

**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 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!

**Feb 4 - 10:30 AM  
"Ain't I A Woman?" - Women who have turned the tide  
Deb Weiner preaching**

**Feb 11 - 10:30 AM  
\*\* ONLINE service only! \*\*  
Due to the RACE Cancer Foundation road race that will shut down roads all around First Parish during our usual worship time, we will have our service online only.**

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

***"Come Anyway"***



In the Bible, the Song of Songs (verse 2) calls to us, "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." Such lovely thoughts herald the rebirth of the earth and the coming of spring.

Although it is in the 30's outside my window as I write, Imbolc is nearly here and I have faith and know that soon enough winter will release its grasp and the buds will bloom. This is the time of anticipation...and, this religious leader regrets to say, it is also the time when historically, attendance at church frequently takes a nose-dive. As the days get longer, the spring activities begin... and the social schedule ramps up. Some days it can just seem like too much to get up, get out the door and get to church!

I'm here to encourage and even implore you to make it a priority and come anyway. I say this not only because it's here that you'll find great worship, social connections, gatherings to deepen your contact to our faith and to those who call this place their spiritual home. Right now, *we need each other*. We, of all ages, need places like First Parish in Waltham in our lives, for the times that are great, for the moments that are a little crazy, and for the places where we just feel like we're overwhelmed, afraid, or not sure of what will come next in our lives. And that is so, whether it's winter or spring.

This church will be here, and in religious education and all our programs, we're ready for you and all who are part of your family of blood or your family of choice. So come, no matter what. Arise and come away...and head to the historic church that offers you a welcome and an open heart and hand – no matter your age, no matter what's going on in your life.

See you in church!

In faith, with love,  
Deb



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### **From the Music and Choir Director Emma Campbell**

You don't want to be late for this Sunday's service – in fact you want to be early, whether you will be attending in person or joining over Zoom. At 10:15 AM Stephen Thomforde will be warming up his pipes – literally. The Worship Committee has planned a wonderful service inspired by Robert Burns, the celebrated Scottish poet. Therefore, it seems totally fitting that we should begin the service with a bagpiper. Stephen, who has played his pipes across the globe, is going to help us 'get in the mood'.

Before you ask, my origins have no connections with Scotland. When I'm back in England my last name causes confusion. "Campbell" is a very popular name in both Scotland and Ireland. The Campbell Clan from Scotland was incredibly successful, both politically and in terms of the amount of land they acquired. People seem to think that I 'belong' to it and have committed some perceived crime by having a distinct accent that places me from the south of England.

Nothing could be further from the truth. I took my American husband's last name when we married. I am particularly amused when Americans ask if I am Scottish. I revel in the confused look on their faces when I point out that Campbell is a 'slave name'. The look of befuddlement, as people try to grapple with the concepts that whirl in their brains at that moment, highlights just how rare inter-racial marriage is for American people of my age.

While we are familiar with people failing to identify us as 'a couple' we have a very unusual encounter the other week. We were sharing a table at a jazz performance with a young couple in their 20s who didn't realize that we were husband and wife. In covering up this error, having asked us if we had come together, the comment was "I don't like to assume – you could be friends, colleagues, or

siblings". This was when three of us at the table collapsed with laughter. They too were a couple with completely different heritages – he was a black American and, while she was born in the US, her mother was from the Philippines and her father was Scottish. I suppose with their American accents they could have been adopted siblings, but Michael and I sound so totally different we've clearly matured on different continents!

If Sunday brings to mind (veiled hint at one of the items in the service) any Scottish associations, please do share them at coffee hour. I had a wonderful vacation in the highlands and can talk at length about the insect bites I experienced.

Yours Musically,  
Emma

**Marcellus Campbell** (my husband's great grandfather) who died 1908, was a freed slave who moved his family from South Carolina to Pittsburgh.



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**Community Open Mic Night  
An Evening of Music and Fun!!  
This Saturday, January 27  
6:30 to 9:30 PM**

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!

Our suggested donation is \$10 per person.

The opening set will be by sister duos, [Trisha and Thara Iyer](#). Our featured performers will be our very own Scott Tougas and his band, Harmonic Motion.

Fifteen acts (musicians and poets) are registered to perform so far, both members of First Parish and performers from within the greater Waltham area. You won't want to miss this group of performers and be ready for some surprises!

We have space for a couple more people to perform. Please contact **Brenda Asis** **by email by January 25** to register to perform.

Thanks,  
Brenda Asis and Joan Smith

P.S. This is an in-person event being held at First Parish in Waltham. If meeting in person is not possible for you, please email [Donna.VanderClock@WalthamUU.org](mailto:Donna.VanderClock@WalthamUU.org) by Thursday, January 25 to request the Zoom link.

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**Follow Up:  
Healthy Communication and Managing Conflict Workshop**

## - Sharing the Slides!

More than 35 folk participated in last Sunday's transitions workshop on Healthy Communication and Managing Conflict. Several of you asked for the slides we used during the presentation, and **we're glad to share them with you!** If you have any questions regarding the slides or the workshop, please contact **Deb Weiner**.

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## Secret Valentine Exchange!

**From Pam Penton, Religious Education Commissioner:**

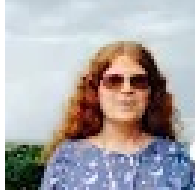


At our service on January 28 everyone will be invited to take a red heart and write their own name on it. During the Time For All Ages, we will ask you to return your heart in the basket that the UU Explorers will provide. This means that you would like to participate in the Secret Valentine Exchange. At the end of the service, you will be asked to choose a new heart and this will be your Secret Valentine.

Will you be on zoom or not able to attend on Sunday? Just send me an email at **pjpenton@gmail.com** or a note in the chat and we will make sure your heart goes in the basket and match you with a Secret Valentine.

The next step? Over the next two weeks you can make one or two cards or notes (materials available at Welcome Table or use your own) and return it at another time on the Welcome Table or find another way to deliver a warm greeting to your Secret Valentine. On February 12 we ask that you reveal yourself and get to know your secret valentine a little better. People of all ages are encouraged to participate!!

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## One Thing You Can Do

I encourage you to read [this post](#) written by veteran newscaster, Dan Rather, on Jan. 2, 2024 and contemplate his call to work to preserve our freedom and democracy. My favorite quote:  
*"It is my feeling, and my hope, that we all realize we have to do something to make sure we don't lose our constitutional republic based on the principles of freedom and democracy."*

- Elisse Ghitelman, Outreach Commissioner

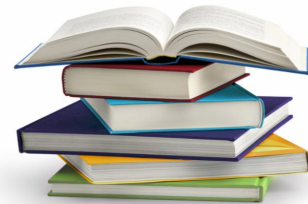
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♥ The 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL ♥  
VALENTINE ♥  
POP-UP SHOP!  
WHITCOMB HALL  
11:45 AM  
FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>  
HANDMADE CARDS, MAPLE PECANS  
AND OTHER DELIGHTS  
♥ A FUNDRAISER FOR FIRST PARISH ♥

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**First Parish Book Club**  
**February 15, 2024**  
**1:00 PM in the Harrington Room and over Zoom**

**A Woman is No Man**  
Etaf Rum  
Published 2019



Three generations of Palestinian-American women living in Brooklyn are torn between individual desire and the strict mores of Arab culture in this powerful debut - a heart-wrenching story of love, intrigue, courage, and betrayal that will resonate with women from all backgrounds, giving voice to the silenced and agency to the oppressed.

*"Where I come from, we've learned to silence ourselves. We've been taught that silence will save us. Where I come from, we keep these stories to ourselves. To tell them to the outside world is unheard of - dangerous, the ultimate shame."*

Palestine, 1990. Seventeen-year-old Isra prefers reading books to entertaining the suitors her father has chosen for her. Over the course of a week, the naïve and dreamy girl finds herself quickly betrothed and married and is soon living in Brooklyn. There, Isra struggles to adapt to the expectations of her oppressive mother-in-law, Fareeda, and strange new husband, Adam, a pressure that intensifies as she begins to have children - four daughters instead of the sons Fareeda tells Isra she must bear.

Brooklyn, 2008. Eighteen-year-old Deya, Isra's oldest daughter, must meet with potential husbands at her grandmother Fareeda's insistence, though her only desire is to go to college. Deya can't help but wonder if her options would have been different had her parents survived the car crash that killed them when Deya was only eight. But her grandmother is firm on the matter: The only way to secure a worthy future for Deya is through marriage to the right man.

But fate has a will of its own, and soon, Deya will find herself on an unexpected path that leads her to shocking truths about her family - knowledge that will force her to question everything she thought she knew about her parents, the past, and her own future.

Set in an America at once foreign to many and staggeringly close at hand, *A Woman Is No Man* is a story of culture and honor, secrets and betrayals, love and violence. It is an intimate glimpse into a controlling and closed cultural world and a universal tale about family and the ways silence and shame can destroy those we have sworn to protect.

All welcome to join us in reading this book, and share in our discussion on Feb 15th!

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## New England UU EMERGING ADULT CONFERENCE

Hosted by Sanctuary Boston and Campus  
UUs at Mount Holyoke, Harvard, NEU, and  
Brandeis for 18-23 year olds.

### Coming to Life in Winter

February 17th-18th

Arrive from 1-2pm

at First Parish Brookline

*A weekend of finding  
community and calling* ♡

**Sign Up Here: [bit.ly/lifeinwinter](http://bit.ly/lifeinwinter)**



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### 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](mailto: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

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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



### 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!



### Snowstorm Procedures for Sundays

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

1. A determination on canceling 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 canceled or if it will be held on zoom, a message will be sent to all on the church mailing list, no later than 8:30 AM.
4. If worship is canceled 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 cancelation of in person worship, all afternoon and evening activities at the church that are sponsored by the church, will also be canceled (and may be rescheduled).

### Light the Steeple

Honor  
a person, occasion,  
event, or idea

Contact the Office  
 [office@walthamuu.org](mailto: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](mailto:membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org)

**Happy Birthday  
this Month to:**

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



<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



Emma Campbell 1/8  
Scott Tougas 1/12  
Ethan Anderson 1/17

*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](mailto:revmeganlynes@walthamuu.org)

### **Transitional Ministry Associate**

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

### **Office Administrator / Music and Choir Director**

Emma Campbell  
781.893.6240  
[office@walthamuu.org](mailto:office@walthamuu.org)  
or  
[musicdirector@walthamuu.org](mailto:musicdirector@walthamuu.org)

## Board Members

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

Deb Jose  
[president@walthamuu.org](mailto:president@walthamuu.org)

### **Assistant Treasurer**

Dan DeHainaut  
[asst.treasurer@walthamuu.org](mailto:asst.treasurer@walthamuu.org)

### **Clerk**

Peter Duane  
[clerk@walthamuu.org](mailto:clerk@walthamuu.org)

### **Community Outreach Commissioner**

Elisse Ghitelman  
[outreach.commissioner@walthamuu.org](mailto:outreach.commissioner@walthamuu.org)

### **Finance**

Donna VanderClock  
[donna.vanderclock@walthamuu.org](mailto:donna.vanderclock@walthamuu.org)

### **Membership**

Gary Morrison  
[gary.morrison@walthamuu.org](mailto:gary.morrison@walthamuu.org)

Brenda Asis

[brenda.asis@walthamuu.org](mailto:brenda.asis@walthamuu.org)

### **Music and Worship Commissioner**

Bethany Templeton Klem  
[bethany.klem@walthamuu.org](mailto:bethany.klem@walthamuu.org)

### **Property**

Dan Taylor  
[property@walthamuu.org](mailto:property@walthamuu.org)

### **Religious Education Commissioner**

Pam Penton  
[pam.penton@walthamuu.org](mailto:pam.penton@walthamuu.org)

### **Treasurer**

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



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