

***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 7, 2023 - 10:30 AM**

**"And Still I Rise: what happens when a woman takes her power!"**

Those of us who came of age with the dawning of Feminism, or before, have witnessed many changes in the role of women in our country and in other places around the world. But the "Me Too" movement and the Supreme Court dismantling of Roe vs. Wade let us know there is still more progress to be made. And what about the experiences of marginalized women whose voices were not originally included.

Come join Rev. Becky and our vocal trio for a service on women's empowerment that includes the sermon Bee Fortin won at last year's auction.

*Trigger warning: the sermon will mention, but not dwell on, sexual assault. Feel free to skip that part if you need to. Rev. Becky and your lay pastoral care team will be available after the service to speak with anyone who might find that helpful.*

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.

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**Our Evolving Ministry at First Parish in  
Waltham - Staffing News!**

May 3, 2023

Dear Members and Friends of First Parish,



Your Board of Managers is excited to announce our plan for offering ministry and staffing for our congregation for the next year - and more! Rev. Megan Lynes will join us beginning August 21 as our Parish Minister. Megan is currently serving as Parish Minister at the First Parish in Bedford. She previously served as Minister of Faith Formation at the First Church in Sterling and prior to that, as Parish Minister at First Parish in Bedford for nine years.

Megan resides in Stow with her 3-year-old son Jesse and her best friend, Nazish. She will be working with us 25 hours per week; her principal responsibilities will be to lead worship (two times a month), support pastoral care and our care teams, and to work with our new Director of Religious Education, Rev. Yvonne Andrews.

Yvonne comes to us having served as Director of Religious Education with the UU Congregation of Fitchburg. She is an ordained interfaith minister, an educator (Fitchburg State), psychoanalyst, addiction specialist and neuro-psychologist and is eager to begin work with us to help re-imagine and build our religious education programs for all ages. Yvonne begins her work with First Parish on June 12th.

Deborah Weiner will continue with us as Summer Minister and Transitional Ministry Associate for the next church year. Over the summer Deb will support summer worship and gatherings, continue supervision of the staff and work on church systems and administration, and support our new search committee as their work ramps up. During the next church year Deb will continue transitional ministry work, preach (approximately once a month) and serve as chief of staff for our congregation.

Emma Campbell will continue work as Church Administrator, working fifteen hours per week in the summer months, and will resume her current work schedule in the fall. Emma's role as Music Director will take a break this summer, but will also resume in the fall! And finally, but by no means least, our wonderful Acting Facilities Coordinator, KJ Robertson, Jr. will continue his work through the summer and into the fall. KJ has been doing a great job of providing much needed support and maintenance for our property and our equipment.

Your Board of Managers is absolutely delighted to have such a wonderful team of professionals working with First Parish to support our ministry during this time of continued transition. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me or a member of the Board.

With excitement for what is to come,

Scott Tougas, Board President



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

#### **Extra, Extra, Read all About It!**

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll see the announcement of First Parish's staffing plans for the next church year. To say that I'm super-excited about this is putting it mildly. I've known Rev. Megan Lynes for many years and have the highest respect for her as a minister, a colleague, a creative thinker, a caring human, a wonderful parent. We have partnered together before and I am eager to see what our ministerial partnership can offer to this congregation. Megan's energy, loving spirit, excellent religious leadership are all the kind of juice that I believe this congregation will find both energizing and inspiring.

I'm also so happy that Rev. Yvonne Andrews will be joining the staff team as Director of Religious Education. After a very long search, Yvonne impressed your leaders and me with her knowledge about education, neuro diversity, communication methods, and creativity in education. Yvonne is also an ordained interfaith minister. Restoring energy (and youth!!) to the religious education program at this church will be a work accomplished over time, but - with deep gratitude to Pam Penton, who has 'kept the religious education fires burning' in the interim - we are on our way.

I'm grateful to the Board for asking me to remain at First Parish for a second transitional

year, and I look forward to continuing our work together to help this congregation move toward the time - in a year - when you will hopefully call, and then settle, a new minister. I'll also be serving as your summer minister, and am excited about the possibility of offering some summer worship services - with you involved - as well as other activities to keep the 'fire of commitment' burning bright.

I am grateful to our amazing Office Manager (who next church year assumes the title of Office Administrator) Emma Campbell and so glad that this multi-talented person is also our Music Director, bringing celebration and wonderful music ministry to our worship services. And I'm so happy that KJ Robertson Jr. is part of our team as well - KJ's smiling face, his wizardry with tuning up and restoring our lawn mowers and other equipment while also caring for this historic building, has been a blessing.

Finally, but by no means least, I'm so grateful to have had this year to minister with Rev. Becky Sheble-Hall. While starting on July 1 Becky will be blessed with the grace of time and space to 'catch a breath' and imagine her next path in ministry, I'll miss her loving spirit and generous and inspiring presence at this church. I hope that you'll take time over these last weeks of her ministry to speak to Becky, write her a note, or let her know your appreciation of her. There will be the chance for all to thank Becky and celebrate her at a gathering on Sunday, June 18, following worship - mark your calendars now; more information will be coming soon.

It's an exciting time at First Parish...just as all those spring blooms are popping up, so's the growing and blossoming energy and opportunity here at church. Let's celebrate this time together, friends!

In faith, with love,  
Deb

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### **From the Music and Choir Director:**

Synesthesia is the simultaneous experience of two very different senses being stimulated by the same cause. For example, you might hear music in a particular key and associate it with color; associate different days of the week with different colors; find that eating chicken feels pointy or round. Interestingly, people who do experience synesthesia do not all experience it in the same way or with the same results. One of my high school students was really struggling with learning some drum kit patterns and when the different parts of the kit had their rhythms isolated, she realized that the rhythm on the toms was red and the bass drum was yellow. She color coded all her music after that and her playing dramatically improved overnight.



I, thankfully, do not experience synesthesia but I do associate the color purple with the vocal trio that consists Bee, Carla and Katie. Their vocal harmonies blend seamlessly, as do their outfits. For this reason, I am very much looking forward to Sunday's service. The theme was 'bought' by Bee in last year's auction and they will be performing as part of the service.

Selecting an appropriate Prelude for the service was extremely tricky. I have eventually been influenced by the color they often wear. As a result, I am going to attempt the theme tune from the film "Ladies in Lavender". The color is the only thing linking their music and mine, but I hope you will forgive me. The film focusses on two ladies of a 'certain age' who develop a passion for the same thing - a shipwrecked young man who initially does not speak English, and who they discover plays the violin. If you have not seen the film (released in 2004), it moves incredibly slowly, looks very dated, but does feature two very strong women: Dame Judi Dench and Maggie Smith, and has an incredible soundtrack. Perhaps I was hasty in one of my earlier sentences - the movie moved me to tears, and the trio have also achieved the same effect. Please bring your tissues on Sunday - it promises to be a great service.

Musically yours,  
Emma

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If you would like to contribute to the fund that will allow Peter Babi to repatriate the body of his deceased sister to her homeland of Uganda, please send checks (payable to Peter Babi) or cash to our Office Manager for forwarding.



The postal address is:  
First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church Street, Waltham MA, 02452

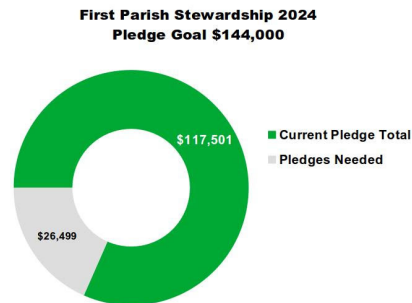
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## Pledge Drive Update

As of Monday, May 1, we have reached 82% of our pledge goal, with 43 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](mailto:donna.vanderclock@walthamuu.org)) or Dan DeHainaut ([dan.dehainaut@walthamuu.org](mailto:dan.dehainaut@walthamuu.org)).

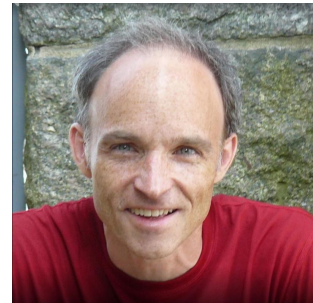


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## Call for Nominations The 2023 Daniel B. Hinckley Award

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](mailto:scott.tougas@walthamuu.org) or [president@walthamuu.org](mailto: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*

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## 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'!

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## 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](mailto:martyandgary@verizon.net) with your suggestions. Thanks!! We look forward to hearing from you.

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### **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!!!

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### **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](mailto:plum.kennard@walthamuu.org)) and she will send you the link separately.

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**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!



First Parish of Watertown  
35 Church Street, Watertown  
SATURDAY MAY 6, 2023

10am to 2pm  
Rain or Shine!



AND  
BIKE COLLECTION



All bikes, parts, tools, and accessories gratefully accepted.  
A \$20.00 per bike donation is suggested to pay for the cost of shipping.  
All donations are tax-deductible.  
[www.bikesnotbombs.org](http://www.bikesnotbombs.org)



**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



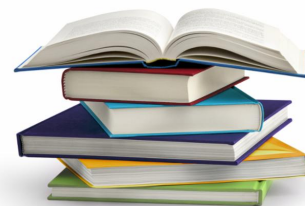
Watertown  
Savings Bank



## 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](mailto:membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org)



## 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 4 weeks 'til Ferry Beach !

We have a great group going, but there are some registration deadlines coming up.

-- Wednesday, May 17- deadline for all accommodations and meals.

-- Friday, May 26 - deadline if you come up just for Saturday, June 3 and bring your own meals.

## 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](mailto:pastoralcare@walthamuu.org) - a member of our team will respond to you in a timely manner!

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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.

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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 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)

**Light the Steeple**

Honor  
a person, occasion,  
event, or idea



Contact the Office  
✉ [office@walthamuu.org](mailto:office@walthamuu.org)  
☎ 781.893.6240

## ***Happy Birthday this Month to:***

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!*

## **Ministry Staff Team**

### **Acting Minister**

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

### **Transitional Ministry Associate**

Deborah Weiner

### **Office Manager /**

### **Music and Choir Director**

Emma Campbell  
781.893.6240  
[office@walthamuu.org](mailto:office@walthamuu.org)  
or  
[musicdirector@walthamuu.org](mailto:musicdirector@walthamuu.org)

## Board Members

### **President, Board of Managers**

Scott Tougas  
[president@walthamuu.org](mailto:president@walthamuu.org)

### **Assistant Treasurer**

Dan DeHainaut  
[asst.treasurer@walthamuu.org](mailto:asst.treasurer@walthamuu.org)

### **Clerk**

Deb Jose  
[clerk@walthamuu.org](mailto:clerk@walthamuu.org)

### **Commissioner of Community**

**Outreach**  
Plum Kennard  
[plum.kennard@walthamuu.org](mailto:plum.kennard@walthamuu.org)

### **Finance**

Donna Vanderlock  
[donna.vanderlock@walthamuu.org](mailto:donna.vanderlock@walthamuu.org)

### **Membership**

Martha Gallagher  
[membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org](mailto:membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org)

### **Music and Worship Commissioner**

Bethany Templeton Klem  
[bethany.klem@walthamuu.org](mailto:bethany.klem@walthamuu.org)

### **Property**

Dan Taylor  
[property@walthamuu.org](mailto:property@walthamuu.org)

### **Religious Education Commissioner**

Pam Penton  
[pam.penton@walthamuu.org](mailto:pam.penton@walthamuu.org)

### **Treasurer**

Janet Riley  
[treasurer@walthamuu.org](mailto: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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