

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



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### **Ingathering Sunday: Mingling Waters, Building Community**

#### **Come on home, one and all!**

Just as many streams meet at the ocean, so we are uniting as one community once again. Join us for a festive time of good stories, good music, good food, and best of all friends old and new. Our beloved hymn reminds us: "As tranquil streams that meet and merge and flow as one to seek the sea, our kindred hearts and minds unite to build a church that shall be free --"

Don't forget to bring a little water representing your heart's journey this summer!  
Led by the entire worship staff team.



#### **Minister's Musings:**

Dear First Parish community,

What a joy to meet so many of you this past Sunday at church! Marianne warmly welcomed me in the vestibule, Roberta grinned at me in the hall, and Alex rang the bell after announcements. Jodi and I chatted about young people in the church, Scott hopped up onto a table to adjust a wonky wall hanging, and Elisse explained the sanitizer. It was lovely to be at church with you, just being ourselves, connecting over the dishes.

In the service on Sunday, we explored the idea that taking risks often involves a time of uncomfortable uncertainty. Flying through the air from one trapeze bar to the next can be unnerving at best, yet being in that liminal zone can also stretch us into useful awareness or change. No matter where we each are on life's journey, I hope that church can be a steady refuge, where we are caught up by caring support when we need it most. We know we are living into our covenant when lives are transformed by the power of love.

I also hope that in the year ahead we find ways to stay curious and open if things are feeling weird mid-leap. The sense I get from many of you is that this congregation has been in a time of transition for quite a few years now, given the pandemic and many staff transitions. This upcoming year of "being in search" for a settled minister is in some ways a continuation of that uncertainty.

But you know what's true? This is a healthy and exciting time. Good things are set in motion, and you've been doing the hard work of self examination and dreaming big about the future. Being in church reminds each of us that here we are connected, valuable and beloved. Here we can be needy and needed, challenged and playful together. As different as we each may be in our respective complicated lives, we show up here to participate personally in community life, to stretch ourselves and show our caring beyond our comfortable walls, to engage with our whole hearts, and to let our lives speak...

It's already a joy to watch you thrive. I am looking forward to meeting even more of you in the days and weeks to come, and hearing about your lives, your families, what you care about, and why you come to church! I'd love to connect in any way that feels right to you, whether that's at coffee hour, taking a walk together, meeting for a cup of tea, or over the phone or text message. Will you help me get to know you? It will be my honor.

Yours on the journey,  
Rev. Megan

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

**"The Love That Casts Out Fear, The Hope That Never Dies"**

I'm writing this from the home of my closest friend, in Contoocook, NH. We've come here for a couple of days to mark the six month anniversary of the death of her husband. These are our closest friends, godparents of our children, and my friend (also named Deb) is struggling through this time of grief and uncertainty. We are glad to be with her with her during this time, living through our pain as we continue to absorb the loss of our beloved friend, Tom Walton.

And today is also the eighteenth anniversary of the time Hurricane Katrina roared through the Gulf Coast, destroying much of the Louisiana coastline and causing damage that - to this day - has not been repaired. I well remember when we heard about this killer storm, while we were camping in New Brunswick, Quebec and Nova Scotia. We found an English language newspaper to read of the approach of the storm and thought about all the people who were in line to be blasted with destruction, grateful that it wasn't us, but stunned at the approaching damage to the Gulf Coast.

Little did I know then that - a year later - I would be in New Orleans, telling stories of the work of the Gulf Coast Relief Fund of the UUA/UUSC and making connections to people who dedicated themselves to working to rebuild their lives and their towns in the midst of unspeakable destruction. Among those people was the Rev. Tyronne Edwards, a community organizer and Baptist pastor, who set out to single-handedly rebuild his town of Phoenix (what a name) in Plaquemines Parish, LA. The town had been completely flooded and the damage was immense...and Tyronne knew that his small group of Black residents were not going to get governmental aid - they would have to do it themselves. Over the course of the next years, the town was restored and rebuilt, and the population is now greater than it was before the storm hit.

I am glad to say that we are still friends with Tyronne Edwards, who continues to do amazing things in Plaquemines Parish. He never gives up, always with his eye on the next thing that will make life in Phoenix better for his community. That kind of resilience is a marker of what we hold when we have a vision for the possibilities that exist in the world for us. Whether large or small, holding such dreams, even in the face of stunning destruction - as we witness now in Maui and in other towns hit by climactic and human-caused disasters - can sustain us. Sustain and inspire us - to achieve what can feel almost impossible, to build on dreams and hope, to achieve something solid and magnificent.

In these coming days of autumn, we have the possibilities in front of us - to rebuild and build anew - inspired by hope, the love we hold for one another, and the belief that together, we can achieve great things. May it be so for us all in this time of promise.

In faith, with love,

Deb

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**From Your Director of Religious Education:  
Yvonne Andrews:**

Did you do something fun this summer? Even if it was "just" relaxing? I would love to hear your summer stories. I had a great summer gardening and even though the weather was not always cooperating I ended up with lots of tomatoes and peppers (now sauce) and zucchini blanched and ready for winter. I also have been cleaning and organizing the religious education classrooms and children's library. It is hard to believe that summer is coming to an end.

I am looking forward to a very active RE program for the children as well as our Waltham youth/ emerging adults 12-18 and... some great programs for adults as well! We need time too.

If there is anything you would like to see offered, I would love to hear from you. I am looking forward to the first Ingathering Service after Labor Day. We have an Ice Cream social 12-2 (after service.) I invite you to let anyone know who may like to make their own sundae and enjoy some time with others.

If you are interested in volunteering or just curious let's connect. Always available by email, text or phone. Leave a message and I will get back to you:  
[yvonne.andrews@walthamuu.org](mailto:yvonne.andrews@walthamuu.org) or 978-235-1266.

Yvonne Andrews



### **A message from our Office Administrator, Emma Campbell**

Who are we? Who do we want to be? Over the last year we have been encouraged to start thinking about these two questions, alongside many others.

However, for me as Office Administrator, it starts at a more fundamental level - what is your name, and what pronouns would you prefer me to use? One of my summer tasks was to create a new set of name tags. With help from many in our congregation I am hoping that I have made one for each of you, that your name is spelt correctly, and it is easy for all to read at a glance.

The new badges will be inserted in a holder that is attached to a lanyard. They will be available in the entrance to the Sanctuary (the Narthex) and you will be invited to select stickers to identify your preferred pronouns. You do not have to select just one, you are welcome to indicate all the pronouns you are comfortable using.

The really exciting news is that during coffee hour you can choose to exchange your badge holder for one with a clip, or one that is mounted with magnets. To do so, come and see me in Whitcomb Hall after the service - please give me a few minutes to grab a cup of tea first and I will be very happy to help you. Equally, please come and see me if I have spelt your name incorrectly, or you have been accidentally omitted. Whatever your name, your pronouns, whether you are joining us during worship for the first time or the hundredth, you are welcome here.

Warmest wishes  
Emma



### **A message from our new President, Deb José:**

Hello and welcome back to what looks like the beginning of a booming, glorious church year. Please come (no spoilers, but you will want to be there **early** --just sayin'...) as we gather for our annual water ceremony on September 10, followed by coffee hour and an ice cream social.

There has been a continuous buzz at church during the summer -- no summer off for our intrepid staff. This past week, we officially welcomed two new staff members, Rev. Megan Lynes, our Parish Minister, and Yvonne Andrews, our new DRE. With a complete lineup, we are ready to make this year the best yet!

If you are able to come to church, take a peek around, and you will see changes happening: our Welcoming Spaces committee has been hard at work. We have a parlor that is getting a big revamp, and has been cleaned top to bottom and is in the process of getting painted. Additionally the minister's office has been repainted, and the furniture has been updated. Our bulletin boards have all been updated, and we have new pamphlets describing our precious UU faith traditions. Our awesome IT committee has been updating the hardware in the chapel and in Whitcomb Hall to make it easier to include EVERYONE in our FPWaltham community by zoom for as many functions as possible, which is currently only happening in the sanctuary. Thanks to our Property Commission, we have a new lawnmower, and our Facilities Coordinator, KJ Robertson, has done a great job getting our physical church and grounds ready for the coming year.

Have you looked at our new website? It is updated, and gorgeous and it works! Big, big thanks to Emma Campbell, our Office Administrator, and IT guru Janet Riley!! Our Pastoral Care crew has been busy all summer, keeping tabs on us, and helping many of us through challenging times, as well as celebrating happy news. Our Community Engagement and Adult RE committees have been hard at work, helping us grow as a congregation as we lean into the important work of the 8th principle -- more about that to come.

Thanks to a lot of behind the scenes work, we are on financially solid ground -- thanks to the trustees and the finance committee. And our David Wilbourn trust fund continues to grow -- contact Donna Vanderlock or Dan DeHainaut for more information or to make a contribution..Music and worship continue to thrive -- and thank you for all the hard work behind the scenes. Our organ has had some rehab work, our choir is getting stronger with each new voice that joins. Again, thank you to the leadership of Emma Campbell.

We have an exciting year ahead, as our Search Committee starts the year of finding us a settled minister who will be a good fit for our congregation. At our ingathering service we will officially Commission the search committee to bless them in this work. Much gratitude to Chair Marty Ahrens, Daphne Blount, Katie Gullotti, Alex Smith Taylor, and Bill Vanderlock. I am so glad to be a part of First Parish Waltham, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

*And here's an ask: If you are able, would you consider helping out **toorganize** our coffee hour? You don't have to bring all the food, and you don't have to make all the coffee, but we need help with organizing efforts. This would be a great job for a few folks to do together.*

Thank you for all the things you do, from the Clothing Exchange to helping clean up after coffee hour. Our small (in numbers) congregation is 'punching above our weight class' -- wrestling reference. We're doing a lot with a little and with everyone's active involvement, we can keep going for the generations to come.

With gratitude for all the ways we serve each other,  
Deb José, President

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## First Parish Book Club is Back

We meet via Zoom on the third Thursday of each month. Email Martha Gallagher via the office at [office@walthamuu.org](mailto:office@walthamuu.org) for the link.

**Thursday, September 21 at 2pm**  
**Book: Tom Lake, by Ann Patchett**



In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

*Tom Lake* is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. As in all of her novels, Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics. The result is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why she is one of the most revered and acclaimed literary talents working today.

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## Upcoming services:

### September 10th. Ingathering

Don't forget to bring a little water with you to Ingathering on Sept 10th! This water symbolizes your heart's journey while we were apart. Perhaps you got a little water from the campus where you left your teen at college, your dog's water dish, the nursing home of your beloved, or your favorite swimming hole. We aren't aiming for a travel log exactly, but rather a sense of how you were changed by your summer days." We'll have water on hand to use if you forget. Later, we will boil and save some of these mingled waters, so that it can be used to bless our children when we dedicate them.

**September 27th. "Nose to the Trail" Rev. Megan Lynes, preaching.**

Theologian Frederick Buechner, writes "your vocation in life comes from where your greatest joy meets world's greatest needs." How do we know when we are on the right path for us as individuals or as a community of faith? What signs in your life have helped you understand your calling?

## From the Community

### Join us for the March to End Fossil Fuels

Several of us from First Parish in Waltham are making plans to go to the March to End Fossil Fuels in Manhattan on September 17th. We would be happy to have more people from FPW join us. Scott Tougas has offered to drive their minivan if we have enough people. Otherwise, **there are buses available leaving from Alewife and Park Street station**. Bus tickets need to be purchased by September 1. And if you want to help, but can't go that day, you could help with things like making signs. They are also collecting donations to offset the cost of the bus ride for people who need it.

If you are interested in supporting the effort in any way, please contact [Elisse Ghitelman](#).

[Click here for more information on the march.](#)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org)

**Happy Birthday this Month to:**

Frank Orvitz 9/2  
Manny Kamal 9/12

## Light the Steeple

Honor  
a person, occasion,  
event, or idea

Contact the Office

✉ [office@walthamuu.org](mailto:office@walthamuu.org)

☎ 781.893.6240



Pam Penton 9/15  
Jade Taylor 9/15  
Donna Vanderclock 9/16  
Shirley Traite 9/9  
Evan Taylor 9/22  
Dylan Remage-Healy 9/30  
Roland Peterson 9/30

*Send a card or an email to these members!*

## Ministry Staff Team

### **Summer Minister / Transitional Ministry Associate**

Deborah Weiner  
617.513.6614  
[deb.weiner@walthamuu.org](mailto:deb.weiner@walthamuu.org)

### **Parish Minister**

Rev Megan Lynes  
617.276.7655  
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### **Director of Religious Education**

Yvonne Andrews  
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### **Office Manager / Music and Choir Director**

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## Board Members

### **President, Board of Managers**

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### **Assistant Treasurer**

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### **Clerk**

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### **Community Outreach Commissioner**

Elisse Ghitelman  
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### **Finance**

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### **Membership**

Gary Morrison  
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### **Music and Worship Commissioner**

Bethany Templeton Klem  
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### **Property**

Dan Taylor  
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### **Religious Education Commissioner**

Pam Penton  
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### **Treasurer**

Janet Riley  
[treasurer@walthamuu.org](mailto: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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