

**Wherever you are in your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here.**



**Everyone is
Welcome!**



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Theme for the Month: Finding Our Center

Please sign up for roles on Sunday morning - greeters, coffee makers, sound engineers, camera operators, Zoom hosts by clicking on the link [here](#).

If you would like to join virtually, see the email distribution on Thursday afternoon, or email office@walthamuu.org for login instructions.

Faith In Action: MLK and the 8th Principle

From his jail cell in Birmingham, Dr. King called for his white clergy colleagues to take action on their non-racist beliefs rather than condemn him for causing "tension" through non-violent protest. The proposed 8th Principle asks something similar of us at First Parish. It calls us to "actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

Join us this Sunday as Rev. Becky explores how the faith and actions of Dr. King can shed light on why Unitarian Universalists might need this new principle now.

Covid Safety at Church - Please Help Us All Fight Respiratory Infections

Due to the rise of respiratory viruses, including Covid-19, we strongly encourage the First Parish in Waltham community to wear masks while at church, except as needed for eating or drinking, through January 22. This request follows similar requests being made to public school systems in our area following the holiday break. We will continue to offer every other row seating in the sanctuary on the left side of the sanctuary (where masks are mandatory). Worship leaders will be self-testing prior to participating in worship; we appreciate your commitment to the health of our community!

- The FP Waltham Covid Response Team and Board of Managers



**"For This Time" - Thoughts from Deborah Weiner
Transitional Ministry Associate**

"We Shall Be Known"

We are now fully past the winter holidays - and even those of us who like to linger in the holidays (like me) have to start putting away the decorations, sweeping up the evergreen needles, and living into deep winter...even knowing that (as Rumi says) the roots are down there in the earth - "riotous."

In this time of both winter and transition at First Parish in Waltham, I keep thinking about MaMuse's song, "We Shall Be Known." How is that the church shall be known - by the company we keep (as the song goes) or by the ones "who circle round to tend these fires." During the fall and winter, we have been exploring First Parish's history and identity - focusing on the ways in which history and events inform our sense of who and what the church is and who we - as those who call this place a spiritual home - relate to others in this congregation, in the community, and in the wider world.

We have drafted a mission statement for this time - and we seek your input and comments. If you physically come to church and join coffee hour in Whitcomb Hall, you'll see on one of the bulletin boards (on the wall near the entrance to the children's library) the draft mission statement and lots of blank index cards where you can add your thoughts and ideas to the mission process. And for those who like to do such things electronically, we have another way for you to contribute to the process. I've posted a Jamboard - a simple web page where you can add your comments through virtual 'sticky notes' - so that we continue to capture your thoughts and ideas.

The Jamboard on Mission is here. Go to the link, click on the fourth icon on the left side of the page - it will generate a virtual 'sticky note.' Please add your thoughts there, remembering that identity is at the CORE of who this church is. Please take a moment between now and January 23rd to add your thoughts. We'll try to synthesize all comments we receive at that time, and will share them with all of you who participate in our third Transitions workshop on January 29th. That program will focus on mission (fine tuning our work) and on building a behavioral covenant - promises we can make and keep with one another. These are the building blocks for developing a healthy congregation...and we need all of you to participate - so please, take a few moments to do so. If you have questions about the process or the methodology, contact me and we'll talk! And about January 29th: look for the announcement in this newsletter that will connect you to the Signup Genius to register to attend that workshop!

My observation is that First Parish in Waltham is uniquely poised to serve a diverse community of those who seek the love and support our Unitarian Universalist faith can offer - those who live in the suburbs, those who live in transient housing, and all those in between. This can be a 'prophetic church' - and crafting the path forward will indeed be up to all of you. So join in this exploration and together, we'll travel on the journey. I look forward to seeing you on the path!

Faithfully,
Deb

Have you registered?

Transitions Workshop #3:
"This is a Promise I Will Keep" - A Workshop Exploring Behavioral Covenants and Mission
Sunday, January 29, 12 noon - 3:00 PM
Whitcomb Hall

Lunch will be served; child care available by advance request. To sign up, please click [here](#).



GAME NIGHT

Friday January 13, 6:00pm

Celebrate the return of the light & have some fun!

Everyone is welcome

We'll have a casual family-friendly potluck meal.

Last month's theme was tacos & it was fabulous!

This time we're focusing on yellow food:

Quiche, cornbread, mac n' cheese etc. BUT anything is fine!

If you're feeling adventurous, wear yellow and/or orange clothes.

We'll gather at 6:00 & set up.

Folks bring their favorite all-ages games.

We'd love your company even if you're not inclined to play.

It's meant to be more fun than competitive.

At the end of the evening, we clean up together.

Come at any time, for any part of the evening.

Need a ride? We may be able to help.

Special diet? It's best to bring your own food.

Need info? Contact Martha Gallagher!



NEW!

TUNEFUL TUESDAYS

**STARTING:
JANUARY 17TH**

IN WHITCOMB HALL
1-2PM

Tuneful Tuesdays

Join **Emma Campbell**, our Music and Choir Director, for an hour of musical exploration on the **third Tuesday** of each month at **1pm**.

This month we are going to get to know a wonderful piece by **Mendelssohn** from the perspective of an artist. Feel free to bring your coloring pencils or other materials, if you wish.

We will have the opportunity to share a brown bag lunch with others that arrive at 12.30pm.

No musical knowledge or experience is necessary!

Friendship Finders & UU Explorers

January 2023

Sunday, January 1st: No class

Sunday, January 8th: Begin Study of the Path of Finding our Center and 5th Principle

Sunday, January 15th: Start the 30 Days of Love and 5th Principle

Sunday, January 22nd: Continued Study of the Path of Finding our Center and 6th Principle

Saturday, January 28th: All Ages Public Skating
2:00-3:50 at the Veterans Memorial Rink

Sunday, January 29th Continued Study of the Path of Finding our Center and 6th Principle



News Flashes!!

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Applications for the **2023 Jones Partnership Grant** Season are available on the church website - please access in the Outreach & Social Justice link, then to Ongoing Programs to find the 2023 application. The **deadline is Feb 1** to receive all applications either emailed or mailed to the church office.

Book Club are meeting over Zoom on **Friday 27th January at 2pm.**

They are reading ***Mercy Street*, by Jennifer Haigh**

If you would like to participate, whether you have read the book or not, please contact Martha Gallagher (our Commissioner for Membership) [here](#).

The **First Parish fundraising auction** will be happening again in early February, first online and then culminating with an in-person event on Saturday, February 11. If you are particularly interested in a getaway this summer, we've got word that the Weddigs are again donating their New Hampshire vacation week in August! For those who like to plan ahead, the week will be August 13-20 only, at the Cathedral Ledge Resort - a two bedroom timeshare condo with a loft, sleeping 6-8. For more info: <https://www.cathedralledgeresort.com/>

The starting bid is \$750, renting from the resort for that week is normally \$2700! Stay tuned for more auction promos in coming weeks!



Building a Culture of Inclusion With Paula Cole Jones

Saturday, January 21st
10:00-2:00 on zoom

8th Principle: To affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural beloved community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- To help to create a tipping point of congregational members who understand and support the 8 th Principle and see themselves connected to a national movement for greater inclusion in UU communities.
- To introduce strategies for working toward long-term cultural change and to elicit the knowledge of participants about how to engage the congregation.
- To share a framework for how collaboration and accountability shape the racial and social justice history of institutions in the United States.
- To engage participants in an interactive experience of the transformative power of the 8 th Principle.

We, Unitarian Universalists, are called to build the Beloved Community. To do that, UUs must attend to the unfinished business of dismantling racism and oppression in our congregations and Association and with our community partners. How do we act in solidarity with the social movements of our times and how do the movements change us?

**For the zoom link, contact Pam Penton at
pam.penton@walthamuu.org**

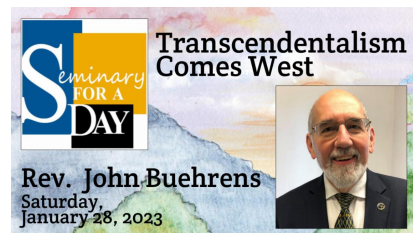
TO: UU Congregations, Fellowships and Churches

Your members and friends are cordially invited to join us virtually for **Seminary for a Day on Saturday, January 28, at First Unitarian Portland**. This year's spiritual theme is Transcendentalism.

Our keynote speaker is **Rev. John Buehrens**. Rev. Buehrens served as UUA President, 1993-2001. A prolific author, his most recent one about our heritage is **CONFLAGRATION: How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender, and Social Justice** (Beacon, 2020).

Rev. Buehrens will offer a keynote on the first Unitarian Transcendentalist on the Pacific Coast, the Rev. Thomas Starr King. He exemplified key spiritual practices of the Transcendentalists that need renewal among us today: personal reflection (often in the form of keeping a journal), and deep interpersonal connections crossing conventional boundaries.

In addition, Rev. Buehrens will offer a workshop entitled, "God Optional: Theologies Among Us Today." John Buehrens and Rebecca Ann Parker surveyed the hope-filled thought patterns in progressive religion today in their book, *A House for Hope: The*



Promise of Progressive Religion in the 21st Century (Beacon, 2010). While their framework borrows from a heritage of Judeo-Christian systematic theology, it also makes room for humanist, indigenous, and non-Western a/theologies. All such thinking, however, needs to meet some overriding and important tests to be effective. Tests which will be revealed in the workshop.

Details: Saturday, January 28, 2023

9:30 a.m. - 2:35 p.m. Pacific Standard Time
10:30 a.m. - 3:35 p.m. Mountain Standard Time
11:30 a.m. - 4:35 p.m. Central Standard Time
12:30 p.m. - 5:35 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Registration is open until 4:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Sunday, January 22nd. You will receive a link to join via email on January 23rd.

<https://www.firstunitarianportland.org/events/sfad23/>



Nick Page's **BEATLES**

SING-ALONG

Saturday, Jan. 21 at 7:30

with live band featuring Gary Backstrom, Tim McHale,
Allison Keslow & Jeff Levin

Masks Required

At Hancock Church

1912 Mass. Ave. Lexington, MA

(The stone church on the Battle Green just west of the center)

Wheelchair accessible

\$20 at door (cash or check)

*Words are projected, volunteers take turns leading songs,
dancing recommended.*

Beatles Trivia Questions

Nick will be selling his Beatles books and CDs

When is Your Birthday?

.....

Make an offering plate
donation before, during, or
after the service!



<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



The Membership Committee is looking to recreate the celebration of birthdays! Whose birthdays? Everyone's birthdays! Yours, your partner's and your children's birthdays. Help us to celebrate each important day. Let us know those important dates. We will add the dates to the newsletter so we can all honor and celebrate our community. Email the dates to Martha Gallagher.

membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Happy Birthday this Month to:

Sarah Remage-Healy 1/2
Emma Campbell 1/8
Scott Tougas 1/12
Charlie Kelley 1/15
Mina Anderson 1/17

Send a card or an email to these members!

Light the Steeple

Honor
a person, occasion,
event, or idea

Contact the Office

✉ office@walthamuu.org

☎ 781.893.6240



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Our Church Covenant

Love is the spirit of this church and service its law.

This is our great covenant:

*to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help
one another.*

First Parish in Waltham | 50 Church St., Waltham, MA 02452

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