

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



**Everyone is
Welcome!**



**50 Church St, Waltham MA 02452 | 781.893.6240
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Theme for the Month: The Path of Delight

Sunday Worship, June 11, 2023 - 10:30 AM

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***

Blessing the World

"Tell me, what is it you do with your one wild and precious life?" - Mary Oliver

"Choose to bless the world." - Rebecca Ann Parker

Poet Mary Oliver published "The Summer Day," from which the short quote above is taken, in 1992. Oliver, whose many books of poetry were, for a time, published by the UUA-owned Beacon Press, had a way of asking questions that would cause you to not only think, but experience her writing in your bones. Rebecca Ann Parker, former president of Starr King School for the Ministry (one of two UU seminaries) responded to Oliver's question with that imperative: choose to bless the world.

As we edge closer to our own summer's days, I hope that you will take not only a few moments, but some real time, to consider what you want to do with your life. At least for this summer, and hopefully, for the fall, the winter, the seasons that come and go and the light that changes with the passing of days. And I admit that I hope that some of your time will be spent in connection to First Parish in Waltham...helping to plan for a revitalized and enlivened religious education program, perhaps. Or considering the ways in which you might help the congregation live into a new mission and relational covenant. Or planning a potluck or iced tea party over the summer months that could bring this faith community together. Or something else that just speaks to you and says, "yes, let's do that!"

Would you like to develop a summer worship service, maybe with some others? Would you like to set up a brunch date on Saturdays, or take a trip to Crane's Beach, perhaps? The possibilities are almost endless. But whatever it is that comes into your mind when you think about that question Mary Oliver posed, I hope you'll share it with me. Let's talk about what it is that stirs your heart, your mind, your imagination. Let's find a time to take a walk, or read poetry out loud, or allow me to listen to what is on your heart.

I look forward to serving as your summer minister in these warming days that will hold sun, rain, wind, stars - and I'd be glad if, for you, that involved spending some of that time connected with First Parish in Waltham, or making new connections to this faith community.

Choose to bless the world. Find the ways that work best for you, but don't miss the opportunity to bring joy to your own life - and hopefully that of others around you - in these sweet June days.

In faith, with love,
Deb



From the Music and Choir Director

Do you find the unusual delightful? For example, the home-grown strawberry that instead of being the expected shape and size, turns out to look more like a gummy bear, and no-one in your family wants to eat it. (It was delicious!)

If, like me, you consider the unusual to be beautiful you will be understanding of my joy at discovering I owned an edition of a piece of music by JS Bach with a different time signature for each hand. For those who are not aware, the time signature is a pair of numbers written like a fraction - the top number is an indicator of how many notes are in a measure; and the bottom number tells you the length of the note value - 1/4 note, 1/2 note, 1/8th note for example. The piece that I will be playing for the Offertory on Sunday has a commonly used time signature of 4/4 in the left hand. The right hand, however, is requested to play 24/16 at the same time. My initial joy was displaced, having learnt the notes, when I decided to work out what tempo the piece should be played at.

Initially, I played it slowly to a metronome and gradually sped it up. I couldn't find a comfortable speed, where the articulation was clear and I could work out what Bach was musically trying to say. I chose to resort to YouTube - the internet not having been invented when I was a student at college, I like to think this of this as a last resort. Horror of horrors! Every version I could find went at a speed verging on ridiculous. That's how it seemed at first.

The theme for this month is 'The Path to Joy'. Well, it's a complex one. The metronome went on and my husband had to endure listening to the same passage being played over and over at gradually increasing speeds. This was as frustrating for me as it was for him. Once one section was learnt to a proficient speed, I moved onto the next musical phrase. Well, the path may not have been an exciting one, but the delight of discovering that I could play the entire piece at twice my original speed spurred me on. I am hoping I can pull it off on Sunday - if not, you can look forward to me making a second attempt in September.

If you are looking for more delight in your world and are willing to persevere through difficulties and accept mistakes will be made, you could consider joining the choir. We are always open to new members, but September would be the perfect time to try us out. Two people have already said they will join in the new church year, and if you want to be a part too, we would be delighted to have you with us as we explore new music.

Yours Musically,
Emma

A Timely Film About the Assault on Human Rights in Uganda

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



The First Parish in Waltham, Universalist-Unitarian, Inc.

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

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](#).

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 to send a donation to **@FirstParishinWaltham**. 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 at church, 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 .



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

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!!!

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.



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
jvoi 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!

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?

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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
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Office Manager / Music and Choir Director

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Transitional Ministry Associate
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Religious Education Commissioner

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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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