



First Parish in Waltham Newsletter

*No matter who you are or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

This Week at . . .

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Upcoming Sunday Services



Make Yourself At Home

September 22, 10.30am

When we loudly proclaim that we are a people of welcome, we open ourselves to profound change. When we say that we want to be inclusive, what does that require of us? Join us for an exploration of what being a welcoming and inclusive church home really means for us.

This Week in Youth Faith Formation

This week, our Chalice Children and Jr. Youth Groups will each continue exploring our theme of Invitation as they dive into the way our faith calls us to be open and welcoming to everyone. Chalice Children will use games and an art project to help them explore what they can do to be welcoming and to get to know each other. Jr. Youth begin with some icebreaker games to get to know each other. They will then move on to creating name tags for themselves as we have a group discussion around what it means to be welcoming people and a welcoming faith community and how being welcoming and open is, in fact, faith in action.



Leading Chalice Children: Vivian Siegfried and Candace Holman
Leading Jr. Youth: April Rosario and Zee Campbell

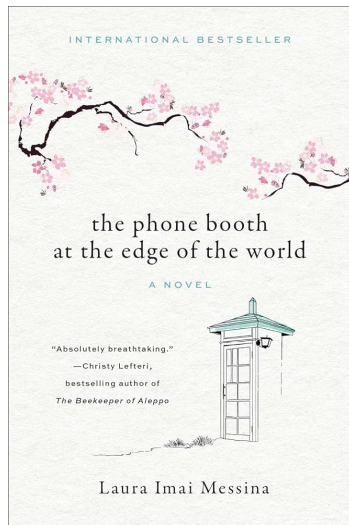


If you wish to join services virtually, click [here](#).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83014040510pwd=UFHuTktjN2VGSHRIZzBZU2RwbGFFUT09>

Password: FPW101

Upcoming Events



Book Club

"the phone booth on the edge of the world"
by Laura Imai Messina

September 19th at 1pm.
Meeting in the Harrington Room and online.
All are welcome.



Coffee Hour Treats!

With your help we can make our coffee hour a truly warm and welcoming event! When it's your turn to bring a snack for coffee hour, please bring it either in a container it can be served from, or on your own dish, which you bring home and clean yourself.

No nuts please, to help those with allergies.

A - E first Sunday
F - L second Sunday
M - S third Sunday
T - Z fourth Sunday

Messages from our Community

September Family Blessing: Blessing of Invitation

Dear Caretakers of precious beings and budding humans who invite us to see the world anew every day,

This month, my wish for you is this...

That you notice the many ways your children love without qualification,

That this noticing helps you hear the invitations of your own heart,

That you RSVP to life's invitations to pause, catch your breath, and be fully present to what's unfolding because of what you so faithfully planted,

That you forgive yourself for the invitations you missed because of dutiful work,

That you remain awake when your kids call you out to play,

even when there are dishes to do, lawns to mow, and laundry to fold.

(And that you remind yourself that overflowing dishes, overgrown lawns, and piled-up laundry never stopped the world from spinning just fine.)

You remember that even the smallest of tasks are trying to offer you treasures,

That you invite in the whispers that want you to know that you, too, are a treasure.

Blessed be, and May it Be So.

April



Soul Matters Monthly Small Groups
Theme Based Reflections
& Deep Listening – sign-up now



All are welcome and invited to join us for our Adult Faith Formation Small Group: Soul Matters Sharing Circle

Wednesday Evenings
Oct 2- Oct 30 from 6-7:30 pm in the Chapel

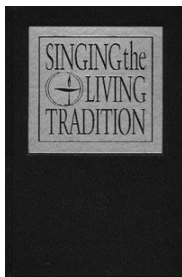
Soul Matters differs from other small groups in that it is designed to help us experience our monthly spiritual themes, not just talk about them! Its structure also helps us avoid the safety of shallow analysis and instead invites us to courageously dive into the work of vulnerable, honest, and heart-centered sharing. **Think of Soul Matters as an invitation to listen more deeply and intentionally in three distinct ways: We listen to each other, We listen to our lives, and We listen to our deepest selves.**

Soul Matters' distinguishing characteristic is a focus on deep listening. But the way Soul Matters goes about that is also unique. Here's how: Soul Matters Invites us to listen to each other deeply and with discipline. Soul Matters invites group members to practice three distinct disciplines of deep listening during their meeting time using this three-part mantra:

- Hold still – the practice of offering an inviting presence.
- Hold at bay – the practice of offering safe space.
- Hold up and hold out – the practice of responding with gratitude and noting meaningful connections.

Childcare is available upon request. Please don't hesitate to contact April Rosario, our Director of Lifespan Faith Formation, at april.rosario@walthamuu.org with any questions.

Register for Soul Matter [Here](#)
<https://forms.gle/e3LGHrXJPgJDJa48A>



New Hymnal - Research volunteers wanted

The 'Grey' hymnal, used by UU congregations all over the world, was compiled by a small team of volunteers. The leader of the team was **Larry Phillips**, and at the time he was the Music Director for First Parish in Waltham. The 'teal' hymnal has since been published, and includes some hymns in a more contemporary style. However, the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) is planning on releasing a **brand new hymnal** that will never need to be replaced.

The new hymnal will be a 'virtual hymnal'. It will feature many of our favorite hymns, but will also include new songs that can be used as hymns, anthems, introits, Chalice Lightings.... The format of the new hymnal needs to be road-tested. **Emma Campbell**, our Music Director, successfully applied on behalf of our congregation to be one of these important people. She will be putting together a group of people who are interested in accessing and critiquing the way the new hymnal works / doesn't work. Whether you are a singer, musician, hymn-lover, or think you are tone-deaf, this is your opportunity to make a lasting mark on the musical landscape of UU congregations across the world. First Parish in Waltham is one of around 100 congregations who have been selected with this privilege, and Emma wants to hear from you if you are interested in being part of the discussion group whose feedback will be shared with the UUA. Please email her via musicdirector@walthamuu.org or speak to her during coffee hour after a service.



One Thing You Can Do:

Our congregation is on its way to earning [Good Trouble Congregation status](#) for the non-partisan election work members have been doing. Postcards and letters have been sent, phone calls have been made, there are folks working at the polls. There are opportunities to travel to do some canvassing.

Whether you've already done some of this work, or are interested in finding out about the possibilities, check in with Elisse Ghitelman (Outreach Commissioner) at Coffee Hour this coming Sunday (Sept. 22). Feel free to email at outreach.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Partner Organizations and Other News

Dear Ones,

I'm speaking for the entire Chaplains on the Way family when I say how grateful we all are for your support before, during and after our 9/15 Community Barbecue & Silent Auction event.

Putting the to-do list together was the easy part. Rallying the troupes for side dishes, desserts, room set-up, parking, grilling, room breakdown and cleanup in time for your 3:00 Whitcomb Hall renters was the hard part. You worked non-stop and a made it look easy.

Because of your partnership and hard work our marketing shed light on all of us. New people came to listen and help us. We made new partners like the police, top politicians, civic groups, congregations, local activists and local businesses. We even have our own TV show on WCAC TV in the works to showcase our partnership further.

We cannot thank you enough. Your commitment to the dignity and value of our unhoused community humbles and inspires us.

With Sincere Appreciation,
Louise



Waltham Fields Community Farm

Crop Mob at Waltham Fields Community Farm, Sat 9/21.
Come by any time from 9am

onward to tackle weeds in the fields; we end at noon. Refreshments provided in appreciation.

<https://communityfarms.org/involved/volunteer-service>

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM ROOTS AND REALITIES

Wednesday Sept. 25, 2024
7:00 PM

Temple Beth Israel
25 Harvard Street
Waltham, MA

ZOOM: Visit fbwaltham.org
for the link


RSVP Required: See Below

Dr. Christopher Evans explores Christian nationalism, particularly how evangelical Protestant groups claim the US was founded as a Christian nation. He will trace the historical evolution of these beliefs, their rejection of the separation of church and state, and their ties to anti-Semitism. Dr. Evans will also address the paradox of Christian Zionism, where these groups both defend Israel and link its existence to end-times prophecy and conspiracy theories.

Christopher Evans is Professor of the History of Christianity at Boston University. A scholar of American religion, he has taught and published widely on topics related to the history of evangelicalism, religion and American politics, and religion and popular culture. His books include *The Social Gospel in American Religion* (New York University Press, 2017) and *Histories of American Christianity, An Introduction* (Baylor University Press, 2015). He is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, having served congregations in Central and Western New York state.

Temple Beth Israel

RSVP REQUIRED AT:
<https://bit.ly/drchrisevans>
or scan QR Code



STRETCHING AND MEDITATION FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Join us for a session of guided stretching and meditation. Focus on your breathing, release tension, and learn a simple meditation practice to bring harmony to your body, mind, and spirit.

This workshop is free and open to all.
No experience necessary.
Bring a towel or yoga mat.
Chairs provided for meditation.



Saturday, October 19
1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

First Parish in
Waltham
50 Church St
Waltham, MA
02452

For registration or more info
Eileen Carlotto
ecarlotto@sos.org
978-290-1733

Save the Date
Meditation for Personal
and Global Healing
Saturday, Nov 2 at 1:30 PM



Sponsored by Science of Spirituality
www.sos.org

Birthdays Among Us!

The Membership Committee is helping us celebrate birthdays as a congregation! Please let us know yours by emailing Brenda Asis:

membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Frank Orvitz 9/2
Manny Kamal 9/12
Pam Penton 9/15
Jade Taylor 9/15
Donna VanderClock 9/16
Evan Taylor 9/22
Dylan Remage-Healy 9/30



B'nai Or of Boston

a Welcoming Jewish Renewal Community

B'nai Or has two job openings:

1. We need two strong people to help us move our books and other such things from the First Parish to the Hellenic Center in Watertown on Wednesday Oct. 2 at 2:00. We will also need help getting our books etc. back to First Parish on Oct. 12 maybe the 13th. Pay is 30.00 an hour.
2. We are looking for someone to set up and clean up for our services which are held two times a month - one Friday night and one Saturday morning. For each service, the pay is 100.00. The person will need to be able to set up chairs/tables, bring out the books, small sound system, and some odds and ends and put

everything away at the end of the service.

For more information, please contact Deb Barsel at dbarsel@gmail.com

Staff Team

Parish Minister

Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd
781.899.0174
revelka@walthamuu.org

Director of Faith Formation

April Rosario
508.813.3343
april.rosario@walthamuu.org

Office Administrator /

Music and Choir Director

Emma Campbell
781.893.6240
office@walthamuu.org
or
musicdirector@walthamuu.org

Facilities Coordinator

KJ Robertson Jr.
781.893.6240
kj@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
outreach.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Finance

Janet Riley
janet.riley@walthamuu.org

Membership

Brenda Asis
brenda.asis@walthamuu.org

Music and Worship Commissioner

Bethany Templeton Klem
bethany.klem@walthamuu.org

Property

Walter Beebe-Center
property@walthamuu.org

Religious Education Commissioner

Pam Penton
pam.penton@walthamuu.org

Treasurer

Dan Taylor
treasurer@walthamuu.org

The mission of First Parish in Waltham

is to be a caring, inclusive, spiritual community committed to using free inquiry and the power of love to achieve peace, justice, and a sustainable world.

Stay connected on our Website, Facebook Page, or on Instagram!
Like and follow us to get updates and news!



Waltham UU Facebook Page



Waltham UU Webpage



First Parish in Waltham | 50 Church St | Waltham, MA 02452 US

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