



A WELCOMING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Come join us!

[Sunday Worship](#) at 11 am
(10 am during summer)

382 Walnut Street
Brookline, MA 02445-7563
617-566-1933

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First Time at First Parish?

We'd like to make your first visit to First Parish as easy as possible. Below is the information we think will be most useful for visitors. Feel free to email our [Membership Coordinator, April Trussell-Smith](#), if you have any other questions.

What is Unitarian Universalism?

For more information about us as Unitarian Universalists, check out our [7 principles and 6 sources](#), and [these videos](#). If you'd like more in depth information, please surf around [our website](#) and [our denomination's website](#). [The Belief-O-Matic quiz](#) is at least entertaining and at most a useful tool for discovering your religious fit.

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Where is First Parish?

Our address is 382 Walnut St, Brookline, MA. Detailed directions can be found [here](#).

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What time should I get there?

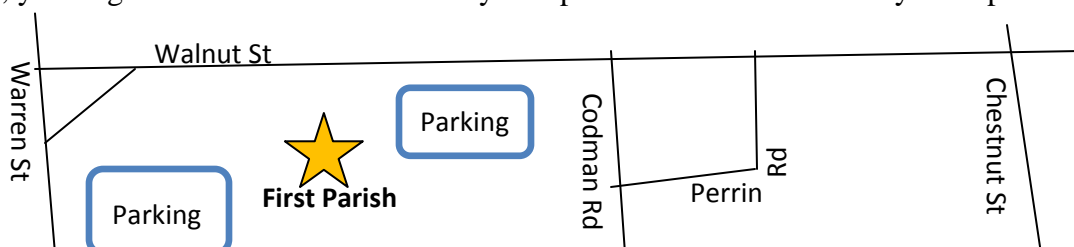
From September to mid-June our services are held in the [sanctuary](#) and begin at 11 am. Most people begin to arrive around 10:45 am, and we have a steady stream of arrivals until 11 am. You may want to allow about 5 extra minutes to account for [parking](#). [The choir](#) practices in the sanctuary between 9:30 am and 10:30 am. Feel free to come as early as you'd like to listen to them or to admire our [historic stained glass](#). During the summer months, we begin at 10 am in [Lyon Chapel](#). Most people will arrive for these services between 9:50 am and 9:55 am.

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Where should I park?

We have two very small parking lots, but most people end up parking on the street. We park along both Warren Street and Walnut Street (sometimes as far down as Chestnut Street). Our handicap accessible entrance is off Warren Street. If you are unable to walk long distances, we try to reserve some spots in the lots for you, but if you are concerned, you might want to arrive a little early. Drop offs at the door are always acceptable.

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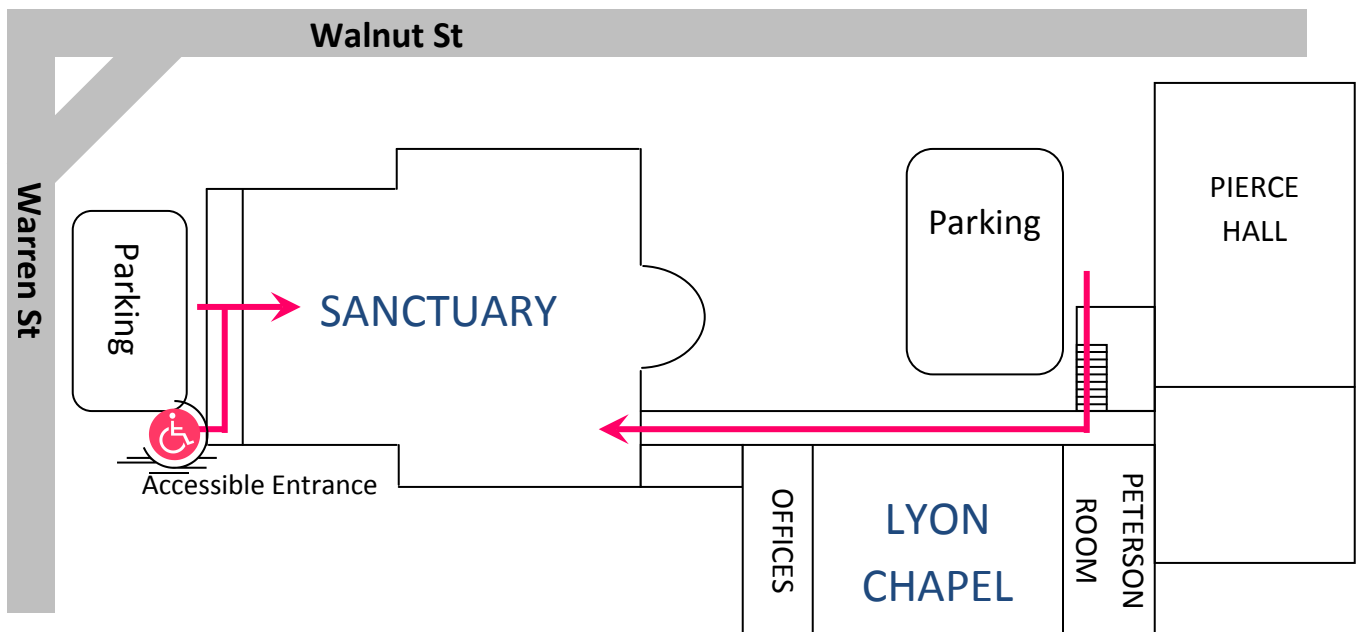
Why does the sanctuary look like a gothic cathedral?

If you are not new to Unitarian Universalism, you may find our building odd. The beautiful sanctuary with exposed rafters and intricate stained glass windows *was* built by the then Unitarian congregation of First Parish. You can read about the building's history [here](#) and about why we have stained glass [here](#). In any case, whether you love the building or hate it, don't judge us by our building. Our diverse theological views cannot be portrayed by architecture.

Where is the sanctuary?

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If you park on Warren Street or on the end of Walnut Street towards Warren Street, you'll probably enter through the Warren Street entrance, which leads directly into the sanctuary. This is our handicap accessible entrance. There is also an entrance off of Walnut Street towards Chestnut Street, which leads into the lower level of the building. If you use this door, climb the stairs and take a right at the top. Follow the hall, past Lyon Chapel, all the way to the end and into the sanctuary.



What should I wear?

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The simple answer to this question is "Whatever you like." When you get here, you'll see people in jeans and flip flops and people in suits and dresses and our ministers in robes and stoles. You should feel comfortable wearing whatever you like to wear.

Are your services and meetings handicap accessible?

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Our service and coffee hour are wheelchair accessible. Orders of service in large print and hearing assistance devices are available at the table near our handicap-accessible entrance. If you need any further accommodation, please email or call us in advance of your visit so that we can arrange to make your visit as event-free and comfortable as possible. Please also contact us after your visit if you feel that some of your needs were not addressed.

What will happen during the service?

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[Services](#) last about an hour and fifteen minutes and follow [this schedule](#). A typical service includes several readings, a unison [chalice lighting](#), a time of meditation, hymns and a [sermon by one of our ministers](#). Often, during a time we call Candles of Joy and Concern, we invite people to light a candle and share passages and milestones in their lives. While no one is required to participate, anyone is welcome to share. [When the children are with us](#), we may have a Time for All Ages during which children are invited to come forward for the telling of a story or singing of a song. Afterwards, we sing a song as they go to their [classes](#). Of course, another standard part of our service is the collection of the offering. As a visitor, please feel free to let the plate pass you by.

What will happen after the service?

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After the service, please join us for coffee hour which is usually held in [Lyon Chapel](#). Exit the sanctuary through the door to the side of the pulpit area. Be sure to speak to our ministers on your way out. Then, follow the crowd down the hall and Lyon Chapel will be the first door on your right. Pick up a striped mug when you get into the chapel. That way, our members will know that you are new and open to conversation. Help yourself to coffee, tea, milk, and water. Most weeks there are also light snacks provided.

Where will my children go during the service?

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We have trained, paid [nursery care](#) for the youngest children, but we also recognize that you may want to keep your baby with you. Two rocking chairs are provided in the sanctuary for parents' use. On most Sundays, children and youth start the service in the sanctuary with us. Some weeks, children will convene elsewhere. Be sure to check [here](#) for the children's worship schedule. For more information about youth programs, click [here](#). If your children will be attending [Religious Exploration \(Sunday School\)](#), please fill out a [registration form](#) to bring with you to help us maintain our safety standards. Also be sure to check the information about our [Junior Choir](#).

What should I expect as a visitor at First Parish?

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We won't make you stand up and introduce yourself. We won't make you participate in any parts of the service you don't want to participate in. We won't put pressure on you to do anything you don't want to do. We will greet you at the door with smiles and handshakes. We will ask you to wear a nametag, so we can all greet you by name. You should feel free to ask any of us who are not wearing nametags to put ours on as well. We will probably ask you to consider filling out a Visitor Welcome Card, so we can send you information about the church and our electronic newsletter.

Whom can I contact for more information?

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Membership Coordinator, April Trussell-Smith
Co-ministers, Martha Niebanck and Jim Sherblom
Religious Exploration Director, Anne Principe
Music Director, Danica Buckley
[More Contacts](#)

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