Parish Committee Meeting Minutes
First Parish UU Arlington
September 15, 2026
7:00 PM - 9:16 PM
Zoom

Attendees: Marie Meteer (Chair), Amy Speare (Vice-Chair), Carolyn Hodges (Treasurer), Susan Moore, Ellen Robie, John Shriver, Al Tosti, Kate Tranquada, and Joanna Pushee (Clerk).

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong (Lead Interim Minister), Rev. Erica Richmond (Parish Minister), Rev. Stevie Carmody (Minister of Religious Education)

Guests: Maggie Carrey, chair of the Reckoning & Repair Working Group, along with R&R members: Bill Gardiner, MaryGlenn Vincens, Andrea Winslow, Peggy Gardiner, Kendall Dudley, Mary Breen, Jim Brown and Bonnie Zimmer.

Guest: First Parish member Dorothy Anger joined the meeting near 9pm.

7:03 Call to Order (**Marie**)

7:05 Reading and Chalice Lighting (**Carolyn**)
Two minutes of silence

7:10 Financial Review (**Carolyn**)
Key Points: Unitarian Univeralist Association fee adjustments; update to FY2026-27 budget; boiler installment and agreement letter with The Trustees.

- The Treasurer reviewed the scorecard from July and August.
    - The deposits look lower because the deposit is reflected in September, for this year only.
- The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Program Fund
    - First Parish is maintaining our honor status.
    - From the UUA's discussion and acceptance, First Parish is able to lower our pledge for this year. Next year, it will revert back to the original calculation up by $7,000 - $10,000. This is a one-time lowering.
    - First Parish, to date, has paid the first installment and is on track to submit the next three installments for the total fee.

    - The treasurer suggested that the Parish Committee use the savings from the one-time, lower UUA fee to offset the surplus amount.

MOTION 1: I move to accept the updated budget with the proposed lowering that reflects the UUA Annual Program Fee. (Al T.) Seconded (Ellen). 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

Short items in the financial updates:

- **The boiler:** the terms of the loan between the Parish Committee and the Trustuees include a ten year period; a once annual payment in June; and no interest; The Trustees did not have any additional changes to the agreement. The annual payments are $10,000 starting June 2027. The Parish Committee commitment is to pay each year. The Parish Committee is borrowing $100,000 from the Trustees over the next ten years.
- **Contingency reserve for 2026-27:** the discretionary surplus is approximately $117,000.
- **Account Details tab:** We had a gift of $60,000 from an anonymous donor in a previous year. The break down of items includes: Accessibility and audio, allocation of $22,000; Front Corner Project (design plans), allocation of $30,000; Engage project via Realm allocation of $5,000; and Green Sanctuary allocation of $3,000.
    - **Questions / Comments:**
        - The $30,000 allocation could be reviewed based on the new timelines and the Front Corner Project's proposals and grant schedule information.
            - Front Corner Project: will be applying for the Community Preservation grant this fall.
            - Front Corner Project will have more information in May 2027 regarding indications about grant proposal outcomes.

7:15 Consent agenda items:

Vote 2: Consent agenda: Minutes, Financials, Ministers' reports

MOTION 2: I move to accept the consent agenda. (Kate T.) Seconded (Amy S.) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

7:20 **Short reports**

Reports from Executive Parish Committee & Parish Committee ("ParCom") Portfolios

Key Points: LAA with a First Parish member, cleaning services, the nursery school (tenant), Engage project, and Rose of Recognition

- LAA/**Vote 3**: Approve the LAA

MOTION 3: I move that we approve the LAA with the recent edits as written. (John Shriver) Seconded (Marie Meteer) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

John Shriver, who took on initial edits, and Rev. Erica, who offered edits during the August ParCom meeting, confirmed that all edits have been put into the document.

Questions/Comments:

Who will be socializing and sharing this letter with the First Parish member? This is in process with the congregant, but Rev. Erica will be on sabbatical.

Rev. Jonipher can meet. The letter or agreement is not to be publicized; it exists if somebody asks for clarification.

- **Cleaning contract update** (7:32 PM)

  Review of how things are going with cleaning the meeting house and the Religious Education (RE) wing; looking at timing of cleaning

  - 16 hours for meeting house; 20 hours for the RE wing is the current split
  - We are close to finding the right balance and timing.

  Questions/Comments:

  - A ParCom member asked about coffee hour. A cleaner makes the coffee, is there to clean up after, and is on site to clean up if there are any spills.

- **Preschool (Adventures in Montessori / Montessori Childlren's House of Arlington): Any update on a September meeting?**

Ellen, the ParCom liaison to the nursery school, met with Rose (the new head teacher at AIM), Rev. Stevie, and Adventures in Montessori. The owner of AIM is Christina.

- More conversation is needed around cleaning and pest control.
- There is a need to clean before Sunday morning and after Sunday night. It seems that very early morning cleaning would be beneficial, especially on Monday mornings.
- Rev. Stevie supports the cleaning; in addition, after an evening group has met in the Bailey Room, the bathroom areas especially need to be cleaned.

Questions / Comments:

- Could we communicate on both sides that no food is to be left out?
- Is there any update on any temporary walls proposed by the nursery school? No, there are no further plans to install a moveable wall. Any installation would need to be approved.

- **Engage**: How do we keep this volunteer and member participation project growing given the flood of information during the transition time?

The chair decided to table this until the end of the meeting.

Engage is a project currently shepherded by the Parish Committee. Susan Moore and Amy Speare did a lot of the work on bringing Engage to life and creating categories like "skills and interests" in Realm. Committee leaders can run reports to find lists of volunteers interested in certain activities.

- **Rose of Recognition** (Kate T.)

Current Nominations: Lida Junghams & Julie Garry - for their service on the Transition Team - ParCom needs to recognize their work.

Kate Lenox - Covenant Groups

ParCom signed a card for Monique C. for cleaning and organizing the workroom.

7:30 **Update on audio/visuals in the sanctuary**

- **Feedback from the summer** (Rev. Jonipher)
  - We are going to postpone the tech feedback for a month and work out some tech issues. The summer was strong with positive feedback on the tech updates.
  - Rev. Jonipher submitted a minister's report which shows more details.
  - The audio phase will help with having new listening assistant devices. We ordered some so we currently have 5 working devices. A cost of $4,000 is proposed to further improve audio offerings.
- **New audio technology** (John Shriver)

The audio task force got two bids: the minimum is replacing a main processor, which is nearing end of its life. The new one could do bi-directional Zoom!

- The hardware cost for a Digital Signal Processor (DSP) is quoted at $3,200.
- There will be software with a remote control on a tablet or iPad.
- A very desirable stretch goal would be to add a speaker and amplifier for under the balcony.
- ProAV will be providing a revised quote that hopefully will be under the $14,000 remaining budget.
- Lilith, the part-time A/V tech has also submitted a proposal to the audio tech team (John Shriver, Paul Franzoza, Bill Licea Kane).
- The audio task force is meeting on Sept 17th.

Bonnie Zimmer entered the Zoom room at 7:51 PM. Jim Brown entered around 7:54 PM. Maggie Carrey and Mary Breen entered around 7:56 PM.

Questions/Comments:

- There was feedback that viewers in the balcony that they would like a screen installed at their eye level at some point.
- Amy S requested that the Worship Associates write up a summary to submit to the Parish Committee. Rev. Jonipher will request one.
- The monitors are great. We are not currently budgeting for more monitors at this time, though.
- A Parish Committee member asked about Bluetooth enabled devices.

Some other members of the Reckoning and Repair Working Group entered the meeting: Bill Gardiner, MaryGlenn Vincens, Andrea Winslow, Peggy Gardiner, and Kendall Dudley.

7:55 - **State of the Parish** (the Ministers)
The ministers submitted written reports to the Parish Committee.

Highlights from Rev. Stevie:

- The RE program has 111 children registered. 50% are attending Sunday programming.
- First Parish has many gender expansive children and many of our parents are part of LGBTQIA+ marriages or partnerships.
- Twelve families have joined the program since the 2025-2026 program year. Among the 37 families registered so far this year, 68% live in Arlington. 56% of parents who have filled out the registration form are members are First Parish. 15% of parents who registered have held non-RE leadership positions (committee, covenant group, Search Committee, etc.) in the past year.

Questions:

- What types of outreach are we providing parents about membership and deepening their connection?
    - Rev. Stevie suggested getting in touch with the Membership Committee and having the RE / Membership Committees work more closely in the future. In addition, this area might be part of the inclusion discussions First Parish is having with the help of the Settled Minister Search Committee.

- A ParCom member asked about adults volunteering in the RE program and if any numbers were available. Many of our regular teachers are folks who either had children in the RE program a long time ago or they did not have kids (or did not have kids in the program) and decided that RE teaching was how they wanted to give their time to First Parish.
- A Parish Committee member applauded the amazing RE zine.

8:15 **Break** for 2 minutes.

8:17 **Reckoning & Repair Working Group**: Maggie Carrey with Jim Brown, Mary Breen, Kendall Dudley, Bill Gardiner, Peggy Gardiner, Bonnie Zimmer, Andrea Window, and MaryGlen Vincens.

The R&R Working Group submitted a written update and request prior to the meeting.

The Parish Committee ultimately suggested looking into education, informing, and awareness building during this program year.

The RR group has two more years to go in the agreement with the Roxbury Youth Program.

Questions:

- For a fundraising target: there is a hope to have $7,000 to $10,000 per year for the three years of the commitment to the Roxbury Youth Program.
- A ParCom member expressed that the idea to go back to only last year's previous donors may not be inclusive.

  The thinking was that the previous donors are already known to be on board
- What would the proposed fundraising program be? An event? One-to-one outreach?
  a. An update for the congregation
  b. A targeted letter campaign and one-on-one outreach
  c. Not an event per se. Too much going on!
- How many individual donors did you have last November? 61 households!

The chair thanked the group and shouted out how many of the group members are in attendance.

RR left the meeting. The next step: ParCom will provide guidance and will do a vote at a later time about a possible fundraising effort.

8:38 PM **Membership Categories Review** (Marie)

The Parish Committee discussed a potential proposed overhaul of membership categories, following an ad hoc task force's review of Realm, our membership database, records over the summer. The main driver is accuracy: First Parish is currently between UUA size classifications (Size C/D), and correct membership counts matter for that determination.

Key points:

- **New "on hold" category proposed**: Members placed on hold would lose voting rights but could rejoin later. The clerk reviewed the current bylaws-based process for handling "inactive members" and cautioned the Parish Committee that, to date, people enjoy being able to choose their category and level of activity.
- **"Visitor"/"friend" category needs a clear definition** — a linked document outlined proposed new categories for review.
- **UUA counting rules**: Only members count toward the congregation's size; friends/visitors do not. There's no per-member fee from the UUA.
- **Pledge/donation expectations**: The bylaws call for a pledge or donation from members, and the Parish Committee will need to communicate this expectation more clearly to the congregation. The bylaws explicitly state that there is an “expectation,” and not a requirement.
- **Mismatch problem**: Rev. Erica noted some people are members "on paper" but inactive, while others are active non-members — the goal is to address both directions.
- **Urgency**: Since only members can vote on the next lead minister, education and outreach on membership need to happen soon, with frontloading/congregational communication before formal changes.

Other notes:

- Dorothy Anger joined the meeting as an observer and was welcomed by the chair.
- Next steps: discuss outreach timing/approach at the October ParCom meeting, and separately explore ways to encourage active non-members to formalize membership.

Remaining agenda items were deferred to offline discussion rather than an executive session, due to time constraints.

Leadership / roles -

- The chair requested recommendations for some roles such as Treasurer for May 2027 and Clerk for October 25, 2026. Carolyn Hodges has her six years as Treasuer ending in the spring. Joanna Pushee submitted her resignation in August for the fall.

- Stewardship is another big committee that the Parish Committee is looking at for more members to step up and help out to drive the stewardship campaign in the spring.
- Leadership Development / LDC also needs more people.

Engage: Amy is working with the Membership Committee and the office staff to do another round of Engage. The Membership Committee will support Engage for September and October.

MOTION 4: I move that we adjourn. (Amy) Seconded (Kate). 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

9:12 **Adjourn**

MOTIONS:

MOTION 1: I move to accept the updated budget with the proposed lowering that reflects the UUA Annual Program Fee. (Al T.) Seconded (Ellen R.). 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.
MOTION 2: I move to accept the consent agenda. (Kate T.) Seconded (Amy S.) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.
MOTION 3: I move that we approve the LAA with the recent edits as written. (John Shriver) Seconded (Marie Meteer) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.
MOTION 4: I move that we adjourn. (Amy) Seconded (Kate). 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

Minutes prepared by First Parish clerk Joanna Pushee.

Interim Lead Minister's Report
September 15 - October 16, 2026

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong
First Parish UU in Arlington, Massachusetts

The energy was palpable for our Ingathering service, with engaging participation in our cherished Water Communion ritual and Rev. Erica preaching a powerful sermon on building a case for worship. This was followed by a Yom Kippur service where we also introduced the draft/proposed Covenant of Right Relations to the congregation. We received a lot of positive feedback from members of our congregation who identify as Jewish that it was meaningful for them to have their identities acknowledged. We also had a good turnout (215 total) for Ferry Beach Sunday even though there were threats of a Nor'Easter. The folks at Ferry Beach also had their own service led by Rev. Erica (including a 4 minute service for the no-talent show). We are pleased to welcome back Rev. Carolyn Patierno as our sabbatical minister in Rev. Erica's absence. Along with 21C, her first Sunday back was a hit!

Office:

- Ebiere, Rev. Stevie, and Ellen (ParCom rep) met with the School for their quarterly check-in meeting on 9/15. Two issues emerged as areas of concern: reactivating the extermination plan on our side (which has been done) and changing cleaning hours to Monday morning (Ebiere is working this out with Moulaz) and Wednesday morning (done).
- Office staff continues to experience overwhelm.
- Ebiere has been communicating quite a bit with Quickbooks to work out details regarding timesheet and paid time off tracking.
- Ebiere continues to work on researching a more cost-efficient internet plan.
- Allison has a new system up and running to sync with the lobby monitor with all the events/activities during the week.

Heritage

-

Leadership

- Working on forming a revived Stewardship Committee with Amy Speare

Connection

- Continued to be in regular contact with Hilary Allen and mentor Rev. Joel Miller

Mission/Vision

-

Future

- Kay/Lois from Transition Team interviewed staff regarding our roles for Staffing Structure conversations. Rev. Stevie, Rev. Carolyn & Rev. Jonipher attended workshop on 10/4

Conflict & Trust

- Continue to preach on Covenant of Right Relations

Interdependently Yours,
Rev. Jonipher



Key upcoming dates:

10/13-11/6	Small Group Discussions re: Search
11/8	Covenant Discussion
11/10	Financial Roundtable
11/21	Harvest Moon Fair

Attendance:

Date	Total	Preacher	Title
9/20	230	Rev. Jonipher	“Beginning Again in Love”
9/27	215	Rev. Jonipher	“Secrets and Lies”
10/4	215	Rev. Carolyn	“Two Storms or You’re Never Alone”
10/11	160	Rev. Jonipher	“The Center and the Margins”

Pastoral care provided:

Office/Home visit: 5

Staff and Lay Leadership support provided:

Appointments with lay leaders regarding projects and committee work: 5

Committee meetings attended:

- *Worship Associates: 10/12*
- *ParCom Exec:* 9/22. 10/13
- *Transition Team:* 9/17, 10/8
- *Clergy Advisory Group:* 10/12
- *ParCom regular meeting:* 9/15
- *HR Meetings:* 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/13, 10/15

Weekly individual meetings:

- *Parish Minister:* Rev. Erica Richmond/Rev. Carolyn
- *MRE:* Rev. Stevie Carmody
- *Music Director:* Dr. Daniel Parsley
- *Office Manager:* Ebiere Omoregie

Community and Denominational Activities

- *Town Day: 9/19*
- *UU Minister's Association Chapter Retreat: 10/15*
- *Individual meeting with UU ministerial colleagues:* 3

Religious Education Report

Parish Committee Meeting – October 20th, 2026

Submitted by Rev. Stevie Carmody, Minister of Religious Education, on October 17th, 2026.

Dear Parish Committee,



Time for All Ages with Voices 21C

When Voices 21C came to help lead worship October 4th, they offered a rich, multi-part Time for All Ages, asking the children & everyone to contemplate conflicts with those we love and care for. What so impressed me that day was how tuned in our kids were, meeting the visiting musicians in a heartfelt exploration of poetry & song (all the while, sprawled out on pillows, no less). Our kids are listening, absorbing, and have something to say!

In the Religious Education Committee meeting, I've recently introduced the idea (from religious educator Maria Harris) of the "explicit," "implicit," & "null" curricula children experience in a congregation: *what we say directly to kids, what we convey through how we do things, and what we suggest by what's not mentioned*. The concept can be a helpful analytical tool. As we spend time looking closely at our congregation this year, may we bring our attention to the messages we impart to our young people (and really, everyone)!

Warmly, Rev. Stevie

Sunday Morning Programs

Sunday Morning Program Update

By September 20th, our teaching teams were trained, and Fall Term was off!

Our Nursery has had between one and four baby/toddlers this Fall, which has been a nice consistency! Thanks to our Nursery Assistants **Lia McDonald Meteer** and **Lauren McNeill** extending a welcoming and steady presence for our youngest!

In the **Pre-K** room, **Carol Lewis, Amy Hadley**, and **Katie Limb** have been navigating lower attendance, and also the introduction of a new curriculum from the UUA's Woven Faith curriculum initiative! In this inventive curriculum, the kids get a gift from a churchmouse named Ellery (e.g. a parachute, a ball of yarn, etc) that helps them explore some theme (e.g. Interdependence). We hope for a few more folks to help this come alive, but we have veteran teachers who adapt very well!

In **Grade K/1**, our teaching team of **Ellen Kloss** and **Zibi Kloss** are doing an exceptional job leading our "Rainbow Connection" classes, which help explore the core values of Unitarian Universalism, beginning with "Each Person Is Important".



Grade 2/3 builds a sukkah.

In **Grade 2/3,** the class will be spending the whole year learning about different religions and cultures through an exploration of different "Holidays and Holy Days". Led by **David Desjardins** and **Jen Baxter** in the Fall Term, the group has had the opportunity to learn about Sukkot and Wampanoag Harvest festival.

In **Grade 4/5,** teachers **Jerry Silberman** and **Julie Kenerson** are quite ably leading this inquisitive group with an exploration of the "Stories from the Hebrew Bible". The group has taken on The Garden of Eden and Cain & Abel so far.

In **Grade 6/7**, the "Neighboring Faiths" group, led by **Peter Heller** and **Eric Segal**, has focused on Abrahamic religions for the Fall. They've learned about Judaism with a visit to Temple Shir Tikvah in Winchester on the second weekend in October. Fundamentalist & mainline Protestant Christianity is next. The group is both expanding their religious studies know-how, and sharpening their value of pluralism and being a good guest to other communities and cultures.



Visit to Shabbat Services at Temple Shir Tikvah in Winchester



Watching the Ferry Beach surf.

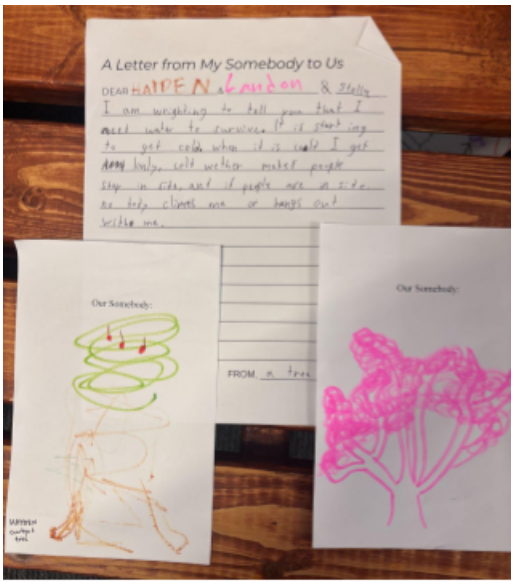
Ferry Beach Weekend

Sunday September 27th was the culmination of **Ferry Beach Weekend**, so our program was split between Maine's shoreline, and First Parish's meetinghouse. Ferry Beach is a welcoming place for families: 24 children and 14 youth attended with their parents! The inter-grade and intergenerational friendships that are made possible with the extended time on retreat together are invaluable. The level of comfort and support young people feel is evidenced by their many performances in the Talent / No-Talent Show. Rev. Erica took special care to incorporate the leadership of young people in her Sunday morning worship. Read more about the weekend in the Youth section.

Back at First Parish, Rev. Stevie led an All-Together program that was a scavenger hunt of the Parish House.

All-Together: Indigenous People's Weekend

On October 11th, Grade K-7 were All-Together to celebrate Indigenous People's Weekend. As part of that observance, the large group engaged in a program (designed by Rev. Stevie & Bella) that focused on perspective-taking and attention to Nature. The group learned the skill of a Senses Meditation (5-4-3-2-1), and then applied it, in partners, to imagining what a piece of nature might see, hear, feel, smell, and taste. Some interesting letters, from that nature "Somebody", were written back to the human participants! It was an inventive, inter-grade, and engaging session.



Group letters from a piece of nature to humans.

Evening Programs

Middle School OWL Program

Our OWL cohort, co-facilitated in rotation by **Rev. Stevie, Lidia Pruente (Kahal B'raira) & Bella Jaffe**, is back in session, engaging topics around Internet Safety,

Relationship Skills, and Bystander responsibilities. The eighth graders will continue workshops until they wrap up in December.

Youth Program



Youth leaders facilitate Parent Orientation

The Youth Group opened the new church year with a full room and a lot of momentum. Twelve **new members** have joined this fall, most of them freshmen, alongside 12 returning Youth Groupers, and new faces are still arriving each week. Twenty-one youth came to the first Youth Group on September 13th, which followed the year's first YAC meeting and a Parent Orientation for new families.

From September 25th to 27th, the group traveled to **Ferry Beach** for a Survivor-themed fall retreat. The weekend included a sandcastle competition, an obstacle course, a Talent/No Talent show, and a kids-versus-adults soccer game that the kids won. Zibi was crowned Sole Survivor! Coming so early in the year, the retreat gave new and returning members a chance to bond quickly.



Youth Group takes on a team blindfold challenge at Ferry Beach

Youth leadership is strong this fall. **Trileaders Lydia, Lauren, and Sean** have planned weekly programming full of community-building games. Youth Chaplain Arthur led a thoughtful Chaplainii Training on October 4th, preparing youth to offer emotional support to their peers. The youth are also making real decisions about what they take on. This year, the group is continuing its partnership with UU Mass Action's Youth Corps, and both the Racial Justice Coordinating Committee and the Indigenous Justice Working Group have reached out about collaborating with the youth.

The **Service Trip Committee** has begun planning this year's trip. After a date vote, the trip will take place in late June or early July. K. has researched a shortlist of seven possible trips within a day's drive of Arlington, ranging from rural home repair in Appalachia to food security work in Williamson, West Virginia, homelessness and hunger work in Washington, D.C., and environmental justice in Pittsburgh. The committee will review the options and choose the destination together.

The group also welcomes a new Adult Advisor, **Logan Castrucci**!

On October 16th–17th, the group holds its first **Lock-In** of the year, where the youth elected two Freshmen Reps to YAC.

Looking ahead, the Settled Search Committee will hold a **Listening Circle** with the youth on October 25th, and the Service Trip Committee will make its final decision on a destination by November 1st. K. is grateful to begin another year with this growing, thoughtful group of young people!

Religious Education Numbers

Note: Averages for "Total Served" (morning plus evening programs) & "Sunday Morning" exclude holiday weekends.

	Total served	*Sunday morning*	*Notes*	Nursery	Pre-K	Grades K-7 (comb'd)	*Other	K/1	2/3	4/5	6/7	OWL	COA	Youth Group
avg	60	32		2	1			5	8	6	10	11	-	17
9/13	68	*37*	*Combined welcome back program, YG picnic*	4	3	30	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	21
9/20	58	*28*		1	1	-	-	4	9	4	9	12	-	18
9/27	58	*35*	*Other & Youth Group = Ferry Beach retreat*	1	0	10	24	-	-	-	-	10	-	13
10/4	63	*33*		1	1	-	-	6	7	7	11	10	-	20
10/11	29	*18*	*Holiday weekend, combined program, no OWL*	2	1	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
10/18	53	*26*	*YG Lock-in (Fri)*	1	1	-	-	2	4	7	11	11	-	16

Religious Education Committee

The Religious Education Committee–**Kat Cass (chair), Brianna Walsh (treasurer), Eric Breck, Lauren Newton, & Cathy Slesnick**–have been working on several projects to help sustain and enhance our religious education program, and think about how it fits into the wider congregation. They've looked into possible opportunities to further integrate teens into Sunday morning happenings, and considered ways to streamline our welcome of new families on their eventual way to membership in our congregation.

Of special note, continuing work begun last program year, the committee (espeically Lauren Newton) has created a hymnal card with some language about welcoming children in our Sunday morning worship. They are currently seeking input from the Ushers and Worship Associates on the effort, before finalizing and producing it.

Furthermore, with the help of Allison in the office, the RE Committee and Staff have introduced a new symbol (to be used on printed materials and on the screen in the lobby), that denotes if an event is designed for All Ages and/or has free childcare available. Hopefully, this can become a useful cue for more parent involvement, especially during a busy governance year at First Parish!



This symbol denotes that a program is All-Ages or has free childcare available.

STAR Committee

Our STAR Committee–**Kate Lenox, Maureen Dolan, Steph Miserlis, Sue Sheffler, & Mary Cummings**–have been both preparing for many adult program opportunities, and also building some more capacity by doing some committee recruiting.

STAR supported the **Postcards & Pizza** voter mailing night, alongside Defending Democracy, in early October–great turn-out in the Vestry. Additionally, the **Mussar** cohort has launched this fall (25 participants!), with the support of STAR & Rev. Stevie, and under the leadership of Bonnie Zimmer.

STAR has several program offerings in its sights in the near and long term: an upcoming walk in Mt Auburn Cemetery, some classes on making preparations for death in the new year, and a retreat in May at Bethany House.