

*Wherever you are in your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here.*



**Everyone is
Welcome!**



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office@walthamuu.org | www.walthamuu.org**



Theme for the Month: The Path of Delight

Sunday Worship, June 4, 2023 - 10:30 AM

Join us on Sunday, June 4, for our annual lay-led poetry service. We celebrate poetry here while other members of our congregation are on retreat at Ferry Beach, Maine.

We are fortunate to have musicians from the Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra, harpist Bill Weber, dancer/choreographer Sean Murphy and other guests joining us.

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

Planning Ahead

"If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there." Many of you have heard me quote that Lewis Carroll statement, which comes from *Alice in Wonderland*. You who make up First Parish in Waltham have done a great deal this year to not only explore possible paths toward the future, but make positive changes in the road you're traveling. You have developed a new mission statement and relational covenant - both of which you (signed members of the congregation) will have the opportunity to affirm at your upcoming June 11 annual meeting.

You've responded to an invitation from members of the Nominating Committee and Board of Managers to identify those among you who you respect, trust, and would support as members of your settled minister search committee. More than seventy of you responded to the invitation to share your thoughts as to whom you might nominate to represent you on the search committee, and on June 11 this congregation's members will also have the

opportunity to vote on the slate of individuals who have agreed to serve in this important role.

This might be the right time to say - once more - that if you are not a member of this congregation but are feeling like the time is right, I hope you'll talk to Rev. Becky or me and let us know that you'd like to meet with us to talk about the joys and responsibilities of membership... and then add your name to the book which holds the names of all who have expressed their support of this congregation over its long history.

And wait, there's more (as we like to say): the congregation's new Director of Religious Education, Yvonne Andrews, begins her work on June 12th. She'll be spending this summer getting to know the congregation and its families, expanding her own learning base about UU religious education, and making preparations for our religious education program beginning in the early fall. If you know families who are looking for a spiritual home and religious education programming, I hope you'll tell them about First Parish in Waltham - with the participation of all of us, we grow!

Even though the 'formal' part of the church year is winding down, there's lots more going on. This-coming Sunday, our lay worship team has a beautiful poetry service planned, with great music from members of the Waltham Philharmonic. On June 11 our friend, Regie O'Hare Gibson, will return to the pulpit to share his poetry and his perspectives on the world in which we live. And on June 18, Rev. Becky and I hope you'll bring a flower from your garden (or one you find by the side of a road, perhaps) and be part of our celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Flower Communion, as we offer Becky a fond farewell from her ministry at First Parish.

Beyond that: summer worship services need YOU to help make them happen (please message me if you're interested!) and summer activities are waiting to happen with the help of your creative ideas! Things are surely blooming, and this congregation is as well. Let's make something gorgeous flower, together!

In faith, with love,
Deb



From the Music and Choir Director

Part of (Y)our World

Many of the familiar faces we usually see attending worship on a Sunday morning will be at Ferry Beach this-coming weekend, and yet I am very much looking forward to this week's service. Members of Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra will be sharing some beautiful Chamber music with us, to accompany the Worship Team's Poetry Service. The orchestra is a Jones Partnership recipient. This means they receive a donation from us to help fund their excellent work in the local community, and give us a mention on their fliers. Some of you may have been to one or more of their concerts - playing an instrument is not a prerequisite to attending the musical events!

Similarly, you do not need to be a member of the LGBTQ+ community to attend the Waltham Pride Festival taking place on Saturday, June 3. I know many local people will turn out to enjoy the many attractions on offer and to demonstrate their support for a community of people they do not feel they belong to. I hope you'll be there - our own Katie Gullotti will be singing - and share your support for our siblings.

With this thought of not always feeling like we are part of the community we might wish to connect with, I went to see the live-action remake of "The Little Mermaid" film this past week. It's not the type of film I would normally pay to see, but I felt compelled to attend on its opening weekend - along with 7 other close family members. The film features a black mermaid / princess, and the release of the trailer sparked an enormous number of (sometimes hateful) conversations about whether she should be played by someone who was black or white. I feel strongly that young people need to see themselves represented in all aspects of daily life. Princesses may not be high on your list, but imagine what it would be like if you only saw images of people from your community playing 'bad guys' or minor roles. I find the idea that a princess cannot be black totally abhorrent. We went as a family to send a message of endorsement to Disney, and other people with a powerful stake in children's movies, that we want to see more films with greater diversity in the leading roles.

I loved the fact that British actor Art Malik, who was born in Pakistan and only gets to play villains in blockbuster movies, actually gets a role in this film where his character is warm, funny, and incredibly kind-hearted. It was also interesting to encounter a black character

who had chosen to adopt a white child. There were male mermaids, some sisters who looked nothing like each other while representing many different continents, and a prince looking for greater economic stability for his people rather than just frolicking about on the high seas with nothing better to do with his time. Yes, some of it felt a little like 'tokenism', but the underlying message of hearing a piece of music that changes your perception of the world does not feel far-fetched to me - Elgar's cello concerto did that for me when I was a teenager. So I encourage you to consider buying a ticket and, going to see a film where the main character does not look like you - and then imagine how repeated experiences of this might make a younger version of yourself feel. When we expand our views of who is, or should be, "part of our world" and our universe, we expand our experiences and new ideas open to us. I hope you'll engage in this exploration - and then come talk to me about it!

Yours, Musically
Emma

Share the Plate - Sunday, June 4th

On Sunday, there will be the opportunity to "Share the Plate". For our newer friends, this means that the donations made during the Offertory will be shared with another organization.



The chosen recipient for Sunday's offering is Waltham House. It is a group home in Waltham that provides a safe and supportive living environment with 24-hour staffing for up to 12 gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgender youth aged 14 to 18. Many of the residents have experienced difficulty at home, or in their placement, due to gender expression or sexual identities. Waltham House prepares them for what is next in their plan - reunification with families, transitioning to a foster family, or preparation for independent living. To find out more, please visit their website [here](#).

Donations will be accepted in the usual way - cash / check / Venmo.

WARRANT

The legal voters of The First Parish in Waltham, Universalist-Unitarian, Inc. are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Corporation will be held in person and via Zoom web conferencing on Sunday, June 11, 2023, immediately following service to act on the following articles:

Article 1. To receive the reports of the Ministers, Director of Community Engagement, President of the Board of Managers, Commissioners, Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, auxiliary organizations, and the Trustees of Permanent Funds.

Article 2. To receive the report of the Nominating Committee, and to elect members to fill open positions.

Article 3. To vote on the budget proposed by the Board of Managers for the year beginning June 1, 2023.

Article 4. To vote on the new mission statement created during this year's transitions workshops.

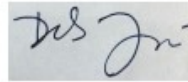
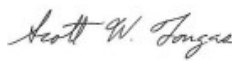
Article 5. To vote on the new relational covenant created during this year's transitions workshops.

Article 6. To vote on the slate of members as proposed by the board of managers for the Settled Minister Search Committee.

Article 7. To vote on the recommendation of the Board of Managers to spend up to \$4,000 from the Theodore and Nathalie Jones Charitable Trust For the Benefit Of First Parish in Waltham (the Jones FBO Trust) for the installation of audio and video equipment for the purpose of providing online access to events happening in Whitcomb Hall and the Chapel and to boost the rentability of the spaces as recommended by the IT Committee and approved by the Board.

Article 9. To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

By order of the Board of Managers, May 24, 2022.



Scott Tougas

Deb Jose

President

Clerk

Posted: May 25, 2023

News from the nominating committee:

The nominating committee spends much of the winter thinking about who in the church would be effective in serving in various leadership positions. They have to take into account not only the strengths and weaknesses of individuals, but also their experience in the church, their relationships with others, and certain rules set out by our by-laws. Anyone on the slate of nominees has already agreed to take on the positions.

With the exception of extenuating circumstances, the slate is usually voted on as a whole.

The slate is:

Moderator-Bill VanderClock
Nominating Committee- Andy LeCompte And Martha Gallagher
President- Deb José
Clerk- Peter Duane
Treasurer- Janet Riley
Asst. Treasurer-Dan DeHainaut
Social Action Commissioner-Elisse Ghitelman
Membership Commissioner-Gary Morrison
Music/Worship Commissioner-Bethany Templeton Klem
UUA General Assembly-Elisse Ghitelman and Katie Gullotti
Alternates- Ace Gullotti and Daphne Blount

The Ministerial Search Committee will be voted for as a block. All of the people below have accepted our nominations:

Daphne Blount
Alexandra Taylor
Katie Gullotti
Bill VanderClock
Marty Ahrens

Sunday June 18th A Party to Celebrate Rev. Becky

Please come and join the fun - Whitcomb Hall @ 11:45 am (after our Sunday Service).

Rev. Becky will conduct her final Worship Service with us on June 18th, our annual Flower Service. We'd love your help making this a memorable event.



To volunteer your skills or donate a dish please sign up [here](#).
If there is a dish you'd like to bring, but it's not on the list, please let Plum know via plum.kennard@walthamuu.org and it will be added.

We would like to present Rev. Becky with **a gift and a check** - ALL contributions will be gratefully received. To make a financial donation please use one of the methods below:

To make a donation via Venmo

If you have the Venmo app on your phone, you can use it send a donation to @FirstParishinWaltham. You can also use the link **Venmo to First Parish** to pay from your computer. Please fill in "Rev. Becky Gift" when Venmo asks "What's this for?".

To make a donation by check

Write a check payable to First Parish in Waltham. Write "Rev. Becky Gift" on the memo line and mail it to First Parish, drop it in the Assistant Treasurer's mailbox, or put it in an envelope marked 'Gift Rev. Becky' and add it to the Sunday collections basket.

To make a cash donation

Put it in an envelope marked 'Gift Rev. Becky' and add it to the Sunday collections basket.

If you want to be involved or have questions please contact Plum Kennard on 617-834-5529 or via plum.kennard@walthamuu.org .

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!!!

Garden Elves creating trouble

Someone is creating some havoc in the church grounds. We've received garden rubble, empty plant pots, numerous shopping trolleys from different stores.... If you see someone / a garden elf leaving something on the Triangle or church grounds please let Emma, the Office Manager, know via office@walthamuu.org. Thank you.



**Saturday
June 3, 2023
11:00AM-4:00PM
Waltham Common**

Join us in celebrating Waltham's LGBTQ+ community with music, dance, fun, and food! Featuring:



Delicious food from:



WalthamPride.org | [@WalthamLGBTPrude](https://www.instagram.com/WalthamLGBTPrude)  

If you will not be at Ferry Beach on Saturday, 6/3/23, come on down to the **Waltham Common** between 11am-4pm and show your **PRIDE** with us! Join us for musical performances from our own **Katie Gullotti**, along with many other talented performers. There will be kids' activities, Zumba, food, and fun.

First Parish in Waltham will have a table at the event for the very first time!

If you are interested in supporting our table, please contact Jodi Anderson at jodimarmontanderson@gmail.com or during coffee hour. It would be a great opportunity to outreach to members of our LGBTQ+ community. Consider wearing something festive!

For general information on the event, please see <https://www.walthampride.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>




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

Light the Steeple

Honor
a person, occasion,
event, or idea



Contact the Office
 ✉ office@walthamuu.org
 ☎ 781.893.6240

Happy Birthday this Month to:

LeeAnn Lowe 5/30

Julian Tougas 6/6
 Katie Gullotti 6/11
 Chandra Penton 6/12
 Simon Lowe 6/22
 Jonathan Lhota 6/24
 Jodi Anderson 6/29

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

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

Membership
 Martha Gallagher
membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Music and Worship Commissioner
 Bethany Templeton Klem
bethany.klem@walthamuu.org

Property

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Commissioner of Community

Outreach

Plum Kennard

plum.kennard@walthamuu.org

Finance

Donna Vanderclock

donna.vanderclock@walthamuu.org

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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