

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



**50 Church St, Waltham MA 02452 | 781.893.6240
office@walthamuu.org | www.walthamuu.org**



Upcoming Services at 10.30am:

**October 1st:
"State of the Parish Address"
Rev. Megan Lynes and Deborah Weiner preaching**

This congregation, in all its iterations, has existed for almost 350 years. What a long and persevering journey! What tales from the archives, and stories from among us help guide us into health today? Where are we now and where are we going? Let's stand on the balcony and take a good look at the state of the parish, as it was, and as it is today.

**October 8th:
"Banned"
Rev. Lara K-J Campbell preaching**

Book banning is not a new venture. While there has always been some level of restrictions, we have seen a significant increase lately. This service will explore the impact and harms of this trend. We are pleased to welcome Rev. Lara K-J Campbell to First Parish in Waltham to lead our worship service.

Celebrating the Life of David Wilbourn

You are warmly invited to join in celebrating the life of David Wilbourn at First Parish in Waltham on Friday, October 6 at 1 PM. A reception will follow.

To view the memorial post about David, please visit the Joyce Funeral Home website:

<https://www.joycefuneralhome.com/obituaries/david-wilbourn>



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



Draw the Circle Wide

Things are really buzzing around church these days. There are activities and programs and painting and ENERGY, pretty much everywhere I gaze. And, because I read notes from committee and team meetings (and meet with some of these groups) I know that behind the scenes, there is planning and dreaming going on.

Yesterday I met with a group of religious leadership transitions professionals who were discussing the changes that have occurred in congregations since 2020. While all churches seem to be 'back' together, all are also hybrid (offering services both in person and on zoom or through other media). Some folk have come back and others have found different things to do with their time and their lives...including kids. And it is absolutely a given that some of the smaller, more fragile congregations are likely to close their doors during this year - not able to sustain a modest spiritual community any longer.

Thank the heavens, then, for First Parish in Waltham and what's going on! At the recent retreat your Board of Managers held, we asked what achievements and innovations have occurred in the last year. There were more than twenty identified - and I'm confident additional elements could have gone on the list! From painting to organ repair, from building a new relational covenant to reaching out to welcome unhoused friends on a frigid weekend with food and movies and love - there are many reasons to celebrate First Parish.

Some congregations may be drawing inward...but at First Parish in Waltham, visitors are showing up nearly every week. And it is ALL of our work - and joy - to welcome them and invite them into this congregation. I hope that this week, and in the coming ones, you'll take time at church during worship to talk to the people you don't yet know...and not only talk to them, but invite them to an upcoming event, or better yet, to go out for coffee or brunch. We have the opportunity to draw the circle wide - and there are rewards for all of us in welcoming the stranger who has wandered in our doors!

In faith, with love,

Deb



A message from your Music and Choir Director: Emma Campbell

While you are valiantly assisting our brave Search Committee, who are tasked with finding us a minister for next year, and Rev. Megan and Deb combine forces to help us find out the 'state of our congregation', I have been enjoying a UU Theology course as part of my Unitarian Universalist Music Ministry training.

Last week's Postlude was a waltz, and, by extension this week's Prelude is a Tango. They say 'it takes two to tango'. The Unitarians officially joined forces with the Universalists back in 1961. Both groups were based on Christianity, though have some fundamental theological differences. Over time, different theologies have been absorbed, and Unitarian Universalism now draws inspiration from many widely-differing sources. While each congregation has a different mix, what I love about worship at Waltham is that we are all so very different. While members come with many different religious perspectives, traditions, and practices, these differences do help bind us together. Personally, finding out more about other faiths has been helpful in anchoring my own beliefs and finding out what is important to me.

Prokofieff composed a collection of pieces "Visions Fugitives" (Fleeting Glimpses) for piano. They are a set of miniature pieces based on melodies that popped into his head. To me, they are beautiful, but they do not follow traditional harmonic rules. You have to make your own decisions, both as a performer and a listener, about that the music is trying to convey. Is it happy, sad, mournful? This is just like Unitarian Universalism - there is no creed to follow, and we are invited to make up your own mind about what you believe.

The Choir is making its first appearance of the year for the Postlude - hurrah! I love the members' dedication and determination. They have prepared a piece by Penny Stone, a British songleader, teacher, singer, and composer. Like me, she believes anyone can sing. (If you disagree, come and join the choir to explore your beliefs!) As a prominent activist who is committed towards working for peace and social justice, Stone has composed a number of pieces that align with UU principles. The choir really hopes that you enjoy the

one I have chosen for them to sing on Sunday, and I hope you will be present (in person or online) to offer your encouragement and support.

Yours Musically,
Emma



The Music Committee has been evaluating and repairing our fine selection of musical instruments. The Chickering piano that was in our chapel was no longer fit for purpose but life left to live. We needed a high quality instrument that could be easily moved between rooms within our building. We are thrilled with our new beautiful digital instrument that can be moved between the Chapel, Witcomb, or anywhere else we might need. We are also delighted to say that the old piano now resides on Main Street at Christ Church Episcopal on their stage, and their congregation has asked us to

forward their thanks for donating the instrument.

Staff News

Yvonne Andrews has ended her employment with First Parish in Waltham as Director of Religious Education. We wish her the best in her future endeavors. Please know that Rev. Megan Lynes, Deb Weiner, RE Commissioner Pam Penton and the RE Committee are all committed to offering excellent religious education programming for all ages.

We will begin the search for a new DRE, and in the meantime we very much welcome your involvement in the RE program. We have chosen a terrific curriculum with easy to teach lesson plans and fun activities. Might you be able to spend time with our young people for a few weekends this fall? Or, do you have a particular talent that you might like to share in a one-off session? If you've been waiting for the right moment to be involved, we hope you'll consider volunteering while the need is urgent.

Please click [here](#) to tell us about any interests or availability you have.

If you wish to get involved, please reach out to Rev. Megan, Deb, or Pam.

Seeking a Church Photographer! Or your one-off pictures of church life!

Each week exciting and meaningful events happen at First Parish, and we'd love to tell and SHOW our story visually all year long! Do you like to take pictures? Would you consider snapping a picture of something great in a service, or when games night meets, or your committee is all present, or your fun coffee hour prep team laughs in the kitchen? Send it on over to Emma in the office, or Megan or Deb on text or email. We will not post without permission, but we'd LOVE to start a collection of great pictures for use on our website or to invite people to our events. As you know, a picture speaks a thousand words.



Thanks for any help! - Your staff team.

Greetings from the Committee on Ministry (COM)

Your Committee on Ministry (COM) would like to re-introduce ourselves to you. We are available and at your service this year. Last spring our congregation worked hard to create a relational covenant for our congregation to help guide us. We encourage you to revisit it when you have a moment. It can be found on our website [here](#).

There can be conflict or disagreement in every community. Each of us at times acts or speaks carelessly or without awareness of our impact on people around us. A measure of a strong community is how we respond to each other when big or little hurts have occurred. When this happens, sometimes open-hearted self-reflection is all we need. Sometimes

sharing food, music, or a good laugh is enough to shake it off and feel better about our connection with the other person. Sometimes a single conversation can clear the air.

But of course, it's not always so simple. This is when the COM can help. If you are experiencing conflict with another individual in our community that feels unresolvable or you just can't shake a feeling of hurt, defensiveness, or resentment, please consider reaching out to us. Although we encourage you to speak directly with the other person, we know that's sometimes challenging. We are here to help. We won't speak to the other person on your behalf, but we are available to accompany you in thinking about, or having a hard conversation.

We have a few practical suggestions for encouraging 'right relationship' at First Parish in Waltham. If you notice yourself complaining repeatedly about someone else in our community, consider pausing and asking yourself: "Is this a constructive conversation that will lead to positive change?" Likewise, if you find yourself on the listening end of someone's complaints, you might say, "Would you consider talking to the person about it?" Or even, "How can I help?" or "What do you need to feel better about this?" Sometimes it takes more than one person working together to move a conversation to the next step.

Not sure how to proceed? No problem! The COM will receive your uncertainty with compassion and care. Your conversations with us are confidential. It's fine to request to speak with just one of us, but we work as a team, and the essence of your conversation will likely be shared, in confidence, with the rest of the COM. We are here for you.

Your Committee on Ministry:

Bee Fortin, chair
Jodi Anderson
Marianne Cutter
Dimitry Zarkh

Search Committee News

On Sunday, Sept. 24th, your search committee distributed our congregational survey. If you did not receive it in your email, please contact us at search@walthamuu.org. We can also provide a paper copy if you need one.

Surveys are due back by noon *Tuesday, October 4*. Sooner is even better. We know the survey is fairly lengthy. We are so grateful in advance for your time. Your input is important. The more responses we have, the more credible the results. The last time we really looked at who we are in this way was when we started the search process that led to calling Rev. Marc Fredette, 15 years ago. We have changed. Knowing where we have come from and where we want to go is critical to our search for a minister. Our lay leadership also needs this info to strengthen our work together as a community.

We plan to have a few results at the "cottage meetings." But wait, have you signed up to attend one?

Cottage Meetings - which one will you attend?

We need your input to help shape our search for a settled minister. We whole heartedly encourage you to attend of these "cottage" meetings in the next two months, and have created a wide array of dates and times in hopes that one will meet your schedule.

Date	Time	Location	Hosts	Focus
Oct 8	9am	At FPW & zoom	Marty and Daphne	All Members
Oct 12	8pm	Zoom	Katie	All Members
Oct 21	7pm	Zoom	Alex and Katie	Under 35s
Oct 23	1pm	At FPW	Marty and Daphne	Seniors and non working
Oct 24	7pm	Bill V's home	Bill	All members
Nov 11	3pm	Zoom	Alex and Daphne	Families with young children

Sign up [here](#) for the cottage meeting of your choice. After these meetings, we will compile and release a report of findings from the survey and the meetings.

Questions or thoughts? Contact search@walthamuu.org. We want to hear from you.



One Thing You Can Do

You can check that you're registered for the Municipal Election this year and let your friends know they should check. The Mayor and all the City Councillors will be elected this year. The deadline to register is October 28, 2023. Find out more at the [2023 Election Information](#) page on the City of Waltham website.

Elisse Ghitelman

Join in the Fifth Friday Shabbat Potluck Dinner

In every month that has a Fifth Friday, we meet for a Shabbat potluck dinner. We **include anyone** who wants to come. Everyone, whatever your religious background or lack of it, is welcome.

This month's potluck supper starts at **6:30 pm in Whitcomb Hall on September 29th**.

Friday is the evening that celebrates Shabbat, the Sabbath, with great food, traditional wine and challah blessings, camaraderie of friends old and new. Please come, bring family members, friends, and something to share either food or beverage.

Let us know if you are coming and what you are able to bring by emailing Joan Bone at bonehaus207@yahoo.com. Joan keeps the list and can answer questions you might have.

Whether you've come before and are a 'regular' or it's your first time attending, you are welcome. We'll be happy to see you!!!

Thank you,
Joan Bone

Let's Spiff this Place Up! - Your Help is Needed! Saturday, September 30th 9-1:

It takes a village to take care of a Church Building and Grounds, and we need our village to do our best to keep the building in tip top shape for ourselves, our renters and our community. Please come and join us *this Saturday, September 30th, from 9am - 1pm*. Lunch will be provided (let us know if you have any dietary needs). You do not need to come for the entire time, but your presence is most appreciated!

Contact Dan Taylor if you have any questions: property@walthamuu.org .

Guided Meditation

You are invited to attend a one-hour guided mediation session on **Sunday, October 15th** at **9am**. It will be held in the Chapel and led by Kris DiNardo.

There are several research-based benefits to meditation including the reduction of stress, anxiety and pain; as well as improved sleep and overall health and wellbeing.

All are welcome - whether you are a seasoned meditator or a newcomer. However, timely arrival is appreciated so as not to disturb the process for others.



Friday October 13th, 2023 6:00pm

Halloween/Oktoberfest theme!

**Deviled Eggs, Bat Cupcakes, Hot Dog Mummies,
Pumpkin Pie, Schnitzel, Bratwurst.
Halloween costumes are pure joy!**

**It's a casual, family-friendly potluck meal
We'd love your company even if you just want to eat & chat
Bring your favorite games or play with ones at FP
At the end of the evening, we clean up together**

**Come at any time, for any part of the evening. Need a ride?
We may be able to help. Special diet? It's best to bring your own food.
Need info? Contact Martha Gallagher!**



Book group

Join us to discuss "The Firekeeper's Daughter," by Angeline Boulley. All welcome!

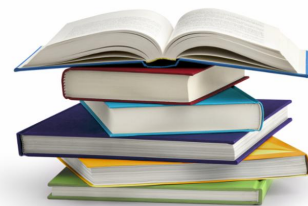
October 19, 2pm in the Harrington Room and via Zoom.

Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother Levi's hockey team.

Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug.

Reluctantly, Daunis agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source. But the search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined, exposing secrets and old scars. At the same time, she grows concerned with an investigation that seems more focused on punishing the offenders than protecting the victims.

Now, as the deceptions - and deaths - keep growing, Daunis must learn what it means to be a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and how far she'll go for her community, even if it tears apart the only world she's ever known.



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

WARRANT

The legal voters of The First Parish, Universalist-Unitarian, Inc. are hereby notified that a Special Meeting of the Corporation will be held in the sanctuary and via Zoom video conferencing on **October 22, 2023**, immediately following the worship service.

Article I:

To vote on the adoption by First Parish in Waltham of the **Eighth Principle** of the UUA. The copy reads as follows:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

Deborah José

President, Board of Managers

Peter K. Duane

Clerk

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. Megan Lynes 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 - and a member of our team will respond to you in a timely manner!

Plum Kennard (chair,) Andy LeCompte, Nancy Lawrence, and Bill VanderClock.

We have wheels for you!

We are thrilled to have a "transport wheelchair" available at the church for use by anyone who would find it helpful! It was donated by Joyce Wilbourn, and we are so grateful. If you are coming to church and would find it helpful to use the wheelchair to get into/around the church, please contact Emma Campbell in the Office (Monday-Thursday) or a member of the Lay Pastoral Care team (pastoralcare@walthamuu.org).

Make an offering plate
donation before, during, or
after the service!



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:

Frank Orvitz 9/2
Manny Kamal 9/12
Pam Penton 9/15
Jade Taylor 9/15
Donna Vanderclock 9/16
Shirley Traite 9/9
Evan Taylor 9/22
Dylan Ramage-Healy 9/30
Roland Peterson 9/30

Send a card or an email to these members!

Ministry Staff Team

Parish Minister

Rev Megan Lynes

617.276.7655

revmeganlynes@walthamuu.org

Transitional Ministry Associate

Deborah Weiner

617.513.6614

deb.weiner@walthamuu.org

Office Administrator / Music and Choir Director

Emma Campbell

781.893.6240

office@walthamuu.org

or

musicdirector@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 Mission Statement

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.

[Unsubscribe office@walthamuu.org](#)

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

Sent by office@walthamuu.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!