

The Sunday Teaser

First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Arlington

September 27, 2026

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

Today

10:00am	Worship
11:30am	Coffee Hour (Vestry)

Learn more online:
www.firstparish.info/events

Scan this code with
your smartphone



Religious Education this morning:

- All-together RE program for K through grade 7.
- Nursery care for babies and littles (through preK), 9:45am-11:30am

Tonight:

- OWL at 7pm. No Youth Group – Ferry Beach Weekend!

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

Upcoming Events at First Parish

Red Cross Blood Drive – first of the season!

Wednesday, September 30, 10am-3pm, Vestry. Give the gift of life – sign up to donate blood online at redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED-CROSS.

Monthly Community Potluck, sponsored by the STAR program

Wednesday, September 30, 6:00pm, Vestry. Bring a dish and reusable tableware if you can but come regardless! All ages are welcome!

Women's Book Group – meets first Thursdays every month

Thursday, October 1, 7:00pm, Zoom. October's book selection is *The Elements of Marie Curie: How the Glow of Radium Lit a Path for Women in Science* by Dava Sobel, Patricia Rodriguez, et al.

Musical Guests 21C Perform at First Parish – NEXT WEEKEND!

Saturday, October 3, 9am-4pm, and Sunday, October 4, 10:00am (during the worship service, Sanctuary). VOICES 21C is an artists' collective that is devoted to exercising the choral art in pursuit of human rights and justice, dedicated to a mission of global understanding through music. Join us on Saturday to experience their rehearsal and music-making process, and on Sunday during worship, during which they will offer music.

Staffing Structure Discussions – weeknight Zoom option now available

Sunday, October 4, 11:45am, Parlor, OR Wednesday, October 8, 8pm, Zoom. First Parish lay leaders will share information and solicit feedback on staff structure and budget constraints. Childcare will be available (in-person).

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!

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. Join the waitlist online via Realm/Connect.

Alliance Program – Highlights from a Family Gap Year with E. Hunter

Friday, October 9, 6:00pm, Vestry. Elizabeth Hunter shares pictures and stories from six months of travel with her family around the world.

Arlington Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration – free and open to all ages!

Saturday, October 10, 11:00am – 12:30pm, Arlington Masonic Temple (at 19 Academy St). This free event for all ages will feature a fun and educational performance by the Red Hawk Singers and Dancers (Mashpee Wampanoag).. Co-sponsored by the First Parish Indigenous Justice Working Group.

Rev. Erica on Sabbatical

Rev. Erica Richmond will be on sabbatical from October 1st -November 30th. During that time, Rev. Carolyn Patierno (carolyn@firstparish.info) will once again be providing part-time coverage of Rev. Erica's ministerial portfolio.

This Week

Mon Spirit Talk
4:00pm (Zoom)
In-person Meditation
6:00pm (Parlor)
RE Committee
7:00pm (Grady)

Tue Lectio Divina
7:00am (Zoom)

Wed Lectio Divina
9:00am (Zoom)
Red Cross Blood Drive
10am-3pm (Vestry)

Thu Lectio Divina
8:00am (Zoom)
Older Men's Lunch
12:00pm (Zoom)
Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm (Sanctuary)
Social Justice Comm.
7:00pm (Zoom)
Bell Choir Rehearsal
8:05pm (Sanctuary)

Sat Voices 21C Rehearsal
9a-4pm (Sanctuary)

NEXT SUNDAY

Voices 21C perform during
worship service (10am)
Staffing Structure Discussion
11:30am (Parlor)

Subscribe to the weekly eBulletin newsletter

If you only check one source for First Parish updates, make it the weekly eBulletin. It arrives in mailboxes every Thursday and is a guide to activities and information, with links for more details on topics that interest you.

Sign up online by scanning this code with your smartphone camera, or visit our website at firstparish.info.



New to First Parish?

Welcome! Stop by our welcome table today at coffee hour. Want to dive deeper? Check out our **Pathway to Membership workshops** (monthly, first is Oct. 18, 11:30a) to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, First Parish, and what membership means.

Update from the Settled Minister Search Committee

Complete the congregational survey today – deadline is Sep. 30!



It will be available online as well as on paper.

Find us at coffee hour if you need help accessing the survey.



The next critical step in the settled search process will be the **Break Barriers, Build Beliefs** workshop on **Saturday, October 17** between 10am and 3pm in the Vestry and online via Zoom. This UUA-led, two-session experience for the entire congregation will help us notice and address bias as we prepare for the ministerial search. Register online using this code. Lunch will be served for participants attending in-person. We will continue to update the congregation on the search in the coming weeks. Questions, feedback? Email settled-search@firstparish.info.



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!](#)

Why Engagement Matters

During this transition year we're making a lot of decisions as a congregation. Some are decisions we'll vote on, others are decisions made by our leaders, still others are decisions made by committees in the process of their specific work on our behalf. Good decisions require robust input from our whole congregation.

During this busy time we will be offering listening sessions, focus groups, discussions, and surveys. We will be listening widely and carefully. We need you to participate, to show up, to engage, to reach out. Your thinking matters to us and we encourage you to share it with us in any way that works for you. One way is to email parcom-exec@firstparish.info.

Upcoming Important Dates

September 13-30	Settled Search Survey – final deadline is September 30!
September 25-27 Saco, Maine	Annual Ferry Beach Retreat Registrations closed -stay tuned for next year's dates!
October 1 – November 30	Rev. Erica Richmond's sabbatical , Rev. Carolyn Patierno filling in
October 4 11:45am, Parlor October 8 8:00pm, Zoom	Staffing Structure Discussion Parish Committee and Transition Team lead discussions about staffing at First Parish. Attend in-person or on Zoom.
October 13 – November 6	Small Group Conversations about Ministry (Settled Search)
** October 17 10am-3pm, Vestry & Zoom	Break Barriers, Build Beliefs: UUA workshop for congregations preparing for ministerial search
November 10	Financial Roundtable
November – January	Small group discussions: Bylaws: Zoom participation and voting at congregational meetings
November - January	Small group discussions: Congregational Covenant: Learn about the process of developing a covenant, review a draft covenant

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	Farewell to Rev. Erica Richmond
June 20	Farewell to Rev. Jonipher Kwong