

**No matter who you are or  
where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.**



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



### **Upcoming Services at 10:30 am**

**October 22nd:  
"Exploring the Heritage of our UU Principles and Sources"  
Member-Led service**

*The heritage of our culture, our country and our Unitarian practice has been shaped by principles and practices that have evolved, sometimes as the result of radical changes. Explore with our Worship Committee in a member-led service Sunday October 22 the heritage of our past, present, and future as changes in our society affect the core Unitarian-Universalist Principles and Sources of our Living Tradition.*

**October 29th:  
"Confronting Marvelous Truth"  
Rev. Megan Lynes preaching**

*Our UU fourth principle talks about the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. The poet Denise Levertov writes: "Marvelous Truth, confront us at every turn, in every guise, iron ball, egg, dark horse, shadow, cloud of breath on the air..." Are there "ultimate truths" that transcend current day beliefs? What "truths" are you needing to hear in your own life? How do you lovingly tell your own truth?*

### **Minister's Musings: From Rev. Megan Lynes, Parish Minister**

When I was a child, October meant one thing: Halloween. It was a time when the boundary between the mundane and the mystical seemed to blur, and the imagination was given free rein. My family and I eagerly anticipated this magical day of intergenerational playfulness. One year, my dad became a purple wizard, complete with a long beard he



glued to his chin strand by strand, and a hand dyed robe and a majestic staff. Our front door transformed into a portal to a world of enchantment, and he stood there, ready to greet the neighborhood kids with a twinkle in his eye and a cauldron of treats in his hands. Our Halloween memories were filled with laughter, joy, and a sense of togetherness.

Halloween, with its familiar customs like pumpkin carving, trick-or-treating, and donning spooky attire, carries a rich history. Its origins trace back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, a Gaelic term pronounced as "SAH-win."

Samhain was a pagan celebration to mark the end of summer, marked by bonfires and costumes to ward off

spirits. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a day to honor saints, and All Saints Day absorbed some Samhain traditions. The evening before All Saints Day became known as All Hallows Eve, later shortened to Halloween.

Fast forward to the present day, and I still adore Halloween. But I notice the ways our culture's obsession with violence has crept into the Halloween landscape. As a parent now, I found myself standing in the aisles of a Halloween-themed store, surrounded by gruesome costumes and decorations that seemed to glorify bloodshed and terror. The turning point came when a bloodied chainsaw prop, activated by movement nearby, revved up and swiped near my head. I was horrified by the realism and gore.

So often the words to ancient hymns hold timeless grains of truth, and this one resonates this week. "God of Grace, and God of Glory" has this refrain:

*Cure thy children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
make thy peace our daily goal, make thy peace our daily goal.*

There is meaning and purpose to contemplating death, facing our fears, and honoring the souls gone before us. But we already have enough violence in our society; we don't need to further glorify it. Let's ensure that Halloween remains a holiday where families can create joyful memories together, where harvest festivities abound, and where the violence stays at bay.

With you on the journey, Trick or treat!

Rev. Megan



### **A message from the Music and Choir Director: Emma Campbell**

When we think about this month's theme of "Heritage", many people automatically think about precious or rare things that need preserving for the benefit of future generations. There are other things that we have acquired that perhaps we are not so keen to preserve - unruly curly hair that rarely looks 'tidy'; or a predisposition to cancer of the colon. How to deal effectively with things we consider a burden can be just as difficult as deciding on effective methods of preserving the things we value.

With this in mind, sadly, it is time to turn our thoughts to the harpsichord that is in the Sanctuary. Larry Philips was the Music Director here from 1982 to 2001, and he donated the instrument that is just below the pulpit. "Why don't you play it?" - I hear you cry. The simple answer is that it is like the lemon that is in my fruit bowl at home. It's great - but really not all that versatile. Partly, this is because it is a harpsichord - they went out of fashion because they weren't that useful. It is also because it is in a terrible state of repair, offering the player (and tuner) many obstacles that need to be dealt with.

In November 2002, the church obtained quotes for restoring the instrument into a condition that would make it more playable. The cheapest option was \$6,890 for 111.5 hours of work at \$60/hour. Given that the cost of labor has risen, and that the harpsichord now has more than just a damaged soundboard, the Music Committee has a

number of difficult decisions ahead of them. Whether you like it or not, the harpsichord is part of your heritage as a friend or member of First Parish in Waltham. Should we keep something that cannot be played? Its future is in your hands. If you would like to be involved, or would like to express a thought or two, please email me via [musicdirector@walthamuu.org](mailto:musicdirector@walthamuu.org) .

I hope to hear from you soon.  
Yours Musically,  
Emma

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## **Beyond Categorical Thinking**

THINK OF A MINISTER. DON'T THINK OF AN ELEPHANT.

Chances are you thought of both. And distinct images perhaps came to mind. In terms of a minister, what images came to mind? Was it a person of a particular gender, race, or age?

Beyond Categorical Thinking is a highly recommended part of the search process for our congregation. In finding the person who would be the best match for our minister, we could potentially overlook or even let biases keep us from knowing that a particular person would be the best match for us. Other congregations have assumed that their ideal minister looks a certain way, and often ministers who are not white or male or heterosexual or able-bodied or of a particular age or class are discounted and seen as "less than" in some ways.

**Mark your calendars for this 2-part Zoom workshop  
Friday, November 3, 7:00 to 8:30 pm and  
Saturday, November 4 10:00 – 11:30 am.**

Rev. Amanda Schuber will preach on the subject via Zoom on Sunday, November 5.  
Questions: email [search@walthamuu.org](mailto:search@walthamuu.org)

Credentialed ministers in our faith who are People of Color, LGBTQ+, disabled, young, old, working class, etc. still face discrimination as part of the ministerial search process. In our efforts to find the best match, our congregation will host a Beyond Categorical Thinking worship workshop.

Rev. Amanda Schuber will meet with our Search Committee, facilitate a three-hour conversation and lead the Sunday service. We will have a chance to examine how we can avoid letting prejudice become a part of our search process. This is yet another way for us to put our faith into lived experience and improve the odds that regardless of identity, we will find the minister who is the best match for us and who will serve us well.

This opportunity allows the entire congregation fuller participation in the search process. It will allow us to explore our hopes and concerns for a new minister, learn more about the search process, and see how our own history (both personal and congregational) might interfere with our efforts in this search.

Questions: Contact [search@walthamuu.org](mailto:search@walthamuu.org).

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## **More News from the Search Committee:**

Eight people attended our first cottage meeting on Sunday morning before service on 10/8. People came as eager to hear what others thought as to share their own ideas. We have several more dates and hope everyone can find one that fits into their schedule.

Sat 10/21 at 7:00 pm on Zoom - those under 35 years of age are specifically invited  
Mon 10/23 at 1:00 pm in the Harrington Room - seniors / non-working are invited  
Tues 10/24 at 7:00 pm at Bill VanderClock's - open to all  
Sat 11/11 3:00 pm on Zoom - for those with young families  
Sun 11/19 12 noon in the Harrington Room - Choir members are specifically invited

Click [here](#) to sign up for a cottage meeting. Sign-ups are particularly important for Zoom sessions so that you will be emailed the Zoom link. You are welcome at sessions held at First Parish, even if you haven't signed up, but letting us know ahead helps us plan.

All sessions will follow the same format and are expected to last roughly an hour and 15

minutes. We will focus on three separate questions, asking everyone to limit their response to one minute at a time.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to analyze survey data. And please plan to attend the Beyond Categorical Thinking Zoom Workshop: Part 1 Friday November 3, from 7-8:30 and Part 2 Saturday, 10-11:30. More details are above.

Questions? Email us at [search@walthamuu.org](mailto:search@walthamuu.org)

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## Book group

Join us to this Thursday to discuss "The Firekeeper's Daughter," by Angeline Boulley. All welcome!



**October 19, 2pm in the Harrington Room and via Zoom.**

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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 **October 22, 2023**, immediately following the worship service.

## Article I:

To vote on the adoption by First Parish in Waltham of the **Eighth Principle** of the UUA. The copy reads as follows:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant 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."

Deborah José

Handwritten signature of Deborah José in black ink.

President, Board of Managers

Peter K. Duane

Handwritten signature of Peter K. Duane in black ink.

Clerk

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## Don't forget to vote on whether to adopt the 8th Principle!

We are now only a few days away from our October 22nd congregational vote on adopting the 8th Principle. Members of the Adult R.E. and 8th Principle committees continue with our effort to answer some frequently asked questions, and we saved the best for last:

### Q. How would the 8th Principle change things at First Parish?

**A.** At Paula Cole-Jones's 8th Principle Learning Group meeting last week, this was one of the topics. Her question centered more on how each person had changed since their congregation had adopted the 8th Principle. The answers included: reaching outside circles to build Beloved Community, having brave conversations with more honesty, needing to expand comfort zones, finding out what it's like to be in the minority, and recognizing the effects of white supremacy culture on ourselves and the world around us.

At First Parish, we have already incorporated many of these actions into our lives, learning journeys, and congregational activities. We encourage you to think about your own visions for change, but let's envision one of the best possible changes - membership expansion. If we vote to adopt the 8th Principle, we would be able to promote this commitment to building Beloved Community, which would in turn help us draw new visitors from all races that admire or share that same commitment. We hope that we can count on you to help make it happen.

For more information on how to join Paula Cole-Jones's 8th Principle Monthly Learning Groups, join the Facebook group called "8th Principle UU Learning Community", at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/8thprinciplelearningcommunity>



**The First Parish Fall Fair is coming soon!!  
Saturday, October 28, from 10AM - 1PM in Whitcomb Hall .**

The fair is free and open to the public. Please invite your family and friends! There will be a costume parade, story-telling, lunch, treats, games, prizes, and more.

The Adult R.E. Committee is looking for volunteers to sign up for specific times:

- 9-10 set up Whitcomb Hall
- 10-11 Assist in running a game (ring toss , bean bags...)
- 11-12 Help with lunch prep
- 12-1 Assist in running games
- 1-2 Assist with clean up

For more information or to volunteer, contact Pam Penton ( [pjpenton@gmail.com](mailto:pjpenton@gmail.com)) or Candace Holman ([candace.holman@walthamuu.org](mailto:candace.holman@walthamuu.org)).

**Live Music and  
Storytelling Series**


THIS MONTH'S THEME:  
**Home**

**Friday, October 20, 7:00 PM**  
**First Parish in Lexington**  
7 Harrington Rd, Lexington Green  
781-862-8200

HOST AND POET:  
**Regie O'Hare Gibson**

STORYTELLERS:  
Chali'naru Dones, Victoria Hardiman,  
Robert "Robear" Isenberg,  
Marceline "Mercedes" Isom,  
Tejpreet Kalra, Dave Pollack


MUSICIAN:  
**Kemp Harris**

COMMUNITY PARTNER:  
  
**Chaplains  
on the way**  
hope is found in hearts connected

TICKETS:  
\$20 General Admission  
[VoicesOnTheGreen.org](http://VoicesOnTheGreen.org)  
Doors Open at 6:30PM Refreshments Provided

**VOICES  
ON THE GREEN**

"The vibrancy in the room was palpable."  
"Inspiring, a complete triumph!"  
"The perfect blend of engagement and entertainment."



Looking for a place to deeply connect with other men? Scott Tougas is exploring the idea of leading a men's "small group" to take a deeper dive into the many issues that affect men but are often not talked about. The group will be open to anyone who has identified as male at some point in their life. The invitation is to people both inside and outside the congregation. The first three meetings will be open to anyone who would like to just "check it out," and after that, the group will be limited to those who have committed to regular attendance. The time and place of meeting will be determined by those who are interested. [Please contact Scott](#) if you are interested.



## One Thing You Can Do

On October 22nd there will be a congregational vote on adopting the 8th Principle. The Adult RE committee, which has helped to educate us, wants to make sure that folks have all the information they need to cast an informed vote.

1. You can look at this [document](#) for some information.
2. If you still have any questions, please reach out to Elisse Ghitelman at her church email: [Community.Outreach@walthamuu.org](mailto:Community.Outreach@walthamuu.org)

Elisse Ghitelman, Outreach Commissioner

THE WALTHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PRESENTS  
**FALL CONCERT**  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023 AT 3:00 PM  
Waltham Government Center • 119 School Street • Waltham  
MICHAEL KORN, MUSIC DIRECTOR  
TICKETS \$20  
SEATS ARE LIMITED  
FOR MORE INFO  
VISIT [WPHIL.ORG](http://WPHIL.ORG)  
Victor Cayres, Soloist  
Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra  
JONES PARTNERSHIP FUND  
FIRST PASSION WALTHAM

Victor Cayres, Guest Soloist

Antonin Dvorak: Symphony No.7

Sergei Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No.2

## Coffee Hour Schedule

We all love great conversation and yummy snacks at Coffee Hour! Let's share the load! We are dividing up the weeks by last name. When it's your turn to bring a snack for coffee hour, please bring it either in a container it can be served from, or on your own dish, which you bring home and clean yourself. No nuts please, to help those with allergies. Thank you!!



**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.

Food is Love! Thank you!

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## **Pastoral Care in Our Congregation - We're here for you!**

Are you struggling with issues that could use the support of another member of our congregation as a listening ear or to offer support? In addition to Rev. Megan Lynes and Deb Weiner, who provide pastoral care to our community, our Lay Pastoral Care Team is available to you.

Please reach out to us if you believe we can help: [pastoralcare@walthamuu.org](mailto:pastoralcare@walthamuu.org) - and a member of our team will respond to you in a timely manner!

Our 'point person' each month is as follows:

October: Nancy Lawrence  
November: Andy LeCompte  
December: Plum Kennard  
January: Nancy Lawrence  
February: Plum Kennard

Plum Kennard (Chair,) Andy LeCompte, Nancy Lawrence, and Bill VanderClock.

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## **The Care Crew is back!**

After a pandemic hiatus, we are at last restarting the Care Crew, and this team needs a few volunteers! The Care Crew will work closely with the Lay Pastoral Care Team and the ministers, (but would not be in charge of providing pastoral care.) The Care Crew is the "tangible support" that helps our parishioners when they need it most. The goal is to have a monthly coordinator as the point person. This is a low stress, high satisfaction rotating role. *But what would I actually do, you might ask?*

- Do you know how to generate a Sign up Genius?
- Could you field a phone call or email from someone who needs a ride or a meal dropped off?
- Are you able to help link up a person with a need with someone who can help?
- You needn't cook or drive or DO the needed task, though at times you might choose to. You would help coordinate the care.

You could be a monthly point person, or simply have your name on our list of folks who might help if asked. Might the Care Crew be a rewarding job for you?

Please contact Rev. Megan Lynes or Plum Kennard (Chair of Lay Pastoral) if you're interested.

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## **We have wheels for you!**

We are thrilled to have a "transport wheelchair" available at the church for use by anyone who would find it helpful! It was donated by Joyce Wilbourn, and we are so grateful. If you are coming to church and would find it helpful to use the wheelchair to get into/around the church, please contact Emma Campbell in the Office (Monday-Thursday) or a member of the Lay Pastoral Care team ([pastoralcare@walthamuu.org](mailto:pastoralcare@walthamuu.org)).

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## **When is Your Birthday?**

.....  
The Membership Committee is looking to recreate the celebration of birthdays! Whose birthdays? Everyone's

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



<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



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 Gary Morrison.  
[membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org](mailto:membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org)

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

Dimitry Zarkh 10/2  
Marianne Cutter 10/5  
Joan Smith 10/10  
Daniel Strafford 10/17  
Susan Weddig 10/19  
Sue Adams 10/20  
Ron Adams 10/31


*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

### **Parish Minister**

Rev Megan Lynes  
617.276.7655

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

### **Transitional Ministry Associate**

Deborah Weiner  
617.513.6614

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

### **Office Administrator / 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**

Deb Jose

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### **Assistant Treasurer**

Dan DeHainaut

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### **Clerk**

Peter Duane

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

### **Community Outreach Commissioner**

Elisse Ghitelman

[commissioner.outreach@walthamuu.org](mailto:commissioner.outreach@walthamuu.org)

### **Finance**

Donna VanderClock

### **Membership**

Gary Morrison

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### **Music and Worship Commissioner**

Bethany Templeton Klem

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### **Property**

Dan Taylor

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

### **Religious Education Commissioner**

Pam Penton

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### **Treasurer**

Janet Riley

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



## Our Mission Statement

The mission of First Parish in Waltham is to be a caring, inclusive, spiritual community committed to using free inquiry and the power of love to achieve peace, justice, and a sustainable world.

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

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