

***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 12, 2023 10.30am

"The LoveFest"

Deborah Weiner, Emma Campbell and friends

The Biblical text (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8) reminds us: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth." At Sunday's service, we'll spend some time thinking, singing, hearing, about the many ways in which love is shared and received. Many First Parish friends will share their contributions to make this an inclusive LoveFest for all - invite your friends and join in the celebration!

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 and including February 12. 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

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



"The Mission of Missions"

It's often true that programs in churches – and the churches themselves – can be very focused on specific elements, but lose sight of the larger UNIQUE identity that they want to put forward. As a transitional religious leader, one of the elements I focus on is the way in which mission - and behavior in the church to live out its mission - are experienced and supported.

This area of priority includes these elements:

- to help the congregation gain a new understanding of itself as a faith community
- to help the congregation gain self-awareness of its wholeness with regard to its ministries
- to help the congregation identify a unique identity, which includes exploring its strengths, needs, and challenges
- to help the congregation build connections between and among all areas of the church - living out the concept of interdependence and building a caring community.

Thus far our work has included sharing and learning from the congregation's history (heritage) and behaviors, shaping a new core identity (mission), and building a behavioral covenant that will respond to the question, "given who we are, what are the promises we can make to one another?"

We are continuing that exploration over the next weeks with opportunities for you - all of you - to review, explore and contribute to the church's draft mission and behavioral covenant statements. As you do, I hope that you will also consider these questions:

- ~ What is the congregation's unique leadership role in Waltham and in the larger MetroWest community of faith?
- ~ How do our values get put into action?
- ~ How can we nurture transformative leadership to support congregational vitality and not only sustain - but enhance - this congregation's strengths?

What does the future hold? Although there are elements that are not yet clear (what your professional leadership structure will be for the next year and beyond, for instance) there is great work going on that has the potential to support congregational vitality for years to come. YOU are - and need to be - part of that change.

What does this church want to be? What is most important in terms of faith and mission? Let those values inform the ways in which you experience this congregation – the possibilities are almost endless!

In faith,
Deb

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!



Circle Suppers Reboot: Final Call

If you are interested in either the February 17th or February 18th Circle Supper you must sign up this week by emailing [Leslie Gildersleeve](#) or by signing up during coffee hour this coming Sunday.

Your hosts will need time to get back to you with potluck details, time and address.

The February 17th is being hosted by Daphne Blount and the 18th by Brenda Asis and Andy LeCompte.

You'll have another week to sign up for the February 25th supper at Scott Tougas and Justine Watt's.



**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

**Book Club -
February 23rd 7pm over Zoom**

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

A 2003 O Henry Prize winner, and was shortlisted for the 2002 Caine Prize for African Writing and the 2004 Orange Prize. In *Purple Hibiscus*, she recounts the story of a young Nigerian girl searching for freedom. Although her father is greatly respected within their community, 15-year-old Kambili knows a frighteningly strict and abusive side to this man. In many ways, she and her family lead a privileged life, but Kambili and her brother, Jaja, are often punished for failing to meet their father's expectations. After visiting her aunt and cousins, Kambili dreams of being part of a loving family. But a military coup brings new tension to Nigeria and her home, and Kambili wonders if her dreams will ever be fulfilled. Adichie's striking and poetic language reveals a land and a family full of strife, but fighting to survive. A rich narration by South African native Lisette Lecat perfectly complements this inspiring tale.



First Parish in Waltham
Monthly Summary
of the
Meeting of the Board of Managers
January 25, 2023

This report contains the highlights from the board meeting along with the commissioner reports. The approved minutes from last months' meeting are at the end.

Highlights from the meeting

Review of Yearly Goals

The board reviewed the yearly goal documents that we created out of our board retreat. I was pleasantly surprised to see how many of the action items we had already made progress on. The Goals and Objectives document with updated notes is included in the Summary Document.

Mission Discovery

Pam presented on the state of each of the bulletin boards. Changes and additions were discussed and approved. More work on Mission Discovery will happen at upcoming meetings.

Staffing for Next Year

Discussions on staffing for next year have continued. We are looking at as many options as possible to ensure that we have one more good year before we hopefully call a settled minister.

Supporting the Membership Commissioner

Discussed options for having someone other than the membership commissioner be in charge of hospitality, mostly meaning food at coffee hour. This job can be overwhelming. It would be good to give the membership commissioner more time to put attention to new members. We may need to reduce the amount of food at coffee hour to make that job more manageable.

To read the full report please click [here](#).

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

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



A Welcoming
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

<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
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

 office@walthamuu.org

 781.893.6240



Ministry Staff Team

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Treasurer

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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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