The Sunday Teaser

First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Arlington November 29, 2026

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

Today

10:00am	Worship
11:30am	Coffee Hour (Vestry)
11:45am	Children's Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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:

- All-together program (December Service project) for K-7.
- Nursery care (up to age 3) 9:50am; pre-K meets as usual.

Tonight:

- No OWL. Youth Group meets at 7pm.

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

All-ages event or free childcare available!

Upcoming Events at First Parish

November / December Monthly Community Potluck!
Wednesday, December 2, 6pm, Vestry. Join us for our monthly potluck, a combined event for November and December, hosted by FP Jewish Connections in honor of Hanukkah. All are welcome - bring a dish to share!

Online Voting at Congregational Meetings - Proposed Bylaw Changes
Wednesday, December 2, 8:00pm, Zoom. Learn more about proposed bylaw changes to permit online voting at congregational meetings.

Women's Book Group
Thursday, December 3, 7pm, Zoom. December book selection: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters.

Alliance Holiday Sing and Cookie Swap
Friday, December 4, 6pm, Vestry. Please join us for songs and sweets, in celebration of the winter holidays. Bring treats to share - all are welcome!

Saturday Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, December 5, 8am-2pm, Vestry. Give the gift of life this holiday season – sign up to donate blood at redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED-CROSS. Want to volunteer to support the drive? Email John: blooddrive@firstparish.info.

December Holiday Events at First Parish

Children's Choir
Rehearse 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, perform 12/20 in worship.

Alliance Cookie Swap
Fri. December 4, 6pm, Vestry

Carols in the Parlor
Tues. December 15, 2:30pm

Embrace the Darkness
Fri. December 18, 7pm.
A contemplative evening service honoring the dark in the holiday season.

Christmas Eve Hybrid Worship
Thurs. December 24, 2026
4pm (with ASL) and 6pm

Congregational Art Show Opening
Sunday, December 6, 11:45am, Parlor. Everyone is invited to join us for the opening reception for this season's art show. Light refreshments will be served.

Wednesday Evening Chapel Returns!
Wednesday, December 9, 9pm, Zoom. Join Rev. Erica Richmond for a weekly 25 minute gathering of sharing, silence, song, and poetry. All are welcome to drop in!

Who are UU? Conversations
Sunday, December 13, 11:30am, Parlor. Join the Membership Committee and Rev. Jonipher for conversations about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist here at First Parish and beyond. Aimed at newcomers but open to all.

This Week

Mon	**Spirit Talk** 4pm (Zoom) **In-person Meditation** 6pm (Parlor)
Tues	**Lectio Divina** 7am (Zoom) **Covenant Grp. Conveners** 7pm (Damon)
Wed	**Lectio Divina** 9am (Zoom) **Community Potluck** 6pm (Vestry) **Online Voting Bylaw Change Info Session** 8pm (Zoom)
Thur	**Lectio Divina** 8am (Zoom) **Social Justice Committee** 7pm (Zoom) **FP Choir Rehearsal** 7pm (Sanctuary) **FP Bell Choir Rehearsal** 8:05pm (Sanctuary)
Fri	**Mussar Group** 8am (Zoom) **Alliance Cookie Swap** 6pm (Vestry)
Sat	**Red Cross Blood Drive** 8am-2pm (Vestry)

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 worship and with a special performance after. Free and open to the public.

Celebrate and Honor with Poinsettias

Whether you would like to express gratitude, remember a loved one, or celebrate a joy, a poinsettia is the perfect gift. These stunning red flowers will adorn our Sanctuary for the holiday season. Scan this code to order online by Dec. 21 and pick up your plant on Christmas Eve.

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 20th. To learn more about the program and to submit a nomination scan this QR code.

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

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**
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**
February 7	**Special Congregational Meeting** Members will vote on bylaws change to allow online voting
March	**Stewardship Month** Stewardship Kick-off on March 7
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 Congregational 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** Join us for the start of a new church year with a new lead minister