



# The eBulletin

April 10, 2025  
A weekly newsletter

Worship in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and online  
~~ Sunday at 10am ~~

## "Here We Have Gathered"

Rev. Tricia Brennan, Adjunct Minister, preaching  
Sunday, April 13, 2025, at 10am



We will sing that familiar hymn this Sunday, as over twenty new members are welcomed into First Parish. Rev. Tricia Brennan will reflect on what it means to join a faith community: how one joins a particular congregation with a history and a future, how one joins a particular faith tradition, Unitarian Universalism at this moment in time. What it means to be open to being changed, all of us.

(image: Mid Summer Nights Gathering, [Laurie Justice Pace](#))

Join us in the sanctuary or [online!](#) View the Order of Service [Here](#)



## Easter Sunday at First Parish

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Lead Minister, preaching  
Sunday April 20, 2025, at 10am at the Meetinghouse and on  
Zoom

On Easter Sunday Lead Minister Rev. Marta Flanagan will offer the sermon.

During worship children pre-K to grade 6 will enjoy easter egg hunts and then return to the sanctuary for a sharing of matzah and grape juice with the entire congregation.

As in the past, communion will be offered during our Easter service. First Parish has no creedal tests for involvement. Our communion is an open table. All are welcome. We each bring our own interpretations of the sharing of bread and wine. Our blessings will be translations of the Hebrew spoken every Friday Shabbat in Jewish homes. In keeping with Passover, the elements of our communion will be matzah and grape juice.

**NOTE:** The Town of Arlington has a Revolutionary War reenactment scheduled for Easter Sunday. **Starting at 1pm on Sunday, Massachusetts Avenue and surrounding side streets will be closed to all traffic.** Partial road closures could impact your ability to leave First Parish starting at 12:00pm - please plan

## Religious Education News

Spring Term continues, with grade-based religious education programming for Pre-K through Grade 7.

Sunday evening: Youth group, COA, and OWL meet as usual (fourth workshop).

§

Visit the 2024-25 religious education calendar.

## Calendar

Apr 11: [Alliance Program: Jorge Arnesto](#)  
 Apr 13: [Zoom Meditation](#)  
 Apr 13: [Worship Service](#)  
 Apr 14: [Spirit Talks](#)  
 Apr 14: [In-Person Meditation](#)  
 Apr 14: [Activism that Works](#)  
 Apr 15: [Lectio Divina](#)  
 Apr 15: [Diversity Book Club](#)  
 Apr 16: [Lectio Divina](#)  
 Apr 17: [Lectio Divina](#)  
 Apr 17: [Older Men's Lunch](#)  
 Apr 18: [Mussar Spiritual Practice](#)

## Alliance Program: Justice, Compassion, and Freedom

**THIS Friday, April 11th, 7:30 PM, Vestry and Zoom.**

Tomorrow night Forensic Psychologist, Jorge Arnesto, and Alliance Program co-chair, Rachel Lewellen, will talk about Justice, Compassion and Freedom. Join at 7:30 in the Vestry or on Zoom.

[Join Zoom](#)

## Activism That Works

**Monday, April 14th, 7:00 PM, Vestry.** Many of us feel motivated to do something to address the ongoing challenges to immigrants, the environment, health care, voting rights, women's rights, etc.— but what? First Parish members and long-time activists, Betsy Leondar-Wright and Anne Wright will share five criteria for what makes public action effective. You'll leave with ideas for action steps to protect whatever you value most about this country. This interactive event is co-sponsored by STAR and the Defending Democracy group. RSVPs appreciated but not required: [STAR@firstparish.info](mailto:STAR@firstparish.info).

## Join in the Annual "Peep Fair" Fun!

**NEXT Sunday, April 20th, Vestry.** Join the First Parish 2025 Peep Fair on Sunday, April 20! It's time to bring out the boxes, the paints, and the glue; the glitter, the fabric – oh the things you can do! Please join us this year for a First Parish sticky tradition, and create a Peep scene for the annual exhibition! Questions? Email [STAR@firstparish.info](mailto:STAR@firstparish.info).



## Conversations on Grieving in Community

**Tuesday, April 22nd, 7:00pm, Parlor.** Many of us are grieving a range of losses: the passing of family or friends, transitions in our community; major shifts in our country. Our views about grieving have a profound impact on how we navigate these losses in our lives. Join a conversation moderated by Michele Bograd, a certified end-of-life doula and psychologist. [Please register online at this link](#). Questions can be directed to [STAR@firstparish.info](mailto:STAR@firstparish.info).

## Annual Meeting 2025 - Save the Date!

**Sunday, May 18th, 12:00pm, Sanctuary and Zoom.** As we approach the latter part of the church year, we remind you of our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 18th, from 12:00 to 2:00pm, in the Sanctuary and broadcast on Zoom.

## Committee Summaries due May 2

Please note that Committee Summaries for the Annual Report are due by Friday, May 2nd. All reports should be submitted to the Office Manager, Ebiere, at [ebiere.omoregie@firstparish.info](mailto:ebiere.omoregie@firstparish.info). For

All members are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be served prior to the meeting, and childcare is available (sign up in advance for childcare by contacting [clerk@firstparish.info](mailto:clerk@firstparish.info)).

your reference, you can find the link to last year's report here: [2024-2025 Annual Report](#).

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to First Parish!

---

### Featured Group: Women Aging Well

**Thursday, April 24, 11:00am, Zoom.** Join our vibrant community of women over 50 as we explore the joys and challenges of aging together. Through discussions of a variety of topics we foster meaningful connections and learning from one another. April's topic: Meaningful Songs/Music in our Lives.

---

### Walking Tour of UU History in Boston

**Saturday, April 26, 11:00am, Old West Church.** Unitarians and Universalists were central to many of the most important events in Boston's history. You can learn about them in a 2-mile walking tour of Boston led by Eric Segal. Meet at 11:00am in front of the Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St in Boston. RSVP ahead of time to [segal.eric@gmail.com](mailto:segal.eric@gmail.com), and we can coordinate rides.



### A Book of Memories and Blessings for Marta

What will you contribute? Your letters, poems, essays, photos, and 2D art will be collected into a 12" x 12" scrapbook for Marta on her retirement. See Kate Tranquada at social hour, email [ktranquada@gmail.com](mailto:ktranquada@gmail.com), or [submit online](#). The deadline for submissions is May 17.

Rev. Marta Flanagan, our lead minister, is retiring in mid-June after serving First Parish for 16 years.

---

### Spring Clean-It / Fix-It Day - Help Keep First Parish Beautiful!

The entire First Parish community is invited to help out on the spring Clean-it/Fix-it day on **Saturday, May 3 from 9am-noon.**

Past days have included gardening, painting, cleaning and just general sprucing up around First Parish.

This is a great way to meet new people and make a difference~~we hope you will join us. All are welcome - no RSVP necessary. Come ready to roll up your sleeves and get dirty!

---

**Click on the link to learn more about these upcoming First Parish events:**

[Alliance Program](#), April 11

[Activism That Works](#), April 14

[Annual Easter Peep Fair](#), April 20

[Walking Tour of UU History](#), April 26

[Spring Clean It / Fix It Day](#), May 3

[Annual Meeting 2025](#), May 18

## Weekly or Bi-weekly

- **Lectio Divina:** *(Meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on Zoom.)* Lectio Divina is a method of reading and listening, lingering with, and sharing personal responses to selected biblical texts. Diverse responses to the text provide new insights and help us grow in our spiritual lives and set intentions for our daily lives.
- **Meditation Groups:** *Meets Sunday, 9am (Zoom); and Monday, 6pm (in person)* Beginners and experienced meditators are welcome. Please feel free to drop in whenever you like. For more information, or to be added to the list to receive each Zoom session's unique link, please email [meditation@firstparish.info](mailto:meditation@firstparish.info)
- **Bell ringer rehearsals:** Starting in September, we meet most Thursdays 8-9pm in the Sanctuary after choir rehearsal. All interested are welcome - being able to read music is helpful. Contact [ringers@firstparish.info](mailto:ringers@firstparish.info) for more details.
- **Spirit Talks:** Weekly discussions provide an opportunity for a small group to reflect together on a spiritual theme every Monday at 4pm. Email [spirittalk@firstparish.info](mailto:spirittalk@firstparish.info) to be added to the mailing list for Spirit Talk or just check us out by joining a discussion.
- **Wednesday Evening Chapel** Starting on September 11th and running through the end of January, we will gather on Zoom for Wednesday evening chapel. This is a 25 minute gathering of sharing, silence, poetry, and song. [Learn more.](#)
- **Men's Group** - Men of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to meet online, every other Sunday at 7pm to connect and support each other on our spiritual journeys. [Email](#) for the Zoom link.
- **Older Men's Lunch Group** continues to meet, on Zoom. Email [oldermen@firstparish.info](mailto:oldermen@firstparish.info) for more information. The sessions will be held at noon every other Thursday.

## Monthly

- **Covenant Groups** Each group meets once a month from September, 2024 through June, 2025. Through discussion of a monthly theme,
- **The Diversity Book Club** generally meets on the third Tuesday of *alternate* months. All are welcome, please join us to discuss our next title. Register by email [diversitybookclub@firstparish.info](mailto:diversitybookclub@firstparish.info)
- **Grief Support Group** Lay Ministry led support for individuals who have lost loved ones. The group generally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:30pm on Zoom.
- **Transition to Retirement.** You are welcome to this drop-in group that meets approximately once a month to provide support around the emotional (not financial) aspects of the retirement transition. Contact the Lay Ministry, [layministry@firstparish.info](mailto:layministry@firstparish.info), to receive the Zoom link.
- **Women Aging Well:** Join our vibrant community of women over 50 as we explore the joys and challenges of aging together. Through discussions of a variety of topics we foster meaningful connections and learning from one another. We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month from 11am to noon. Meetings may be on zoom or in person.
- **The Women's Alliance of First Parish** The Alliance is the women's organization in our church, with a mission to support the women in our congregation, and through that support to advance the interests and efforts of our entire church.
- **Women's Book Group** The women's book group meets the second Thursday of each month at 7pm, not including summer months. The May book selection is *1776* by David McCullough.

Get the  
"Workings"  
Booklet for  
2024 - 2025

## First Parish Playlist



Download  
Playlist

**SAVE THE DATE**

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
05	31	25

Retirement  
Celebration  
for  
Rev. Marta Flanagan

First Parish publishes events and news from our community. Click this banner to submit your news or event.

ABOUT

NEWS &  
EVENTS

WORSHIP &  
MUSIC

EDUCATION

CONNECT

Connect With Us



First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington MA | 630 Massachusetts Avenue | Arlington, MA  
02476 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)