

***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**



Dear Beloveds...*are you are,*

What a joyous and tearful time we had together last Sunday! My smile muscles are just recovering! The service, the flowers, the music, the delicious reception and amazing cakes...it all came together so beautifully! It was just a wonderful way to say goodbye to each other and to honor our shared ministry.

And I want to say thank you, so very much, because that kind of "hoopla" takes weeks of planning and effort by many people. I'm grateful for your gifts; for the beautiful scarf you asked Muffy to weave and for the giant, cardboard check Plum made to represent your collective financial generosity as well. I plan to use part of that money for a spiritual retreat in the Fall. But I'll also enjoy donating the remainder where it will make a difference to others. I'm grateful for both opportunities!

But my deepest gratitude to you is for allowing me to be a minister amongst you these last eight years. Because ministry is not a solo sport. That's why we ministers refer to our "shared ministry" with a congregation. In the best of times, we do it together, as we have these last eight years. What a blessing that has been in my life!

We will both have more blessings coming our way, as we start new things in the Fall. Let us think and pray for each other on our separate journeys, as we each find new ways to love and bless this world.

In Love and Gratitude,
Rev. Becky



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

"Being UU"

I'm writing this from my hotel room in Pittsburgh, PA, where I am attending Ministry Days and soon, the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This morning I had breakfast with a group of ministers who I love and rarely get to see - and soon, I'll be in a room with about a thousand ministers and religious educators, as we learn more from [Dr. Xiomara Verence Cervantes-Gomez](#) about the intersections of race, gender, justice. Through learning, discussion, sharing our thoughts, connecting with one another, I

hope to come away with a broader sense of the ways in which First Parish in Waltham and we as Unitarian Universalists can be more inclusive and responsive to the needs of all who are called to this faith.

There are already topic discussion boards open for those who are both on site and remotely attending General Assembly...and there will be recorded and live programs and workshops through the week. I'm planning to attend programs on radical welcoming, ministerial transitions, the repercussions of misconduct, and collaborative decision making, among others. And in between, there will be daily worship services, a lecture by Imani Perry, the Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University and a faculty associate with Gender and Sexuality Studies and Jazz Studies, and a worship service (Synergy) honoring youth who are becoming young adults. The Service of the Living Tradition will honor and celebrate the professional leaders of our faith, including those who are newly joining as leaders, retiring from service, and those who have died. [This service](#), with a sermon by Rev. Chris Buice, is open to the public on uua.org/ga (check that page for the stream which begins at 7 PM EDT).

On Sunday all 3,000-plus gathered in Pittsburgh, as well as the 1500+ registrants who are participating remotely and ALL who are interested will gather for worship at 11 AM EDT, led by the Rev. Dr. Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout. [Look for the connection information HERE](#) and elsewhere in this newsletter. And oh yes: did I say that we will also elect and install a new President of our faith? [The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt](#) is a remarkable leader for this time - a person I've known for decades, who speaks and writes with insightful compassion and is not afraid to challenge us to live and act in ways that will strengthen our communities and our congregations. Sofia will be our next UUA President and I am excited for her ministry and service in these challenging times.

GA will be exhausting - stimulating - inspiring - challenging and more. General Assembly is where I find that I am never more inspired to be practicing my faith. It's also where I find myself discouraged and angry...because inevitably there are people who treat others with anger and frustration, who say things and do things that make me shake my head and wonder if they understand the intersection of faith, trust, love and good boundaries that help us live our lives together. All of it - wrapped up in a big ball. But this is what General Assembly is about - an opportunity to be together with thousands of Unitarian Universalists from around the world, joining to celebrate the challenges and the opportunities that come from this free, challenging, inspiring faith.

I hope that you will take some time out of your days and evenings to log on to experience some of this General Assembly. This congregation's delegates are already connecting in different ways - and through engaging, you will get a larger sense of what GA - and indeed, UUism - is about. May the experience strengthen your commitment to 'bring our faith back home' to First Parish in Waltham in the days to come!

In faith, with love,

Deb

Hi, I am Yvonne Andrews and I am excited to begin the new church year as the Director of Religious Education. I have two years of experience in a similar role with the First Parish in Fitchburg. I am an ordained interfaith/interspiritual minister and a faculty member with Lesley University working with the neurodiverse students. I have seven children of my own and eight grandchildren, My hobbies are gardening, reading and traveling. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and invite you to email dre@walthamuu.org with any questions or ideas you may have, or if you would like to meet in person. I will be leading service a couple of times this summer and hope to meet you there.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe summer.
Blessings, Yvonne



Summer worship opportunities

June 25 (Sunday) - Join thousands of UUs from around the world at Sunday Worship streamed live from the UUA General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA at 11 AM EDT. The Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti is worship leader, with music directed by Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout. Join the livestream here: <https://youtu.be/AuEogqMTIC1> .

At present, no worship service is planned for July 2 or July 9.

July 16 (Sunday) - Join Pastor Deborah Weiner for Worship (10:30 AM) as she explores "The Theology of Ted Lasso." Why have the stories about this down-home doomed-to-fail soccer coach captured our hearts so completely? We'll explore Ted's "Believe" philosophy and the ways in which it can help shape our lives.

July 23 (Sunday) - Our new Director of Religious Education, Rev. Yvonne Andrews, will lead worship (10:30AM). Come and meet Yvonne and celebrate summer! (See the 'Newsflashes' below for the opportunity to join a potluck on this date too.)

Circle Suppers Update

Plans are afoot for August Circle Suppers. We have three hosts for the August 11th and 12th weekend. Daphne Blount is on for the Friday date, and Kris DiNardo and Gary Morrison as well as Ann Ross have volunteered for Saturday the 12th . A Sign Up Generous will be arriving later this month for folks to save their spot and list their food item for these potlucks. Time to Save the Date if you are interested!



The more the merrier - if you still wish to host please contact Leslie Gildersleeve via gildersleeveleslie@gmail.com. If you are unable to host in your own home, there is an option to host in the Harrington Room at church. Please keep in mind that it will undoubtedly be HOT and air-conditioning might be considered a must.

Thanks, all.
Leslie Gildersleeve



Worship Survey

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 have begun for the Office Manager. 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.

Please **save the date** for a **potluck** with our neighboring UU churches who have adopted the 8th Principle. It will be held **July 23rd from 3-5**. More details to come. Email Pam Penton, Elisse Ghittleman, or Candace Hollman for more info.

From the Community

Regie O'Hare Gibson, our pulpit guest on June 11th and a 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

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!



Chaplains
on the way

**KEILA'S GOING
AWAY PARTY &
ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

JUNE 25TH @ 2PM-4PM
WALTHAM COMMON GAZEBO



Keila Franks has been with Chaplains on the Way as a chaplain intern from Harvard Divinity School for the past year. Following her graduation, she is taking the next steps in her journey and will be leaving our community at the end of June. We invite everyone to join us on the common to celebrate Keila, wish her good luck, and say farewell. We will also be serving ice cream sundaes!

sweetspirit

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:

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

Director of Religious Education

Yvonne Andrews
dre@@walthamuu.org

Board Members

President, Board of Managers

Deb Jose
president@walthamuu.org

Assistant Treasurer

Dan DeHainaut
asst.treasurer@walthamuu.org

Clerk

Peter Duane
clerk@walthamuu.org

Community Outreach Commissioner

Elisse Ghitelman
commissioner.outreach@walthamuu.org

Finance

Donna VanderClock
donna.vanderclock@walthamuu.org

Membership

Gary Morrison
membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Music and Worship Commissioner

Bethany Templeton Klem
bethany.klem@walthamuu.org

Property

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.*

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@walthamuu.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!