

***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: The Path of Love

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 - February 17, 2023 10.30am

"Love In Action"

First Parish Waltham Worship Committee and friends

What would you do for love? Okay, let's try this: What would you do WITH love? Consider the power and spirit of love in action to make a more peaceful and just world, a society without prejudice, a community that cares equally for all its residents. Love, the divine catalyst!

This Sunday we'll ask questions and explore how the power of love steadies our good ship in the swirling maelstrom of 2023 American society. Join us for a member-led service with friends and musical guests The A&W Ukelele Players!

Beginning on **February 13**, we will return to the Covid safety protocols we were observing through December of 2022. All church events will be mask-optional, with half of the seating in the sanctuary reserved for masked individuals, and half for mask-optional individuals. As always, masks will be available at the entrances to the church, for your convenience. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to [Deb](#)

**Are you new - or feeling new - at First Parish?
Come find out more about our church on Saturday, February 18!**

If you're new to First Parish, or even if you feel new, we'd love to invite you to join Rev. Becky Sheble-Hall and Deb Weiner for a newcomer's gathering. We'll meet in the minister's office on Feb. 18 beginning at 10 AM (ending at 11:30 AM). We'll enjoy some breakfast treats and beverages, learn about Unitarian Universalism, the history of First Parish in Waltham, and the ways in which we all can get involved in supporting our spiritual home. And there will be lots of time for your questions or wonderings...and it will be a great way to meet other newcomers and make some new connections at church! Please consider yourself warmly invited!

- Rev. Becky and Deb



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

"And So It Goes"

It's mid-February, and it feels like mid-March or early April. The realities of climate change are in front of us: even as my spouse and I collect sap from our maple trees to boil it down into our own maple syrup, we're aware that it's already so warm this year that the sap season may be about to close.

It's also the time of year when congregations start to see the changes that are in front of them. Changes in leadership, changes in the way things "have always been" to what *will be* in the near future. There's new energy that frequently shows up as the 'spring awakening' occurs in our lives and our souls...and at the same time, the recognition that what has been, may not continue. In other words: change is all around us...some wished for, some planned for, and some unanticipated.

During this time, *this* congregation is engaging with some of these shifts - planned, hoped for, unanticipated. Our work with transitional change in the congregation - to help prepare for revitalized mission and vision and behavioral covenant, continues. Soon you'll have the opportunity to sign up for a facilitated focus group to discuss the latest version of a new mission statement and behavioral covenant statement - both in process. On March 12 we'll come together as a group at our next transitions workshop to review where we are with these documents, and talk about how a vision statement - developed from our mission and covenant work - can make real the new path for the future of this congregation. And there's more: in spring, we'll also work - through your board - to form a search committee who will lead the process forward as you prepare to search for, and call, a new settled minister for the congregation in the spring of 2024.

There are changes going on, all over - and you are a key part of it all. Please: take the time to engage. Come to worship. Attend congregational gatherings. If you are interested in serving in leadership in the congregation - now's a time to talk with a member of the Nominating Committee to express your interest. The congregation needs you - all of you - to live into the reality you all imagine. And so it goes - with you at the helm!

In faith,
Deb

What do burgers, kilts, and golden flutes have in common?

Well, had you come to our first 'Tuneful Tuesday' you would know the answer so I am not going to supply this information. However, I am willing to take guesses and am offering a prize of a mug to the most imaginative / accurate answer. Please feel free to email your suggestions to [me](#).



The fun continues next Tuesday (21st February) when we will be exploring Music and Math in creative ways. We will be gathering in the Chapel at 1pm but please feel free to bring a brown bag lunch to eat in the Harrington Room from 12 noon onwards.

Strange facts about Music and Math:

- * There is something that looks like a fraction at the start of every piece of music, that gives clues to the performer about how it should be played
- * John Cage was inspired by fractals and has composed numerous pieces of music based on them
- * Orchestras get themselves in tune by playing the note 'A' which has 440 beats per second
- * Pythagoras was not just interested in triangles - he is responsible for developing our modern system of scales. These help you know where in the world the music you are listening to originated from.

Want to find out more, with some fun activities that will also involve hymnals? I hope so, as I am looking forward to spending time with you. No prior musical knowledge is needed, and you don't need any mathematical skills either!

Yours Musically,
Emma

Friendship Finders

- February 5th we started our study of "The Path of Love" with some discussion about how we love ourselves and what we love best about ourselves. We made Valentines for ourselves and listed our attributes, then the classmates added some things we thought they had forgotten. There was some discussion of being able to stand up for ones self and others. We read the book "Parker Curry looks up" by Jessica Curry
- February 12 we continued our study with our thoughts of how to forgive someone that has been mean to us with the reading of Desmond Tutu's book "Desmond and the very mean word". We also talked about our love for others that we don't know. We frosted cookies to serve at coffee hour and filled Valentine goodie bags for the COTW morning program visitors.
- February 19 we will read "The Case for Loving" by Selina Alko and have continued conversation about unfair laws and behaviors and how we can take action against them.
- February 26 we will read "Dream Street" by Tricia Elam Walker about a neighborhood in Roxbury. We will bring ideas together on a project for FPW that shows our love.



News Flashes!!!

Love was in the air these past 2 weeks as generous patrons bought cards and treats at the **Valentine PopUp Fundraiser**. We raised almost **\$500** for FPW! Your participation made the fundraiser a huge success. Thanks so much!

The **book group** will be meeting over Zoom on February 23rd to discuss **Purple Hibiscus** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The group is open to all, whether you have read the book or not! For details of how to attend, please email **Martha Gallagher** our Membership Commissioner.

LAST CALL: If you would like to see the play, **"Seven Guitars,"** and need a reduced price ticket, please contact **Sue Genser**. Nine of us went to see "Seven Guitars" last week, ten of us went to dinner at the African restaurant and all of us are happy to discuss both!

As we work to build a safer First Parish in Waltham, we are pleased to offer **First Aid/CPR training** to our leaders and members. This training will be presented by Jodie Dill, RN/EMT, and will be held in the First Parish Chapel on **Wednesday, March 15** and **Saturday, March 25**. Both trainings run from 9 AM to 3 PM. Registration is \$55 per person which includes the training, certification, snacks and a light lunch. Are you interested? **Please register HERE**; the deadline for registration is March 12th.

Minister's Discretionary Fund: \$3,951 was taken in, combined with the contributions from the Deb Wild memorial service to benefit the Minister's Discretionary Fund. As a

reminder, this fund supports essential aid for members and friends of this congregation in times of need. If you would like to contribute to the fund please direct your check to the church office with the note MDF in the memo line. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: 2023 First Parish Retreat

We are beginning to plan our annual retreat at **Ferry Beach, June 2-4**, and need to know ASAP if you are interested! **Ferry Beach** is a UU retreat center on the coast in Saco, Maine. Relax, this is not binding—but will help us gauge interest and availability. Reply to FPW.retreat@gmail.com or see Sue Genser with questions. *Registration will start around March 1.*

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.

Special Series: Religion and the Legacies of Slavery

Expand your understanding of the complex history and continuing implications of slavery in service of advancing racial justice and healing in our own time and context.

Building beyond the work of the 2022 Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery report, Harvard Divinity School will host **Religion and the Legacies of Slavery**, a series of online public conversations beginning January 30 and taking place Mondays during the spring semester. The six-week series features conversations with HDS faculty discussing these and related questions: what does the academic study of religion teach us about the complex histories and legacies of slavery, and how can a deeper understanding of the roles of religion enhance our commitment to reparative action in our contemporary times?

Through conversations and discussions, HDS faculty will address the role of religion and ethics in grappling with the memory and history of African enslavement, consider whether the exploration of family histories can inform reparative work in the present day, take account of religion in addressing and redressing the legacy of enslavement at Harvard and beyond, discuss reparative and healing workshops, and more.

The series is sponsored by **Religion and Public Life**, the **HDS Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging**, the **Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery Initiative**, and by **HarvardX**. It will be hosted by Diane L. Moore, MDiv '84, Faculty Director, Religion and Public Life, and Melissa Wood Bartholomew, MDiv '15, Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging. The first event on January 30 will feature an introduction by Sara Bleich, Vice Provost for Special Projects.

Visit the **Religion and the Legacies of Slavery series web page** for more information and to register to attend.

When is Your Birthday?

.....
The Membership Committee is looking

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



<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



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

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

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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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