

# 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

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## Upcoming Sunday Services

**Exploring Ramadan**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH AT 10:30 AM

Humility  
Gratitude  
Illumination  
Community

First  
Parish  
in Waltham  
Find out more at  
walthamuu.org

### “Exploring Ramadan”

April 14th, 2024 - 10.30am

Rev. Megan Lynes preaching

Join us to explore Ramadan through the lens of interdependence, reflecting on its themes of humility, gratitude, illumination and community. All are welcome to deepen our understanding and foster interfaith dialogue in a spirit of open-heartedness, learning and connection.

**Interdependence:  
We are All Connected**

SUN. APR. 21ST  
AT 10:30 AM  
ONLINE AND IN PERSON

WITH GUEST PREACHER  
EVIN CARVILL-ZEIMER

First  
Parish  
in Waltham  
Find out more at  
walthamuu.org

### "A Creative Shift" April 21 - 10:30 am

Rev. Evin Carvill- Ziemer, guest minister

Human diversity is the source of both wonder and frustration. “Wow!” and “Geez!” in the same breath. Often communities experiencing a shift to greater diversity have a significant increase in friction. Creativity offers us a different way to move into relationship across human difference and experience the great power in getting to know each other across our differences.

Evin Carvill-Ziemer is the regional lead for the New England UUA Region. They have been a denominational leader in child and youth safety issues as well as the ways in which congregations affirm a loving, caring embrace of all its members and friends. As

our Candidating Week approaches, we are delighted to welcome Rev. Evin to our pulpit! Evin will lead a conversation about 'all things regional and denominational' following the service (in the Harrington Room).

**April 28 and May 5 at 10:30 am - Candidating Week!** Get ready to welcome First Parish in Waltham's candidate for settled ministry to our pulpit and congregation. They will lead worship on April 28, and again on May 5. Stay tuned for additional information about these worship services and Candidating Week!

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### Sunday Services

If you want to join our worship service over Zoom please contact Emma Campbell in the office for details: [office@walthamuu.org](mailto:office@walthamuu.org)

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## Upcoming Events

**First Parish Online Auction and  
Community Entertainment  
Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 7pm**

**Please bid early and often from April 12-21**

Click here to bid! <https://www.32auctions.com/FPWAuction24>.

It's Auction time! So far there are 59 items to choose from: stays on Cape Cod and on a lake in Maine, special meals, restaurant gift certificates, pies, a handwoven silk scarf, Dan's famous cocktails, Cuban cigars, a Pysanky Egg decorating workshop, cozy blankets, services and more!

Our online Auction is still collecting items! Send information to [Donna Vanderlock](#). Don't want more stuff? There's even an option to make a donation to First Parish for those who have everything. The auction closes Sunday April 21st at 4 pm.

**The auction concludes with a fabulous festive night of further bidding and entertainment, which will be live and on zoom!** We will be singing, dancing, reading poetry, leading sing-alongs, and performing live music! **But we need your acts! It's your Time to Shine!** You are invited to be part of the evening's entertainment! Anything goes: can you juggle, recite a poem, dance, sing, play music, tell a joke, do magic, teach how to mix a cocktail - you name it, we want to see it!

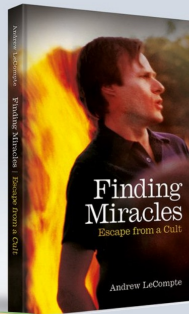
**Use this form to sign up.** Questions? Contact Scott Tougas or Brenda Asis.

To acquire the Zoom link for the talent show, please email Donna VanderClock via [donna.vanderlock@walthamuu.org](mailto:donna.vanderlock@walthamuu.org)

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## How Can a Spiritual Journey

### Go Wrong?



#### A Discussion About Cults

Sunday, Apr. 13th  
12:30 pm  
with Andy LeCompte



First  
Parish  
in Waltham

Find out more at  
[walthamuu.org](http://walthamuu.org)

## Game Night!

Friday April 12th, 2024 6:00pm

It's a casual, family-friendly potluck meal.

**PLEASE, NO NUTS OR NUT FLOUR**

We'd love your company even if you just want to eat & chat! Bring your favorite games or use ours.

At the end of the evening, we clean up together.  
You're welcome to come at any time.

Need a ride? We may be able to help. Special diet? It's best to bring your own food. Need info?

Contact Martha Gallagher!



The FPW Annual Retreat at Ferry Beach  
is just around the corner!  
May 31 - June 2

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

Ferry Beach is the home of a Universalist (now UU) retreat center in Saco, ME. 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.** 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.

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

The Waltham Clothing Exchange, First Parish's consignment and thrift shop, is open **Tuesdays** from **10 am - 4:30pm**.

**This Saturday only, April 13th,** we are opening for yard sale shoppers from **9 am to 1 pm**. We have thousands of items: clothing for all ages, jewelry, kids stuff, household goods, paintings and frames, puzzles, and much more! Come to buy. Bring a neighbor and show them our beautiful building and grounds.

Check out our pictures on Facebook.

**Church Work Day: Saturday April 13th - Can you join us in making our church shine for our Ministerial Candidate?**

We have a beautiful building that needs willing hands to help tend and mend it through the years. And with candidating week coming, it's more important than ever for our building to look it's very spiffiest! Here's where YOU come in: there are two Stewardship Work Days coming up on which you can help out with various tasks in and around the First Parish building.

Please join us on **Saturday morning the 13th of April from 10am - 1pm and/or Sunday May 19th 1pm - 4 pm.** Yummy, nourishing victuals will be available for all workers. It's a great family activity or just come by yourself. Hope to see you there. Contact Dan Taylor (781-927-4408) with questions.

### A UU Seder for Passover Friday, April 26- 6:30pm in Whitcomb Hall (A Potluck Event)

Pesach (Passover) is a celebration of freedom, and a reminder of what we owe to our fellow human beings: we all were once "strangers in the land of Egypt." Join members of First Parish in Waltham and friends from Congregation B'Nai Or along with our ministerial candidate (and their family too). Our Haggadah (service booklet) was assembled by Joan and Alan Bone, Dmitry Zarkh, Karen Klein and Ann Tolbert of blessed memory, drawn from ritual Jewish sources, the New Jewish Agenda, the Black/Jewish Seder, Christian and Buddhist teachings.

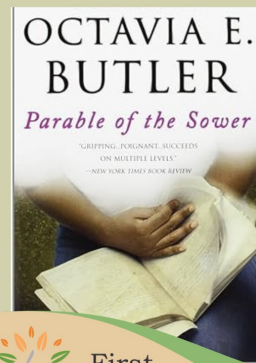
The ritual foods will be supplied, but please bring something good to eat *that doesn't contain bread or bread crumbs*. Dishes with matzoh are most welcome, also fish, chicken, vegetables, appetizers, desserts - chocolate matzoh especially welcome - plus juices, sodas, and wine.

All are invited, regardless of religious affiliation or belief. Please email Joan Bone at [5thFridays@walthamuu.org](mailto:5thFridays@walthamuu.org) to tell her what you will bring and how many are coming with you.

### Small Group with Rev. Megan continues!

All are welcome to attend, whether you've come before or not. We will meet on **Weds April 10th, April 24th, May 1st and May 15th in the Harrington Room. Noon to 1:30 pm.** Topics vary and are selected by current interest.

## Two Different Chances to Discuss One Incredible Book!



First Parish Book Club  
**Thursday, April 18th**  
**1:00 pm**  
in the Harrington Room  
and online

Equity and Justice  
Book Club  
**Friday, April 19th**  
**7:00 pm**  
on Zoom only



Find out more at [walthamuu.org](http://walthamuu.org)

## Messages from Our Community

### Pledge Drive Update We need to know your plans!

As of Monday, April 8, we have reached 64% of our pledge goal with 29 pledges received.

**Please help us complete the circle!** Return your pledge form as soon as possible so we can finish planning for what we can afford in the next church year.

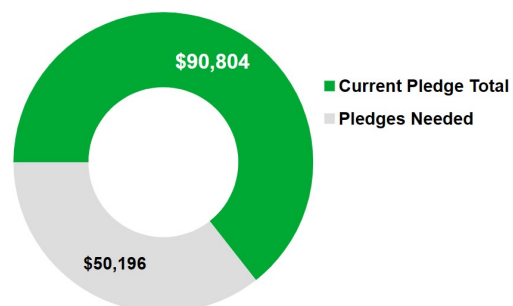
If you have questions, please contact Donna VanderClock

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

or Dan DeHainaut

([dan.dehainaut@walthamuu.org](mailto:dan.dehainaut@walthamuu.org)).

### First Parish Stewardship 2025 Pledge Goal \$141,000





## Kindred Spirits A Message from Rev. Megan Lynes

Sometimes things are not perfect, and that is just as they should be. This week I was watching my chickens happily gobbling up a handful of seeds, when suddenly from the corner of my eye I saw a bouncing egg. A bouncing egg? I thought perhaps Jesse had tossed me a small ball, but he was nowhere in sight. I looked again, and no, it really and truly was an egg! Having fallen out the backside of a chicken, it was now bouncing a little downhill, contained and intact, yet without a hard shell at all! I've never seen anything like it. It was warm and smooth and soft and squishy. Inside a thin film was indeed a yolk and the white of an egg. My chicken's reproductive system had misfired, and produced almost all of the egg step by step as usual, but missed the finishing touch of adding on the shell.

It was of course some sort of fluke, or "mistake" but yet it seemed somehow uniquely perfect too. I held it in my palm and let my mind wander. The vulnerable shell-less egg reminded me of my friend with brittle bone syndrome, and how as kids we figured out how to play with her so gently, but without babying her, and how she was both scared and brave at every turn. I remembered also the feeling of needing a shell to hide within myself as a teenager. I wore layer upon layer to cover my body, because I did not yet like who I was inside. Years later, as a new minister, a trusted colleague told me that if I wanted a bold ministry, my biggest growing edge would be to toughen my skin against criticism. We are so fragile, so human, and so just right - even with all our vulnerability. A shell can serve us well at times, but it is also an illusion. When we look at others, we should remember the truth of who they are is so much more than what we can see with our eyes.

Our parishioner, Kris DiNardo, who is blind, was recently asked if she wonders what people look like when she meets them for the first time. Her response was that she used to wonder some, but that now she finds she doesn't need to see them visually, to understand a lot about who they are. I am reminded of the quote by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

This is a season of change in our congregation. In the next week or two we will all hear about and meet both our candidate for settled ministry *and* a new director of faith formation! It truly is an exciting time to be at First Parish!

In so many ways throughout this search process you've allowed yourselves to be vulnerable and tender while examining who you are and who you are called to be. As the psalmist says we are "wonderfully and fearfully made." There was never a promise of perfection! So if we show up eager and ready for these new partnerships still a little bouncy or awkward, that's just fine. Chances are, any new staff members will also be vulnerable and very much not perfect either. After all, none of us are here to become perfect. We are here to be humble and kind, to seek the truth, to love the world as we love ourselves, and to care for all things.

With you on the journey,  
Rev. Megan

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## 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 another artistic focal point) to 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!

### One Thing You Can Do:

As we look forward to the week with our ministerial candidate, April 28 - May 5, take some time to think about what your hopes and concerns are about this new person. Consider if you can meet them with an open mind and a curiosity about how they might be a great addition to our community. Bring your love for our congregation into the time you spend with them;



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## 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

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**The Watch City Steampunk Festival  
is looking for volunteer help on  
Saturday, May 11th.**

Might that be you? Tasks might be helping with setup or teardown, selling merchandise, providing information to attendees, or other tasks as needed. Learn more and get involved, click here: <https://www.watchcityfestival.com/volunteer>.

Thank you for supporting our local community!

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## An Invitation to Membership

Congratulations and welcome to Ken Johnson and Susan Knapp, our newest members as of April 7th!

**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 21st 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.

see if you can release some of the fears and worries about the changes a new person might bring.

Elisse Ghitelman,  
Outreach Commissioner

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## JONES PARTNERSHIP NEWS

**Do you have an interest  
in grant giving and  
community engagement?**

The Jones Partnership Committee is looking for 2 new members to join us next year. Please reach out if interested - we'll be happy to explain the process and responsibilities.

You can email [Jim.Ohm@Walthamuu.org](mailto:Jim.Ohm@Walthamuu.org) or speak with any committee member.

Thanks for your interest!



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## Birthdays Among Us!

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



[membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org](mailto:membership.commissioner@walthamuu.org)

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

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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? 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 Nancy Lawrence.

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

[pastoralcare@walthamuu.org](mailto:pastoralcare@walthamuu.org)

## 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.

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



Waltham UU Facebook Page



Waltham UU Webpage



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