
**HARVEST MOON FAIR** 10am - 3pm at the Meetinghouse

*SAVE THE DATE!*
**Upcoming Child Dedication**

First Parish will hold a Child Dedication **on December 6th during service**. If you have a child you would like included, please reach out to Rev. Stevie Carmody at mre@firstparish.info.

*SAVE THE DATE!*
**Special Musical Offering**
**Sunday, December 6**
**During worship and after**

Honoring the life and music of trailblazing composer and pianist Margaret Bonds with Victoria Ellington, Soprano & Margaret Bonds Specialist, during and after worship. Free and open to the public.

## Update from the Settled Minister Search Committee

Thanks to everyone who participated in small group discussions. We were able to engage with folks from all across different areas and ways of engaging with First Parish to talk about the ministerial search and our congregation's future. We spoke with congregants and staff, and in the coming months we will share what we have learned, both in small group conversations and in our earlier surveys, with lay leaders and, of course, with prospective ministers when our profile is made available to them as part of the search process. Curious about our process, or have questions about the search? Email us at **settled-search@firstparish.info**.

## Giving First Nominations Open Now

Nominations are open through December 20. To learn more about the program and to submit a nomination visit firstparish.info/justice-inclusion/social-justice/giving-first/.

## From the Bylaws Committee: Every Voice Matters!

Our voices matter most when everyone's voice can be heard. We're exploring online voting so that every member of our First Parish community — whether you're in the sanctuary, at home, or across the country — can participate in decisions that shape our congregation. Join us for one of two info sessions on online voting either on **Sunday, November 22 in the Parlor after worship**, or attend **on Zoom in the evening on Wednesday, December 2 from 8pm-9pm**.

## Covenant Task Force Update

We have crafted a Draft Covenant for the congregation to consider as we move forward in our search process. It has been shared with the ministers, Parish Committee, Transition Team and the Search Committee for their thoughts and comments. The draft has now been posted on the First Parish website - see the draft and links to additional resources at https://www.firstparish.info/in-the-interim/congregational-covenant-task-force/

# Upcoming Important Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| **November 22** 11:45am, Parlor<br>**December 2** 8pm, Zoom | **Small group discussions: Bylaws** Zoom participation and voting at congregational meetings |
| **December 6** | **Child Dedication** and **Special Musical Performances** (during and after Sunday service) |
| **November - January** | **Small group discussions continue: Covenant and Bylaws** |
| **November 21** 10am - 3pm at First Parish | **Harvest Moon Fair** Annual fall Fair - raises funds to support First Parish |
| **November 22** | **Farewell** to Rev. Carolyn Patierno |
| **December 1** | **Rev. Erica Richmond returns** from sabbatical |
| **December 18** | **Embrace the Darkness Service** Rev. Jonipher Kwong preaching |
| **December 24** 4pm (ASL) 6pm | **Christmas Eve** Candlelight Services Rev. Erica Richmond preaching, with special musical guests. Both will be streamed on Zoom. |

# Looking Ahead to 2027

| | |
|---|---|
| **February 7** | **Mid-Winter Music Sunday** and **Congregational Meeting** (voting on bylaws change - online voting) |
| **March** | **Stewardship** Month |
| **April 24 – May 2** | **Ministerial Candidating Week** A time for the congregation to spend time with the candidate |
| **May 2** | **Congregational Vote** to Call a new Settled Lead Minister |
| **May 16** | **Annual Meeting** |
| **June 6** | **Farewell** to Rev. Erica Richmond |
| **June 20** | **Farewell** to Rev. Jonipher Kwong Final service of the regular 2026-7 church year |
| **June 27 - Sep. 5** | **Summer Season** (Zoom worship) |
| **September 12** | **Ingathering & Water Communion** |