

**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:

**January 21 - 10:30 AM
"How Real Love Comes"
Rev. Megan Lynes preaching**

You never know when love will speak to you, or in what voice. It's only important to listen, watch, be wakeful and ready for divine surprise, sometimes in the most unlikely incarnations.

**January 28 - 10:30 AM
"Liberating Love" - A Member-led Service**

Please join us Sunday, January 28 for our first member-led Service of 2024. The theme is Liberating Love, filled with poetry, prose and music. Speaking of poetry, we'll also celebrate "Rabbie Burns Day," honoring Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland. A guest bagpiper will join us to "pipe in" congregants with traditional Scottish music. Come fifteen minutes before the start to hear the pipes calling in the sanctuary before the Service!

A Pastoral Update

It is with heavy hearts that we let you know about the passing of our longtime member and friend, Roland Peterson. Roland was diagnosed with Covid on New Year's Eve, spent some time in the hospital, and entered into hospice care last week. He passed peacefully

early this morning in his sleep at home, as was his wish. He was able to share time with all four of his children during his last days. Roland became a member here with his wife Lois and their children in the early 70's. He was a faithful participant in all aspects of parish life through the years, even attending on Zoom this last year. Roland was 96 years old, and will be greatly missed. A memorial service in his honor will be held in our sanctuary, with a date TBD. In the meantime, we are holding his whole family in our hearts. If you wish to send a card to his family, please send it to the church office and it will be forwarded.



**A message from the Parish Minister:
Rev. Megan Lynes**

As a child my family moved from the U.S to England and back again when I was 6 and 9. Uprooted on both ends, I missed my friends and fought hard to be accepted. I was often the kid with the weird accent, the strange clothes or the parents who didn't quite get how to fit in culturally. I learned quickly how to make friends with the one kind kid who would never tease me, single me out, or mind if I tagged along.

Because of their acceptance and kindness, I vowed to be someone who would look for the underdog or the new person and see if I too could be a good friend to them. Joining a new place can be a daunting experience, whether that's elementary school or coffee hour at church. Yet, when the doors of inclusivity swing open in warm welcome, the landscape transforms, and belonging becomes the common thread.

A simple question like "What brought you here?" or "Would you like to sit with me?" might be a simple way for someone to know they are wanted. It is said that people come to church for many reasons, but they are likely to stay if they make at least one friend.

It may also be the case, especially here at First Parish, that someone has been coming to this building for years, and this is already their safe comfy place where they feel they are free to be themselves. But perhaps they come here to Whitcomb Hall midweek, as part of the Chaplains on the Way community, or are part of a Buddhist meditation group. I know that I myself, attended meetings here for years on Sunday afternoons as a member of the Single Mothers by Choice community. Whitcomb Hall has always felt like a place filled with love, because of my own experience in this church, long before I began here as your minister. When we welcome the person next to us, it's a great idea not to assume they've never attended or that they don't already have a connection with First Parish. It's like the parable of the elephant and the blind men who all are touching the animal and describing a different part. We each have our own experience and are connected in our own way. We need an attitude of "us" and "all of us." Rather than "us" and "them."

As we extend our warmth to all around us, let's not forget those who have been with us for years. Our elders, who may be less able to join us in person, deserve our care and attention. Are there individuals we can write to, drive here, or bring back into the community? Let's take a moment to ensure that everyone, regardless of their length of stay, feels cherished and connected.

Extending our arms wide and wider still, we live our covenant of love as the spirit of this church. THIS is ALL of us.

Wishing you all the joy of belonging and the warmth of genuine connections,

Rev. Megan

Sunday, January 21, 2024 - 12-3 PM
A Transitions Workshop:
Healthy Communication and Resolving Conflict!

Join us for an exciting, post-worship event on January 21 to help strengthen our

First Parish in Waltham community. We'll learn more about how conflict occurs AND how to resolve it, as well as what 'healthy communication' is about and the ways it benefits us all! The event will take place in Whitcomb Hall, and lunch will be served.

Please let us know if you plan to attend, so we can plan for the correct number of participants and meet your childcare or dietary needs, by clicking [here](#).

Deb José is coordinating lunch for those who are staying for the workshop. She is still looking for people to donate the following items to accompany the baked potatoes ("Jacket Spuds" if you are the Music Director). Please email Deb via president@walthamuu.org if you are able to help.



- 1 lb. of butter
- 3 containers of sour cream
- 1 large container of cooked sliced kielbasa or andouille sausage
- 2 bottles of seltzer (x3)
- large tray of salad (no dressing needed)
- tray of cookies
- bowl of fruit salad

Thank you!

Share the Plate - This week's offering will be shared with The Diaper Depot of Waltham, providing diapers to families in need.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Christ Church Waltham created Diaper Depot in 2007 to provide low-income mothers with diaper supplies. This has become an especially important outreach mission as the need for disposable diapers is ongoing and critical. One in three American mothers struggle to buy diapers for their babies and unfortunately diapers cannot be purchased with food assistance programs like SNAP. Most day care providers require that children arrive with their own supply of disposable diapers causing an additional burden to working mothers. Babies born into low-income families may spend an entire day or more in one diaper, leading to serious health risks.

Diaper Depot supplies diapers and feminine hygiene supplies to Waltham residents that qualify for financial assistance (WIC or Mass Health). Neither diapers nor feminine hygiene supplies can be purchased with WIC assistance. We currently serve over 125 children, distributing 5000 diapers monthly, with a corresponding value of more than \$1,100. We are a donation based organization relying on the generosity of our community members.



One Thing You Can Do

First Parish in Waltham is a co-sponsor of this hybrid event:

Join the MA Environmental Justice Legislative Table to discuss the elephant in the room- how do we build the renewable distributed electric grid we need fast, while not repeating the mistakes of the past? Learn more about our vision for infrastructure, energy democracy, and centering frontline communities in the process- as well as the current policy proposal from the EJ Table to greenlight good projects fast and nip bad projects in the bud.

Environmental Justice and Building Our New Grid -

Where Should It All Go?

Saturday, January 20th, 2024 2pm - 3:30pm

Hybrid Event: In person at First Parish Concord - 20 Lexington Rd., Concord and online

[RSVP Here](#)

[Facebook Event here](#)

- Elisse Ghitelman, Outreach Commissioner



OPEN REHEARSAL

Singing & Acting Opportunity

In Good Company is a long-standing theater group whose mission is to highlight the past and present voices, joys, and struggles of the people of this country. With storytelling, dance, music and song from past and current generations and cultures, we've performed in venues across New England, in schools, local theaters, and senior communities.

Singer-actors of all voices, ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in a rehearsal and - should you choose - to audition to join us for performances this Winter and Spring.

SOME OF OUR PRODUCTIONS



The Golden Door

A story about how immigrants are changing and enriching the culture of Boston and New England, performed in elementary schools

The White House Chair

Just in time for the campaign season, an engaging historical review featuring presidential campaign songs, from 'God Save Great Washington' to 'I Like Ike' and 'High Hopes for Kennedy'



Tuesday Jan. 9th, 16th & 23rd, 7:30 PM,
1st Parish, 50 Church St., Waltham

**For more information, visit <https://new.ingoodcompanytheater.org/>
e-mail info@ingoodcompanytheater.org or call 617-957-9733**



An Evening of Music & Fun!

Community Open Mic



Calling all musicians, singers, and enthusiastic listeners!

Join us for a public, multi-generational, Open Mic Night to foster creativity, build community and have fun!

All ages and skill levels welcome

Saturday, January 27, 2024 6:30pm - 9:30pm

\$10 Suggested Donation

First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church Street, Waltham, MA

Space is limited for performance spots. If you wish to perform, please register by sending an email to Brenda.Asis@WalthamUU.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. 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!

Our 'point person' each month is as follows:

January: Nancy Lawrence

February: Plum Kennard

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

Is anyone available to offer an occasional ride on a Sunday morning to a parishioner living in Cambridge? If so, please contact the office via office@walthamuu.org. Thank you.



Waltham UU Facebook Page



Waltham UU Webpage

Holding your phone's camera over the QR codes above will take you to either the First Parish in Waltham webpage or our Facebook page where we hope that you will "like" and follow us! These are great ways to stay connected!



Important Snowstorm Procedures on Sundays! Let it Snow (Well, it's Winter After All)

In case of a major snowstorm which occurs on or leading up to Sunday, we will follow these procedures:

1. A determination on cancelling Sunday worship services will be made by the worship leader (or, in the case of a pulpit guest, the staff worship coordinator) in consultation with the congregation president, by 7:30 AM on Sunday.
2. Upon consultation with other worship staff, the service may be moved to zoom-only (originating from the homes of worship leaders).
3. If worship is cancelled or if it will be held on zoom, a message will be sent to all on the church mailing list, so indicating, no later than 8:30 AM.
4. If worship is cancelled or will be held on zoom, an update to the church's website, giving information and (if relevant) a zoom link, will be made by 9 AM.
5. In the case of a cancellation of worship, all afternoon and evening activities at the church that are sponsored by the church, will also be cancelled (and may be rescheduled).

Light the Steeple

Honor
a person, occasion,
event, or idea

Contact the Office
✉ office@walthamuu.org
☎ 781.893.6240



When's Your Birthday?

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The Membership Committee is helping us celebrate birthdays as a congregation! Let us know your birthday so we can all honor you!

Please email the dates to Gary Morrison:

membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Happy Birthday this Month to:

- Sarah Remage-Healy 1/2
- Emma Campbell 1/8
- Scott Tougas 1/12
- Ethan Anderson 1/17

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



<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



*Please feel free to send a card or
an email to these good people!*

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
outreach.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Finance

Donna VanderClock
donna.vandercllock@walthamuu.org

Membership

Gary Morrison
gary.morrison@walthamuu.org

Brenda Asis

brenda.asis@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.

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