

The Sunday Teaser

First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Arlington

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

September 13, 2026

Today

10:00am	Worship
11:30am	Coffee Hour (Vestry)
3:00pm	Lay Leadership Meeting (Zoom)
4:30pm	Taschlich for Rosh Hashanah (Outdoors)
6:45pm	2 nd Sun. Covenant Group (Damon)
7:00pm	Men's Group (Zoom)

Learn more online:

[www.firstparish.info/
events](http://www.firstparish.info/events)



Scan this code with
your smartphone

Religious Education this morning:

- Fall term begins for preK through grade 7.
- Nursery care for babies / toddlers (up to age three), 10am-11:30am

Tonight:

- OWL and Youth Group meet at 7pm, YG Parent orientation 6pm

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

Upcoming Events at First Parish

TONIGHT! Tashlich for Rosh Hashanah with FP Jewish Connections

Sunday, September 13, 4:30pm, Outdoors. We will meet outdoors at the side (office lobby) door. Please bring a mask and some breadcrumbs. Email Rachael at jewishconnections@firstparish.info for copies of the ritual.

Ballot Questions Information Session with Defending Democracy

Monday, September 14, 7:00pm, Vestry. Be an informed voter and learn what you need to know about the 9 Massachusetts ballot questions this year! Free - all are welcome, no registration needed.

"Spaghetting to Know" Religious Education at First Parish

Thursday, June 18, 7:00pm, Capitol Theater. Children, Youth, and Families in our First Parish community--whether you're new or returning--are welcome to drop-by for spaghetti dinner. You'll hear a little bit about what's coming up in RE and get to know other families. RSVP online so we know how many to cook for!



Arlington Town Day at First Parish – Pie Palace and Man Made Chili

Saturday, September 19, 10:30am – 4:30pm, Vestry / Lawn. Learn more and volunteer to help at firstparish.info/series/arlington-town-day/.

Art Show Opening – Port of Entry: Art by Carol Wintle

NEXT Sunday, September 20, 11:45am, Parlor. All are welcome to an opening reception - light snacks and beverages will be served. Carol's collages combine images with watercolor, acrylic, tissue paper and pastels.

Mussar Spiritual Practice Group – waitlist only

Every other Friday morning, 8:00am, October 9 – December 19, Zoom. Mussar is a 1,000 year old Jewish spiritual practice, aimed at creating a better world. It includes individual practice, study with a partner and group reflection. Join the waitlist online via Realm/Connect.

Monthly Community Potluck, sponsored by the STAR program

Wednesday, September 30, 6:00pm, Vestry. Join us for the first monthly community potluck of the new church year. Bring a dish and reusable tableware if you can, but come regardless! All ages are welcome!

Staffing Structure Discussion

Sunday, October 4, 11:45am, Parlor. First Parish lay leaders will share information and solicit feedback on staff structure and budget constraints.

Postcards and Pizza with Defending Democracy

Tuesday, October 6, 6:00pm, Vestry. This is a family event and all are welcome. We'll be writing postcards to encourage early voting in midterms!

This Week

Mon	Spirit Talk 4:00pm (Zoom) In-person Meditation 6:00pm (Parlor) Ballot Questions Event 7:00pm (Vestry)
Tue	Lectio Divina 7:00am (Zoom) 3rd Tuesday Covenant Group 7:00pm (Damon) Parish Committee 7:00pm (Zoom)
Wed	Lectio Divina 9:00am (Zoom) 2nd Wed Covenant Grp 1:30pm (Zoom) "Spaghetting to Know" RE 5:00pm (Vestry) Alliance Board Retreat 6:00pm (Parlor) 3rd Wednesday Covenant Groups (1 Damon, 2 Grady)
Thu	Lectio Divina 8:00am (Zoom) Older Men's Lunch 12:00pm (Zoom) Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Sanctuary) Transition Team Mtg. 7:00pm (Parlor) Property Committee 7:00pm (Grady) Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:05pm (Sanctuary)
Fri	Pie Palace: Pie drop-off (Kitchen)
Sat	Town Day: Pie Palace and Man Made Chili 10:30am – 4:30pm

September Giving First

Each Sunday, the offering collected during worship is split between the support of First Parish and another organization chosen by the Social Justice Committee. For September 2026, the **Community Day Center of Waltham** will share half the offering. The Community Day Center of Waltham provides a core range of support and services to people facing homelessness in Metrowest.

Update from the Settled Minister Search Committee

A new church year begins. It will be transformative. A time for self-examination, collective discernment, and rigorous application of all our best efforts toward the selection of a new settled minister. Two key documents—the covenant and the timeline—are nearing completion. We'll share them soon, along with regular updates on our progress, through a variety of channels: The Spire, the eBulletin, the Sunday Teaser, the First Parish website, the First Parish Facebook page and the Settled Minister Search Committee bulletin board. Look for us in the vestry every Sunday at coffee hour, or email us at settled-search@firstparish.info.

Now, for our first big ask of you: **Complete the congregational survey!**

We will be accepting responses through the end of this month. It will be available online as well as on paper.



Transition Team



The task of the Transition Team is to facilitate dialogue within the congregation about how we are doing as an institution so that we can identify elements that we can address, improve, repair, or maintain in an intentional way. Scan this code to [check out our newsletter postings!](#)

What is a Covenant?

"A covenant is not a definition of a relationship; it is the framework for our relating. A covenant leaves room for chance and change, it is humble toward evolution. It claims: *I will abide with you in this common endeavor, be present as best as I can in our becoming.* This calls for a level of trust, courage and sacrifice that needs to be nurtured, renewed and affirmed on a regular basis.

The task of [a] covenant is to take responsibility for the freedom we espouse. We know that we are interconnected and that what we do creates ripples of hope or despair, of affirmation or negation. What we do with and for one another is powerful and beyond our imagining." (Lisa Ward)

Upcoming Important Dates

September 13-20	Settled Minister Search Survey – final deadline is September 20!
September 19 10:30am-4:30pm Vestry, outdoors	Arlington Town Day Pie Palace and ManMade Chili fundraisers, FP tables, and fun!
September 25-27 Saco, Maine	Annual Ferry Beach Retreat Registrations closed -stay tuned for next year's dates!
September 27 – October 25	Congregational Covenant: learn about the process of developing a covenant, review a provisional covenant
October 1 – November 30	Rev. Erica Richmond's sabbatical, Rev. Carolyn Patierno filling in
October 4 11:45am – 1pm Parlor	Staffing Structure Discussion Transition Team leads discussion about staffing at FP
October 13 – November 6	Small Group Conversations about Ministry (Settled Search)
October 17 Time TBA, Vestry (possibly hybrid)	Break Barriers, Build Beliefs: workshop for congregations preparing for ministerial search
October 25	Congregational Covenant: Listening Circles
November 10	Financial Roundtable
November	Small group discussions: Bylaws

Looking Ahead

November 21	Harvest Moon Fair
November 29	Farewell to Rev. Carolyn Patierno
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
February 7	Congregational Meeting
March	Stewardship Month
April 24 – May 2	Ministerial Candidating Week
May 16	Annual Meeting
June 6 and 20	Farewells: Rev. Erica & Rev. Jonipher