

***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 Delight

Sunday Worship, June 18, 2023 - 10:30 AM

"We are Always Becoming"

Flower Communion Sunday marks the end of our formal church year at First Parish. It will also be the end of Rev. Becky's time with us after eight years of shared ministry. So why is she preaching a sermon about beginnings? Come and find out! Bring a flower to add to our shared bouquet - you'll leave with another flower of beauty from a congregant. And be prepared to celebrate Rev. Becky in worship and at the party directly afterward in her honor!

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.



Saying Goodbye

Dear Friends,

Goodbyes are hard for me. I know that's a cliché, but there's often truth in clichés and this one is true for many of us. It's especially hard for those of us who identify as "people persons," who thrive on relationships and prioritize that in our lives.

To be honest, people never really leave me. I carry them always in my heart and they inform my life going forward. That's EVERYONE... from the wise African taxi driver who drove me from the airport once ...to friends I've known for years. This is of course your fate. But it's a big and roomy heart, so you won't feel squished when you come to live there!

You and I will need to say goodbye at the end of this month. We will enter a time of physical separation, as required by our tradition, so that we both can experience new beginnings. You will soon be welcoming Rev. Megan Lynes as a new minister at First Parish. And I will be welcoming a new stage in my life and ministry after slowing my pace in order to better discern what that new stage might be.

I'm excited for you to meet Rev. Megan! She is a compassionate, accessible and wise minister. She will be focusing on worship and pastoral care, as I have done, and I feel certain you will enjoy and grow with her.

This Sunday will be a celebration of our Flower Ceremony and our time together. I look forward to seeing and hugging each one of you (who wants a hug). Remember, I am not gone until the end of June, so feel free to make a time to say goodbye personally if that is what you'd like.

Wishing you well, this day and every day,
Rev. Becky



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

"Go Out With Joy, Be Led Forth With Peace"

On Sunday we'll celebrate our final 'formal' worship service of the church year with a flower communion and a fond farewell to Rev. Becky Sheble-Hall. This is the 100th birthday of the Flower Communion, created by Czech minister Norbert Capek, and there's good reason why this is both a beloved tradition and a constant in almost all Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. Capek wrote the service to lift up the love and care that we feel in gathered community as we celebrate and nurture each other - each of us distinct and different in our own ways, just as the flowers that grow are also unique and beautiful.

So plan to be in church if you can, and bring a flower to our service on Sunday. There you'll be invited to add it to the shared bouquets we will create together - and leave with a different flower, a gift someone else brought. Through this simple exchange of gifts, we will lift up the joys of summer and the beauties of being in shared community together.

And we will also bless and celebrate Rev. Becky in this final worship service of our church year, to be followed by a joyous celebration of the love, care, and inspiration Becky has brought to First Parish in Waltham since she first arrived many years ago as a ministerial intern. There may be a few tears, but also - I dearly hope - rejoicing and acclimation for Becky's ministry of love and care.

One of my favorite passages from the Bible (Isaiah 55:12) says, "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." Let us hold that spirit in celebrating together in worship on Sunday as the flowers bloom and our gratitude for Becky lifts us high! See you in church.

In faith, with love,
Deb



From the Music and Choir Director (and Office Manager)

Happy June?

We are reaching the end of the church year and I have to confess that I am not sure how I feel about it. Normally, the extra hours to spend cultivating my garden (and the critters, aka rabbits, that frequent it), going swimming, and having time to play the piano 'for fun' would leave me feeling very excited.

The departure of Rev. Becky feels like another moment of pivoting for pastures new that I feel somewhat unprepared for. I am really excited to meet Rev. Megan Lynes, having already had the pleasure of meeting with our new Director of Religious Education, Yvonne Andrews (which was delightful), but I find it hard to let go of people who are dear to me.

Rev Becky was exceptionally kind when I first arrived, back in 2019, and was swift to make me feel at home with the other staff (and their pets as well). Rev Becky's ability to lighten anyone's mood, often with tales of personal trials that have a comic twist, will be sorely missed. For this reason I have had a difficult task of finding uplifting music for her final service. I have found a Prelude which I feel spectacularly reflects my melancholy.

'June', from Tchaikovsky's inadequately named piano suite "The Seasons" is a Barcarolle in a minor key. Traditionally sung by Venetian Gondoliers, barcarolles often have a lilting feel. For me, Tchaikovsky's paints a picture of a man reminiscing about his life and his loves as sings while traversing the waterways with his cargo. For me it is not sadness that he is dealing with - there is a moment of joy and mirth - but a fondness for what once was. To me, he seems contented by 'his lot', and fulfilled by the twists and turns his journeying has taken.

I hope Rev Becky feels the same about her time here. One of my favorite UU hymns states "*Ours is no caravan of despair*," and I look forward to welcoming new colleagues whoever they are. I hope you will be journeying with me in September and ready for the delights that will come our way if we are open to them.

Have a wonderful summer - the Music Director will be taking leave until early September, but the Office Manager will still be lurking in the building on reduced hours.

Your Musically,
Emma Campbell



Sunday June 18th
Whitcomb Hall 11:45am

Rev. Becky will conduct her final worship service
with us at our Annual Flower Service
10:30am in the Sanctuary

It's going to be a splendid day!
Come sit in community, enjoy the beautiful service, say good
bye, share delicious food & all the fun of being together.

Thank you all for your generous donations!
Thanks too to those who are bringing dishes and helping make
this whole thing happen!

You can still participate if you wish:
Call or text Plum 617-834-5529 plum.kennard@walthamuu.org



Tonight

Many of you may have heard that the President of Uganda has put in place restrictions and laws that threaten not only the freedom of expression, but also the lives, of Ugandans who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, or queer. Christ Church, located at 750 Main St. Waltham, will show the 2014 award-winning documentary film, "God Loves



Uganda," on Wednesday, June 14, from 7-8:45PM for a viewing followed by a discussion with the Rev. Kapyra Kaoma, one of the figures in the movie and rector of Christ Church. This is a unique opportunity for members of our congregation, affirming the worth and dignity of all persons, to join with Christ Church in gaining information about the dire situation in Uganda, and the ways in which we might become advocates for safety and change. I hope that if you are able, you will plan to attend.

- Deb Weiner

What Does Action Look Like In Regard to the 8th Principle?

Many ask what we are expected to do once we adopt the 8th Principle? At our Panel on May 30th we heard numerous churches sharing the actions they have started to take. Here is one that we have been asked to help with.



Waltham Boys & Girls Club's Days of Recognition:

In the past, the Waltham Boys & Girls Club honored the national holidays, Indigenous People's Day, MLK Day, and Juneteenth, by providing our staff and youth a day off from programming. With reflection, our team concluded we could do more as these recognition days signify pushing back against the systematic inequalities of this nation. We have decided to modify our closure days and turn them into days of learning, officially dubbed Recognition Days. On these days, the Waltham BGC is closed for programming but offers an activity that honors and provides some insight into why that particular day is nationally recognized and its significance in our nationwide marathon for equity.

Juneteenth:

Juneteenth is recognized for commemorating the emancipation and liberation of enslaved African Americans. In order to support, appreciate, and educate our community, we will celebrate Black creatives, Black businesses, Black culture, and Black history at the Waltham Common on Monday, June 19th, from 12 pm - 4 pm.

Looking for Volunteers

They are looking for volunteers to fill the following shifts on the Waltham Common

11:00-12:00 Set Up

12:00:-4:00 Engagement, running yard games, obstacle course, directions and info

4:00-5:00 Break Down

They are also looking for more Black-owned businesses, vendors and individuals to participate. If you can volunteer, please email Pam Penton [here](#).

WALTHAM BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

JONES PARTNERSHIP FUND
FIRST PARISH IN WALTHAM

Mass Cultural Council

WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

JUNETEENTH COMMEMORATES THE DATE— JUNE 19, 1865, TWO AND A HALF YEARS AFTER THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION AND TWO MONTHS AFTER THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR— WHEN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ENSLAVED MEN AND WOMEN IN TEXAS FINALLY LEARNED THEY HAD BEEN FREED. JUNETEENTH IS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN AMERICAN CULTURE. JUNETEENTH CELEBRATES THE DAY BLACK COMMUNITIES IN TEXAS, AND NOW ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, JOYFULLY EMBRACED THEIR RIGHTS AS AMERICANS AND DECLARED THEIR INTENTION TO CLAIM THOSE RIGHTS, DESPITE ALL OPPOSITION AND OBSTACLES. AND THEY CONTINUE TO DO SO TODAY. IT REPRESENTS RESISTANCE, RESILIENCE, AND BLACK JOY.

JUNETEENTH WALTHAM IS SPONSORED IN PART BY GRANTS FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL AND THE JONES PARTNERSHIP FUND OF THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WALTHAM.

CELEBRATE FREEDOM
MONDAY — JUNE 19TH
WALTHAM COMMON
610 MAIN ST, WALTHAM
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Circle Suppers Take Two

We enjoyed a series of successful circle suppers back in February (thank you again, hosts!) and would like to organize round two for this summer. The chosen date(s) are August 11 th and 12 th . If you think you could host a potluck in your home for 6-8 friends and/or members of First Parish, please let Leslie Gildersleeve know at gildersleeveleslie@gmail.com. Please keep in mind that it will undoubtedly be HOT and air-conditioning might be considered a must.



We are also proposing a luncheon circle supper (6-8 participants) in the Harrington Room August 12th – perhaps salads, sandwiches, and desserts. It might prove more accessible for some in our community. If you'd like to host there, please specify in your reply. Thanks, all.

Leslie Gildersleeve



The Worship Team is already thinking about next year's services. They have written a short questionnaire to help them find out what is is you love about services at First Parish in Waltham - and the things you do not. Please feel free to comment on all services held here, not just the Member-Led ones organized by the Worship Team.

It can be completed anonymously and it would be delightful if you would click [here](#) to do so.

News Flashes!!!

Summer hours begin next week. The office will be staffed Tuesday through Thursday 11am to 4.30pm. For other concerns or questions please contact Deb Weiner

deb.weiner@walthamuu.org or 617-513-6614

Name badges - new ones will be coming in September. If you are fondly attached to your old one please take it home with you, as those left in the building at the end of June will be discarded.

Trustees information: some of you have asked about the many funds and investments that are held by the Trustees on behalf of the congregation. We are sharing information about those funds [here](#).

From the Community

Regie O'Hare Gibson, our pulpit guest from last week and regular guest in our congregation, has a new play which is being workshopped soon in Boston! Moonbox Productions' Boston New Works Festival will take place June 22nd- 25th at the Calderwood Pavilion and the Boston Center for the Arts and is a weekend-long festival celebrating new original plays by local playwrights.

Get your ticket today to see "The Juke: A Blues Bacchae," which is Regie's newest work! Show dates/times are Thursday, June 22nd at 7:30pm, Saturday, June 24th at 6pm and Sunday, June 25th at 3pm & 7pm at The Roberts Studio Theatre in the Calderwood Pavillion.

Tickets available at: [The Juke info and tix](#)

For a complete list of show dates and times go to moonboxproductions.org

Cleaning House - please take home things that are yours!

As we move into summer we're trying to not only tidy up the church but clean out things that have been 'living here' but that aren't really the church's items. Take a look around and if you find vases, plates, mugs, or other items that really should be living at your abode, please take them home with you - otherwise we'll be donating items to other good organizations who can use them!

Decorating the Minister's Study - Can You Help?

During the summer we'll be painting the Minister's study and spiffing it up a bit. One thing that would be great is a love seat and a comfortable chair or two. Might you have such items, in excellent or very good condition, that you are willing to donate? If so, please contact Deb Weiner (deb.weiner@walthamuu.org) to let us know - and thank you!

sweet spirit

Joyful Voices of Inspiration
a vibrant, diverse and spirited gospel choir under the direction of Donnell Patterson

join us for our end of season concert
Sunday, June 25th 2023, 3pm. This is a FREE event.
First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church Street, Waltham, MA
A free will offering will be taken/tax-deductible donations welcome. Audience members required to wear a mask.

photos: Cynthia Clayton
jrei info: 781.894.0241
www.joyfulvoices.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!

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 Gary Morrison.
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

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Transitional Ministry Associate

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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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