

The Spire

Next issue deadline
Sunday, September 24

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

THE FIRST SUNDAY RECORD

VOL. 66, No. 1

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, 630 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476 • Gathered 1733

Welcome to Stevie and Our New Ordained Ministry Team!

In August Rev. Stevie Carmody began as our new Minister of Religious Education. He goes by “Stevie” and joins our Lead Minister, Rev. Marta Flanagan, and our Parish Minister, Rev. Erica Richmond. We called Marta in 2009 and she goes by “Marta.” Rev. Erica was hired in 2020 and goes by “Rev. Erica.”

In August they created this covenant together:

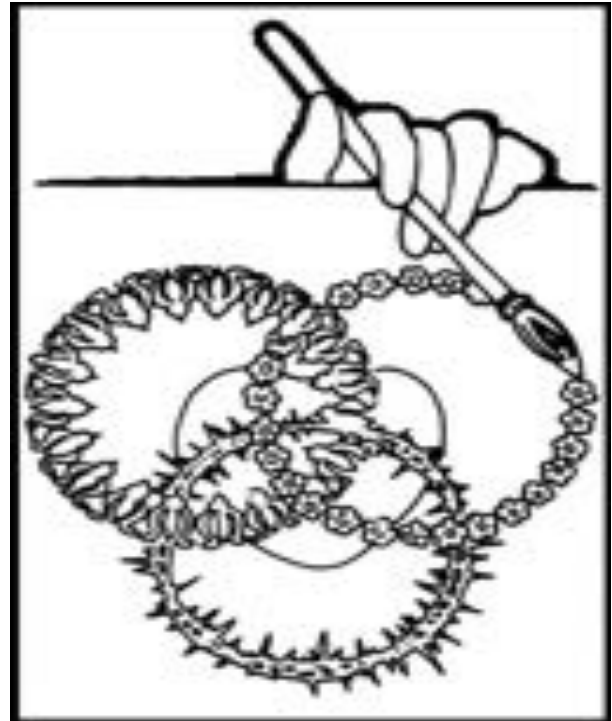
Core Commitments

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan and Rev. Erica Richmond serve the general ministry of First Parish. Marta is Lead Minister and Head of Staff. Rev. Erica is Parish Minister. Rev. Stevie Carmody serves a specialized ministry for children, youth, and parents of First Parish. Stevie is Minister of Religious Education.

Marta, Rev. Erica, and Stevie are colleagues tied together by their ordinations to Unitarian Universalist ministry. Here are our Shared Core Commitments.

Our ministry is grounded in:

- a sense of a Spirit moving within and among us.
- service to First Parish, its members, young people, and leaders.
- a call to work for justice, both within and beyond the walls of the meetinghouse.



Together we will work and serve; share joy and delight; engage in prayer and devotion.

We will keep before us the call to (1) help others and ourselves discern what is important and life-giving in our days and in our community and (2) turn outward even when the temptations to go inward may be great.

In this ministry, we are grateful that we are not alone. We support and are supported by a larger staff team, lay leaders, and volunteers. We are also connected to the community of greater Boston and Unitarian Universalism.

Our Covenants

Knowing that the ways we are and work together are important, we covenant to:

- Underscore the joys of this work and take delight in the opportunity to work and learn from one another. We will celebrate one another's successes and those of the congregation.

- Be open to new ideas and learn from one another's approaches and frameworks.
- Recognize difference as a good thing and honor one another's perspectives. We aim for a spirit of playfulness and curiosity when we hold different perspectives.
- Speak the truth in love in our work with the congregation, the staff, and one another. We will maintain confidentiality in staff conversations and meetings. We will share pastoral care concerns of those we serve with each other as needed and will inform the congregation of that policy.
- Model direct conversation and discourage triangulation within the congregation. If someone complains to one of us about the other, we will coach that person to be direct with their feedback. We will publicly support each other when issues arise.
- Approach any disagreements with intention. When disagreements arise, we will not speak disparagingly or invite others to take sides.
- Give each other feedback, knowing that we have a shared commitment to growth and to building a partnership of trust and support.
- Support each other in finding balance in our work and in our lives. This means encouraging one another to take time away from ministerial responsibilities for rest and refreshment.

Powered by the Sun

First Parish's solar array has been generating electricity for 10 years. Since its installation by SunBug Solar in 2013 our costs have been greatly reduced and we have contributed to helping humanity move away from fossil fuels. May our panels continue to bless us!

Register for Ferry Beach

Ferry Beach is coming up fast, September 29 to October 1. You can still register for a weekend of connection and contemplation by visiting Realm (contact realm@firstparish.info if you don't yet have a Realm account). Check out our web page at <https://firstparish.info/ways-to-get-involved/seeking-community/ferry-beach/>. Questions? Contact ferrybeach@firstparish.info.

Monique Chaplin, Ferry Beach Committee

Quilts in the Parlor

On September 17 after our service there will be a reception to celebrate an exhibit in the Parlor of quilts created by our own Rev. Wendy Page. Join us to enjoy her artistry and share light refreshments.

"First Parish has nurtured my quilting since the day Marilyn Jackson asked me if I wanted to join her beginning quilt class during the summer of 2000," says Wendy. "I was soon hooked. I have learned much by joining in to work on Harvest Moon Fair quilts over the years, and spent many happy hours quilting with First Parish folk. For many years I attended the Quilting By the Bay Retreat at Ferry Beach in August. In the early years I was joined by several First Parish members: the late Sheila Reynolds, Ann Abbot, and Carolyn Hodges and her daughter, Cola.

"In the beginning I made baby quilts and bed quilts and eventually moved into art quilts. I tapped into my long-dormant art-school training and explored mixing black and white with color. Most recently I have been expanding my comfort zone with the full range of color through curves and circles.

"I am excited to have my quilts exhibited in the Stanton Parlor. The show runs through the fall."

Off At a Wedding

Your *Spire* editor is not at Ingathering because her daughter, Laura Shriver, married Aaron Harrington on September 9 in his hometown of Albuquerque.



Laura's parents met at First Parish and were married here. She attended our RE program, was very active in our Youth Group, and cherishes the people here who helped her grow and prosper.

Since graduation from Oberlin, Laura has worked in ecology, collecting seeds for seed banks, among other things. She got a master's from the University of Nevada and now works for the USGS in Flagstaff studying plants and how they can best recover from fire, floods, and invasive species.

Diane plans to return to incarnate services and rejoin the choir when she gets back.



Staff and Contact Information

Staff serve the members, leaders,
and mission of First Parish.

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan Lead Minister
leadminister@firstparish.info

Rev. Erica Richmond Parish Minister
parishminister@firstparish.info

Office 781-648-3799 *churchoffice@firstparish.info*
website: *www.firstparish.info*

Hours Monday to Wednesday, 10 am to 4 pm
Thursday, noon to 6 pm / Friday, 10 am to 3 pm

Sara Hidalgo Office Manager
officemanager@firstparish.info

Joe Cook Office & Communications Manager
office@firstparish.info

Jose Ferraz Sexton

Religious Education

Rev. Stevie Carmody, Minister of Religious
Education *mre@firstparish.info*

Rose Sawyer Marsh Youth Program Coordinator
youthadvisor@firstparish.info

Music

Jonathan Colby Director of Music
musicdirector@firstparish.info

Kenneth Seitz Director of Music, Emeritus

Parish Committee *parishexec@firstparish.info*

Sara Galantowicz (Chair), Anne Quaadgras (Vice
Chair), Carolyn Hodges (Treasurer), Celia Wcislo
(Clerk), Tom Estabrook, Jeff Keffer,
Steve McMullin, Marie Meteer, Allan Tosti

Finance Committee *finance@firstparish.info*
Eric Segal

Human Resources *humanresources@firstparish.info*
Diane Barry

Lay Ministry *layministry@firstparish.info*
Jerry Silberman

The Spire

Diane Shriver, Editor

Next issue: Sunday, October 1
Submissions due by Sunday, September 24
Items may be edited for space and clarity.

E-mail to *spire@firstparish.info*.
If you do not have e-mail, contact the office.

The Spire generally deals with the big picture.
Time-sensitive details belong in the Weekly E-mail
Bulletin – send to *weekly@firstparish.info*
by Wednesday at noon.

Leadership Development

leadership@firstparish.info Helene Newberg

Membership *membership@firstparish.info*
Susan Moore

Music *music@firstparish.info*
Alice Austin

Property *property@firstparish.info*
John Galantowicz

Religious Education *re@firstparish.info*
Ellen Robie

Social Justice *socialjustice@firstparish.info*
Alan Linov

Stewardship *stewardship@firstparish.info*

The Alliance *alliance@firstparish.info*

Trustees of Trust Funds
trustees@firstparish.info
Annette Sawyer

Worship Associates
worshipassociates@firstparish.info
Elizabeth Hunter