



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



"Easter Sunday - Love Wins!"
Sunday March 31st at 10:30 AM
All Ages Worship with a spring festival theme of renewal and hope.



"Music Sunday"
Sunday April 7th at 10:30 AM
A member-led service created by our Worship Committee and the First Parish Choir.

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

Upcoming Events

**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 welcomes newcomers! This year, Rev. Megan and other lay leaders and musicians will create an informal Sunday worship service on the porch. Will you come too? Come on your own, bring a friend or your whole family, but either way - you belong!

There is 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.

Will you help us plan, by signing up now? We are worried we'll need to cancel if we don't get enough participants.

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.](#)



A Small Group for All!

Led by Rev. Megan Lynes
Continuing on March 27, April 3

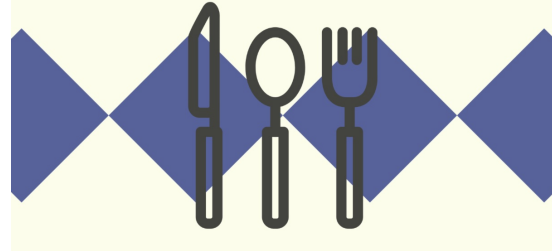
This group has met twice and we've had a great time. There's room for you too! We'll meet for two more Wednesdays in the Harrington Room, from **noon to 1:30 pm**. The theme is exploring what it means to live our "one wild and precious life" (Mary Oliver) all while being mortal. We have

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



First Parish Book Club

Thursday, April 18

1:00 pm in the Harrington Room and on line

Equity and Justice Book Club

Friday, April 19, 7:00 pm on Zoom only

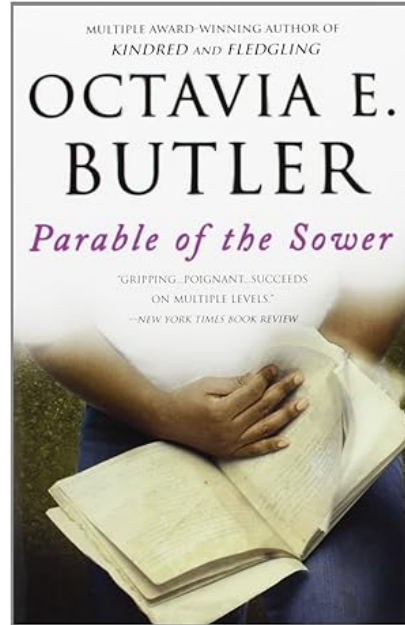
***"Parable of the Sower"* by Octavia Butler**

A thought-provoking dystopian novel that explores themes of resilience, survival, and the power of community.

Parable of the Sower is the story of Lauren Olamina, a young woman who lives in a near-future dystopian California. When her home community succumbs to the destructive forces of the world around it, Lauren is forced onto the road in search of a new life. Throughout her journey, she gradually builds a new belief system, as well as kinship with a new community.

tweaked the topics based on the needs of the group each time.

If you would like to attend, please email [Rev. Megan](mailto:Rev.Megan) (or simply show up!)



**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 **Sunday, April 7, 2024**, immediately following the worship service.

Article I:

To vote on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the delegates to the General Assembly.

Article II:

To vote on the recommendations of the Jones Partnership Committee and the Board of Managers for Jones Partnership Fund grants.

Article III:

To vote on the recommendation of the Board of Managers and the Finance Commission to purchase an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for First Parish in Waltham.

Deborah José
President, Board of Managers

Peter Duane
Clerk

Messages from Our Community

The Pledge Drive has Begun!

You should have received your pledge packet by email this week.



Submitting your pledge for the next year is as simple as clicking on the link in the email or [here](#) and filling out a form. No printing, envelope or stamp are necessary! We look forward to your prompt response and encourage EVERYONE to participate in supporting First Parish!

Thanks to everyone for a successful Stewardship Dinner on Saturday night! Attendance was great, food was plentiful, and the music was lots of fun. Special thanks to members of the Finance Committee and all who helped with cleanup.



Stewardship Dinner was a great success! Thank you to all who made it happen!



People of all ages enjoyed being together!



Kindred Spirits A Message from Rev. Megan Lynes

It was wonderful to be with so many of you at the stewardship dinner on Saturday night! It's a rare night that I'm out of the house during bedtime for my preschooler, and I went around taking pictures to remember everything! (Pictures above.) The feeling of warmth and friendship filled the air, along with the scent of delicious food. During the pandemic one of the things I missed the most was sharing food from different cultures and households. I so enjoy a good conversation over anything new and delicious, and my own cooking sure got tiring after a couple YEARS! I also loved singing along with some familiar folk music, and (this feels so silly) I loved the simple pleasure of clapping together! Because of being raised during the pandemic, my son Jesse had never heard a room of people clap until he came to church with me at age three. He was so astonished at the sudden sound that he jumped high in the air and scrambled into my lap. Luckily, after the initial shock of a room erupting, he's caught on to how good it feels to appreciate something together, loudly!

I also loved our Stewardship Sunday service the next morning, one with so much great music, Barry Stearns sharing why he loves this church, Ken Johnson leading us in meditation, and lots of laughter throughout. I truly will miss being among you all next year. This place has won a very special place in my heart, and I think it's because you are so genuine in your caring, your hard working "all hands on deck" attitude which connects us all in, and your spirit of joy which permeates the entire congregation.

Recently I came across these words by former UUA President, William F. Schulz. I think these simple words describe how we strive to be as Unitarian Universalists really well. They also lift up how I've personally, in my short time among you, experienced you living your faith. And I thank you all for this gift.

"This is the mission of our faith:

To teach the fragile art of hospitality;

To revere both the critical mind and the generous heart;

To prove that diversity need not mean divisiveness;

And to witness to all that we must hold the whole world in our hands."

Thank you for contributing as generously as you can to the stewardship drive this year. Everything you give helps make this place what it is. You are so needed and so appreciated.

With love for the journey,
Rev. Megan

Music Sunday - April 7th, 10.30am

The **Choir** will sing, the **Worship Committee** will guide our service, and a **Special Guest** will play the **clarinet**.

Q. What could be better?

A. A whole weekend of music! Here's what else is going on during Music Weekend:

Saturday April 6th

11am in the Sanctuary - Free concert

The Waltham Philharmonic Sextet will perform music by Ludwig Thuille, Anselme Vinée, Gioachino Rossini, and Francis Poulenc.

3pm in the Sanctuary - Free concert

Joyful Voices of Inspiration - Spring Concert

An afternoon of uplifting Gospel songs - if you have not experienced one of JVOI's concerts before, you are in for a treat!

Join us for one or for all of these great musical events!



Last chance to submit your information for our updated directory

A Message from our Church Administrator, Emma Campbell

Yes, it's that strange English person who sits in the office who wants your details!

While I have access to your details through the newsletter database, I do not pass them on to others in the congregation. If you want to be invited out for **coffee**, or have someone forward you the recipe for the **cake** that tasted like your grandmother's at coffee hour, people need to know **how to reach you!**

Please click the link below to input what you'd like to share. It will take only a minute.

You have until the end of the month to add your details!

<https://forms.gle/JcSTAhN4Vi4bHkmn8>



Partner Organizations and Other News

Seeking flowers for Sunday Services!

Would you like to make our sanctuary even more lovely on Sundays by bringing flowers (or flowering plants) for our worship services? You could donate flowers to honor a loved one or to mark a meaningful occasion, or simply to help beautify our space.

Sign up here (and read all the details) [on this form](#). Thank you in advance!



The 2024 Pride Event in Waltham will be held on Sunday, June 16th on the Waltham Common from 11 AM to 4 PM. More info is here: <https://www.walthampride.org> .

Last year First Parish in Waltham had its first table at the event. What a great opportunity to connect with members of our LGBTQ+ community, and share how open and affirming our congregation truly is!

If you would you like to participate in 2024, please contact Jodi Anderson: jodimarmontanderson@gmail.com or see Jodi after Sunday worship at coffee hour.

One Thing You Can Do

Plastic Pollution is a major, under-reported problem. You can learn more about this by watching the free PBS video [We Are All Plastic People Now](#).



If you're inspired to act, you can [encourage your state legislators to pass an expanded bottle bill this session](#). (It's not too late to call)

Elisse Ghitelman,
Outreach Commissioner



An Invitation to Membership - Come and Join First Parish in Waltham!

Our congregation currently has around 100 official members. We, the members of the congregation, own the building, pass bylaws, self govern, articulate and actualize our mission, and support our congregation and its future in time, talent and treasure. **Only members can vote for our next settled minister.** If you have not yet become a member, would you consider the key role in our future you too could play? Finances should never be a reason not to become a member, because your status is not dependent on what you can give. **We'll welcome all new members on April 28th in church.** Speak to Rev. Megan or Deb Weiner or a member of our Membership Team if you're interested in signing the official membership book or in hearing more. Come and join us!

Birthdays Among Us!



WANTED

Rugs for the downstairs classrooms

Our Facilities Coordinator, **KJ Robertson**, has given our two kids' religious exploration rooms a fresh coat of paint to help them feel inviting for our **younger Sunday friends**.

Pam Penton (our RE Commissioner) is looking to acquire two new carpets to add to the feeling of welcome. "**Mild colors that are not too busy**" is what she is asking for. Dimensions: 5'x7'; the other 8'x10'. Can you help?

If you have one to donate or would like to purchase one for our growing "clowder" please contact **Pam** directly via pam.penton@walthamuu.org . Thank you.



Waltham UU Facebook Page



Waltham UU Webpage

The Membership Committee is helping us celebrate birthdays as a congregation! Please let us know yours by emailing Gary Morrison:



membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org

Cynthia Salamanis 3/26
Brenda Asis 3/28

Dan Taylor 4/9
Justin Kamal 4/13
Daniel Lohta 4/16
John Allen 4/17
Jeremy Tougas 4/19
Martha Creeden 4/24
Colleen Bradley-MacArthur 4/25
Muffy Young 4/26
Roberta Trudeau 4/29
Elisse Ghitelman 4/29
Emily Weidman 4/29
Zee Campbell 4/30

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? 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.

Please reach out to us if you believe we can help. We'd love to hear from you.
pastoralcare@walthamuu.org

Ministry Staff Team

Parish Minister

Rev. Megan Lynes
617.276.7655
revmeganlynnes@walthamuu.org

Transitional Ministry Associate

Deborah Weiner

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
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Clerk

Peter Duane
clerk@walthamuu.org

Community Outreach Commissioner

Elisse Ghitelman
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Finance

Donna VanderClock
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Membership

Gary Morrison
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Brenda Asis
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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

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.

Stay connected on our Website, Facebook Page, or Instagram!
Like and follow us to get updates and news!



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

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