

***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 Vulnerability

"Beyond the Road We've Known"

Deborah Weiner, preaching

This year First Parish in Waltham has been on a path of exploration. We've delved into the ways in which history has influenced who we are and what the congregation is about; are working on developing a new mission; building a behavioral covenant to guide healthy relationships between and among us. This work requires embrace of both our strengths and vulnerabilities -- and calls us to new directions as we look toward crafting a vision for the congregation for its next growing years. Come join us for worship and the transitions workshop to follow!



**Clocks go forward an hour
on
Saturday night!**

Don't forget or you will be late for church

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.

A Service to Celebrate the Life of Kimberly Strafford

Saturday, March 18th at 11am First Parish Waltham

Kimberly brought joy and light to our congregation and to her world. Her death is heartbreaking for so many. But soon we will gather, to celebrate that light and to surround her family in our love.



Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. There are many ways to help, including bringing food for the reception that will follow in Whitcomb Hall, help setting up or help taking down. If you can assist in any of that, please email Martha Gallagher at

Meadegalla@gmail.com

A GoFundMe page to support the Strafford family and medical expenses has been established. If you would like to contribute, please visit the page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-strafford-family>



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

Vision for the Future

I am back from my sojourn in Puerto Rico, where there were warm days (and evenings), sunshine, lovely beaches, and great people. Our lack of fluent Spanish didn't impede us; we drove on some hair-raising mountain roads, learned about the history of the island and its curious nowhere-land position as a part of the United States, yet lacking elected representation in Congress - the realities of being a Commonwealth. This in-between place is frustrating for many Puerto Ricans: on the one hand, they benefit from social security and medicare; on the other hand they have no vote for US President and lack many of the privileges that we, in Massachusetts, consider part of our daily life.

It's tough to be in an in-between place, looking toward one possibility yet living in another...and perhaps you can relate to this reality in your own life. It's also true for congregations in transition (like this one!), where the 'old' ways of doing and being seem to not be working so well anymore, yet the path into the future is not completely clear. At times like this, it's important for congregations to cast a vision for the future, so that the community not only can see where they've been, but know where they are going - and how to get there.

That's at the core of the important work that the congregation's been engaged in this year: developing a new mission statement (Draft #5 coming up!) and developing a behavioral covenant to guide us in the ways of relating to one another with care, respect and love (Draft #2 about to be unveiled). Many of you participated in the recent feedback meetings we held to review, comment on, and suggest changes to both these drafts. Your comments and ideas are now being synthesized into the latest version of the draft documents - to be shared at Sunday's Transitions Workshop. **Sign up NOW to attend the workshop** - lunch will be served, child care available upon request - and find out where we are now with this work. The intention is that after Sunday's workshop, these drafts will be tweaked again and shared, and they will be voted on by you, the members of the congregation, at the spring Annual Meeting of the congregation. If passed by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote, the new mission and behavioral covenant will become guiding frameworks for this congregation.

But what about a vision for the future? Missions are important, for they provide concise clarity as to the core identity of the congregation. What are the ways in which that identity is implemented in the congregation, and lived out in the world? That's where vision comes in: developing a blueprint for how a mission is made alive in the world. That will be our primary focus at Sunday's workshop. As we dig into the meaning of the congregation's draft mission, how do we then shape a vision for carrying the mission forward?

This is important work which will then help to guide the congregation's elected and appointed leaders in setting goals and objectives for the next several years. It's about each of you as part of the First Parish community, and we need and want to hear your voice in this process! So please, join us on Sunday - see you in church!

In faith,

From the Music and Choir Director

Visiting Palaces

The composer of Sunday's Prelude and I have some striking similarities: We are both female, keyboard players, married, have names beginning with E, and have been invited to attend receptions at our respective rulers' houses.



Elisabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre belonged to a family that was known for producing fine musicians and instrument builders. Considered the greatest of this musical lineage, Elisabeth was born around 1666 and died in 1729. I was born in 1974 and had musicians on both sides of my family. However, my dad's family was best known for the delicious delicacies they had produced in the family bakery until a bombing raid in WWII obliterated it and left the family destitute, like many others.

After an appearance at the Court of Louis XIV Elisabeth was invited to live at Versailles, where she was educated for several years. Elisabeth's performances were attended by the King and he even allowed her to dedicate some of her compositions to him. Having married Marin de la Guerre, an organist, the couple moved to Paris and Elisabeth continued to compose.

I achieved my Queen's Guide Ward in my early 20s and was invited to take afternoon tea with the late Princess Margaret (our late Queen's sister) in recognition of the honor. For the award I had participated in helping young people access the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. (He was Queen Elizabeth II's husband). This was something I continued to do on a voluntary basis, and in my 40s I was invited to join him and his wife one afternoon for tea and a chat in the gardens at Buckingham Palace.

Elisabeth's compositions include numerous harpsichord pieces, chamber music, songs, a ballet, and an opera that was performed at the Royal Academy of Music in Paris. I have chosen 'Rigaudon' from her second book of harpsichord pieces. I have composed some pieces for various ensembles but generally focus on writing film soundtracks. Working with a local director we enter international competitions for 'shorts' (films that last less than 10 minutes).

I do hope that you enjoy the 'Rigaudon' on Sunday and look forward to hearing if you make any connections to the composer or her music.



Dear Friends....and you are dear to me,

I am writing to let you know that June 30th will be my last day of ministry with you at First Parish in Waltham.

My apologies if this is shocking news and hard to hear at this time, when there have been many staffing transitions at our church. It's news I've delayed sharing for just that reason.

The main reasons I am leaving have to do with my personal commitments to my family, as well as my desire to learn and commit myself to sustaining ways of self-care. But the strongest call I am hearing is the one which calls me back to community ministry. I have no idea what form or where that will take me, but I am excited to respond.

I will miss you all: as individuals, as a congregation and as "the communities of communities" you are becoming. I will miss our worship together and the many ministries of our church. And...we will miss each other. We've been doing the work of love and truth seeking together, some of us for eight years now. You have graced me with that privilege and grown me as a minister.

We still have several months to talk together before we will need to take the traditional separation that occurs when a religious professional ends their ministry, and another begins a new one. And let's find a way to celebrate our time together before I leave!

You at FPW are familiar with uncertainty and transition. I have watched the way you step up to it with resilience. Perhaps we can be excited together for the new things we can't

even imagine that are, even at this moment, coming our way!

May our remaining time together continue to be a blessing.

Love,
Rev. Becky

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 \(Saturday, June 3\)](#)

SAVE THE DATE: STEWARDSHIP DINNER

March 25th, 2023
5:00 Whitcomb Hall

Care, Commit, Connect – these three C's have historically introduced our stewardship drive. Placing the last at the head of the list – let's plan to connect in a First Parish friends and member potluck on the 25th of March. It will be a time for conversation and good cheer. Additionally, this year the choral group **Revels Singers** will provide entertainment with some audience participation. And there are plans afoot for a staff performance... So, mark your calendars and start looking through your favorite potluck recipes.



Leslie Gildersleeve will be organizing the potluck – more to come in the next week.

News Flashes!!!

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.

The **Waltham Clothing Exchange** has opened its spring, Tuesdays only, from 10 to 4:30. Clothing, household items, toys, stuffed animals, hardware, electronics, and more at ridiculous prices! Of special interest may be the American Girl doll collection we received, clothes and accessories. If you can't make it, tell a friend! Visit the Waltham Clothing Exchange, you will love it!

The **First Parish fundraising auction** will be happening again in mid-April, first online and then culminating with an in-person event on Saturday, April 22. If you are particularly interested in a getaway this summer, Joel and Susan Weddig are again donating their New Hampshire vacation week in August! For those who like to plan ahead, the week will be August 13-20 only, at the Cathedral Ledge Resort - a two bedroom timeshare condo with a loft, sleeping 6-8. For more info: <https://www.cathedralledgeresort.com/> The starting bid is \$750, renting from the resort for that week is normally \$2700! Stay tuned for more auction promos in coming weeks!

Game Night!

Friday March 10th, 6:00pm

It's a lot of fun & everyone is welcome

We'll have a casual, family-friendly potluck meal

This month we're focusing on "Green!"

This could include Guacamole, Pesto, Green pasta, Scallion Pancakes, Spanakopita, Leek soup...Yum!

If you're feeling adventurous, wear clothes to match!

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 Group: March 23rd at 7pm (over Zoom)

Shelter in Place by David Leavitt

Shelter in Place is a novel about house and home, furniture and rooms, safety and freedom, and the invidious ways in which political upheaval can undermine even the most seemingly impregnable foundations. Eva is the novel's polestar, a woman who moves through her days accompanied by a roving, carefully curated salon. She's a generous hostess and more than a bit of a control freak, whose obsession with decorating allows Leavitt to treat us to a slyly comic look at the habitués and fetishes of the so-called shelter industry. Yet when, in her avidity to secure shelter for herself, she persuades Bruce to buy a grand if dilapidated apartment in Venice, she unwittingly sets off the chain of events that will propel him, for the first time, to venture outside the bubble and embark on a wholly unexpected love affair.

"Very funny and unexpected, a material response to our times, plush as velvet" (Rachel Cusk)

"A wickedly funny and emotionally expansive novel about all the bewildering ways we seek solace from the people and things that surround us." (Jenny Offill)

Try something new!

We have regular renters who come from many different backgrounds. One of our newer clients is inviting **YOU** to join them.

Bulgarian folk dancing and its music may not be

something you've tried before but what have you got to lose?!

The leader plays viola in Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra (one of our Jones Partnership recipients). He is not Bulgarian - I asked - and neither are any other members of the band. Some of them have never even been to Bulgaria, but they fell in love with this aspect of the culture.

Be vulnerable and try something new. You too might fall in love!

**Saturday, March 11
8-11pm
In Whitcomb Hall**

Monthly Series

Dance Party and Concert

with **Zdravets**

(your friendly neighborhood Bulgarian band)
First Parish in Waltham
50 Church Street, Waltham MA

Participatory folk dancing
8-11 pm
Saturday, March 11, 2023

Dancing and live music from in and around Bulgaria
Plenty of easy dances, with some instruction

\$8-\$10 Admission
Please mask for this event
Join us only if you are feeling well
We recommend you be fully vaccinated

For information:
(617) 964-2003 or zdravets.com

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!



First Parish
in Waltham

A Welcoming
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



When is Your Birthday?

.....
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:

Light the Steeple

Honor
a person, occasion,
event, or idea

Contact the Office

✉ office@walthamuu.org

☎ 781.893.6240



Dan Dehainaut 3/3
Nora Strafford 3/10
Rachel Learned 3/10
Alan Bone 3/11
Joan Bone 3/14
Cynthia Salamanis 3/26
Brenda Asis 3/28
Duncan Ramage-Healy 3/30
Send a card or an email to these members!

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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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