

## Getting To Know Arlington Street Church: An Insider's Guide

*Arlington Street Church, UU: Gathered in love and service for justice and peace*

*Welcome from Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie, Senior Minister*

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this thriving, vibrant congregation; we're so glad you've come!

Now that you've successfully navigated your way into the building, there are lots of nooks and crannies to explore. From our beautiful set of sixteen hand-rung bells high in the bell tower down to the kitchen where meals are prepared each Friday night for our hungry and homeless neighbors, we invite you to join us in living out our mission of love and service. In this guide, you will find points of connection both to the beloved community here and to the wider world. We hope you will avail yourselves of every opportunity to join us!

At Arlington Street, we strive to practice the theology of showing up, a spiritual practice of attention and presence in all that we do. Please feel free to use the contact information in this guide to learn more, or just show up! You are always welcome.

We look forward to joining you in your spiritual journey, building the road as we walk on it.

Faithfully yours,

*Kim*

### *Feeding the Mind, Body & Spirit*

#### Connections

Connections is Arlington Street Church's small group ministry. The program offers an intentional practice to help participants deepen the spiritual, intellectual, caring, and service aspects of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Connections groups bring people together across age, gender, ethnic, economic, sexual orientation and other differences, and offer a way for newer members to engage with our community. The groups of 6-10 participants include a trained facilitator. Most groups meet twice a month, and enrollment is open each September and January.

Web: [www.ascboston.org/programs/connections/](http://www.ascboston.org/programs/connections/)

### Gay Men's Spirituality

The ASC Gay Men's Spirituality (GMS) group meets monthly in the Chapel for fellowship and discussion of themes and topics both spiritual and personal. There are also occasional social events such as GMS movie outings. The group opens to new members at three select points in the year, and is otherwise closed to help foster deeper connection among its members.

Contact: gms@ASCBoston.org or phone the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10

### Buddha's Belly Book Group

The Buddha's Belly reading group meets twice monthly to discuss issues of spiritual practice from a Buddhist perspective. Members come from many different faith traditions and religious practices. The group has discussed works by Jack Kornfield, Sharon Salzberg, Pema Chödrön, Sylvia Boorstein, Shunryu Suzuki, and others. New members are always welcome. To learn what we are reading currently, please contact the church office (see below).

The reading group is immediately followed by the Arlington Street Zen Center.

Meeting times: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 6:00 – 7:00pm

Contact: the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or office@ASCBoston.org

### The Wednesdays Literary Salon

Keats and Shelly had “The Tuesdays;” Arlington Street has “The Wednesdays!” “The Wednesdays” provides our congregation with courses devoted to literature, always on Wednesday evenings and usually on four consecutive weeks. This literary salon is led by Alan Helms, Professor of English Emeritus at U Mass/Boston. Previous courses include the Short Story, Robert Frost, memoir, Dante's "Inferno," Emily Dickinson, "The Odyssey," T. S. Eliot, Whitman, and four Shakespeare plays. Upcoming courses: Chekov's short stories, four Shakespeare tragedies, four short novels, and "Poetry, Of Course!"

Contact: the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or office@ASCBoston.org

### Young Adult Group

The Young Adult Group was formed to create a space for young adults to socialize and come together, to help young adults be more involved in the general life of the church, and to make new young adults coming into Arlington Street Church feel welcome.

Young adults can be found during church services sitting in the first two pews on the left side of the aisle. The group usually meets for lunch after church on Sundays. Other

activities include, but are not limited to, circle worships, group outings, and community service work.

Young adults are loosely defined as anyone between the ages of 18 and 35, but all who consider themselves young adults are welcome. The group communicates through a listserv at Yahoo Groups. Join by visiting [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASC\\_YA/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASC_YA/join).

Contact: the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or [office@ASCBoston.org](mailto:office@ASCBoston.org)

### Outdoors Club

The Arlington Street Outdoors Club (ASOC) was formed to provide outdoor opportunities for members and nonmembers. Coming together and enjoying the vast beauty of nature as an extension of the ASC community is the club's goal.

**Meetings:** Trips are planned monthly. Examples of ASOC events include hiking, backpacking, kayaking/canoeing, biking, and workshops pertinent to the enjoyment of the outdoors. Any ASOC member can plan an event.

Contact: [outdoors@ASCBoston.org](mailto:outdoors@ASCBoston.org) or the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10

### Spiritual Practice for Professional Caregivers

A small group of helping professional gathers monthly for conversation, singing, meditation, and writing practice. Membership in this group is by invitation. For more information, contact the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or [office@ASCBoston.org](mailto:office@ASCBoston.org).

### ***Hospitality***

#### Ushers

Sunday morning ushers' duties include greeting people coming in to worship, distributing orders of service, collecting the offering, and counting the number in attendance. There is a head usher for each week, who recruits from the usher pool. New ushers are always welcome, and it's a great way for newer congregants to get involved.

Contact: the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or [office@ASCBoston.org](mailto:office@ASCBoston.org)

### ASWelcome

ASWelcome volunteers work to make Arlington Street Church a friendly place by greeting worshippers on Sunday mornings and mingling during coffee hour. More smiling faces are always needed!

Contact: Susan Thomas, director of communication and programs, at  
SThomas@ASCBoston.org or 617-536-7050 x13 to volunteer.  
Sandwich Board

Volunteers for the Sandwich Board meet early on Sunday mornings to prepare sandwiches (and other food) to sell during coffee hour to the Arlington Street Church community. Food is love! And many hands make light work. Join us!

Contact: The church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or office@ASCBoston.org

#### Mary Mae Birthday Cake Committee

Each month, Arlington Street Church celebrates the month's birthdays with a festive cake during coffee hour. Bakers are always needed for this committee, named for a beloved, long-time birthday cake baker.

Contact: Dan Moon, chair, through the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or office@ASCBoston.org

#### *Changing the World*

#### Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee (SAC) welcomes and supports anyone who would like to work with Arlington Street Church to address a social justice issue and who has the energy and ideas to help make that happen. This could be done through providing a letter for the SAC table, forming a task force, or creating an educational event or action. The committee has worked on issues such as voting rights, Only a Child (see below), racial justice and women's rights. Join us!

Meetings: the first Sunday of every month, 9:30 am

Location: the Clarke Room on the third floor.

Contact: Peter Lowber, chair at SocialAction@ASCBoston.org, or phone the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10

#### Green Sanctuary Committee

A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable lifestyle for its members as individuals and as a faith community. The committee seeks to build awareness of societal environmental issues; to generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes; to motivate Unitarian Universalists to community action on environmental issues; to build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness; and to build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.

Meetings: the first Sunday of each month  
Contact: Marilyn Castriotta at [green@ASCBoston.org](mailto:green@ASCBoston.org) or phone the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10

### New Orleans Partner Church Coordinating Committee

The Partner Church Coordinating Committee (PC3) coordinates the efforts of the churches that have chosen to partner with First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans (First Church). The committee's goals are: to coordinate and assign tasks to partner churches; to facilitate ongoing communication between First Church and the partner churches; to identify leadership for and work with the ASC partner church group.

Contact: [NewOrleans@ASCBoston.org](mailto:NewOrleans@ASCBoston.org) or the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10

### Friday Night Supper Program

Since 1984, the Friday Night Supper Program has served over one million helpings of nutritious home-cooked meals to homeless and hungry people in Boston. The organization provides meals in a safe and dignified environment every Friday night from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. New volunteers are welcome after attending a mandatory, one-hour orientation.

Contact: 617-536-7050 ext. 22 or [info@FridayNightSupper.org](mailto:info@FridayNightSupper.org)

### Only a Child

Only a Child was created by Arlington Street Church member George Leger in 1994 to serve the needs of homeless youth living on the crime- and poverty-ridden streets of Guatemala City. Only a Child now operates a group home offering a surrogate family to former street kids, as well as a carpentry shop that is staffed and managed by the young people in the program. Only a Child also offers a variety of educational opportunities to give participants every possible chance to lead productive and meaningful lives.

Contact: 617-848-8940; Outside the Boston area: 1-888-593-0083  
Email [info@onlyachild.org](mailto:info@onlyachild.org)  
[www.onlyachild.org](http://www.onlyachild.org)

## ***Spiritual Life & Rites of Passage***

For more info on any of these worship offerings, contact the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or [office@ASCBoston.org](mailto:office@ASCBoston.org)

### Sunday morning worship

Each and every Sunday morning since November 15, 1725, our congregation (or, more accurately, an incarnation of our congregation!) has gathered to worship. Currently in our fourth meeting house, we continue that tradition, a historic congregation with a progressive spirit. We gather at 11:00. Our dress is not fancy, but our ideals are. You can expect wonderful people; beautiful music, both performed and sung; an uplifting, challenging sermon; time for quiet meditation; and the opportunity to give back to the community and to the world. An attended nursery is adjacent to the sanctuary, and church school meets as the adults worship (joining us for the early part of the service with some regularity). Following the service, we meet and greet downstairs in the parish hall over coffee and refreshments. If you're so inclined, afternoon classes and events carry on into the evening.

### Arlington Street Zen Center

Two evenings a month of meditation practice, led by Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie, Senior Minister. The center is open to all practitioners, aspiring and seasoned. Each session includes *zazen* (seated meditation in your seat of choice, from full lotus posture on a cushion to those who prefer a chair with their feet on the floor) and *kinhin* (walking meditation). We walk outside in all but the very worst weather; please dress accordingly (alternatively, you can choose the "inside" option). There is also a *dharma* talk (Buddhist teachings), and conversation. The Zen Center always follows the Buddha's Belly Book Group.

Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

### Spiritual Passions

Each Sunday afternoon, from January into April, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, different members of the congregation will introduce you to their spiritual passion. Past years' offerings have included conscious eating, music, meditation, journaling, Reiki, and more. Try something new! No registration necessary; all are welcome.

### Life Transitions: Weddings, Child Dedications, Memorial Services

Longtime Arlington Street member Phyllis Richter reminds us that, whatever transition you are facing, "everyone needs a church." Please call the church office to speak with one of the ministers; to speak to our facilities manager to schedule your event in our sanctuary or chapel; and/or to be connected with other members of the community who have

experienced a similar joy or sorrow, and are on hand to support you as they have been supported here.

### ***Lifespan Religious Education***

#### **Children's Religious Education (CRE)**

The CRE program at Arlington Street Church provides a community where children are enthusiastically welcomed and where diversity is celebrated. The program honors the Jewish and Christian traditions but also celebrates wisdom from the world's religions, and is also guided by humanist teachings about the use of reason, the development of individual conscience, and the results of science.

Children are welcome to join the CRE program any time. Just come by the Perkins Room before church to drop off your children and you can meet the staff and volunteers.

Nursery care is available for babies and toddlers near the sanctuary, and you can hear the worship service going on next door.

The Parent Council meets every other to provide input and feedback about your child's religious education experiences. For example, decisions are made about the curriculum chosen for each year, social events are planned, childcare is provided and the meeting starts with a potluck lunch for all ages.

Contact: Erik Dupree, religious educator, at [EDupree@ASCBoston.org](mailto:EDupree@ASCBoston.org) or 617-536-7050 ext. 12

#### **ASCenter – adult religious education**

Specific offerings, dates, and times are announced in **INSIDE**, our weekly bulletin, and through Snapshot, our e-mail publication. Classes are led by our ministers, religious educator, ministerial interns, and members and friends of the congregation. If you are interested in offering or suggesting a class or event, contact Susan Thomas at [SThomas@ASCBoston.org](mailto:SThomas@ASCBoston.org) or 617-536-7050 ext. 13.

### ***Music***

For more information about our Adult Choir; Artist-In-Residence Program; and Concert Series, visit us on the Web or contact our Director of Music, Mark Buckles.

Web: [www.ascboston.org/music](http://www.ascboston.org/music)

Contact: Mark Buckles, director of music, at [MBuckles@ASCBoston.org](mailto:MBuckles@ASCBoston.org) or 617-536-7050 ext. 19

## ***Committees & Governance***

### Prudential Committee (“The Pru”): our governing board

The Pru is comprised of nine members elected by the congregation to serve three-year terms. This committee is charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the church, including membership, finances, long-range planning, program offering and is also responsible for leading efforts to call, hire and manage ministerial and administrative staff. Meetings of the Pru are open for anyone to attend.

Meets: the third Tuesday of each month, except August, 6:00 pm

Location: The Perkins Room

Contact: prudential@ASCBoston.org or phone the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10

### Human Resources Committee

The HR Committee conducts the annual evaluation of the senior minister, in consultation with the Pru; consults with the senior minister regarding organizational development issues such as workplace culture, staff roles and responsibilities, staff development, strategic and long-range planning; reviews and recommends to the Pru personnel policies; reviews job descriptions and salary increase proposals and adjustments; advises the senior minister on setting appropriate goals for all staff, and provides periodic consultation on staff members' goals.

Contact: The church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or office@ASCBoston.org

### Jubilee Committee

Jubilee is Arlington Street's generosity initiative, through which the congregation donates money and service through volunteerism, advocacy, witness, education and mentorship. Jubilee operates within a framework which is approved annually by the congregation, and the Jubilee Committee is made up of representatives from the following groups: the Prudential Committee, the Finance Committee, the Social Action Committee, the Young Adults, the Member Relations Committee, as well as two at-large members of the congregation, elected at the annual meeting. The senior minister is an ex-officio member of the committee.

Contact: Jubilee@ASCBoston.org or phone the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10



### Church Council

The Council is charged with bridging communication between committees, as well as developing and supporting leadership for those committees. The Council meets three to four times a year, and is comprised of representatives from each of the committees, as well as the moderator and the membership and leadership coordinator.

Contact: Karl Paulnack, chair, at [Council@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Council@ASCBoston.org) or phone the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10

### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating members of the Prudential Committee, the Nominating Committee, and Jubilee Committee; the moderator, vice-moderator, treasurer, and clerk; and delegates to Mass Bay District of the UUA, the UUA's General Assembly, and the UU Urban Ministry. These positions are then elected by the general membership at quarterly Corporation Meetings. Nominations from the floor are also permitted.

Contact: The church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or [office@ASCBoston.org](mailto:office@ASCBoston.org)

### Worship Committee

The Worship Committee meets with the ministers to plan Sunday services as well as additional opportunities for worship throughout the week. Their goal is to ensure excellent worship at ASC.

Meets: First Tuesday of each month, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Contact: [Worship@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Worship@ASCBoston.org) or the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10

### Building Committee

Members of the Building Committee are the congregational stewards of our material surroundings here at Arlington Street Church. The Committee takes on projects large and small, from the periodic all-volunteer dusting of the Sanctuary or de-junking and painting of useful hidden spaces, to once-in-a-century capital projects like restoration of the steeple structure or of the Sanctuary interior. The Committee also holds occasional “Work Parties” where the entire congregation and friends are invited to participate in various “spruce up” operations, in exchange for free pizza, camaraderie, and the satisfaction of a manual task accomplished communally. New committee members are welcome, particularly people with prior experience in architectural preservation, construction management, facility maintenance, or any of the building trades.

Contact: [Building@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Building@ASCBoston.org) or the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10

### Finance Committee

The Finance Committee works with ASC's Business Administrator and our elected Treasurer to oversee ASC's operating budget and endowment. In addition, the committee drafts the proposed operating budget for each coming year and provides recommendations to the Prudential Committee on fiscal and liability matters.

Meets: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Perkins Room  
Contact: the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or office@ASCBoston.org

### UU Affairs Committee

The UU Affairs Committee offers an opportunity to learn more about the activities of the Unitarian Universalist Association, our own Massachusetts Bay District, and what happens at General Assembly, the annual national gathering of Unitarian Universalists. Representatives of the UU Service Committee and the UU Urban Ministry also tell us of their activities.

Meets: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.  
Contact: The church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or office@ASCBoston.org

### Safe Congregation Committee

An urban congregation, more than any other spiritual community, attracts people who may need special support or restrictions on their behavior. The Safe Congregation Committee is a group of three Arlington Street members – a minister, a psychotherapist, and a social worker – who convene, as needed, to work with our senior minister to insure the appropriate social conduct of these people, and the safety and security of all Arlington Street members and friends. The Safe Congregation Committee appreciates knowing of other helping professionals in our midst, whom they may call upon as resources for the support and successful integration of people with special needs into the life of the congregation.

Contact: the church office at 617-536-7050 ext. 10 or office@ASCBoston.org

### ***Membership***

What does membership in a congregation mean? One minister in the Unitarian Universalist Association has likened membership to the difference between staying in a hotel and having your own place: by joining the congregation, you are indicating that ASC is your spiritual home.

Membership also signifies a reciprocal commitment between the individual member and the institution. Members are responsible for the stewardship of the organization, and are entitled to vote on congregational issues and for elected officers. Members can also expect

pastoral care in times of crisis, and may take on leadership roles as chairs of committees or members of the Prudential Committee, our governing board.

### Membership Requirements

Our bylaws require the following steps to become a member of the congregation:

- Make a commitment—a pledge—to support Arlington Street Church financially. (See Covenant Renewal below.)
- Make a verifiable contribution toward that pledge
- Sign the membership book
- Be formally voted into the membership by the congregation

### New Member Workshops

Designed for people considering membership at Arlington Street Church, this class is offered in several different formats to meet various scheduling needs. During the class, you will:

- Share personal religious or spiritual journeys
- Learn about the history and traditions of Unitarian Universalism and Arlington Street Church
- Hear about how you can become involved in ASC
- Expand your circle of friends in the church

We invite you to join us! For the current workshop schedule or to sign up, contact Susan Thomas, director of communication and programs at [SThomas@ASCBoston.org](mailto:SThomas@ASCBoston.org) or 617-536-7050 x13.

### Covenant Renewal

Covenant Renewal is Arlington Street Church's annual springtime process in which all members and friends of ASC make our financial and volunteer-service pledges for the coming year (July - June). In pledging, ASC members renew our membership annually. For more information, pick up a Covenant Renewal brochure in the pews, call the church office, or contact [Covenant@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Covenant@ASCBoston.org).