

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

New Zoom link for Sunday Services

If you want to join us over Zoom please contact Emma in the office for details.

office@walthamuu.org



"Love is Letting Go of Fear: Faith Transformation"

Sunday March 17th, 10:30 AM
Sandra Greenfield, guest preacher

Rev. Marilyn Sewell reminds us that "faith for us is an action word, a heritage of religious evolution, rather than a noun or a thing that we own." And the most transforming action is a love that overcomes fear. Join us as we explore the nature of transformational faith.

"Stewardship Sunday - Resilient and Ready!"

Sunday March 24th at 10:30 AM
Rev. Megan Lynes preaching

"Easter Sunday - Love Wins!"

Sunday, March 31st at 10:30 AM
Rev. Megan Lynes and Deborah Weiner

Join us in person or online!

Upcoming Events

Living our Values: The Call to Faith Formation

Sandra Greenfield, facilitator
Sunday, March 17th
12 Noon in the Harrington Room

What does faith formation mean? Is it what happens on Sunday morning, or does it occur every day, at home, in the world, *and* in church? And who is it that we seek to serve: children only, or all ages? The world is changing, and so are our religious organizations - and we need to consider how we want to offer what we have traditionally called "religious education" and where we go from here! Come join Sandra Greenfield, religion and sexuality educator (who will also lead worship on Sunday) for a conversation about our imagination of how we offer faith formation at First Parish in Waltham, now and in the days to come! Sponsored by the Religious Education Committee.

Join Us! - Stewardship Dinner

Saturday, March 23rd
5:30 pm - Whitcomb Hall

Resilient and Ready is the theme of this year's stewardship drive. Our congregational energy has been strong through the challenges of the last few years, and we are ready for the next transition - welcoming a new, settled minister for the 2024-25 church year. Let's plan to connect in a First Parish friends and members potluck on the 23rd of March. It will be a time for conversation and good cheer. Bring a friend!

Please let us know whether you can join us and what potluck item you will bring by using the signup genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B44ADAA23A64-48336122-stewardship>

If you have any questions, please contact Donna VanderClock at donnnavanderclock@gmail.com or Leslie Gildersleeve at gildersleeveleslie@gmail.com.



FPW Annual Retreat at Ferry Beach May 31 - June 2

Ferry Beach is the home of a Universalist (now UU) retreat center in Saco, ME. The beautiful ocean and the warmth of friends makes for a relaxing and special time together. Our tradition of being together is long-standing but absolutely

Coffee Hour Treats!

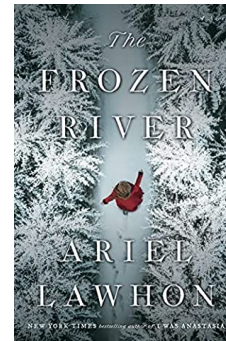


When it's your turn to bring a snack for coffee hour, please bring it either in a container it can be served from, or on your own dish, which you bring home and clean yourself.

No nuts please, to help those with allergies.

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

Special arrangements will be made for fifth Sundays. Thanks for your contributions!



First Parish Book Club March 21 - 1 pm Harrington Room and on line

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

A gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

All welcome, always! (Yes, even if you didn't read the book!) - If you are joining online, please contact the church office for login information.

welcomes newcomers. This year, Rev. Megan and her son Jesse will be attending. Will you come too? Come on your own, bring a friend or your whole family, but either way - you belong.

There is a **10% Discount for early registration** - this will end **Sunday, March 24**. There is also a **20% Discount for first-time attendees** - this is available until the retreat fills up. Speak to Rev. Megan if you need a **scholarship** to attend. We do not want money to be a barrier for your participation in this community weekend. Ferry Beach needs a headcount from us by mid-March. **Sign up soon and help us plan!**

The [Info packet](#) tells you all about the retreat. Contact retreat@walthamuu.org if you have questions. (There is also an option to join us just for Saturday - that form will be available later.)

To register, click here:
[Weekend Registration Form.](#)



Feel the Spirit

Joyful Voices of Inspiration
a vibrant, diverse and spirited gospel choir under the direction of Donnell Patterson

Join us for our spring concert
Saturday, April 6th 2024, 3pm. This is a FREE event.
First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church Street, Waltham, MA



5th Friday

Please join us for a Shabbat Potluck.
All are welcome, whatever religious background or lack of it.

MARCH 29 | 6.30 PM
WHITCOMB HALL

RSVP TO JOAN VIA BONEHAUS207@YAHOO.COM

Small Group Gathering begins this week!

Led by Rev. Megan Lynes
March 13, 20, 27, April 3

This group will 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 [Rev. Megan](mailto:Rev.Megan)



Messages from Our Community



Kindred Spirits **A Message from our Parish Minister** **Rev. Megan Lynes**

When I was in high school I visited Chartres cathedral in France with a small group of friends. I remember the awe I felt, gazing up at the arches far above us. The light from 167 windows is a masterpiece of beauty and workmanship, transcending 8 centuries of time and space.

Each window of the medieval cathedral tells a separate story, with hundreds of pieces of mosaic glass of all colors. Royalty and the wealthiest nobles of France contributed the giant windows, but there are also tiny intricate windows, like one showing a shoemaker huddled over his work table. It was a gift of

the shoemakers themselves. Another window was given by village water carriers from all over France. Butchers gave another. Fishmongers gave one. Vine growers and masons, furriers and weavers, coopers and carpenters. The blacksmiths gave a window, the milliners gave one, and the apothecaries gave one too. These windows were given one mosaic at a time, piece by piece, coin by coin, by people who wanted to contribute something beautiful to last the ages. That's the same energy we harness at the start of each stewardship pledge drive. It comes in so many different forms, but the truth is that every one of us has something we can offer.

Stewardship is the growing, nurturing, promoting, and building of gifts. Time, talent or treasure, as we like to say. Stewardship is helping to cultivate that within us that turns us toward the good.

That day back in high school, I was so swept up and transformed by the experience that I missed my bus entirely! I love when church does that to us. We come to First Parish in Waltham to be changed, to think anew and to be a part of a living tradition. We come to bask in the beautiful array of light, generated not only by our beautiful pink windows, but by a thousand souls all around us, beaming their out their wisdom and love and kindness. And we come to church to beam it out and reflect it back, too.

When we talk about supporting our church, we know it is thriving today because of the gifts of the common people who love it and work for it. It is the love of the congregation that ultimately sanctifies a church or a temple, or a meeting house, and makes of it a community, a sanctuary, a holy place - that like Chartres Cathedral, transcends the ages.

In the next few weeks, our stewardship drive will begin. Before then, will you ask yourself how you are changed by being a part of First Parish? Thank you for sanctifying our beloved church with all your gifts of light and love.

With love for the journey,
Rev. Megan

Church Directory Coming Soon!

A Message from our Church Administrator, Emma Campbell

LOTS of you have asked me to produce a directory. And it's happening!

You have until the end of March to 'opt in' using the link below.



Please click the link to input what you'd like to share. We promise it will take only one minute. And you'll be excited to be able to more easily communicate with your friends and neighbors at First Parish! <https://forms.gle/JcSTAhN4Vi4bHkmn8>

Update from the Search Committee

Beloveds,

After months of hard work, we are nearing the close of this search cycle. *We've asked...*

- Who are the members of FPW?
- Who do we want to be?
- What barriers and challenges do we face?
- What do we want and need in a minister?

We created and shared with ministers a congregational profile from...

- Your responses to the survey,
- Your feedback in cottage meetings,
- Census data & church records
- UUA Guidelines

We received and reviewed eight (8) ministerial applications. We initially interviewed five (5); we then invited three (3) to pre-candidating weekends with neutral pulpits. These weekends, now complete, included extensive interviews with the candidates, sharing meals, laughter and spiritual learning, and witnessing the candidates deliver a sermon.

We are confident that all of the three candidates whom we have hosted for pre-candidating weekends are uniquely gifted ministers who could provide support that our congregation needs. *We are now beginning the phase of review, deliberation and ultimately, decision.*

What's Next?

1. Ministers and search committees send their ranked choices to the UUA by March 25th. The UUA will then evaluate and share the matches.
2. Assuming we receive a match, the earliest we can send an invitation for a Candidating Week is noon on Thursday, March 29th. It would then likely be a week or so before we could announce the candidate to the congregation, as their current congregation would have to be notified first.
3. If we have a match *and* the individual accepts our invitation to be our Ministerial Candidate, we will begin preparing for a Candidating week in May, which culminates in a vote on Sunday, May 19th. The Candidate would deliver a sermon on May 12th and May 19th, and attend several events in between to meet us all.
4. If we as a congregation vote in favor of calling the Candidate to be our next settled minister, we would expect the candidate to officially start in August of this year.

We are infinitely grateful for the trust you have placed in us, for the chance to learn so much about First Parish, and to be a part of this vital process.

Your Search Committee,

Alex Smith Taylor, Bill VanderClock, Daphne Blount, Katie Gullotti & Marty Ahrens

Partner Organizations and Other News



Waltham UU Webpage



Waltham UU Facebook Page

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. Our March contact person is Andy LeCompte.

One Thing You Can Do

In the US, policing and incarceration are intertwined with racism. **This year's Minns Lectures** will be on the topic of Prison Abolition. All of the talks and panels in this year's lectures are available to join online; 3 of the 4 will be presented in Boston. Please reach out to me for further information and links!



Elisse Ghitelman,
Outreach Commissioner

Spring Fair 2024 Volunteers Needed Sunday, April 28th 1- 4 pm



Do you have a special skill that you can share? Face Painting, Crafting, Tissue flowers, Cookie decorating, Leading Dances or Sing a longs? Please contact Pam Penton to sign up to participate in our spring fair, via pam.penton@walthamuu.org. There will be Maypole dancing and lots of music.
Help us Wake Up the Earth!

Birthdays Among Us!

The Membership Committee is helping us

Please reach out to us if you believe we can help and a member of our team will respond to you in a timely manner!

Email pastoralcare@walthamuu.org

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

Dan DeHainaut 3/3
Rev. Megan Lynes 3/6
Rachel Learned 3/10
Alan Bone 3/11
Joan Bone 3/14
Cynthia Salamanis 3/26
Brenda Asis 3/28

Helping the People of Ukraine with Medical Supplies

A Lexington resident is collecting medical supplies to be sent to the Ukrainian people. Could you help? Any donations can be placed in the marked box next to the photocopier in the hallway outside the administrative office at church. And thank you! For further information on specific donations:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WAIWj6kDmiIBIEe19DCaiCMXAo1IrtsY1km2kms-PQ/edit>

Ministry Staff Team

Parish Minister

Rev. Megan Lynes
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Transitional Ministry Associate

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Office Administrator / Music and Choir Director

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or
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President, Board of Managers

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Assistant Treasurer

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Religious Education Commissioner

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Treasurer

Janet Riley
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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 Instagram!
Like an follow us to get updates and news!



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

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