

***Wherever you are in your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here.***



**Everyone is
Welcome!**



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Theme for the Month: The Path of Resistance

**Keepers of the Flame
Deborah Weiner, preaching**

The spring brings us the promise of renewal and the challenge of living in 'complicated times.' This week we mark Palm Sunday, the coming of Passover, Transgender Day of Visibility, the 3rd anniversary of the covid pandemic - and the promises of vision and generosity that come from supporting First Parish's stewardship campaign. Join us as we explore all these elements and lift up the need for resilience and strength in our lives.

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.



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

Renewal and Resistance

This month's worship theme is Resistance. That seems like a pretty good topic for us to be focusing on, given that another horrendous school shooting has occurred, that there seems to be an increase in fascist governments subverting their countries' judicial systems. And then there's the knowledge (yes back to the latest carnage) that although it is clear that the majority of Americans favor increased firearm control, our politicians have been bought by organizations like the NRA and are continuing to bow to their will. It is time for resistance and resilience, so that we can not only continue to raise our voices, but muster strength

for the journey ahead.

Which is where renewal comes in. The word is often associated with the coming of spring, with the Easter season, for good reason: the crocuses are in bloom around the church, daffodils are coming up - daylight savings time is in full gear, and the days are getting warmer. Easter and Passover are traditional times for renewal and rebirth, and we - all of us who strive for peace, justice and love in this hurting world - need to hold to our beliefs, muster all strength that we can - and hold to our values and beliefs to sustain ourselves, this congregation's values, and the neighborhoods and regions we live in.

The Rev. Sean Parker Dennison, in their "Letter from our Better Angels," reminds us:
*There is so much to learn and relearn.
The world teaches you to be hard,
To negotiate and defend,
To avoid giving too much and to the wrong people.
There are no wrong people...
If you want to change the world,
First, be sure you are changing yourself.
Be tender. Be kind. Be at peace.
Be all the things you wish for.
Be your own better self.
It isn't without cost
But it will be free.*

I encourage us all to embrace all the things we wish for, by holding the paired elements of resistance and renewal together in our hearts and hands and spirit. Paired together, they can harness the power in us to do great things. And that, in this time of early spring, is probably a good notion to embrace.

In faith, with love,
Deb

From our Music and Choir Director, Emma Campbell

"If you liked it then you should have put a ring on it."
Beyoncé – *Single Ladies*

A few of you might be wondering, 'who is Beyoncé?' Others are singing 'oo oo oo' in your head or out loud, and others are doing some dance moves that may /may not be suitable for others to see. Whichever, you have to agree that Beyoncé had many a good point in her song *Single Ladies*:



*"Cause you had your turn and now you gonna learn
What it really feels like to miss me."*

If you treasure First Parish, the activities it offers, the opportunities for personal growth, the chance to make friends and acquire new knowledge, then I encourage you to acknowledge this by offering, financially, what you think it is worth.

Patronage, in the form of money, and music have been connected for centuries. For example, the incredible variety of orchestration found in some of Bach's music speaks volumes about the high regard his employer held him in. Bach was allowed to compose and perform music that required all kinds specialized musicians and extra performers were hired at great expense. The risks paid off - the music was wonderful, and the reputation of the employer for being a generous, understanding patron spread for miles. As a result, great homage was paid to the employer, and many people flocked to his court to meet and share gifts with such an interesting person.

Sunday's Offertory is a simple keyboard piece by Bach. (There's an interesting oxymoron for those of you with experience of Bach). It has only one note at a time in each hand but is a delight. I've been playing it for over 30 years and it's still not perfect. I wonder, if he could re-write it for any instruments of his choice that are available today, what would the end result sound like?

Do you ever wonder what First Parish in Waltham would be like if money was no object? Perhaps you've thought about the other possibility - not having enough resources to maintain current standards. I know Donna and her financial team have. Some of the resources we fund are obvious - like turning the lights on - and others are less visible. I don't want to spend my Sundays behaving like I am travelling around parts of Europe -

bringing my own toilet paper and soap – and I am sure you don't want that either! Yet lights, and personal cleaning supplies, are all valuable and must be funded. Now is the time for demonstrating your love of this congregation, and the willingness to go the extra mile for the things and people you value. As Beyoncé points out, it may be too late to go back once you realize you miss things.

(Want to watch Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" video? Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4m1EFMoRFvY>)

Add your thoughts to the Vision-building process!

On Sunday, March 12, about forty First Parishioners gathered to share thoughts on the ways we can build a new vision for First Parish - one connected to our new draft mission statement. Well over 20 ideas were presented, and the participants voted on those that they felt were most significant. YOU can add your comments to the process! We've posted a series of Jamboards online for those who want to comment on the vision ideas.

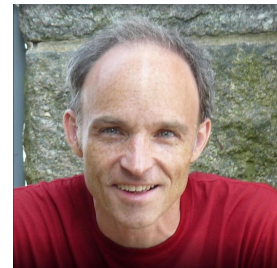
Please share your thoughts - through April 5 - to contribute to the process! https://jamboard.google.com/d/1C-qbXNsMXm9tIM8qnjcuM64_qwQtWbIJFKBAm-t081o/viewer?f=0

Ideas and suggestions will be reviewed, and vision statements refined, before being offered to the Board of Managers for further action. Questions? contact Deborah Weiner, Transitional Ministry Associate: deb.weiner@walthamuu.org

Messages from Scott Tougas, President

CPR/AED Training

Last Saturday, seven people took part in CPR/AED / First Aid training in the Chapel organized by Deb Weiner and Emma Campbell. (I failed to get a photo.) There have been discussions about getting an AED for the church to provide the best possible chance of keeping someone alive who is experiencing cardiac arrest. From the Training, Deb W, Emma, KJ, Janet, and myself are all certified.

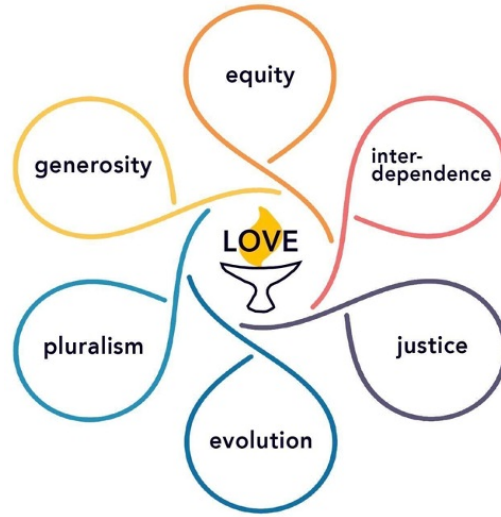


Many of you may also have been trained on CPR/AED. If so, please email the **Office Manager** and let her know when you last received the training. Knowing how many people we have trained in the church will help in making the decision to purchase an AED.

Thank you.

Cottage Meetings on the UUA's Changes to Article II

Article II is the section of the UUA's bylaws that includes its purposes and covenant. It currently includes the seven principles. In 2020, the UUA established a commission to review Article II. That commission is now recommending a new version of the Article that is very different. Instead of the seven principles, there will be six values focused around love.



At this year's General Assembly, there will be the first of two votes on this recommendation. (The second one will happen next year). Our general assembly delegates, [Katie Gullotti](#) and [Elisse Ghitelman](#) would like to hear your thoughts on these changes.

We will hold several meetings for people to review the proposal and share their thoughts. The first will be in person in the **Chapel at noon on Sunday, April 23**, led by Scott Tougas. Elisse will lead one on Zoom at another time. We will also have one at Ferry Beach.

[Here is a link to the full report](#). It is twenty six pages, but it is very readable. And here is a [32 minute video](#) about it if you pre to watch/listen. You do not need to read the report to attend the meetings, but we will only have time for a cursory review. Reviewing the report beforehand will make the meeting much more enjoyable!

Flowers for Easter Sunday

Would you like to help Bethany Templeton Klem fill the church with flowers on Easter Sunday?

You are invited to make a donation towards a beautiful, large arrangement or make a contribution for an individual Easter Lily, Hyacinth or Tulip plant. Your donation could be made in memory / celebration of someone, and the names of donors and their dedicatees will be published in the Order of Service on Easter Sunday.



If you would like to participate, please click here:

<https://forms.gle/7PvM5cELZXX9cCt46>

Please note that all orders must be received by **April 4th at noon**, and payment must be made by **April 9th**.

First Parish On-Line Service Auction and Talent Show!

Save the date : Sat. April 22 at 7pm

We want you to show us your special talent: juggle, recite a poem, dance, sing, play music, tell a joke, do magic, teach how to mix a cocktail -you name it, we want to see it!

To sign up contact: Brenda Asis at brendaasis1@gmail.com OR Daphne Blount via dblount724@gmail.com



Can you donate something for sale in the auction? Last year thirty-five friends and members of First Parish donated over 200 individual and group items and services. The offerings ranged from soup and salad takeout dinners to French cuisine to gift certificates at local restaurants to pottery. There were pies and beauty products and tokens to the Farmers' Market. There was artwork and cocktails to go and chocolates!

Leslie Gildersleeve (gildersleeveleslie@gmail.com) and Donna VanderClock (donnnavanderclock@gmail.com) will be happy to enter your item on the auction page. Contact one of them with your item, a short description and a starting bid or flat price.

Invitation to Join a Grief Circle Gathering - April 8th

Our lives are filled with both laughter and tears, and the death of Kimberly Strafford, a much-loved member of the First Parish in Waltham community, has elevated our feelings of loss and grief. This loss has been particularly felt by those who are actively parenting smaller children, but these feelings are not only held by one group - but by many.



Rev. Becky Sheble-Hall and Deb Weiner invited you to a grief circle gathering to share these feelings, and gain support from others in the First Parish Community. Come to the Game Night potluck on April 8th at 5:30 and enjoy some food; while some join in playing games after supper, our circle will gather in the parlor of the church at 6:15. We will light candles, sing a little, meditate or pray, and together, build community and strength. You are welcome!

- Deborah Weiner, Transitional Ministry Associate

Meet Our New Pastoral Care Team!

One of the 'rebuilding' efforts our church has been embracing this year is a re-visioned lay Pastoral Care Team. Supported and trained by Rev. Becky Sheble-Hall with Deborah Weiner, pastoral care team members work to reach out to First Parishioners in need of support during times of illness, loss, stress or change. Members of the team are Daphne Blount, Deb Jose, Plum Kennard, Andy LeCompte, and Bill VanderClock. Members of the team will be alternating on a month-by-month basis for 'on call' response - more information will be coming soon. In the meantime, if you are in need of support, please feel free to reach out to any member of the team.



Ferry Beach Registration is open!

Ferry Beach needs a good headcount from us by mid-March, if you're staying over. There is a 10% Discount for early registration—this will end Sunday, March 19. There is also a 20% Discount for first-time attendees—this is available until the retreat fills up.

The info packet attached will tell you all about the retreat, or contact Sue Genser at fpw.retreat@gmail.com.

It's a good idea to read the info packet even if you have gone before, because things do change.

Registration links are here!

[WEEKEND Ferry Beach attendees](#)

[DAY VISITORS \(Saturday, June 3\)](#)

Fifth Friday - March 31st

In every month that has a Fifth Friday, we meet for a Shabbat potluck dinner. We **include anyone** who wants to come; all, whatever your religious background or lack of it, are welcome.



The potluck supper starts at 6:30 pm in Whitcomb Hall.

Friday is the evening that celebrates Shabbat, the Sabbath, with great food, traditional wine and challah blessings, camaraderie of friends old and new. Please come, bring family members, friends, and something to share either food or beverage.

Let us know if you are coming and what you are able to bring by emailing Joan Bone at bonehaus207@yahoo.com.

Joan keeps the list and can answer questions you might have.

Whether you've come before and are a 'regular' or it's your first time attending, you are welcome. Happy to see you!!!

Game Night

SATURDAY April 8th, 6:00pm

As always, we'll have a casual, family-friendly potluck meal

In March we had a wide variety of delicious food and fun games to please every palate and preference!

April will embrace the colors of the crocus:
yellow, purple, white or green.

Ideas: corn bread, mac n' cheese, beets, cauliflower, spanakopita, pickles, potatoes, eggplant, plum galette!

We'll gather at 6:00 & set up everything

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!



Book Club - Thursday April 20 at 2pm (via Zoom)

Brooklyn, by Colm Toibin

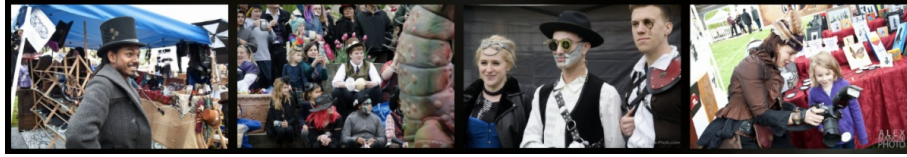
Colm Tóibín's New York Times best-selling novel - now an acclaimed film starring Saoirse Ronan and Jim Broadbent, nominated for four Academy Awards including Best Picture - is "a moving, deeply satisfying read" (Entertainment Weekly) about a young Irish immigrant in Brooklyn in the early 1950s.

Eilis Lacey has come of age in small-town Ireland in the hard years following World War Two. When an Irish priest from Brooklyn offers to sponsor Eilis in America, she decides she must go, leaving her fragile mother and her charismatic sister behind. Eilis finds work in a department store on Fulton Street and, when she least expects it, finds love. Tony, who loves the Dodgers and his big Italian family, slowly wins her over with patient charm. But just as Eilis begins to fall in love, devastating news from Ireland threatens the promise of her future.

News from Jones Partnership Recipients

The Cat Connection will be holding a "Trash and Treasure" Rummage Sale in Whitcomb Hall on Saturday, April 29th from 2 PM to 6 PM. All proceeds go to The Cat Connection veterinary

expenses. There will be household items, collectibles, jewelry, decorative pieces, and more.



Previous Jones Partnership Fund recipient, the **Watch City Steampunk Festival**, is back again this year on **Saturday, May 13**.

Established in 2010, The Watch City Steampunk Festival brings steampunks and people of all ages and interests into Waltham, MA for a day of artisan and craft vendors, spectacular entertainment, food, fun and more! They are looking for volunteers, please join in the fun and lend a hand to keep this Waltham tradition free and open to all.

Sign up here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe32l3S_aha7qUAb2k7A7AczPAL8Ys5n8K1wVCONO_8-gvi-Q/viewform

News Flashes!!!

The **Waltham Clothing Exchange** is having a Saturday opening on April 8th, 9am to 1pm. Come and pick up a bargain, or two! All profits support the administration of our building and congregation.

Christmas may feel like a long time ago, but we opened our doors during advent for a concert by **Joyce Anderson and Harvey Reid**. We received a lovely write-up by Maureen King, who has given permission for me to share a link to her published article. Scroll past the pictures and you will be able to read her 'glowing' report of the experience - click [here](#).

The **Social Action Team** will not be meeting on April 2nd due to a conflict of interests, otherwise known as a Pastoral Care Team meeting.

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.

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



<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



When is Your Birthday?

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The Membership Committee is looking 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:

Brenda Asis 3/28
Duncan Remage-Healy 3/30

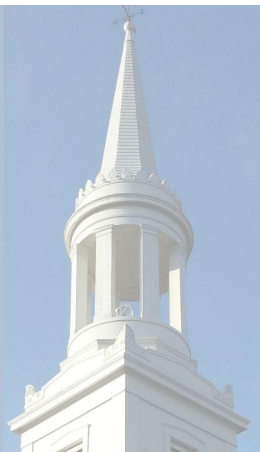
Dan Taylor 4/9
Justin Kamal 4/13
Daniel Lhota 4/16
John Allen 4/17
Jeremy Tougas 4/19
Martha Creedon 4/24
Colleen Bradley Macarthur 4/25
Muffy Young 4/26
Roberta Trudeau 4/29
Emily Weidman 4/29
Elisse Ghitelman 4/29
Zee Campbell 4/30

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



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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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