

**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**

**"The Light of Hope"  
December 3rd - 10:30 AM**

**Led by Deborah Weiner and Reb Ariel Hendelman**

As we enter into a time of winter celebrations, there has never been more need for holding a candle in the darkness to light our way into the uncertain future. Reb Ariel Hendelman will join Deborah Weiner in exploring the need for embracing a steadfast vision of hope for our future - filled with light and love. We will also be marking the first Sunday of Advent, as we light a candle for Hope.

*Ariel Hendelman is a rising Rabbi with the Aleph Ordination Program & the Spiritual Leader of the B'nai Or community of Boston. Before returning to the US in 2020, Ariel lived in Jerusalem for seven years on what could be called a soul journey. It was during that time that she attended her first multi-day meditation retreat -- the practices of meditation & chant are now central to her own spiritual practice & to her offerings as a spiritual leader.*

*Ariel relishes communal spaces infused with musical and embodied prayer & believes that holiness is truly about "whole-y-ness." Central to Ariel's spiritual calling is the invitation to ascend Jacob's ladder & to embrace the Tree of Life. Ariel's debut album, Prayers for Fire & Water, was released in September & can be found anywhere you listen to music.*

**"Waiting for the Light"**

**Dec 10th - 10:30 AM**  
**Rev. Megan Lynes preaching**

Mysteriously, the traditional Advent texts in the Christian scriptures are all about the apocalypse and the rapture. They are some of the most intriguing stories, out of which many movies based their bizarre twists of plot. Advent is a time of "not yet" and "already here." What do these themes have to do with waiting, hoping, and the promise of good things to come? We will be lighting our second Advent candle for Love.

**"No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant"**

**Dec 17th - 10:30 AM**

This all-ages service, led by the First Parish Staff and lay leaders, will offer some good old time fun. Well organized ahead, but no stress in the moment - we'll tell the Christmas story together! Our choir will sing, we'll have special guest violinists, and perhaps some extra surprise costumes will show up too.

Our Advent candle will be lit for Joy, and there will be opportunities for participation by anyone who'd like to take part. (And no pressure if you'd like to simply watch.) Don't miss out on the fun!

**"The Longest Night: A Solstice Service"**

**Dec 21st - 7 PM**

This evening service honors the longest night of the year, with readings, drumming, lights in the darkness, and companionship. This service is a longstanding tradition led by our Worship Committee.

**"Christmas Eve by Candlelight"**

**Dec 24th - 7:00 PM**

A service of lessons and carols, with a homily by Rev. Megan Lynes, suitable for all ages. We will light our Advent Candle of Peace, and reach out to one another with love. All are welcome! Our offering for this service will support the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which allows us to offer aid and sustenance to those in our community most in need.



**Minister's Musings:**  
**Reflections from Rev. Megan Lynes**

One of my favorite activities these days is trying to figure out what pop song my four year old has heard at school by his rendition of it later in the day. Sometimes he will start singing the tune, other times it's a string of words or a happy tapping of the beat. This week he came home with a well known (but not to me) song by PSY called "Gangnam Style." I scratched my head for a while because I felt I should at least be able to make out the words, even if I didn't know the song! Later a friend came over and recognized it. No wonder I couldn't get it, it's in Korean! No fair kiddo, give me a chance to keep up here!

Earlier in October Jesse came home singing another song called "Glorious." Since he wanted to hear it again, I googled to find it and still don't know what he'd heard. But in the process I found a different piece with that title by David Archuleta. It stole my breath. The words felt like a piece of my own theology. The melody made me sit down to take it in. The chorus held me. I listened to it over and over, wondering how on earth to bring it into our congregation somehow.

Fast forward to now, as we enter the month of Advent. I believe we have a meaningful way to share this piece of music with the congregation. Each week, starting this Sunday Dec 3rd, we'll hear a small part of the piece, played by Emma and sung by soloists, crafted as a brief "threshold moment," leading us into worship. Then on the third Sunday of Advent, December

17th, we'll experience the whole choir singing the entire piece of music. I've heard them practicing and believe me it sounds terrific! Thank you Emma, Deb and lay folks alike to trying something a little new together!

Don't forget to join us that third Sunday, Dec 17th, when we dig out all the old costumes and bring in some funky new ones for our no-rehearsal pageant. (Emma has a llama suit, who wants to wear it?!) It will be a laughter-filled morning of tradition, story and song. There will be "mistakes" and it will be just perfect that way.

Advent, derived from the Latin word "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival," and invites us to pause and prepare, both spiritually and emotionally, for the celebration of hope being born into the world. For Christians and for those of us who welcome a spiritual practice stemming from Christianity, Advent can be a valuable opportunity to slow down and reflect on the deeper meanings of the season, fostering gratitude for the moments that matter most. We also might look back on the challenges we faced throughout the year, appreciating the strength we've gained in overcoming them.

The song "Glorious", that you will hear in worship this month, offers us a way to frame the Advent season. Though things may be hard at times, we make room for the good that is to come, counting on hope to carry us through, asking ourselves what is the gift that only I can bring.

Here are the words to "Glorious" by David Archuleta. "What we're all creating, it's like a symphony, just keep listening... oh, it's glorious."

*There are times when  
You might feel aimless  
And can't see the places  
Where you belong  
But you will find that  
There is a purpose  
It's been there within you  
All along  
And when you're near it  
You can almost hear it  
It's like a symphony  
Just keep listening  
And pretty soon you'll start  
To figure out your part  
Everyone plays a piece  
In their own melodies  
In each one of us  
Oh it's glorious*

*And you will know how  
To let it ring out  
As you discover  
Who you are  
Others around you  
Will start to wake up  
To the sounds that are  
In their hearts  
It's so amazing  
What we're all creating  
It's like a symphony  
Just keep listening  
And pretty soon you'll start  
To figure out your part  
Everyone plays a piece  
In their own melodies  
In each one of us  
Oh it's glorious*

*And as you feel  
The notes build  
You will see  
It's like a symphony  
Just keep listening  
And pretty soon you'll start  
To figure out your part  
Everyone plays a piece  
In their own melodies  
In each one of us  
Oh it's glorious*

With you through this season of promise,

Rev. Megan

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**From the Music and Choir Director:  
Emma Campbell**

It was wonderful to be back with you for worship on Sunday, having been back to England to stay with my mum for a few days. I also had the chance to see my sister (Helen) and her family for a very brief stop-over of less than 12 hours before starting my return journey to the USA.

I arrived at Helen's late one evening and discovered my nephew (aged 12) was captaining his soccer team the next morning. I was invited to stay in bed and wait until they returned, when they would drive me to the train station. Why would I want to do that? Despite realizing my very limited understanding of the game, and that my nephew's team have lost every match so far this season, my nieces (15 and 17) decided they too would get out of bed at a most unwelcome hour on a Saturday morning to add their encouraging voices to the sidelines. I hauled myself out of bed at the equivalent of 2.30am in Boston, and put on many layers of clothing to keep warm and dry. Archie and his team did not win, but they didn't lose either – they drew to side that seemed to have giants for 12-year-olds. I would like to think that our cheering was what made the difference, but that wasn't what made it a great event to be at. We were having fun because the players appeared to be having the times of their lives – as if they actually enjoying wearing a large amount of mud as they ran up and down a full-sized pitch.

What would church feel like if the hymn singing worked this way? How would visitors and newcomers feel if they were sat in the midst of people singing as if it was the most exciting thing to do? Perhaps I am biased because I have always LOVED singing hymns.

I would like to you ponder these questions as you click on the link below. It's to one of my current favorite musical performances. I dream of being the conductor for this piece – it's about water, and in my fantasy world we use it during our Water Service in September. The music is by a contemporary composer (who is also the conductor in the video), and I love the fact that someone plays a water jug / vase in the piece with a level of solemnity that borders on being reverential. I have a CD recording of the larger work that this piece is part of, but it's not the same. Being unable to see the faces of the performers and their expressions of unbridled joy (and the fact that the two lead soloists can only just stop themselves from breaking into dance moves) makes all the difference.

Reb Ariel Hendelman, who is helping to lead worship on Sunday will also be leading us in song – imagine how she would feel if faced with the level of joy and enthusiasm found in this video! Please, click [here](#), and feel free to

share your thoughts with me on Sunday.

Yours Musically,  
Emma

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### ***From the Search Committee...***

Beloveds,

We are moving into a new phase of our search process. We are so grateful to you all for sharing with us your perspectives and experiences with the ministry of our congregation through surveys, cottage meetings, coffee hour, random chats, personal emails and more. Though we are transitioning to the information-sharing phase between churches and ministers who are in search at this time, we welcome continuing feedback and input from everyone.

The information sharing phase involves making our completed Congregational Record available for review by prospective candidates. Ministers who are in search will also be putting out their Ministerial Records for churches in search to review. This phase occurs on a private platform and is kept entirely confidential between ministers and the search committees until later phases of the process.

The timeline for releasing information from this phase can vary depending on when churches and ministers connect. Rest assured, we, your elected search committee, will share information with you who have commissioned us as soon as is appropriate to the process.

For our part in this next phase, the search committee has been working very hard to build our Congregational Record. It bears mentioning that we have not been through a full search process in almost two decades.

Our Congregational Record for this search presents:

- Statistical information on the demographic composition of our congregation informed by our survey results,
- an extensive list of answers to questions regarding FPW's financial situation, physical condition, programs and activities, and ministerial history among other details informed by church administrative records, as well as outreach to the Board and other committees within the church.
- Perhaps the most important part of our up-to-date Congregational Record details what we want in our ministry. This section was entirely built on input and information from cottage meetings, surveys and other conversations.

Should we find and call a minister in this search cycle, the contents of our Congregational Record and their Ministerial Record will be released to the congregation for review near the end of the search process.

We will be taking somewhat of a break throughout the December month, for the sake of our sanity, though we will be reviewing documentation. We ask for your continued support in the form of patience and trust, despite our inability to share details of this phase.

Thank you, sincerely, and to all, a peaceful, joyful and bright winter season.

Thanks!  
-Your Search Committee

**UU and You!**  
**Dec 3rd, 11:45 am**  
**Harrington Room**

Are you new to First Parish in Waltham (or do you feel like you are?) Are you interested in learning more about First Parish and how to get on board the moving train here? Are you seeking a little more info about what Unitarian Universalism is all about?

Come meet with Rev. Megan Lynes and Deb Weiner as well as representatives from our Membership and Hospitality teams over tea and cookies.

Bring your questions, come as you are - all are welcome!

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### **Minister's Discretionary Fund: A little goes a long way.**

The First Parish in Waltham Minister's Discretionary Fund Offers financial support to those in our congregation and in the wider Waltham community in times of need.

In the last couple months (Sept to Nov) we've been able to help a number of people put food on the table, pay for rent, pay a phone bill, pay for car repairs, purchase clothing for a child in need, and pay for necessities at the end of an unexpected month without work. This is a life giving ministry that comes from all of us because it is how First Parish lives it's mission of creating justice in the world.

Your generosity sustains this fund. It is replenished only when people donate to it directly, (not by an annual pledge for example.) We will invite an offering for this purpose in Dececeber, but checks can be made at any time. If you wish to contribute please send a check to First Parish in Waltham, with "Minister's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line, or drop your check in the offering plate during Sunday services.

Thank you for anything you contribute, big or small! Your generosity makes a huge difference.

### **The Chaplains on the Way Breakfast Program - Can You Help?**

The wonderful Chaplains on the Way breakfast program is looking for both food donations and volunteers for their winter activity which began in Whitcomb Hall on Monday, November 27th. The program offers breakfast, warmth, friendship and support to Waltham's unhoused community and friends.



Please use the links below if you would like to contribute to this wonderful program - we hope to see you there.

Pam Penton

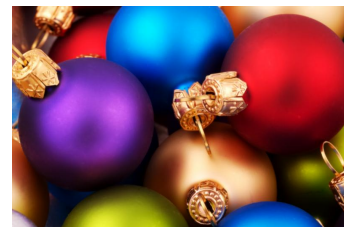
(1) [Volunteer Sign-Up](#) for COTW Winter Breakfast Program

(2) [Food Donation Sign-Up](#) for COTW Winter Breakfast Program

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### **Deck the Halls! Saturday, December 2nd at 2pm**

It's that time again! Come join the holiday festivities and adorn the sanctuary with wreaths and window decorations. All are most welcome - whether you've come before or never yet! All materials will be provided. We'll begin at 2 pm and surely finish by 5. Come for all or part of the time.



Depending on the musical gifts of participants, there may even be caroling!

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## First Parish Holiday Marketplace: Open for Business this Sunday, Dec 3rd!

Are you looking for an easy way to shop for holiday gift items, decorations for your home, or baked goods or other food items for your holiday meals?



Check out the First Parish Holiday Marketplace this Sunday and the two following Sundays. Most items will be on sale during coffee hour in Whitcomb Hall but others may be purchased for later delivery.

Items may be added each week so check back frequently!

\*\*\* HANDMADE DOILIES, CLOTH GIFT BAGS, HATS and SOAPS \*\*\* TOYS \*\*\* HOLIDAY DECORATIONS \*\*\* GIFT CARDS \*\*\* BAKED GOODS, CHOCOLATES and BREADS\*\*\**and more!*



### The Wish Tree...

is set up in our Parlor, looking beautiful! (Thanks Plum Kennard, for making the paper mittens!) Stop by to pick up a paper mitten which lists something that you might purchase as a present, and return it by Dec 17th. Your gift will go directly to someone in need at the Waltham Community Day Center. Gifts should be brought back unwrapped and left in the Parlor, with the mitten label attached to the top. Thank you for helping us give the gifts that people need this year!

THE WALTHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

## POPS!! A WINTRY MIX OF STRAUSS CLASSICS & SEASONAL FAVORITES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023 AT 3:00 PM

Waltham Government Center • 119 School Street • Waltham

..... MICHAEL KORN, MUSIC DIRECTOR .....



Lillian Arnold Mages,  
Soloist



TICKETS SOLD  
ONLINE ONLY

Tickets are \$20  
Seats are Limited  
[WWW.WPHIL.ORG](http://WWW.WPHIL.ORG)



# Game Night

Friday December 8th, 2023 6:00pm

Winter is upon us; time for fun and  
Comfort Food!

Onion Dip, Mac n' Cheese, Chili, Lasagna, Pot Pie, Quiche,  
Meatloaf, Soup, Fruit Cocktail, Layer Cake, Hot Chocolate!

It's a casual, family-friendly potluck meal  
We'd love your company even if you just want to eat & chat  
Bring your favorite games or play with ones at FP  
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!



## Annual Holiday Concert! Saturday, Dec 16th at 7 PM

We hope you'll join us in the sanctuary for a holiday tradition that fills our sanctuary with sound and cheer. Singers/songwriters and instrumentalists Harvey Reid and Joyce Andersen return for their 6th Holiday concert. Advance tickets may be purchased for a discounted price of \$15 [here](#), or by contacting Barry Stearns.

Tickets on the door will be \$20 each.  
Don't miss the fabulous concert!



## Book Group: Thursday, December 21 - 1 pm

Our next read is: *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane.  
We will meet on Thursday, December 21 at 1 pm in the Harrington Room and over Zoom.





In the summer of 1974 a heatwave blankets Boston and Mary Pat Fennessy is trying to stay one step ahead of the bill collectors. Mary Pat has lived her entire life in the housing projects of "Southie," the Irish American enclave that stubbornly adheres to old tradition and stands proudly apart.

One night Mary Pat's teenage daughter Jules stays out late and doesn't come home. That same evening, a young Black man is found dead, struck by a subway train under mysterious circumstances.

The two events seem unconnected. But Mary Pat, propelled by a desperate search for her missing daughter, begins turning over stones best left untouched—asking questions that bother Marty Butler, chieftain of the Irish mob, and the men who work for him, men who don't take kindly to any threat to their business.

Set against the hot, tumultuous months when the city's desegregation of its public schools exploded in violence, *Small Mercies* is a superb thriller, a brutal depiction of criminality and power, and an unflinching portrait of the dark heart of American racism.

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## Coffee Hour Schedule

Thank you to everyone who's brought special snacks to Coffee Hour - let's keep it going!



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.

Here is the Coffee Hour Schedule:

**A - E first Sunday - This Sunday, Dec 3, is your week! - Thanks!**

F - L second Sunday

M - S third Sunday

T - Z fourth Sunday

Special arrangements will be made for fifth Sundays.

Thank you for all you do to make Coffee Hour delicious and easy! And a special thanks to those elves who wash the dishes, put away tables, and take out the trash. It takes a village, let's all keep up the good collaboration!



The UU Plant-based Eating Club held a potluck dinner a week or so back. Forty-two people attended the event, 17 of whom were from the First Parish in Waltham. The event was a rousing success with delicious plant-based dishes of all sorts. Each of the seven tables buzzed with conversation and fellowship. Thank you to all who came, and all are most welcome next time, too!

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**When's Your Birthday?**

## Light the Steeple

Honor  
a person, occasion,  
event, or idea

Contact the Office

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

☎ 781.893.6240



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



A Welcoming  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



.....  
The Membership Committee is helping  
us celebrate birthdays as a  
congregation! Let us know your  
birthday so we can all honor you!

Please email the dates to Gary  
Morrison:  
[membership.commissioner@  
walthamuu.org](mailto:membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org)

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

Ashley Kamal 11/30  
Karen Klein 12/3  
Nancy Lawrence 12/13  
Joyce Wilbourn 12/17  
Sue Genser 12/22  
Scott Schur 12/31

*Please feel free to send a card or an  
email to these good people!*

## Ministry Staff Team

### **Parish Minister**

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## Board Members

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### **Treasurer**

Janet Riley

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## 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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