

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 . . .



Upcoming Sunday Services

Upcoming Events

Messages from Our Community

Partner Organizations and Other News

First Parish in Waltham Contacts

Upcoming Sunday Services



"Rage Against the Dying of the Light"

Sunday, March 10th at 10:30 AM
Deborah Weiner preaching

In January, UU Lynda Shannon Bluestein won her case against the state of Vermont to become the first non-resident allowed to seek a dignified, planned death in that state as she struggled with terminal cancer. Reflecting on Lynda's efforts and those of Deborah Weiner's own father, many years earlier as he edged toward death from ALS, we'll explore what it means to seek - and have - a good and dignified death.

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

"Vision and Possibility for Faith Formation"

Sunday March 17th, 10:30 AM
Sandra Greenfield preaching

"Stewardship Sunday - Resilient and Ready!"

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

Join us in person or online!

**Don't forget to move your clocks forward
this Saturday night!**



Upcoming Events

Post-Worship Service Conversation: What Does it Mean to Have a "Good Death"?

You are invited to join Deborah Weiner for a post-worship service conversation on **Sunday, March 10** at noon in the Harrington Room.

What does it mean to have a 'good death'? How can we, who are friends, relatives and caregivers, help to give this gift to those in our lives? What are the 'big questions' that arise from considering how to support someone nearing the end of their life?

Bring your coffee and your questions to the Harrington Room as we share our thoughts together. Members of our Lay Pastoral Care team will also be present.



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!

THE WALTHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PRESENTS **MARCH CONCERT**

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024 AT 3:00 PM
Waltham Government Center • 119 School Street • Waltham

MICHAEL KORN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

ARAM KHACHATURYAN *Adagio from Spartacus*

EDVARD BAGHDASARYAN *Rhapsody for Violin & Orchestra**
Sargis Karapetyan, Soloist

RUTH GIPPS *Symphony No. 2**

**US East Coast Premiere*



Sargis Karapetyan, Soloist

**TICKETS SOLD
ONLINE ONLY**

*Tickets are \$20
Seats are Limited*

*Children 5-17 yrs admitted
FREE with paying adult*

WWW.WPHIL.ORG

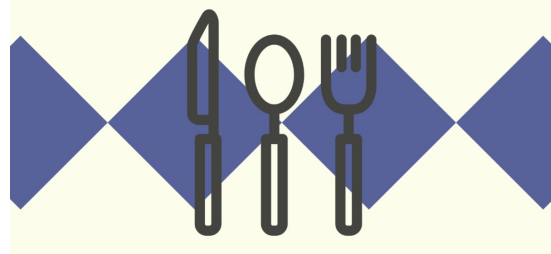


5th Friday

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



Stewardship Dinner Saturday, March 23rd, 2024 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 member potluck on the

Would you like to join a short term Small Group?

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

23rd of March. It will be a time for conversation and good cheer.

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>

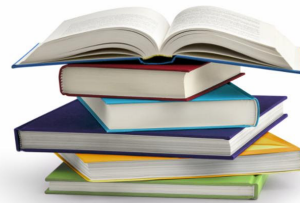
If you have any questions, please contact Donna VanderClock at donnnavanderclock@gmail.com or Leslie Gildersleeve at gildersleeveleslie@gmail.com.



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).



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!)

Messages from Our Community



Thoughts from Deborah Weiner
Transitional Ministry Associate

"Winners and Losers"

I am writing this on Super Tuesday...a big election day and yet this year, one that seems to hold few surprises. The candidates running are known to us and the outcome of the election is likely to be predictable...and Super Tuesday, part of this country's electoral process, will advance us toward what some see as the inevitable results and others imagine as the possibilities that may energize or doom us.

Election time is important in the US. People in the towns around this part of Massachusetts engaged in the battle for freedom from England, and not so far away, the first skirmishes of the Revolution occurred on what is now hallowed ground, with those who fought encouraged into battle by their ministers (who later were identified as Unitarian).

The idea of affirming our democracy is surely not small potatoes in any election year, and it feels much bigger this year, and not just because of the terrible polarization that exists in this country. That division, and some of the angry rhetoric that drives it, has taken hold not only among adults but also among children and youth. I can remember my daughter's time in elementary school when it was reported that the child of a lesbian parent was being harassed for being 'gay'; I have heard similar stories - in the last several weeks - of a middle schooler I know, who is biracial, being called the 'n' word, and worse. Yes, this is the relatively liberal Middlesex County and yes, this does go on in our communities...and children

and youth watch what we do and say, and they learn from us, from their friends, and from the media.

We should not fool ourselves: no matter which way this election and the one that will follow in November goes, things will not be settled. It's not only about winning, it's about the temperature of the country in which we live. And that sense will endure long after the votes are counted and filed away.

Unitarian Universalists embrace "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning" as one of the principles of our faith. I hope that you take that search, and the principle we hold dear, seriously. And if you have kids or grand-kids near you, it's a good time to talk about why 'fair and free elections' are a key principle of the United States Constitution, why all people need to exercise their right to vote, and why we must lend our efforts to make sure that people hold on to that right - here in Massachusetts and in other parts of the US.

This is a challenging time, yet election season is an opportunity for us: to engage in a ministry of "good trouble" around voter registration, and for us to focus on the civil discourse it will take if we are to rebuild a deeply divided country so that we might call on (as Abraham Lincoln said, more than one hundred and fifty years ago) "the better angels of our nature" to guide us forward.

This is the work of *all* of us: children, youth, adults, young and old, and we must engage in this work now if we are to imagine a future that is inclusive, affirming of the values of all, and that offers a promise for a better tomorrow. I hope you're ready to do what you can to support the high goal of preserving our democracy, starting today.

In faith, with love,
Deb

Church Directory Coming Soon!

Wouldn't it be great if you could contact the friends you've made at church? We are trying to create easy to use and effective avenues of communication, and we hear you that a printed (text only) directory is much needed. Will you help us gather the information that YOU would like to share with others in our church community? We plan to print this up by the end of March.

Click the link to input what you'd like to share. We promise it will take only one minute. <https://forms.gle/JcSTAhN4Vi4bHkmn8>

Thank you!
Emma Campbell
Office Administrator



Partner Organizations and Other News

Our UUA Headquarters Building Offers Temporary Emergency Housing

On March 1, 2024, the United Way announced a coordinated effort with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), the Black Refugee & Immigrant Community Coalition, and the Greater Boston YMCA among other community-based organizations, to provide temporary emergency housing and support to approximately 25 families with children who have an urgent and immediate need for shelter in Boston.

UUA Executive Vice President Carey McDonald

One Thing You Can Do

UU's for Social Justice has a Personal Plan Checklist [on their website](#). "The Personal Plan Checklist includes 50 things you can do to strengthen our democracy. In general it starts with easier activities and moves towards a higher level of engagement. Please don't be overwhelmed by the number 50. Just start at the top, think about the items as you look through them, and decide which items you could do, will do, or are already doing. Choose as many as you feel appropriate. It's your personal list."



said of the decision to join in this emergency effort, "In our faith tradition, Unitarian Universalists commit to uphold the inherent worthiness and dignity of every person, to embrace interconnectedness, and to strive for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Those values are fundamental to our religious practice, and they call us to take action in the face of oppression, injustice and suffering.

"All children deserve a safe place to sleep. As a religious community headquartered in Boston, we consider it an act of faithful witness to use our facilities to do our part to support families in need, including migrant families who are simply seeking safety for their loved ones. We hope other building owners will take seriously whether their space can also be used in this way."

This work is carried out through the United Way's SafetyNet Shelter Grant program, which is available to families who have been determined eligible for the state's Emergency Assistance (EA) family shelter program but could not be immediately placed in an EA shelter due to a lack of availability. Read more in the United Way of Massachusetts' [press release](#). For more information contact pr@uua.org.



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.

Please reach out to us if you believe we

- Elisse Ghitelman,
Outreach Commissioner



Chaplains On The Way Celebrates a "Beautiful Partnership" with the First Parish Waltham

Chaplains On The Way held a volunteer appreciation luncheon on Saturday, February 24, to celebrate the dedicated volunteers who are essential to COTW's breakfast program for the unhoused population of Waltham.

At the luncheon, COTW Chairperson Louise Rachin welcomed the attendees, and announced that in an expanded partnership with FPW, COTW will be leasing space at the church to administer its ongoing chaplaincy program and breakfast services.

"We are honored and very grateful that our partnership with FPW will enable us to better serve our unhoused neighbors," said Mike Jones, COTW Executive Director. "Our cadre of volunteers has grown, our internship program has grown, our program offerings have grown, our whole miraculous community has grown. I could not be more grateful," said Jill Gauldin, COTW Director of Chaplaincy and Programs.

**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 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

can help and a member of our team will respond to you in a timely manner!

Email pastoralcare@walthamuu.org

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!

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

Ministry Staff Team

Parish Minister

Rev. Megan Lynes
617.276.7655
revmeganlynnes@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
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 an follow us to get updates and news!



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 byoffice@walthamuu.orgpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!