

***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

**Sunday Worship, April 30, 2023 - 10:30 AM
"Break Forth Our Vision of Ministry Clear"
Deborah Weiner, preaching**

In this very active year of transitional ministry at First Parish in Waltham, we've developed a new mission statement, relational covenant, and identified the elements that will shape the congregation's vision for the next 3-5 years. And what about ministry beyond the transitional year we're in? We will explore what it means to hold a vision for a ministry that is transformative, uplifting, and inspiring as we think about what the future holds. A transitions workshop will follow worship, from 12-3 PM. All are welcome; lunch will be served.

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

Mountains to Climb

This week, as we move past Easter and into Beltane, the summer quarter in the Celtic calendar (May 1) I can feel the shift that some in the congregation are experiencing. It's not just the growing light or the (slowly) warming earth...life in church has a rhythm to it, and the church year is calendared for a reason. Every minister, religious educator and music colleague that I talk to - and I am confident this is true for other members of the church staff as well - is feeling, to one degree or another, as if they are trying to get to the 'finish line' until they can take a breath and rest, go to General

Assembly, read a book, move to summer hours, or otherwise push the 'pause' button...even if it's for just a little while. I suspect that those of you reading this may be feeling the same way (some of the time, anyway): those of you who have been working on the stewardship campaign, the talent show, the auction, or on task forces or planning and executing other major events - there's a lot going on here!

And yet, everywhere I look, magic happens. My hat is off to all who made the talent show and auction happen. And to those who lent hands and hearts to the worship service on Sunday, celebrating music and spoken word with a focus on justice and building equity - bravo! There are plans afoot to spruce up the property and building on a spring work day, plans for hosting a blood drive at the church during the Steampunk Festival - and hey, we're also looking to hold summer worship services and gatherings too, because we know that this congregation doesn't, and shouldn't, close altogether in the summer months! Together, in community, the world changes, a bit at a time.

So even though you may be feeling a little bit like you're starting to run on vapors, I hope that you've got enough petrol in your system for what lies ahead still: our April 30 transitions workshop, where we'll learn more about the path to settled ministry; plans to say a fond farewell to Rev. Becky as she concludes her ministry here; plans to welcome new ministry team members for the next church year; plans to attend our faith community's General Assembly, in person or virtually - and lots more.

The days leading to the bloom of summer are in front of us, friends. Let's finish supporting the church's stewardship program so that we can say, "that's a wrap" and know that we've given generously and with love to the congregation we care for. Let's roll up our sleeves and dig into the work of the church. Let's make a commitment to tell at least one other person about this congregation, and invite them to come to church - so that we can share the joy with others! It's spring, and there are mountains to climb - but oh, the beauty that awaits us at the crest is glorious! See you in church.

In faith, with love,
Deb

From the Music and Choir Director

In this congregation we have been working our way towards thinking about what we want the future to look like, and I am aware that, for some, it feels nearly as terrifying as opting for a new hairstyle. I asked someone to cut all my hair off about 10 years ago, only to realize that they were even more terrified than me - I knew what I looked like without lots of blonde curls but they had no idea. We argued for at least 10 minutes before he agreed to leave me about 2 inches all over - I loved it but have to say that having to do my hair every day was an arduous task so I let it grow again. Daily washing, combing and styling is so definitely not my thing!



Sunday's worship will be preparing us for change as we think about our next ministry - along with the feelings that may arise in the Transitions Workshop that follows the service. We're preparing to boldly go where we have been before, with new knowledge and commitment to building successful shared ministry.

You may be asking how this connects to music. Sunday's Prelude is from Prokofiev's 'Visions Fugitives' - a collection of short pieces that give brief glimpses of a particular key / mood. I love them all and have chosen to play the first in the set of 18 pieces. With just 27 measures in the entire piece, and being marked 'Lentamente', you could be forgiven for thinking that it is easy. Indeed, the right hand appears to be playing in C major as it uses the white notes for most of the piece. However, the left hand is not on the same key. This, for me, makes it feel like the piece is floating in mid-air and gives the illusion that the composer is searching for somewhere to land. It is a piece that is about change from the usual.

For the Offertory I have selected an 'Elegie', a type of mournful song. This is fitting, as searching for a new beginning implies something is coming to an end. Accepting that this is the case for all of us, is the first step in being able to constructively plan for the future. I, for one, will very much miss the comforting presence of Rev. Becky and her wise words at times of stress / panic / frustration. This piece honors some of those feelings.

"Freeway" by Alan Houghton has a bit of a rock and roll feel to it. I have a feeling the way forward may be rocky, but I'm ready to roll with that in the hope that we can transition smoothly along the path towards a successful future at First Parish in Waltham. I hope you are ready to get on board with the planning and journey with the rest of us!



With sadness, we share the news that Peter Babi's sister Jackeline Irene Nakafeero died on Thursday after living with cancer for over 5 years.

You are invited to First Parish in Waltham this Friday evening, April 28 at 7 PM for a service to celebrate her life. The service will take place in the sanctuary and a reception will follow the service, to be held in Whitcomb Hall.

Pledge Drive Update

As of Monday, April 24, we have reached 72% of our pledge goal with 39 pledges received.

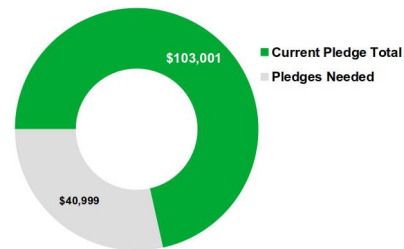
Please help us complete the circle!

Return your pledge form as soon as possible so we can finish planning for what we can afford in the next church year. You can use the [online form](#) or a paper form that you picked up at church. If you have questions, please contact Donna VanderClock

(donna.vanderclock@walthamuu.org)

or Dan DeHainaut (dan.dehainaut@walthamuu.org).

First Parish Stewardship 2024
Pledge Goal \$144,000



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

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

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!!!

**Social Action Team Meeting:
Sunday May 7th
1:00pm on Zoom**

We have another interesting topic to learn about and discuss

Brenda Asis & Andy LeCompte will be our guides to "Plant-Based Eating for Health for Ourselves and for the Planet". Please join us on this journey.



If you're inclined to watch a documentary, here's a good list.

<https://vegnews.com/vegan-news/media/best-vegan-documentaries>

The Zoom link will go out to the "SAT" and "Equity & Justice For All" groups on Friday May 5th. If you would like to come, but are not on either list, Please email Plum (plum.kennard@walthamuu.org) and she will send you the link separately.

Auction Success!

Thanks to the donors, the buyers, and the organizers, the First Parish online auction was a great success! We raised nearly \$6,800, which surpassed our goal of \$6,400.

Thanks also to Brenda Asis and Daphne Blount for organizing and all of the performers who shared their talents on Saturday night. It was a great evening with nearly 40 people attending. The evening was dedicated to Kimberly Strafford, who served as our wonderful MC for the last two years.

Special thanks to Leslie Gildersleeve for all her work behind the scenes.



**Watch City Steampunk Festival
Blood Drive**

Sponsored by Heinlein Society

First Parish Church
50 Church St
Waltham, MA 02452

**Saturday, May 13, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



First Parish in Waltham is partnering with Watch City Steampunk Festival's blood drive and would be delighted if you would consider booking an appointment to give blood while in the comfort of Whitcomb Hall.

To sign up, please click [here](#).

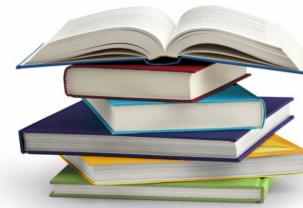
The opportunity is open to all over the age of 17 (those ages 16 need parental consent).

You need to weigh a minimum of 110lbs.

Book Group

Book group meets on Thursday, May 18th at 2pm on Zoom. For more information (including the Zoom link) please contact Martha Gallagher via

THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE ROOM by Marie Benedict



Hedy Kiesler possessed a stunning beauty. She also possessed a stunning mind. Could the world handle both?

Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich's plans while at her husband's side, understanding more than anyone would guess. She devised a plan to flee in disguise from their castle, and the whirlwind escape landed her in Hollywood. She became Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But she kept a secret more shocking than her heritage or her marriage: She was a scientist. And she knew a few secrets about the enemy. She had an idea that might help the country fight the Nazis...if anyone would listen to her. A powerful novel based on the incredible true story of the glamor icon and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication, *The Only Woman in the Room* is a masterpiece.

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 Flashes!!!

8th Principle Panel

Save the Date: Tuesday, May 30 @ 6:30 on zoom

Join us to hear from some local churches who have already adopted the 8th Principle. They will share their journey and now what they are doing to continue their work.

It's only 5 weeks 'til Ferry Beach !

We have a great group going, and... there's still room for more!

Ferry Beach needs FINAL HEADCOUNTS by mid-May, so there are some registration deadlines coming up.

-- Wednesday, May 17 is the deadline to register for accommodations and all meals.

-- Friday, May 26 is the deadline if you want to come up for the day on Saturday, June 3 and bring your own meals.

From our friends:

Celebrate Earth Day with Deb Weiner and the Halalisa Singers!

The Halalisa Singers, the world music ensemble founded by Nick Page and now under the direction of Mary Cunningham, invites you to a Concert for the Earth! Deb Weiner (and spouse Ben) are both members of the ensemble, and they'll be performing in Worcester (April 29, 8 PM) and Arlington (April 30, 4 PM). The *Missa Gaia*, written by the Paul Winter Consort is featured along with co-composer Jim Scott and award winning sax player Stan Strickland. Additional music for the earth by Kim Arneson, Gwyneth Walker, Moses Hogan

and others is also featured, and Mothers Out Front will be joining in the celebration. For tickets: <https://www.halalisa.org/concerts>

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>



When is Your Birthday?

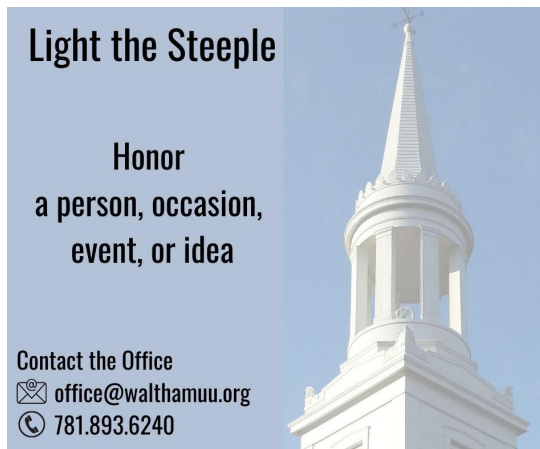
.....
The Membership Committee is looking to recreate the celebration of birthdays! Whose birthdays? Everyone's birthdays! Yours, your partner's and your children's birthdays. Help us to celebrate each important date. Let us know those important dates. We will add the dates to the newsletter so we can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

membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Happy Birthday this Month to:



Muffy Young 4/26
Roberta Trudeau 4/29
Emily Weidman 4/29
Elisse Ghitelman 4/29
Zee Campbell 4/30


Daniel Lowe 5/1
David Wilbourn 5/11
William Weber 5/11
Amy Eastwood 5/19
Bayley Remage-Healy 5/19
Martha Gallagher 5/20
LeeAnn Lowe 5/30
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



Ministry Staff Team

Acting Minister

The Rev. Rebecca Sheble-Hall
508.479.7570
Revbecky@walthamuu.org

Transitional Ministry Associate

Deborah Weiner
617.513.6614
deb.weiner@walthamuu.org

Office Manager / Music and Choir Director

Emma Campbell
781.893.6240
office@walthamuu.org
or
musicdirector@walthamuu.org

Board Members

President, Board of Managers

Scott Tougas
president@walthamuu.org

Assistant Treasurer

Dan DeHainaut
asst.treasurer@walthamuu.org

Clerk

Deb Jose
clerk@walthamuu.org

Commissioner of Community

Outreach
Plum Kennard
plum.kennard@walthamuu.org

Finance

Donna Vanderclock
donna.vanderclock@walthamuu.org

Membership

Martha Gallagher
membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Music and Worship Commissioner

Bethany Templeton Klem
bethany.klem@walthamuu.org

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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