

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



**Everyone is
Welcome!**



**50 Church St, Waltham MA 02452 | 781.893.6240
office@walthamuu.org | www.walthamuu.org**



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.

Sunday Worship - January 22, 2023

Samuel Anthony Wright put these words to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia* that capture a deep longing in the human heart - "*We Would be One.*" They challenge the strong individualism found within our Unitarian Universalist faith and call us to explore the paradox of affirming our "oneness" while acknowledging the unity of all life. This Sunday, guest Minister **Rev. Stephen Shick**, will explore this paradox in relationship to our congregational covenant and our quest for peace and justice.

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

"Gradual by Gradual"

When I was growing up my father would tell me stories about his parents. They were Russian immigrants (or maybe, Polish – it seems to have depended on where the border was at the time anyone was relating family history). They came to the U.S. speaking no English and they learned about the ways and speech of this new homeland. (There were, with them, many Yiddish phrases thrown into their sentences, which my father passed on to me. After all, you never know when you might need *"Vaksn zolstu vi a tsibele mitn kop in dr'erd un di fis farkert!"* -- "May you grow like an onion, with your head in the ground and your feet in the air!")

But there was wisdom to those phrases...and one of them, from my grandfather, was "gradual by gradual." A version of "little by little," I am told that my grandfather used it to explain how, slowly, things would change...while encouraging his children to stick to their task and believe that it would come round right in the end. I've been thinking about the gradual shift of things recently, in several contexts: things that might not seem obvious, or seem like 'a lot'; the ways in which a few adjustments may tweak or expand existing programs in ways that will, perhaps, better meet the changing needs of the congregation.

There are a number of things that come to mind - and you might add more.

- We've just increased our supply of pamphlets and information about Unitarian Universalism for visitors (and maybe long-timers) at the church.
- Rev. Becky and I are planning our second visitors/newcomers welcome meeting - and there are visitors coming in the door almost every week!
- We've updated and revised our building rental agreements and documents to be able to more consistently keep records of those using our building *and* the rental fees being paid.
- Research is underway to re-key the exterior doors to our building, which will enhance security and safety of our property and belongings.
- We're reviewing displays and bulletin boards to better present the programs and activities of the church.
- There's the focus on the 8th principle that is actively going on - a way of engaging all of us in embodying UU values in our behaviors and our programs.
- There are community activities going on each month, from game nights and potlucks to learning opportunities and discussions.
- We're working on restoring an active lay pastoral care team and developing a small group ministry (chalice circle) program - stay tuned for more information soon!
- The choir is growing AND there's work on the organ about to happen!

And there's the work coming from the Transitions workshops we're offering - remember that our workshop reviewing the draft mission statement, and focusing on behavioral covenant, is coming on January 29th. **Sign up now**, please, to be part of it!

Change, or adjustments, or evolution, don't always happen in straight lines. It is frequently 'gradual by gradual.' And if we can understand the ways in which transition occurs, we can not only engage with it, but share leadership on the journey we and others are taking as we travel the road to new and - perhaps - exciting homes for our spirit. May it be so with us.

Faithfully,
Deb

Exciting News from the Organ!

You may have been wondering why I have not played the organ recently. Sadly, it is somewhat under the weather. There are cracked pipes, some broken switches that prevent the signal getting from the keyboards / manuals to the pipes (meaning that no sounds come out), and the bench is not at a comfortable height for me to wiggle my fingers and toes at the same time.



The Music Committee has come to the rescue - assisted by the Trustees of our permanent funds. Through discussions with an organ repairer who is a Waltham resident, the Music Committee have worked alongside the Trustees to identify some

funds that are only for use on the organ. As a result, repairs to the organ are about to start, and the Betty Diggs organ fund is going to be used to cover the cost. When finished the organ will be in much sounder condition, and you'll find me playing it more often. And beyond that, it's another way in which we are caring for our church and our musical instruments - which benefits all!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.
Musically yours,
Emma



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 8th 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 8th 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**

**If you would like to attend this online event,
please sign up [here](#).**

The Mission of First Parish in Waltham - Your input needed!

As you may recall, we have drafted a new congregational mission statement which we

developed at the December 2022 transitions workshop - 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. We've posted a Jamboard - a simple web page where you can add your comments through virtual 'sticky notes' - so that we can continue to capture your thoughts and ideas.

[The Jamboard on Mission is here.](#) 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: **please connect with the SignupGenius to register to attend Transitions Workshop #3! [Click here to sign up.](#)**

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 - so please - join in this exploration!

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](#).



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!!

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 April, first online and then culminating with an in-person event, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 22. 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!



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

Coffee Hour Schedule

When it is your turn to bring a snack for coffee hour, please bring a snack either in a container it can be served from, or on your own dish, which you bring home and clean yourself. Please don't bring snacks with nuts, to help those with allergies. Thanks.

Here is the Coffee Hour Schedule:

A - E first Sunday

F - L second Sunday

M - S third Sunday

T - Z fourth Sunday

Special arrangements will be made for fifth Sundays.

From the President:
Warrant for February 5th

On February 5th there will be a short congregational meeting to elect our GA delegates. It will be in the sanctuary and on Zoom immediately following the service. The warrant is attached. Normally we do this in the Spring, but this year we want to give our delegates extra time to learn about proposed changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws and to receive input from our congregation about it.

The First Parish in Waltham,
Unitarian-Universalist, Inc.

WARRANT

The legal voters of The First Parish, Unitarian-Universalist, Inc. are hereby notified that a Special Meeting of the Corporation will be held in the sanctuary and via Zoom video conferencing on **Sunday, February 5, 2023**, immediately following the worship service.

Article I:
To vote on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for delegates to the General Assembly.

Scott Tougas
President

Scott W. Tougas
Deb Jose
Clerk

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



First Parish
in Waltham

*A Welcoming
Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>




When is Your Birthday?

.....
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

Light the Steeple

Honor
a person, occasion,
event, or idea



Contact the Office
✉ office@walthamuu.org
☎ 781.893.6240

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!

Ministry Staff Team

Acting Minister

The Rev. Rebecca Sheble-Hall
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Revbecky@walthamuu.org

Transitional Ministry Associate

Deborah Weiner
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Board Members

President, Board of Managers

Scott Tougas

Membership

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Religious Education Commissioner

Pam Penton
pam.penton@walthamuu.org

Treasurer

Janet Riley
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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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