

*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: Creativity

Sunday Worship, May 14, 2023 - 10:30 AM



We are excited to welcome back **Matt Meyer**. He will be leading our service on **Sunday**. It promises to be full of music and joy. He will be offering a sermon entitled '**Lessons for Future Ancestors**'. All are welcome to join us.

Matt Meyer is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist with a long background as a musician and worship leader for UU congregations. Matt lives in Boston but travels as an itinerant worship leader, bringing the good news of Unitarian Universalism to hundreds congregations all over the country.

He serves as the Director of Operations for Sanctuary Boston, a contemporary UU worship community, with rockin' music and engaging worship that meets on Wednesday evenings online and in-person.

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**

Summertime Dreaming - Where are You in this Picture?

Last week it was so exciting to share the announcement of First Parish's staffing plans for the next year. While Rev. Megan Lynes and Yvonne Andrews won't be joining us for a while, the planning is ON for the summer, and for the next church year! And I hope that you will be part of that picture.

Here are some things that each of us can do to help make the dreams of this church - and the ways in which we live them out - come true.

- Are you one of the folk who have meant to make a pledge to support the church, but haven't? Please, please do this NOW. The stewardship campaign is wrapping up and we're still looking for a number of you to 'join in that number.' It makes a difference. [Donna Vanderlock](#) can help you if you have questions!
- Would you like to lead, or help lead, a summer worship service? A number of you have told me that you enjoy them and hope that they will happen - but so far no volunteers have come forward. Please [email](#) or call or text me this week if you want to be involved!
- On Sunday, May 21 we will celebrate not only all who have offered volunteer leadership for the congregation. We'll also present the Hinkley Award for distinguished volunteer service that day. AND we will welcome new members to the congregation! Some of the 'new' members in fact joined the congregation during pandemic lockdown times...so we're going to catch up and celebrate. If YOU aren't a member and are interested in becoming one, please contact [me](#) or [Rev. Becky](#) and let us know! This is another place where you can be in that number!
- Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll see some of the plans to honor Rev. Becky as she prepares to depart First Parish after many years of faithful ministry. Would you like to be involved in making the big shindig that will follow the June 18 worship service happen? [Plum Kennard](#) and friends would love to hear from you!
- How about summer activities? How about a swim party (do you have a pool?) or a summer potluck, or a day at the beach that you're willing to lead? Making connections with one another is important. We hope the weather will be lovely, covid numbers are down as low as they've been since the pandemic started, and it's time to get together - please [contact me](#) if you would like to organize a summer activity!
- Finally, but by no means least, let's hold the date of Sunday, August 27 for a worship service AND welcome potluck lunch for Rev. Megan and Yvonne. More details will come, but it will be the perfect time to get together and get ready for an exciting autumn!

Things are happening and summer's just around the corner. Let's continue to support, and rebuild, community together!

In faith, with love,
Deb

Hospitality: Your Help is Needed!

Do you enjoy having food after church? Do you appreciate that we have something to offer guests and newcomers after church? Have you seen how much someone lacking secure access to food appreciates an opportunity for nourishment?



At First Parish, we have been very good about getting all of us to contribute food to share at coffee hour.. However, it is easy to forget about all the other preparations and cleanup that go into having food at coffee hour. Our current volunteers are running out of steam and the board is ready to forgo food at coffee hour unless we can find new leadership for this endeavour and spread the workload more equitably. If you are willing to help or have ideas about better ways to provide snacks, please contact Membership Commissioner **Martha Gallagher**.



Rev. Becky will be leaving soon, after many years of loving service to our community, and we want to give her a wonderful good-bye. We are planning to do just a few things: a party; a handmade gift and a check.

Rev. Becky will be leading the Flower Service, on **Sunday June 18th**, our final worship service of the church year. The party in her honor will be in Whitcomb Hall right after that. This is NOT a secret!! We are excited to have you participate!

Contributions toward the gifts will be gratefully received until **June 12th**. There are several ways to contribute:

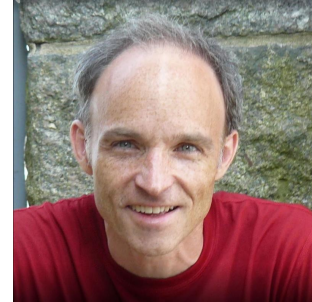
- A check to First Parish Waltham sent "Attention Asst. Treasurer". (Please put "Gift for Rev. Becky" on the memo line.)
- By Venmo: our ID is @FirstParishinWaltham, or use PayPal.
- Worship Service: a check or cash in an envelope marked "Gift for

Rev. Becky.

If you want to be involved or have questions, please call or email Plum Kennard (617-834-5529 or plumthepainter@gmail.com .)

Call for Nominations The 2023 Daniel B. Hinckley Award

The Daniel B. Hinckley Award is an opportunity to honor a current member of our congregation while remembering a man who lived out the meaning of service in our community.



Who comes to mind when you think of our most dedicated volunteers, the sung and unsung heroes of First Parish? Who do you see working out front or behind the scenes, stepping up wherever there's a need? If you know of someone who deserves special recognition for service to our community, send a letter or e-mail of nomination to Scott Tougas at scott.tougas@walthamuu.org or president@walthamuu.org. It need not be long, but do tell us about some of the specific activities and attributes you most appreciate in your nominee. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, May 14th. The award will be presented on May 21.

Dan Hinckley was a member of First Parish for only 15 years before his death, from cancer, in 1992. Before that he had suffered several personal setbacks and when he lost his job and found himself suddenly retired, he poured his heart into service to this congregation. He's remembered for his caring leadership, his friendliness, his willingness to help with projects large and small, his warm hug, and the way he had of making everyone feel special. He was an inspiration to all who knew him, and this award—given annually since 1990—is a way to extend that inspiration to those of us who came to First Parish after Dan Hinckley had left.

Scott Tougas, *President*

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'!

Poetry Sunday – June 4th , 2023

Escape from the language of our daily, fear-filled news. While some of our congregants are on retreat at Ferry Beach, the others of us will be involved in a reflective lay-led service of poems. The service will be interspersed with Bill Weber's harp music, time for meditation, and wonderful music from members of Waltham Philharmonic (one of the Jones Partnership recipients).

Led by the Worship Committee, we encourage you to send in a poem you would like to read during the service, or have someone else read it. Please contact Marty Ahrens and Gary Madison via martyandgary@verizon.net with your suggestions. Thanks!! We look forward to hearing from you.

Mission: Joy!



***A documentary exploring the remarkable relationship between
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!!!



Friday May 12, 2023

Our FINAL GAME NIGHT this year
to be continued in September

We'll gather at 6:00 & set up everything

As always, we'll have a casual, family-friendly potluck meal
We'd love your company even if you just want to eat & chat
Each month has been truly wonderful

Cinco de Mayo has set the theme: TEX-MEX
Holy Guacamole, how easy is that?!

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!



**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.

THE WALTHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

MUSIC IN BLOOM

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023 AT 3:00 PM

Waltham Government Center • 119 School Street • Waltham

MICHAEL KORN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

SOPHIE GAIL *Overture to Les Deux Jaloux*

EMMANUEL FELDMAN *Standing Tall Cello Concerto*
Composer & Soloist

FLORENCE PRICE *Symphony No. 1*



Emmanuel Feldman,
Composer & Soloist



TICKETS SOLD
ONLINE ONLY

Tickets are \$20

Seats are Limited

Children 5-17 yrs admitted

FREE with paying adult

WWW.WPHIL.ORG



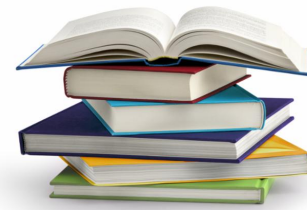
Watertown
Savings Bank



Book Group

THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE ROOM by Marie Benedict

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



News Flashes!!!

Sunday June 18th - Invitation to Party!

Not only will it be the last service of this year, it will be the final service given by Rev. Becky.

Budget Focus Group Meetings

The Finance Committee will hold focus group meetings to share details about the proposed FY24 annual operating budget before the vote at annual meeting on June 11. They will be held on Sunday, May 21 at noon in the Harrington Room and on Thursday, May 18 at 7:30 pm on zoom. Here is the zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84541551335?pwd=V1lyT2hQSDc5WU5leUJHYnc2OGNHZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 4155 1335

Passcode: Finance

Pledging!

The Finance Team are still making plans for next year and are looking forward to receiving your pledges. If you would like to do that online please consider using the online form, here: [online form](#) .

Waltham Pride Festival

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 Firist Parish Waltham a the city's Pride eveint on the Waltham Common on 9/3/23 (event is 11am-4pm). If interested, please contact Jodi at jodimarmontanderson@gmail.com or at coffee hour. It would be a great opportunity to outreach to members of our LGBTQ+ community.

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 3 weeks 'til Ferry Beach !

The Ferry Beach registration deadline for ALL accommodations and meals is Wednesday, May 17. We have a great group going, but there's still room for more! See Sue Genser with questions.



On **Friday, May 19 at 7:30pm**, in the Parish Hall at the First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA. They will have a panel discussion titled **Democracy: Its Value and for Whom?** with four excellent speakers:

- **Danielle Allen**, Harvard professor and founder of Partners in Democracy
- **Tania Vitvitsky**, direct experience with the importance of democracy to Ukraine
- **Tanisha Sullivan**, President of Boston's NAACP
- **Jim Tull**, expert in international conflict management

On **Saturday, May 20, from 11:00am-2:00pm**, First Parish in Concord will be hosting a non-partisan **Democracy Festival**. Our goal is to bring together people from all over to celebrate democracy, have fun, enjoy food from local restaurants Nosh and Comella's, sing together, explore our artistry, meet local politicians, and learn about current issues facing our country and how we can help.

It will be a good chance for kids, their parents, people of all ages and beliefs, to learn about and experience democracy in action. We will hold the event inside if it rains. They hope you will join them.



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!



<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:


Daniel Lowe 5/1
David Wilbourn 5/11
William Weber 5/11
Amy Eastwood 5/19
Bayley Ramage-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

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Transitional Ministry Associate

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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.*

First Parish in Waltham | 50 Church St., Waltham, MA 02452

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