

***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](mailto:office@walthamuu.org) for login instructions.

### **Sunday Worship - January 29, 2023 10.30am**

"Promises to Keep: The Power of Covenant"

Deborah Weiner preaching

*Congregational Transitions Workshop to Follow at 12:00 Noon - lunch will be served*

**In the Bible a covenant is most often interpreted as a promise made to God from his children or followers. There are certain conditions attached - and if the followers keep their end of the deal, good things happen. And if not - well, things can go wrong. Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal religion with a different perspective. Why should we - as faithful people in this congregation, develop a congregational covenant which affirms a commitment to supporting behaviors that nurture the health and strength of the whole congregation?**

**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

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



**"Promises, Promises"**

Back in the day, I was a Girl Scout. I bet some of you reading were Scouts too. I still remember the pledge we started each meeting with these words:

*"I will do my best to be  
honest and fair,  
friendly and helpful,  
considerate and caring,  
courageous and strong,  
and responsible for what I say and do,  
and to respect myself and others,  
respect authority,  
use resources wisely,  
make the world a better place,  
and be a sister to every Girl Scout."*

I took being a Scout pretty seriously. I loved selling those cookies, sure...but I also loved helping people, doing projects with my troop, earning merit badges, and so on. And I really thought about those words. They were a covenant that was affirmed by all scouts - not one developed, as we are doing here at First Parish in Waltham - but one that nevertheless articulated a commitment we made to the kind of behavior, and the kind of people, that we would try to be.

The world has become a challenging place and the way that we're living, and dying, in the United States seems even more troubling - particularly over the last decade. Too often when things go wrong people resort to violence, either physical or verbal, to make their points - and the idea of us being one family gets lost in the struggle.

I'm not giving up on the idea that we can do better. We can do better here at First Parish in Waltham, and we can do better as the individuals who call this place our spiritual home. What are the promises that we want to make to one another? What are the ways in which we want to live - as Unitarian Universalists, as members and friends of this church? That's what we're exploring these days, as we focus on supporting a mission for this congregation, and making a covenant with one another to help us live together as people of faith. It seems to me it's work worth doing...and I hope you will want to be part of it. See you in church!

Faithfully,  
Deb

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**From the Music Director:**

On Sunday we will be joined by **Newton All-City Troubadours**. They are a youth choir and open to students from 7th to 9th Grade from Newton.

Their Mission Statement highlights their intent "**to spread joy through the creation of community and music, throughout Newton and beyond.**" The group has been existence since the 1950s and even survived the recent chaos by rehearsing online or in a car park when the weather permitted. Led by Jaime Alberts and Eric Ritter, you will recognize their accompanist!

The choir is very excited to be returning to First Parish in Waltham - they were here just before Covid arrived. This time they will be singing alongside the choir from First Parish, and I am so excited by this prospect. I hope you will be able to join us on Sunday for some community, some music, and a large portion of joy!

Musically yours  
Emma

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## 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 NOW 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!

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## 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](#).

**If you wish to join us over Zoom, please use our regular Sunday Service link.**



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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,  
Universalist-Unitarian, Inc.

## WARRANT

The legal voters of The First Parish, Universalist-Unitarian, 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 E:

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

Scott Tougan  
President



Deb Jones  
Clerk

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## 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](#).

### Join the LoveFest at February 12's Worship Service!

What are the ways in which you think about love? Between and among humans, animals, children, nature? Through music, visual art, the spoken word? On February 12th we'll be having a LoveFest during our worship service - and you're invited to make it happen! If you have a contribution - spoken, played, sung, painted, acted...please contact **Deb Weiner** by February 5 to tell her about it! Send along your ideas and we'll work together to find a way to include them in our worship service!

The **First Parish fundraising auction** will be happening again in April, first online and then culminating with an in-person event, scheduled for Saturday, April 22. Mark your calendars now, and be thinking about what you can donate to help us have a fun and fruitful event to benefit our congregation!!



## What's Going on in our UU Faith? You Should Know about This!

Dear Loved Ones,

There are some important changes being presented within our denomination that will have a lasting impact on our faith tradition and our leadership. Remember, Unitarian Universalism is a "Living Tradition", which means we understand revelation to be ongoing: nothing is set in stone. As the natural world and society in general grows and responds to change, so do we.

With that in mind, I hope you will educate yourselves on these items and participate in congregational discussions that will follow in the near future. Voting on these things will happen at our UUA General Assembly (GA) in June - close to us this year in Pittsburgh - so you may also wish to consider representing FPW as a delegate to GA. Our Warrant meeting to elect FPW delegates will take place on February 5th, after our worship service.

Electing a new UUA President:

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray will be completing her six year term as UUA president this year. Currently Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt is running unopposed for that position. Deb and I are both very excited about her candidacy and how her leadership at the UUA will nurture and grow our denomination. She would be the first female, queer person of color to hold that position. You can learn more about her [here](#).

## The 8th Principle:

This proposed addition to our UU Principles has been in the development stage for several years. Almost 300 churches have already adopted it, and our congregation is engaged in studying this proposed change to the fundamental ways in which we describe our beliefs. There will be a vote on the 8th Principle at GA. You can learn more about the 8th Principle [here](#).

### Proposed changes to Article 2 of the UUA Bylaws, Principles and Purposes:

Article 2 is the foundation of our larger tradition and the covenant to which all of our congregations pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA. It was last revised in 1987 and has therefore been the subject of a UUA Commission study in recent years. Significant revisions to Article 2 will be voted on at this year's GA, and if this motion passes with a majority vote, there will be another (final) vote, needing a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority, at GA in 2024. You can learn more about proposed revisions to [Article 2 here](#).

As you can see, there are lots of exciting proposals circulating in our "Living Tradition!" Please inform yourselves and be ready for opportunities to discuss it all further.

May you be well,  
Rev. Becky

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### **CIRCLE SUPPER REBOOT: Bringing an old tradition back to life!**

Before Covid and even before then, we used to break bread together through a tradition called Circle Suppers. Once a month or so, those participating would share potluck meals at hosts' homes: 6-10 parishioners and/or friends in 5-6 homes.

The Board and Membership Committee would love to bring back this tradition as a way to help strengthen our connections as a community. Traditionally the groupings were random so folks could get to know each other. We've also talked about making some of the groupings around a theme, for example, those interested in gardening or in having a singalong after the meal. The options are only as limited as our imagination.

First, however, we need to know who would be interested in hosting and who in attending. Please contact Leslie Gildersleeve at [gildersleeveleslie@gmail.com](mailto:gildersleeveleslie@gmail.com).

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## **February is Black History Month.**

**See below for details of an amazing offer to celebrate with other members of First Parish in Waltham.**

**August Wilson** is a contemporary and renowned Black playwright, who is referred to as "the theater's poet of Black America." Next month, Actors' Shakespeare Project (ASP), an award-winning Boston theater company is offering a production of his play "*Seven Guitars*," which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. It is being staged at Hibernian Hall in Roxbury.

FPW has been offered 12 tickets at \$30 each for the opening night - **Wednesday February 8th, at 7:30pm**. There is also the possibility of obtaining tickets for the following night, Thursday February 9th.

We are looking to arrange carpooling, and the possibility of grabbing something to eat before the show.

If you are interested in attending please share your details via the link here: <https://forms.gle/MFB7f4ZbVxJdLQBBA>. The deadline is **Monday 30th January**.

Sue Genser has kindly taken on the responsibility of coordinating this event. If you would like further information please email [office@walthamuu.org](mailto:office@walthamuu.org) and the Office Manager will forward your questions.

Below are some links you may find useful:

[Information about August Wilson](#)

[Actors' Shakespeare Project](#)

[Hibernian Hall](#)

[Directions, Parking and Restaurants](#)



**ALL AGES**

## **ICE SKATING**

**Saturday, January 28th  
@ Veterans Memorial Rink  
2:00-3:50**

For more info email Pam Penton :  
[pam.penton@walthamuu.org](mailto:pam.penton@walthamuu.org)





## STOPPING ANTISEMITISM STARTS WITH UNDERSTANDING IT

The Social Action Team meets at 1:00 pm on the first Sunday of every month & will have a different subject & a guest speaker who is passionate about it.

**Feb 5, 2023 “Fighting Antisemitism”, with our dear friend, Linda Ungerleider from Temple Beth Israel.**

**Linda suggests reading this from the ADL**  
<https://www.adl.org/resources/report/antisemitic-attitudes-america-topline-findings>

The world needs us & that can be overwhelming; how do we choose? Please join us on this journey. I'll send Zoom link to the “SAT” and “Equity & Justice For All” the Friday before the meeting. If you'd like to come, but aren't on either list, just email me & I'll send you the link separately.  
[plum.kennard@walthamuu.org](mailto:plum.kennard@walthamuu.org)

Be sure to put this on your calendar too:  
Mar 5, 2023 “The 8th Principle”, with our own Elisse Ghitelman

<https://www.adl.org/resources/report/antisemitic-attitudes-america-topline-findings>



**A Live Music & Storytelling Series**  
**First Parish in Lexington UU**  
**Harrington Road ~ Lexington MA 02421**  
[www.voicesonthegreen.org](http://www.voicesonthegreen.org)

**Lost and Found: Lexington's Voices on the Green Shares Stories and Music of Hidden Moments of Discovery and Loss - February 3!**

**Voices on the Green, Lexington's premier live storytelling and music event at First Parish in Lexington, returns to the stage on Friday, February 3rd, at 7:00 pm** with stories and music sharing perspectives on moments of life lost—and then found—or held, and then lost.

The stories offered are compelling and varied: a woman discovers a surprising connection at a work event. A father and son compare their feelings on retrieving a lost item. A homesick immigrant must find a new direction in her new country. A young man's lost opportunity haunts him for years. A Kenyan woman finds the inspiration to escape poverty in a common object. A young boy's game underscores the human need to be found again and again.

Musical performances are a key part of Voices on The Green. For the February 3 event, music will be provided by **Jamie Willis and Kelly Rice**, real-life partners who love to sing together.

Our community partner for this event is **Household Goods of Acton**, founded in 1990.

Its mission isto provide a full range of donated household items, free of charge, to help make livable homes for needy families: the recently unhoused, survivors of domestic violence, refugees and immigrants, and the otherwise impoverished. Household Goods serves roughly 2,500 families and provides 60,000 household items a year; Voices on the Green is honored to support this excellent program.

**Kids and teens are invited to join Music Therapist Hilary Bennett and First Parish's Director of Religious Exploration, Robi Rose, who is also a registered yoga teacher, for a fabulous youth Voices on the Green program.** Together, participants will use music, storytelling, improv, song-writing, art, yoga, and dance to explore their own versions of this month's theme, "Lost and Found."

Beverages and conversation are available before the show and at intermission. Don't miss "Lost and Found" at First Parish in Lexington, **7 Harrington Road.** Tickets are \$10 and \$20 and are available NOW on the [VOTG website](#).

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# Game Night

**Friday February 10th, 6:00pm**

**Come have some fun!**

**Everyone is welcome**

We have a casual, family-friendly potluck meal.  
Last month's theme was "Yellow/Orange" and folks rose to the occasion: corn pudding, mac n' cheese, squashes, pizza: yum!

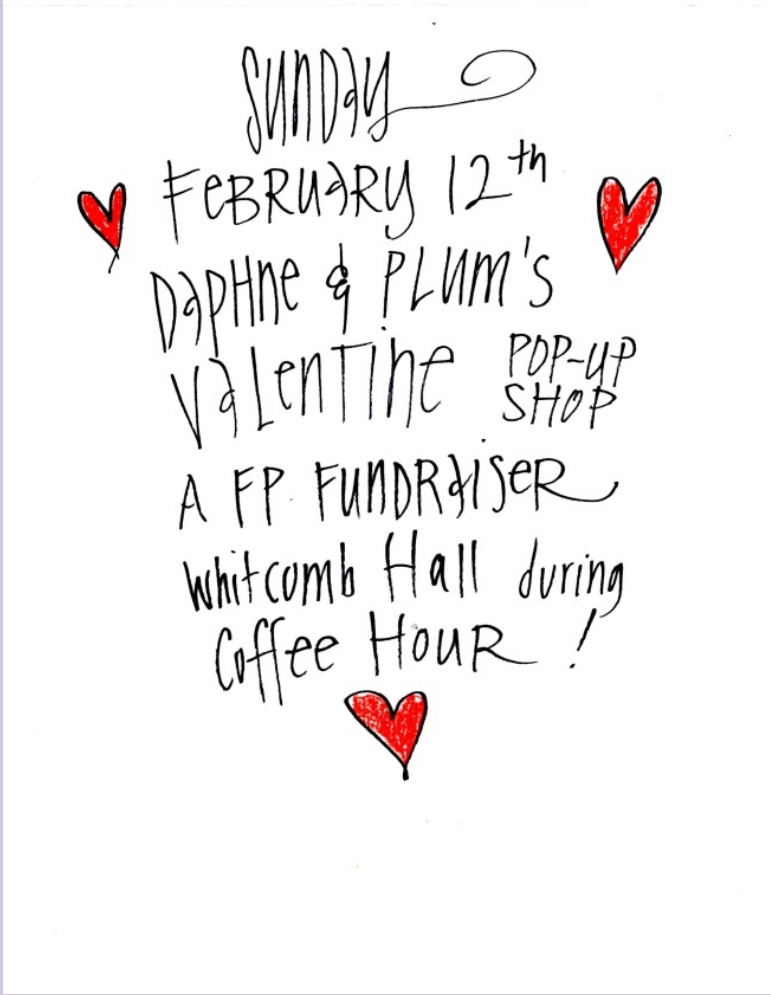
This time we're focusing on "Red and/or Pink";  
Red peppers, beets, strawberries, tomatoes, ham, pizza.  
If you're feeling adventurous, wear clothes to match!

We'll gather at 6:00 & set up everything.  
Folks bring their favorite all-ages games.  
We'd love your company even if you're not inclined to play  
A lot of chatting goes on!  
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!







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### **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.

### **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

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



<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



Martha Gallagher.  
[membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org](mailto:membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org)

### ***Happy Birthday this Month to:***

Justine Watt 2/3  
Jane True 2/4  
Kim Strafford 2/4  
Jim Ohm 2/4  
Bethany Klem 2/9  
Brian Anderson 2/11  
Maeve Strafford 2/18  
Leslie Gildersleeve 2/20  
Jim Griffith 2/20  
*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](mailto:office@walthamuu.org)

 781.893.6240



## Ministry Staff Team

### **Acting Minister**

The Rev. Rebecca Sheble-Hall  
508.479.7570

[Revbecky@walthamuu.org](mailto:Revbecky@walthamuu.org)

### **Transitional Ministry Associate**

Deborah Weiner  
617.513.6614

[deb.weiner@walthamuu.org](mailto:deb.weiner@walthamuu.org)

### **Office Manager / Music and Choir Director**

Emma Campbell  
781.893.6240

[office@walthamuu.org](mailto:office@walthamuu.org)

or

[musicdirector@walthamuu.org](mailto:musicdirector@walthamuu.org)

## Board Members

### **President, Board of Managers**

Scott Tougas

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### **Assistant Treasurer**

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### **Clerk**

Deb Jose

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### **Commissioner of Community**

#### **Outreach**

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### **Finance**

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### **Membership**

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### **Music and Worship Commissioner**

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### **Property**

Dan Taylor

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### **Religious Education Commissioner**

Pam Penton

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### **Treasurer**

Janet Riley

[treasurer@walthamuu.org](mailto:treasurer@walthamuu.org)

# 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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