

**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**

Spring has sprung! Out of cold and darkness comes warmth and light. Easter is coming!  
Out of the darkness of the tomb comes the joy of new life.  
Join us this Sunday, and bring your friends, for our multigenerational Easter service.  
Rev. Becky will be preaching "The Miracle of Second Chances".

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](mailto:office@walthamuu.org) for login instructions.



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

#### **Passing Over, Rising Up**

Tonight at sundown I'll be gathering with my husband and my cousins to celebrate the festival of Passover. It's my favorite holiday of the year, one that our ancestors - and we - have endured, as well as the promise of a life lived in freedom and respect for one another. In the Haggadah we use, there are the traditional elements - the blessing of the candles and the four cups of wine - plus more contemporary additions. In my cousin's wife's family, there were socialists who fought for freedom and brave souls who hid in the forests during World War 2 in Europe to support the Resistance against Hitler. Our songs and prayers honor them, and our parents and other relatives, now gone from this earth. And most of all, when we end the Seder with the proclamation that we will celebrate "next year in Jerusalem!" we are embracing the hope that the land of Milk and Honey written about in the Old Testament may yet come to us, if we work for it.

On Sunday, the sun will rise on Easter. Christians around the world embrace the story of Jesus, having been crucified for his activism and proclamations of faith, mysteriously rose

from the tomb to take his place in guiding the world toward peace, love and justice. I will admit that Easter is "not my holiday." As a lifelong Unitarian Universalist with strong ties to Judaism and an embrace of earth-based spirituality, I recognize and support all who find promise, hope and strength in this story. It is important as one that reminds us of the role that Jesus has had in the world, as teacher, prophet, spiritual leader, and even faithful rabble-rouser, calling us to our better selves.

The roles of Moses in leading his people out of Egypt and enslavement, and Jesus in preaching and teaching us how to embrace our better selves and make the world a more loving place, are timeless messages of importance right now. This week - no matter what you believe or how you celebrate (or don't), I encourage us all to pause for a few moments, to reflect on the roles in which these exemplars of faith can help move and guide us forward in today's troubled world. And in these days, may trouble pass over your home, and may the goodness and love you hold within you rise up, to lift you and your beloveds toward the promise of a better tomorrow.

In faith, with love,  
Deb

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## From the Music and Choir Director

### "You Raise Me Up"

This is not a tongue-in-cheek choice of Prelude for Easter Sunday. Brendan Graham, who was a singer with the Irish pop band 'Westlife', wrote the lyrics for this song to honor frontline workers and raise funds for MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors without Borders). This feels appropriate, given that we have recently passed the 3-year anniversary of Covid.



Other musical items on Sunday will be performed by Alex Lee-Clark. You may remember that he joined us for our Easter Service last year on his flugelhorn. He enjoyed the experience so much that he asked if he could come back this year. Alex now has a 4-month old bundle of joy, who may be adding their own sounds to the service!

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## 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

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## Transitions Workshop - Focusing on Vision and the Ministerial Search Process Sunday, April 30th!

Plan NOW to attend our next Transitions Workshop on Sunday, **April 30th** from **12 noon to 3 PM** in Whitcomb Hall and available over Zoom. Lunch will be served.

We will revisit our work on mission/relational covenant/vision prior to those elements moving on for further action, and then we'll focus on the ministerial search process! In order for First Parish in Waltham to be ready to call a new settled minister in the spring of 2024, work has to begin soon to identify and appoint a search committee, prepare a congregational record, and have conversations to focus the congregation's priorities for ministry. And it all will start with our workshop on April 30th! Watch for the SignUp Genius form to let us know you're coming; child care will be available by advance request. For those who can not attend in person a zoom link will be available.

## 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!

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# 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!



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## **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
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# 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](mailto:brendaasis1@gmail.com)) or  
Daphne Blount ([dblount724@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:gildersleeveleslie@gmail.com)) and Donna VanderClock ([donnavanderclock@gmail.com](mailto:donnavanderclock@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.

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto: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)**

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## 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.

Thanks to **Roberta Trudeau**, we have some new air filters for use in Whitcomb Hall's air purifiers.

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 [jodimarmontanderson@gmail.com](mailto:jodimarmontanderson@gmail.com) or at coffee hour. It would be a great opportunity to outreach to members of our LGBTQ+ community.

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## 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 graphic features a stylized tree logo with orange and green leaves. To the right is a photograph of a church steeple with a white cupola, set against a background of bare tree branches.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@walthamuu.org)

☎ 781.893.6240



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!*

## Ministry Staff Team

### Acting Minister

The Rev. Rebecca Sheble-Hall  
508.479.7570  
[Revbecky@walthamuu.org](mailto:Revbecky@walthamuu.org)

### Transitional Ministry Associate

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or  
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## Board Members

### President, Board of Managers

Scott Tougas  
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### Assistant Treasurer

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### Clerk

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### Commissioner of Community Outreach

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### Membership

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### Music and Worship Commissioner

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### Property

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### Religious Education Commissioner

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### Treasurer

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.*

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