

***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 Resistance

Music Sunday is here - how can you resist joining us?

Join the Worship Committee and the Choir as we explore how music has played a role in highlighting defiance against the status quo. There will be something for all musical tastes and we would be delighted if you could resist the temptation to hide under the duvet and join us for worship.

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.

From the Music and Choir Director

Music Sunday - coming to FPW on Sunday!

Music is part of Worship each week so why have a week when there is more of it than usual during worship? We may all have our different perspectives on what "worship" means, and what it involves. However, Merriam-Webster's online dictionary gives a definition that I love:

"Worship: to honor or show reverence for a Devine being or supernatural power"



Music-making is an activity found in all cultures across the history of time. For me, it has the power to alter my emotions - to make me cry or to calm me. It can transport me to a different time and place, sometimes by evoking powerful memories that I didn't know I had. Not all music does this, and sometimes the same piece of music has different responses. The journey of exploring music that is new to me can be incredibly rewarding.

Around 6 years ago I had my first experience of witnessing the powerful effects that music can have on others. I was visiting my late father-in-law in hospital - the result of a fall. Battling dementia, he was mostly non-verbal and struggled to recognize anyone other than his wife. There were quite a number of us visiting him, and he was brought into the day room where there was a piano. Hanging back, so he was not overwhelmed by lots of faces he could not recollect, I explored the contents of the piano stool. I found a book of numbers from musicals and my husband (Michael) suggested I give the keys a try. I wiggled my fingers, my brother-in-law broke into song, and Michael came to turn pages. The piano was terribly out of tune, the singing in an uncomfortable register, Michael was distracted and turned two pages at once - the ensemble fell apart. On turning round, my late father-in-law (Bob) was gripping the table and shaking, and my sister-in-law was crying. What had I done? I was mortified. I rushed over to realize that Bob was racking with silent laughter, and my sister-in-law was moved at seeing any kind of emotion on his face. As I approached, Bob spoke to me - the first time in some weeks that he had put a sentence together.

While your response to Sunday's music may not be so strong, I do hope there will be something in the selection that allows you to have a connection via a 'supernatural power'. My gratitude for their commitment and perseverance goes to the Choir. Each week they have to learn something new, while having their mistakes pointed out. This takes courage! I am also thankful that the Worship Team, who have crafted a service out of our musical ideas, are such a lovely group of people to work with. Their creative thinking and attention to detail means we will all be in safe hands for the service. I hope to see you there, supporting your other congregants and being transported to an unexpected realm.

Emma



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

"Break Forth My Vision of Ministry Clear"

One of my favorite hymns is "Wake, Now, My Senses" (#298 in our gray hymnbook), written by Rev. Thomas Mikelson and set to a lovely traditional Irish Melody. It calls to us, in the final verse: "Wake, now, my vision of ministry clear; brighten my pathway with radiance here; mingle my calling with all who will share..."

These words speak not only to the calling of ministry for those of us who serve as religious professionals, but also to the opportunities we have to engage our ministry with the change we hope to see made real in our congregations and the wider world. First Parish in Waltham has had many ministers over its long history, and of course, in recent years there's been plenty of change in the religious leadership you've had as well. As we move toward spring and the 'close' of this church year (historically, ending in the early summer) with another year of ministerial transition ahead, it's also time - even in the midst of change - to start thinking about what kind of minister might best serve the congregation in the years to come.

Sometimes our personal answer to that question is to yearn for someone who is "exactly like Rev. ____ who preached such great sermons." Or perhaps you'll remember fondly another minister who was at the bedside of your loved one as they endured a medical challenge or passed into the mysteries of death. Or you might be thinking of a minister - one you have never met - who is magical with children and youth, exuding love and energy at every turn. Or a religious leader who is both a member of a traditionally under-represented community (a person of color, a person with a disability, a person who identifies as queer, or another category you can imagine) who will challenge and expand your perspectives on ministry in a changing world.

As you can see, the possibilities are many, and the process for engaging with a new minister is lengthy and of pivotal importance to this congregation as you look to the future. Together, we've worked this church year on drafting a new mission statement, a relational covenant, and developing a vision statement for the congregation. As we are guided by those important elements, we also have the opportunity to consider "what kind of minister" might be right for the congregation now and in the coming years.

On April 30th, we'll explore those possibilities and the process for getting there, both during our worship service and at the transitions workshop that will follow. You'll want to be there - because this is *your* congregation, and it's *your* future that we'll be charting. Sign up [HERE](#) to attend the workshop and lunch on April 30th...and no sign up is needed to

attend worship, as we joyously welcome all each and every week. See you in church!

In faith, with love,
Deb

Mission: Joy!
***A documentary exploring the remarkable
relationship between
HRH The Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu***

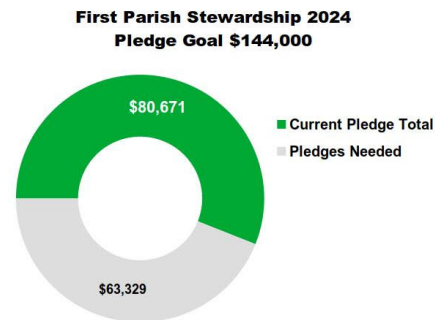
Join Rev. Becky after church on Sunday May 21st. in Whitcomb Hall for a pizza lunch and the showing of this beautiful and inspirational movie . More details to follow, but please do put this date on your calendar!!!



Pledge Drive Update

As of Tuesday, April 18, we have reached 56% of our pledge goal with 28 pledges received. Please help us complete the circle! Return your pledge form as soon as possible so we can finish planning for what we can afford in the next church year.

If you have questions, please contact Donna VanderClock (donna.vanderclock@walthamuu.org) or Dan DeHainaut (dan.dehainaut@walthamuu.org).



Stewardship Day

Come and help spruce up our building and grounds. We are blessed with a fine building and a nice property in the middle of downtown Waltham. It is important that we keep it in good shape and looking good for ourselves, our neighbors, and our descendents. You can help us do that by coming out on Saturday, April 29th 9am-12pm. No experience necessary! Lunch will be provided. Talk to Dan Taylor if you have any questions. property@walthamuu.org

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.

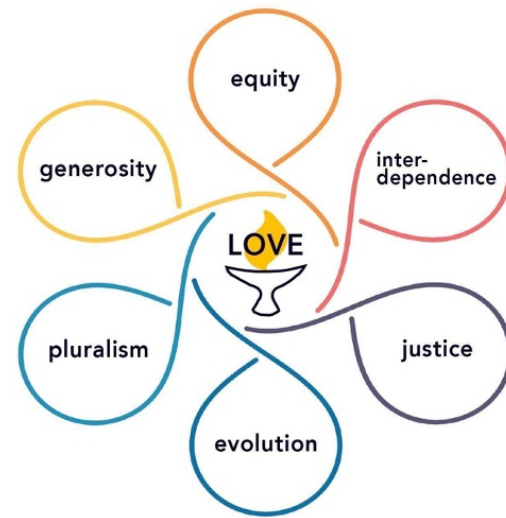
To sign up, please click [HERE](#). For those who can not attend in person a zoom link will be available.

- 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!



Dessert and Talent Show and More Opportunities to BID

Saturday the 22nd at 6:30

Come to Whitcomb Hall at 6:30 for dessert with entertainment starting at 7:00.

It's happening. The First Parish online auction is open for bidding. There are 78 items to choose from: food, jewelry, services and more! There's even an option to make a donation to First Parish for those who have everything. The auction closes Sunday the 23rd, also at 4pm. Here is the link to the site: <https://www.32auctions.com/FirstParishWalthamUU2>

In addition to the online auction site, there will be a pop up sale the night of the Talent Show April 22 and after church on Sunday the 23rd.

And speaking of the talent show, which will be live and on zoom, the entertainment portion of the evening will be a lot of fun! We will be singing, dancing, reading poetry, leading sing-alongs, and performing live music!

To join online click [here](#) and use the password "Fun".

Seeking People Like YOU: Becoming a Member of First Parish in Waltham

Some of you know that old ad that talked about how "membership has its privileges." Well here at First Parish in Waltham, members have privileges - like voting for the policies and programs and leaders of this congregation - and also the opportunity, through membership, to take their place as 'owners' of the congregation. In this Unitarian Universalist congregation we affirm the role of our members as being the leaders of the congregation...having a voice in the decision-making, future-focusing process that guides us forward.

If you are not yet a member of this congregation, we hope that you'll think about what membership can mean for you...and say, "I'm ready!" We'll welcome you with joy and celebration, and be thrilled to count you as one of the people who helps shape this congregation's present and future. Please reach out to **Martha Gallagher**, Membership Commissioner, or to **Deb Weiner** or **Rev. Becky** if you'd like to 'be in that number'!

News Flash!!!

Waltham's Steampunk Festival takes place on **Saturday 13th May**. We are going to be hosting the Blood Donor Drive in partnership with the **Red Cross**. Information on how to sign up and donate and save lives will be coming soon. However, if you are not sure what a 'Steampunk Festival' is, please click on these links to find out more: <https://www.watchcityfestival.com/blog-the-foggy-goggle/2023/4/13/ask-a-steampunk-what-is-steampunk> and <https://www.watchcityfestival.com/blog-the-foggy-goggle/2023/4/16/ask-a-steampunk-how-did-waltham-become-watch-city> .

FRIENDS AND FAMILIES EVENT



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Earth Day 2023 Citywide Clean-up

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND, 2023

The Waltham Public Works Department is coordinating our annual City Clean-up this year on Earth Day! Over the past 18 years, we have held this annual event with the exception of 2020. It is a great event for families, neighborhoods, and groups. All are welcome!

If you know of an area you would like to address, please let us know so we can coordinate with all other parties. If not, we will have areas we can assign to you and your group.

Kick-off will be Saturday morning, April 22nd, at 9:00am at City Hall (810 Main Street). At that time, assignments will be distributed as well as trash bags. Please bring gloves!

We will coordinate a pick-up site for the full bags.

Interested In Joining Us?

Contact Public Works:
Stew LaCrosse
781-314-3801 /
slacrosse@city.waltham.ma.us

or Janice Deveney
781-314-3803 /
jdeveney@city.waltham.ma.us

Celebrate Earth Day

Meet us on Saturday, April 22 at 9:00 at City Hall

**"Waters of Life: Exploring Mythos, Divinity, Beings and Ecology"
International Conference
Association for the Study of Women & Mythology
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Syracuse
May 5-6, 2023**

With the onset of global warming, a consciousness is arising of the need for respect, reverence and protection for our water sources. This is a time to look back and around to gather the wisdom of Water Keepers, past and present, around the globe. Our conference explores world myths of water deities, water creatures and water itself in cultural, spiritual, and ecological contexts. The program features honored First Nations elders of the Americas and Indigenous scholars. We include a conversation, "Teachings of Water Spirit" with Canadian Water Protectors, and a keynote "Goddess of the Sea: Ancient and Future Myths" by Hallie Iglehart Austen. Topics for our cross-cultural presentations include midwifery, sacred stories of place and waters, arts and activism, health and healing, and mythic figures and animals.

[Learn more here](#) and join us for this enlightening and inspiring program.
Contact: events@womenandmyth.org

Pastoral Care in Our Congregation - we're here for you!

Are you struggling with issues that could use the support of another member of our congregation as a listening ear or to offer support? In addition to Rev. Becky Sheble-Hall and Deb Weiner, who provide pastoral care to our community, our Lay Pastoral Care Team is available to you. Please reach out to us if you believe we can help: pastoralcare@walthamuu.org - a member of our team will respond to you in a timely manner!

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>

The advertisement features a background image of a church steeple and a logo with a stylized tree.

When is Your Birthday?

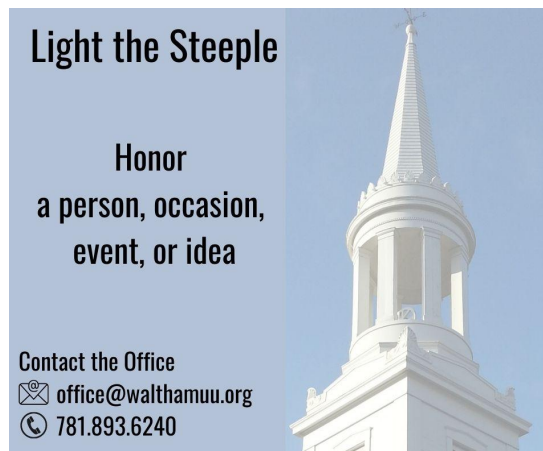
.....
The Membership Committee is looking to recreate the celebration of birthdays! Whose birthdays? Everyone's birthdays! Yours, your partner's and your children's birthdays. Help us to celebrate each important day. Let us know those important dates. We will add the dates to the newsletter so we can all honor and celebrate our community. Email the dates to Martha Gallagher.

membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Happy Birthday this Month to:

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

The advertisement features a background image of a church steeple.

Ministry Staff Team

Acting Minister

The Rev. Rebecca Sheble-Hall
508.479.7570
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Office Manager /

Music and Choir Director
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Transitional Ministry Associate
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deb.weiner@walthamuu.org

or
musicdirector@walthamuu.org

Board Members

President, Board of Managers

Scott Tougas
president@walthamuu.org

Assistant Treasurer

Dan DeHainaut
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Clerk

Deb Jose
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Commissioner of Community Outreach

Plum Kennard
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Finance

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Membership

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Music and Worship Commissioner

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Property

Dan Taylor
property@walthamuu.org

Religious Education Commissioner

Pam Penton
pam.penton@walthamuu.org

Treasurer

Janet Riley
treasurer@walthamuu.org

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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