



First Parish in Waltham Newsletter

*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:

Feb. 25 - 10:30 AM
"Human, It's Up to You...Choose"
Regie O'Hare Gibson preaching



Being alive is filled with choices we have to make everyday—some are easy...Paper or plastic? Cereal or eggs? Others are more complex — Who will I be among others today? How will I affect the world? Join Regie as he explores the subject of choosing better.

Following the service, Regie O'Hare Gibson will lead a participatory workshop open to all in the Harrington Room:

HOW DO YOU POET THE WORLD?

Each of us has a way of looking at the world—and often this connects to how we see ourselves. But what happens when we explore ways to see ourselves and our world from a different perspective? Well, poetry can help us do just that!

Join Regie Gibson for a fun poetry exercise that will help you explore new ways of seeing how you connect with your community and beyond.

Hint: you'll get to do it through writing—and using your wonderful imagination. You can even volunteer to share your work!

Mar. 3 - 10:30 AM
Rev. Megan Lynes preaching
With guest musical artist Jodi Heights

Mar. 10 - 10:30 AM Deborah Weiner preaching
"Rage Against the Dying of the Light"

A memorial service to honor the life of Roland Peterson will be held in our sanctuary and on Zoom on Sunday, February 25th at 3 PM, officiated by Rev. Megan Lynes. A reception will follow in Whitcomb Hall.

Roland became a member of First Parish 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, and is already greatly missed. The family warmly invites you to a celebration of his life.

If you are able to help us with catering for the reception please click [here](#).



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

Emergent Strategy

While I was on vacation in St. Martin I watched a documentary one night (Netflix) narrated by Barack Obama about our great national parks...focusing on the Tsavo National Park of Kenya. One of the scenes was shot underwater (how did they do this, I wondered) and showed hippopotamuses whose dung fed fish...and the fish cleaned the toenails and feet of the hippos. And then, the hippo would open its mouth, allowing the fish to swim in and clean its teeth! What trust, what remarkable co-dependence, what creativity brought through the blessings of nature!

Which got me to thinking, once again, about adrienne maree brown's books, and particularly, her "Emergent Strategy." brown (yes, she does not capitalize her name) is a change theorist and strategist, as well as a doula, pleasure activist, facilitator, writer, and more. She focuses on the lessons we can learn from nature which can be applied to our lives and to society, and while gazing at the abundance of nature around me in the Caribbean, I was reminded many times of the ways in which we can learn from, and benefit from, what we observe in nature.

Change is hard for all of us, and yet you in this congregation have been deeply engaged in it for the least eighteen months. You've accomplished a lot, and I suspect, learned from your experiences as well. As we reach beyond the behaviors we've known, past 'the way it's always been,' we need to reflect on how we learn from one another and from nature, and recognize the connectedness that exists in ourselves and the world around us...and where the lessons for our own future lie.

brown writes, "E-V-E-R-Y-T-H-I-N-G—is connected. The soil needs rain, organic matter, air, worms and life in order to do what it needs to do to give and receive life. Each element is an essential component... Some of us build and fight for land, healthy bodies, healthy relationships, clean air, water, homes, safety, dignity, and humanizing education. Others of us fight for food and political prisoners and abolition and environmental justice. Our work is intersectional and multifaceted. Nature teaches us that our work has to be nuanced and steadfast. And more than anything, that we need each other—at our highest natural glory—in order to get free."

Spring is coming. I encourage you to spend some time this week outside, and to listen to the sounds you hear, the sights you may see - in the trees, in the skies, around you. What will you learn, and what do your observations tell you about your own life, and that which you want to build with others in the community of memory and hope, love and inspiration that we call First Parish in Waltham? I'd love to hear your thoughts and learn of your observations - and I hope you will share them with me.

And in the meantime, I hope that your experiences are emergent, enlivening, and restorative.

In faith, with love,

Deb

Workshop with Regie Sunday, Feb 25th 12 noon - 2 pm in the Harrington Room

If you would like to attend the workshop with Regie after the service on Sunday, please **register using this link**. With just **20 spaces** available, you need to be quick! The Adult RE team will be providing a light soup lunch at 12 for those who wish to participate in the workshop.

One Thing You Can Do

This past winter, several of us attended a UU book discussion group on



Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's Indigenous People's History of the United States.

Whether you've read the book or not, we invite you to join us on a private **Indigenous People of Concord Walking Tour**.

We will arrange a date and time, in mid-spring. If you are interested in joining us, or have questions, please reach out to me at community.outreach@walthamuu.org and let me know what times might work for you. The two hour walking tour costs \$10-20 per person depending on how many attend.

- Elisse Ghitelman, Outreach Commissioner

Name Change Clinic at First Parish in Needham

First Parish in Needham is sponsoring a Name Change Clinic at the church on Sunday, February 25th, 3:00 – 5:00 pm, in partnership with Mass Trans Political Coalition. If you are trans, gender non-binary, or gender questioning, and have been wondering about how to legally change your gender marker and/or name on your driver's license and other IDs, this event is for you. The church will have counselors and notaries ready to meet with folks one on one to answer questions and to fill out the paperwork and have it ready for submission. While you wait to meet with an advisor, food and activities will be available.

OUT MetroWest and GLAD are co-sponsors of this event and will have tables with information. This is a free event but the church is asking people to register so that they can plan accordingly. Please register **here**.

Questions? Email First Parish in Needham at namechange@uuneedham.org

Would you like to join a short term Small Group?

Led by Rev. Megan Lynes

March 13, 20, 27, April 3

This group is designed to meet for four consecutive Wednesdays in the Chapel from noon to 1:30 pm.

The theme will be exploring what it means to live our "one wild and precious life" (Mary Oliver) all while being mortal. Attendance at all sessions is highly recommended, but not required. If you would like to attend, please email **RevMeganLynes@walthamUU.org**

Rooms Available for Rent Burlington, VT for April 8, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse



Burlington VT is in the path of totality and viewers will enjoy about 3 minutes and 15 seconds of totality.

To accommodate solar eclipse enthusiasts, the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington announces a Homestay Rental Program.

Members are making available one or more spare rooms in their homes; in some cases entire apartments are available for April 6,7, and / or April 8. All proceeds support the community relief, justice and equity programs of the UU.

An online purchasing platform, Auctria, can be viewed to see photos and descriptions of all available accommodations at FUUSB Eclipse Homestay **[here](#)**. With over 100 restaurants, cafes, clubs and local shops, Burlington is a dynamic, arts-oriented city on the shore of Lake Champlain and will be a popular destination for 2024 eclipse viewers.

Questions can be referred to: eclipse@uusociety.org .

Pastoral Care in Our Congregation - We're here for you!

Sometimes the listening ear or kind and confidential support of a fellow parishioner can make all the difference. 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 are in need of support: pastoralcare@walthamuu.org - and we will respond to you in a timely manner!

Our 'point person' for February is Plum Kennard.

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



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!



Inclement Weather Procedures for Sundays

In case of dangerous weather conditions 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 cancellation 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).
-

When's Your Birthday?

.....

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

Light the Steeple

Honor
a person, occasion,
event, or idea

Contact the Office

✉ office@walthamuu.org

☎ 781.893.6240



Please email the dates to Gary Morrison:

membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Dan Dehainaut 3/3
Rachel Learned 3/10

Alan Bone 3/11

Joan Bone 3/14

Cynthia Salamanis 3/26

Brenda Asis 3/28

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



A Welcoming
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

<http://tiny.cc/Donate2FPW>



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.vanderclock@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

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.

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

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

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

Sent by office@walthamuu.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!