

***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

"The Minister is In: Questions (and Answers) for Changing Times"

It's Spring, the flowers are popping up, and maybe there are questions that you've always had about ministry, about faith, about...life, that you've always wanted to ask someone. Someone like a minister! Well here's your chance:

Join Deborah Weiner and Rev. Becky Sheble-Hall on Sunday, April 16 at 10:30 AM for the Question Box service. They'll do their best to respond to your questions, which can be submitted in advance (preferred!) [HERE](#), or just prior to the worship service at church. Come and join in the spontaneity of the moment as your spiritual leaders respond to what's on YOUR mind!.

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

We Rise Again

Easter Sunday at First Parish was a glorious time. The sanctuary was filled with springtime flowers, the music from Emma Campbell and guest horn player Alex Lee-Clark, was terrific, and there were more folk in the sanctuary than we've seen in many months. That included a lot of visitors AND returning 'long-timers' too! We were so glad to welcome you all, and hope that we'll see you, again and again, in the coming weeks and months.

Just as we're seeing more and more spring flowers around the church (the grape hyacinths, daffodils and wood hyacinths are delightful) we're also feeling energy rising in the congregation. The warmer days and opportunity to enjoy more daylight and outdoor activities stirs our souls, and also our energy. In order to build on, and make the most of, all that is going on at First Parish, here are my 'top three' asks of you:

1. Complete your stewardship pledge to First Parish. Without your support, we can't offer dynamic and uplifting ministry in the church. Your commitment does more than keep the lights on: it supports an excellent staff, programs that educate and inspire and engage us in the larger community with our UU values. Our goal is 100 percent participation - please 'be in that number'!
2. Attend the Transitions Workshop on April 30th. We've been involved in some terrific transitions work this year: exploring the congregation's history, building a new mission statement; forming a relational covenant to help us be in right relationship with one another; articulating a vision for the congregation's ministry. Now it's time to put all those pieces together AND apply them to the future - as we begin a search for a new settled minister for the congregation! Sign up [HERE](#) to take part in the next workshop, and let's build toward the future!
3. Join in putting your hands to the work: there are many ways to make this congregation stronger with just a little of your effort applied to the challenge. Tell Martha Gallagher (membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org) that you'll usher or help with coffee hour. Talk to Bethany Templeton-Klem (bethany.klem@walthamuu.org) and offer to help prepare the sanctuary for worship services. Talk to Leslie Gildersleeve (gildersleeveleslie@gmail.com) and offer to make the church's grounds look gorgeous. Talk to Dan Taylor (property@walthamuu.org) if you have facilities or physical plant skills and can give us a little time and talent. Interested in social justice and justice-making in the community? Plum Kennard (plum.kennard@walthamuu.org) would like to hear from you. And education is a life-long venture. Could you give us two hours on a Sunday to support religious education for children and youth? Pam Penton (pam.penton@walthamuu.org) would welcome you.

One of my favorite hymns is Carolyn McDade's "Rising Green" - a song for this time, for this kind of increased energy. The song calls us as our faith "settles deep in the earth," to recognize that it will be "rising green to bring a new day." So shall it be with all of us, in this place, at this hopeful time. Let's make it happen!

In faith, with love,
Deb



Coming to Worship on April 16: The Question Box Sermon!

Have you ever wanted to ask the minister a question and not had the time, or space...or maybe even courage? Well, this is your opportunity! Deb Weiner and Rev. Becky will offer a Question Box Service on Sunday, April 16th. If you have a theological or spiritual question, or something else that you think one of the ministers might respond to, this is your opportunity to ask!

There are two ways to participate. fill out the easy form [HERE](#) to submit your question. Or if you want to be moved in the moment, we'll have a form for you to fill out as you enter the service on April 16th. Ask us a question - we'll tell you no lies, as the song says!

- Deb and Rev. Becky

From the Music and Choir Director

While the term 'Resistance' often speaks to heroism and the practice of doing deeds for the greater good, in my household the word 'procrastination' would probably be more frequently used to describe the actions of the inhabitants.

There are two teenagers who visit their dad on alternate weekends (and week nights when homework is presenting challenges, or the cuisine being served looks more appealing than the alternative residence.)

Those of you who have experienced the trauma associated with being asked to help with



homework, only to have them refuse to get it out of their bag and make a start on it, will hopefully have some sympathy with the fact that my grey hairs are multiplying. Last weekend the procrastinating extended to not wanting to go out for ice cream. I was wondering what new level of chaos we were entering, only to find out that they had eaten so much lunch that the idea of trying to fit anything else in was unthinkable - for about 45 minutes!

Gabriel Faure, a French composer and organist born in 1924 was also a major procrastinator. Many musicians and listeners are familiar with his Requiem, but other than this and his 'Pavane', they struggle to name any of his other works. Faure wanted his compositions to have seriousness and gravity, believing that giving them a frivolous title would be demeaning in some way. As a result he wrote numerous pieces with the same title of 'Short Piece', 'Barcarolle', or 'Nocturne'. However, having contracted pneumonia it is said that he regretted this on his death-bed, but couldn't think up imaginative names and was greatly distressed.

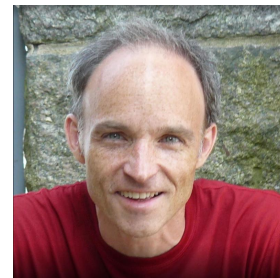
I am learning No. 5 from his 'Short Pieces' for the Offertory this week. I love Faure's piano music, but don't think his lack of pretty titles prevents more people becoming familiar with his imaginative approach to harmony. The man was ambidextrous and he thinks nothing of creating tricky passages that pass between the fingers of both hands, or creating rhythmic complexities that tie some of us in knots for weeks.

Musically yours
Emma

From our President

Transitions News

It seems that some of you have been wondering about the status of our ministerial searches. My apologies for not providing more frequent updates. The short answer is, *we are on the move*.



The last information that I shared was that back in December, we had formed an interim search committee of Pam Penton, Deb Jose, Donna Vanderlock, and myself. (It is usually the case that a subset of the congregation's board act in this role). At last month's board meeting we were joined by Christine Purcell, our UUA transitions program manager who updated us on the current situation with interims, which is looking better than last year. We also talked with her about other possibilities for advancing our ministry for the next church year. Based on that, we are working on a two-pronged approach to filling our ministerial positions for next year.

One is using the normal UUA Interim Minister Search Portal. Having been through this process for the past two years, it is old hat now. Following this route, we have been updating our congregational record which is due on April 20th. In early May, we will receive the resumes of interested candidates and go through the interview process. Following this path, we would find out on May 17th if we have a ministerial match.

At the same time, we have been searching for a contract minister who might be interested in working with us. Deb Weiner is open to the possibility of providing transitional ministry support next year, so that would give us a variety of options to offer to interested candidates.

And looking long term, Deb is preparing to lead us this Spring in the ministerial search process, and specifically in the steps needed for us to form a settled minister search committee. I hope that you find that idea exciting. If so, please make sure that you attend the April 30 transitions workshop (following worship) and that you consider offering to serve on the search team.

If you have additional questions about our transitions process, please reach out to me!
Blessings,
[Scott Tougas](#)
President

**Transitions Workshop - Coming
April 30th, 12-3 PM**

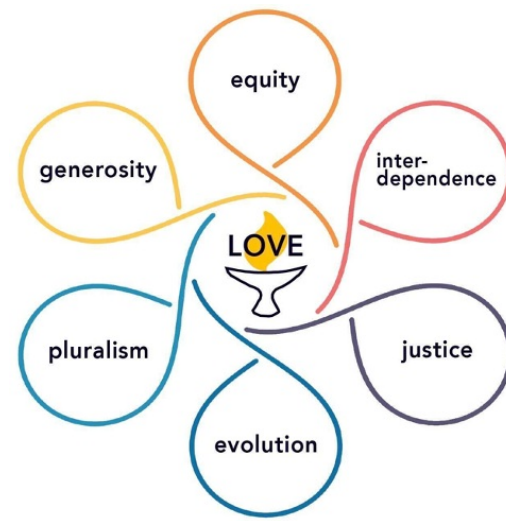
It's time for us to gather again to consider all the transitions going on in and around this congregation! Come to church at 10:30 AM on Sunday, April 30th for worship (which will focus on ministry!) Following the service (at 12 noon) we'll enjoy lunch together. We'll take one more review of our work this year on mission, a relational covenant, and vision elements. (Remember, the intent is for the new mission and relational covenant statements to be voted on at the congregation's annual meeting, and for the vision work to move to the Board for their discernment and enactment). AND following that, we move on to ministry! We'll talk about the ministerial transition process, and begin work in understanding what it means to name a search committee to represent YOU as you search for First Parish's next settled minister in the spring of 2024.

To sign up, please click [HERE](#). For those who can not attend in person a zoom link will be available.

- Deb Weiner, Transitional Ministry Associate

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.

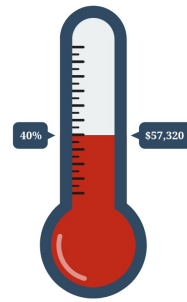
We will hold several meetings for people to review the proposal and share their thoughts. The first will be in person in the **Chapel at noon on Sunday, April 23**, led by Scott Tougas. Elisse will lead one on Zoom at another time. We will also have one at Ferry Beach.

[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!

Pledge Drive Update

As of Monday, April 10, we have reached 40% of our pledge goal with 21 pledges received. Please return your pledge form as soon as possible so we can finish planning for waht we can afford in the next church year.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna VanderClock



Save the Date! First Parish Talent Show and On-Line Service Auction

Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 7pm

It's time to start thinking about which of your special talents you would like to showcase in the entertainment portion of the evening: 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 (brendaasis1@gmail.com) or
Daphne Blount (dblount724@gmail.com)



Service Auction!

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.

YOU Can Make Summer Worship Happen - Please Read On!

Even as we celebrate spring, we know summer's just around the corner! Are you interested in helping support summer worship gatherings at First Parish? We're thinking about offering early-evening Sunday worship services in the summer...along with some potluck summer suppers! Following a 'vespers' idea, these services could be centered on poetry, music, meditation, or follow a more traditional format. Shorter in length, however, we're imagining gatherings of about 35-45 minutes...a time to slow down, re-connect with others, refresh for the week ahead, and replenish our physical and emotional energy.

Are you interested? Please email Deborah Weiner, Transitional Ministry Associate, to let her know and we'll talk! deb.weiner@walthamuu.org. Let the imagination begin!

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)

News Flash!!!

Are you unable to attend Ferry Beach Weekend? **Jodi Anderson** is wondering if there are folks available to sit with her at a table for First Parish Waltham at the city's Pride event on the Waltham Common on 6/3/23 (event is from 11-4). If interested, please contact Jodi at jodimarmontiananderson@gmail.com or at coffee hour. It would be a great opportunity to outreach to members of our LGBTQ+ community.

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?

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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



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

First Parish in Waltham

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>

Happy Birthday this Month to:

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

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☎ 781.893.6240



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Janet Riley
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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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