

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



**Everyone is
Welcome!**



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

"Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears"

By the time you read this I will have returned from a trip north, to the Eastern Townships of Quebec, Montreal, and Quebec City. We were motivated to take this trip because of our love of the Louise Penny mystery novels (featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surete du Quebec) which are set in the Eastern Townships. And we've spent very little time in Montreal and thought that ought to be remedied, so a walking tour of the Montreal Jewish neighborhoods, a visit to the Musee des Beaux Arts and other treats are on that part of our agenda.

But then we get to our favorite places...to Quebec City, with the amazing Musee de la Civilization, and to the Ile d'Orleans, the little island in the St. Lawrence which is where most of the province's fresh fruits and vegetables are grown. Almost entirely French-speaking, it has a fabulous campground and...we just love it. While we're there we'll be driving north and taking a boat to the Grosse-Ile National Historic site, which is the Canadian version of Ellis Island. There, starting in the early 1800s and extending into the 1930s, immigrants to Canada were quarantined and their health assessed before being allowed to emigrate into the country. A very large number of those coming to Canada were Irish, and there is a monument, cemetery, and historic markers on the buildings that remain on Grosse-Ile, documenting the struggle for freedom these people had, as they sought to escape the Potato Famine and other travails in a search for a better life.

The song "[Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears](#)," which is heartbreakingly poignant, was written to commemorate the migration to Ellis Island - but it could have been written about Grosse-Ile...and it certainly reminds me of the struggles that those who are trying to call the United States their home now, are enduring at the southern border. The horror stories of life at the border continue to roll in, as governors of Texas and Florida are reported to have ordered that immigrants be pushed back into the waters of the Rio Grande, forced to struggle through razor wire, and more. This inhumane treatment is counter to what I - and I hope, you - grew up with: the belief that those in search of a better life should be welcomed into this country. The UUA's [Side With Love campaign](#) continues to marshal support for those who stand in resistance to cruelty and injustice at the border.

As the days of summer push on, and along with them the unrelenting heat that is killing people at the border - this might be a good moment for us to consider the ways in which we can change the reality those who wish to call the US home are welcomed - or tormented - with, when they seek to enter this country.

In faith, with love,

Deb..



A Message from the Office Manager: Emma Campbell

"I still have hair"

What a journey this last 12 months has been! I took up residence in the office just over a year ago, thinking that I would be gone by now - replaced by someone more familiar with a computer keyboard than a piano keyboard. I am still here, and plan to do a further 12 months, which I find rather strange.

In my teens I completed a whole day of work experience at a large engineering company where I was placed in the department for 'Purchasing and Supply'. I hated it, and refused to return. I naively decided that neither engineering nor office work were what I wanted to do, and decided pharmacology would be much more interesting as the tasks would be different from one day to the next...

Fast forward some 35+ years and I find myself responding to emails, answering the phone, and shuffling paperwork each day I am in the office. Why do I do it? Because of all of you. The congregants and the staff are a pleasure to work with, and while I do have to contend with some interesting moments that require all the delicate handling I can muster (the time a renter pooped on the floor under a table in Whitcomb Hall and left it there...) I really have learnt a lot from all of you.

My latest adventure has involved the First Parish in Waltham's website. 12 months ago the only thing I knew about websites was that you could look at them via Google and find out cool information. Exciting news:

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE

You can see it [here](#) if you don't want to "Google it". Before you start to list all the things that are missing, please know that this is work in progress. You also need to know that creating a new site would not have been possible without input from a large number of people. Many of you have submitted information / images, and helped with content. However, I do have to acknowledge Janet Riley as the true hero of this project. As an IT expert she has listened patiently to my 1001 questions about how to do things, has guided me through many difficulties, and done a lot of explaining using simple-to-understand words. As a result, I still have all my hair. I hope Janet has all of hers too.

Before you lose yours, fretting that the pages about the Jones Partnership, the Clothing Exchange, and the history of our wonderful congregation are incomplete, there is an appropriate place to share your thoughts - on the form [here](#).

My father (who was an engineer) frequently told me "Rome was not built in a day". Like Rome, our website is going to evolve over time and grow with us - just like my grey hairs. (I love them - members of my mum's family had silver hair and I have long dreamed of luxuriant silver curls. Perhaps when I have solved the database issues surrounding the production of a new directory I will have a few more to add to my collection.)

Summer worship opportunities

Upcoming Sunday Summer Worship Services at First Parish

August 6 - Pastor Deborah Weiner leads worship (10:30 AM) as we discover what happens when we open "Pandora's Box" and discover surprises...some of them delightful, some disconcerting.

August 13 - Brenda Asis & Andy LeCompte (10:30 AM) - Join Brenda and Andy for a worship service on Community Building. First Parish in Waltham recently began creating a vision statement, part of which is to create a Culture of Inclusion. This service will move us closer to this vision by showing us how easy the first steps of community building can be.

August 20 - Our new Director of Religious Education, Rev. Yvonne Andrews, returns to lead summer worship (10:30 AM).

August 27 - (10:30 in the Sanctuary) - Join our new Parish Minister Rev. Megan Lynes, DRE Yvonne Andrews, and Summer Minister Deborah Weiner for a welcome-back end-of-summer worship service in the sanctuary (10:30 AM). We'll celebrate with a "Bring in the Harvest" potluck lunch in Whitcomb Hall following the service - a great chance for you to meet Megan and Yvonne and re-connect with friends old and new!

See you at church!

Health and Caring for Each Other at Church

It's summertime, and while traffic at church may be a bit lighter, we want to remind everyone that COVID-19 is still with us...there are several parishioners currently recovering from it, and as we know, it's going to continue to be 'out there' for the foreseeable future. If you have been infected with COVID-19, please DO NOT come to the church for any reason during the first five days of your infection. If there is an urgent need for something at church, please reach out to Emma Campbell or Deb Weiner and we will do what we can to address your need. If you need to come to church AFTER the five day quarantine but before a ten day period is up, you MUST mask at all times while in the church. If you have had a close exposure to another individual who is a church member or friend, please make sure that you let them know of your illness...and if they are coming to church during the incubation period (general understood to be up to five days after exposure) they should wear a mask. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe!

The Welcoming Spaces Group

This is a spin off from the work done this spring from Mission Discovery, an activity where we were invited to review and evaluate the church spaces. That information was then shared with the Board, who prioritized some of the projects. The Welcoming Spaces Group (Amy Eastwood, Plum Kennard, Brenda Asis and Pam Penton) was then created to begin taking action steps.



After multiple meetings and visits to locate churches, it was decided to focus on the Parlor, Entry Foyer and Whitcomb Hall.

At this point we have been clearing the Parlor bookshelves, researching replacement furniture for both the Parlor and Foyer, tagging some items for removal in Whitcomb Hall, and reviewing items to be placed in archives. Each newsletter will provide an update of our progress.

We are looking for some help. Do you have furniture that is in good condition to donate? Do you have skills in posting items for sale, researching the value of some of our old items, and physical labor to help move items? If so, please contact Pam Penton via email pam.penton@walthamuu.org .

News Flashes!!!

Ministry Staff Schedule Updates

Office Manager Emma Campbell will be on vacation August 3rd - 14th. For administrative or office concerns during this time, please reach out to Deb Weiner.

Newsletter Summer Schedule

Our newsletter is on an every-other-week schedule for the remainder of the summer. Our next edition will be published in mid-August.

From the Community

Lightweight Wheelchair Needed

Friends, we want First Parish to be accessible to all - and we believe that having a lightweight wheelchair that is available for our members and visitors would be helpful. Might you have one you can donate - or do you know someone who might have one to donate? Please contact **Deb Weiner** to let her know: deb.weiner@walthamuu.org. And thank you!

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 Deb Weiner, who provides 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?

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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 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:

Bill Simpson 8/10
Justine Hyland 8/19
Andy LeCompte 8/24
Send a card or an email to these members!

Ministry Staff Team

Summer Minister / Transitional Ministry Associate

Deborah Weiner
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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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