

**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:

**January 14 - 10:30 AM
"With Good Will for All"
Deborah Weiner preaching**

Martin Luther King Jr's embrace of non-violence was shaped by his connection to six principles which he drew from the teachings of Gandhi, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Bayard Rustin, and others. Key among them was his affinity with the word *agape*, which called on those resisting violence (or wishing to promote such action) to hold to a belief in 'redeeming good will toward all.' In these days when lines of conflict seem drawn not in sand, but in concrete, we'll examine more closely the enduring message of King's embrace of *agape* and the ways in which we at First Parish in Waltham can help make those beliefs a reality.

**January 21 - 10:30 AM
Rev. Megan Lynes preaching**



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

"Year of Promise, Year of Pain"

Three Kings Day has come and gone, and in New Orleans and the surrounding communities, parade season (also known as Carnival) has begun, with beads and coconuts and all manner of things being thrown to the crowds from floats, up through February 13 (Mardi Gras) when... penitence (in the form of Lent) begins.

Right now the marketing folk want us to go on diets, join gyms, book winter vacations, buy new cars. The politicians want us to vote for various people (or *against* others), and it's one week before the Silly Season (primary election time) kicks off in Iowa and then, New Hampshire. And oh yes - Covid is back with a vengeance, along with RSV and the flu. And remarkably, last I checked - for reasons I don't understand - only 17% of folk living in Massachusetts have received the latest Covid booster. Go figure.

I love turning the page on the new year because I start to think about the growing times...the light getting a little bit more each day, the seed catalogs that will be coming out shortly, wondering when the sap will start running in the maple trees around our house so that we can tap them. I particularly love celebrating the cross-quarter holiday Imbolc (on February 1), as it marks one of the earliest of spring celebrations, when lambs and goats are born, milk and cheese are fresh and delicious, and the sun begins to warm the land in our hemisphere.

With all the "promise that awakens in the sleeping land" at this time, I recognize that there are many uncertainties facing this country (not to mention others around the world). The pain of war endures, seemingly with no end in sight in either the middle east or in eastern Europe. The rhetoric political candidates are tossing around is violent and frightening. And while the economy is clearly rebounding - inflation is not yet tamed.

During this time of pain and promise, I yearn for the warmth of a fire, the company of friends, and a mug of spiced tea as I sit with candles gathered round. It's in that place that I am carried forward to believe that our best days can still be ahead; that with love in our hearts, rather than animus, the possibility of hope can light the way. Let's hold such thoughts as we 'drive the dark winter away' with the spirit of love that blooms in this congregation!

In faith, with love,

Deb



From the Music and Choir Director Emma Campbell

Sometimes I find it hard to choose what clothes to wear – making decisions about what to play for our service focusing on the work of Martin Luther King was very challenging. There were so many wonderful options.

Florence B. Price is a composer I admire, and including something by her was something I was keen to achieve. Born in 1887, and being one of three daughters in a mixed-race family, it is incredible that she won the respect of her peers for her musical abilities. Her divorce in 1931 was the result of financial struggles and abuse, and Florence went to court to ensure that she was able to raise her two daughters alone. Rather than reflecting her struggles, I find her music is joyful and uplifting – a somewhat Scottish flavor is often present alongside the idioms of her Southern roots.

Stevie Wonder is another composer I greatly admire, and one of Deb's favorites will be played as the Offertory. However, the Postlude is by a living white English composer who lives not far from my mum in England. How does he link with MLK Day, you may be wondering? Well, it's the title of the piece that grabbed my attention. "Going Home" features a number of musical devices found in Blues music. We are around the corner from Black History Month, when African-American spirituals become something a number of people mutter about. Why are they still relevant when their theology isn't something all of us subscribe to? For me, it's about the fact there are still groups of people who feel that dying is a release and something to look forward to. I find this idea unsettling. If you have other opinions you would like to share, I would be delighted to hear them – please feel free to drop me an email via musicdirector@walthamuu.org.

Yours musically,
Emma

Update from the Search Committee:

Dear Friends,

As you know, the Search Committee has been collecting a lot of information and doing a lot of listening over the past several months.

Many of you told us how impressed you were with Rev. Megan and how you hoped she would be our next settled minister. We heard you. The parents among you (and those close to them) know how intense life can be with a small child, especially when you are a single parent. When Megan told us that, at this time, she didn't feel she couldn't be both the minister she wanted to be and the mother she needed to be if she were to stay, we were disappointed. Yet we understood and are grateful for the time we have had and will have with her through June.

We pivoted and got our materials together for a wider search. Our Congregational Record is up on the UUA Ministerial Search Portal and all congregations "went live" for candidates to select their choices on Jan 2nd. We are so pleased with the great interest coming in from candidates. We are in the process of reviewing the materials they have submitted. It's about 150 pages! And that doesn't include the videos. After we review them and watch representative sermons and services, we will set up preliminary Zoom interviews to select up to three ministers for pre-candidate weekends. We'll also be checking references.

At this point, details are confidential. We can tell you we're pleased with our candidate pool and how well their interests align with what we have learned from you. We expect that we will be able to share the name and story of our candidate to be the next settled minister for First Parish Waltham in April.

In the meantime, we ask for your patience.

The Search Committee
Alex, Bill, Daphne, Katie, & Marty

The Jones Partnership Committee is putting out the word - a new organization applicant is seeking a church sponsor.

The Waltham Family School (see information below) is interested in applying for a Jones grant by February 1 (the application deadline.) The Jones Partnership Fund is built around the idea of "partnership" and the volunteer from church can be any member interested in acting as a bridge, a conduit between First Parish and the organization. **Might this be you?** The responsibilities are minimal and not time consuming, but the role of a sponsor is important - grants cannot be awarded without a church sponsor attached to the application. The sponsor is not obligated to continue past each year the organization applies to the fund. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact [Jim Ohm](#), Jones Partnership Chairperson. This is an important and easy way to help First Parish have a positive impact on our community.

About the Waltham Family School (WFS)

In 2003, WFS was established with a powerful mission: breaking down barriers for multilingual immigrant families in Waltham by providing access to interactive and personalized English language, and preschool education, in an inclusive and rich environment.

WFS offers a highly personalized and family-centered curriculum, comprising four interdependent components:

Preschool for 3-5 year-olds / English classes for parents / Interactive literacy skills to engage parents and children together / Social-emotional support.

The ultimate aim is to support families in their educational journey, ensuring children can excel academically and are prepared for kindergarten.



OPEN REHEARSAL

Singing & Acting Opportunity

In Good Company is a long-standing theater group whose mission is to highlight the past and present voices, joys, and struggles of the people of this country. With storytelling, dance, music and song from past and current generations and cultures, we've performed in venues across New England, in schools, local theaters, and senior communities.

Singer-actors of all voices, ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in a rehearsal and - should you choose - to audition to join us for performances this Winter and Spring.

SOME OF OUR PRODUCTIONS



The Golden Door

A story about how immigrants are changing and enriching the culture of Boston and New England, performed in elementary schools

The White House Chair

Just in time for the campaign season, an engaging historical review featuring presidential campaign songs, from 'God Save Great Washington' to 'I Like Ike' and 'High Hopes for Kennedy'



**Tuesday Jan. 9th, 16th & 23rd, 7:30 PM,
1st Parish, 50 Church St., Waltham**

**For more information, visit <https://new.ingoodcompanytheater.org/>
e-mail info@ingoodcompanytheater.org or call 617-957-9733**

Game Night!

Friday January 12th, 2024 6:00pm

Let's liven things up with spicy
Asian cuisine!

Kimchi, Satay, Dim sum, Fried Rice, Onigiri, Curry,
Drunken Noodles, Miso Soup, Biryani. Yum!

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!



Sunday, January 14th @ 12:30

In the Chapel



Join us for a film screening and discussion event in the Chapel at First Parish located at 50 Church Street, Waltham, MA, 02452.

Based on the book by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, this documentary film directed by Roger Ross Williams will provide an eye-opening view into the history of racism, the origins of racist ideas, and the impact of both on society. This in-person community event promises to be thought-provoking and educational. Come for the movie, discussion, or both.

Light refreshments served at 12:15.

RSVP:



Join the Adult Religious Education Committee, Social Action Team, and 8th Principle Team at First Parish in Waltham, to observe and share thoughts on these important concepts.

First Parish Book Club, Harrington Room (hybrid) January 18, 2024 at 1:00 pm

"The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.

Bringing his masterly storytelling skills and his deep faith in humanity to *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, James McBride has written a novel as compassionate as *Deacon King Kong* and as inventive as *The Good Lord Bird*.

Sunday, January 21, 2024 - 12-3 PM
A Transitions Workshop:
Healthy Communication and Resolving Conflict!

Join us for an exciting, post-worship event on January 21 to help strengthen our First Parish in Waltham community. We'll learn more about how conflict occurs AND how to resolve it, as well as what 'healthy communication' is about and the ways it benefits us all! The event will take place in Whitcomb Hall, and lunch will be served.

Please let us know if you plan to attend, so we can cater to your childcare or dietary needs, by clicking [here](#).

First Parish in Waltham
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

presents



An Evening of Music & Fun!
Community Open Mic



Calling all musicians, singers, and enthusiastic listeners!

Join us for a public, multi-generational, Open Mic Night to foster creativity, build community and have fun!

All ages and skill levels welcome

Saturday, January 27, 2024 6:30pm - 9:30pm

\$10 Suggested Donation

First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church Street, Waltham, MA

Space is limited for performance spots. If you wish to perform, please register by sending an email to Brenda.Asis@WalthamUU.org

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 - and a member of our team will respond to you in a timely manner!

Our 'point person' each month is as follows: January: Nancy Lawrence February: Plum Kennard.

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

Is anyone available to offer an occasional ride on a Sunday morning to a parishioner living in Cambridge? If so, please contact the office via office@walthamuu.org. Thank you.



Waltham UU Facebook Page



Waltham UU Webpage

Holding your phone's camera over the QR codes above will take you to either the First Parish in Waltham webpage or our Facebook page where we hope that you will "like" and follow us! These are great ways to stay connected!



Important Snowstorm Procedures on Sundays! Let it Snow (Well, it's Winter After All)

In case of a major snowstorm which occurs on or leading up to Sunday, we will follow these procedures:

1. A determination on cancelling Sunday worship services will be made by the worship leader (or, in the case of a pulpit guest, the staff worship coordinator) in consultation with the congregation president, by 7:30 AM on Sunday.
2. Upon consultation with other worship staff, the service may be moved to zoom-only (originating from the homes of worship leaders).
3. If worship is cancelled or if it will be held on zoom, a message will be sent to all on the church mailing list, so indicating, no later than 8:30 AM.
4. If worship is cancelled or will be held on zoom, an update to the church's website, giving information and (if relevant) a zoom link, will be made by 9 AM.
5. In the case of a cancellation of worship, all afternoon and evening activities at the church that are sponsored by the church, will also be cancelled (and may be rescheduled).

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
- F - L second Sunday **This Sunday, Jan 14th, is your week! - Thanks!**
- M - S third Sunday



T - Z fourth Sunday

Special arrangements will be made for fifth Sundays.

Thank you for all you do to make our fellowship time 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!

Light the Steeple

Honor
a person, occasion,
event, or idea

Contact the Office

✉ office@walthamuu.org

☎ 781.893.6240



When's Your Birthday?

.....

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

Happy Birthday this Month to:

Sarah Remage-Healy 1/2
Emma Campbell 1/8
Scott Tougas 1/12
Ethan Anderson 1/17

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

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



<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



Ministry Staff Team

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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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