

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



**Interdependence:
We are All Connected**

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

WITH GUEST PREACHER
EVIN CARVILL-ZEIMER

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.

Rev. 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



INTRODUCING OUR CANDIDATE FOR SETTLED MINISTER . . .
Rev. Elizabeth "Elka" Carrier-Ladd

See them during Candidating Week
APRIL 26-MAY 5

Find out more at
walthamuu.org

Candidating Week runs April 28 through May 5. Get ready to welcome Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, 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, after which members will vote on whether to call Rev. Elizabeth (Elka.) Please plan to attend church on May 5 to be a part of history in the making!

Stay tuned for additional information about these worship services and [check out this schedule of events](#) you can attend during Candidating Week! Note that the schedule has links so that you can sign up for a

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).

private meeting with Rev. Elka if you wish!

Sunday Services

If you want to join our worship service over Zoom please contact Emma Campbell in the office for details:

office@walthamuu.org

Upcoming Events

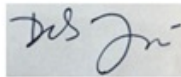
The First Parish in Waltham,
Universalist-Unitarian, Inc.

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, May 5, 2024** immediately following the worship service.

Article I:

To vote on whether to call Reverend Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd as the settled Minister of First Parish in Waltham, Universalist Unitarian.



Deborah José
President, Board of Managers

Peter Duane
Clerk

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 VanderClock](#). 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.vanderclock@walthamuu.org.



Wake Up the Earth!
SPECIAL SPRING CELEBRATION
SAT. APR. 28TH 1:00 - 4:00 PM



1:00 pm
Drumming with Africano

2:00 pm
Mia Wenjen,
author of Boxer Baby

2:30 pm
Little Beats
Children's Yoga

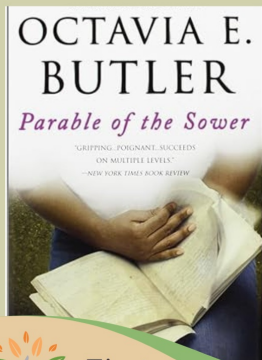
3:00 pm
The Jazzabelles

Music, Games,
Crafts and More!

First Parish
in Waltham

Find out more at
walthamuu.org

**Two Different Chances to Discuss
One Incredible Book!**



OCTAVIA E. BUTLER
Parable of the Sower

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

First Parish
in Waltham

Find out more at
walthamuu.org

**The FPW Annual Retreat at Ferry Beach
May 31 - June 2
Don't miss out on the joy!**

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

Ferry Beach is a beautiful UU retreat center in Saco, ME. We'll relax by the ocean, eat yummy food, offer creative ways to engage, and enjoy Sunday morning worship together. 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. It makes a BIG difference if you can register now, rather than waiting.

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.)

Thank you! - Sue Genser (organizer)

**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 the collective liberation 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). All are invited, regardless of religious affiliation or belief.

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 (yum!) - plus juices, sodas, and wine.

To help us plan please use this link
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAEAE22A4FFC34-49148291-5thfriday> to tell our organizers what you will bring and how many are coming with you.

**Small Group with Rev. Megan
continues!**

We're having a blast - so we've added more meetings. All are welcome to attend, whether you've come before or not.

We will meet on **April 24th, May 1st and May 15th in the Harrington Room. Noon to 1:30 pm.** We are bringing favorite poems to share on



April 24th, by the wishes of the group.

Topics vary and are selected by current interest. Join us!

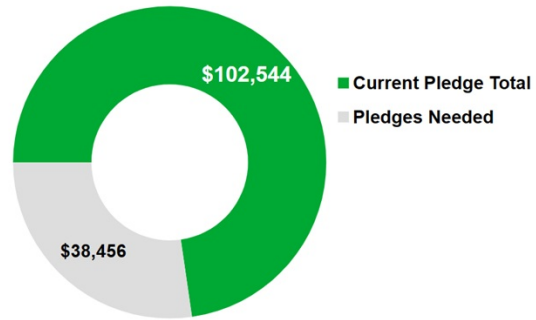
Messages from Our Community

Pledge Drive Update

As of Monday, April 15, we have reached 73% of our pledge goal with 34 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. We hope to hear back from everyone, even if you cannot pledge this year.

If you have questions, please contact Donna VanderClock (donna.vanderclock@walthamuu.org) or Dan DeHainaut (dan.dehainaut@walthamuu.org).

First Parish Stewardship 2025 Pledge Goal \$141,000



For This Time Thoughts from Deborah Weiner, Transitional Ministry Associate

“Tied Up With Ribbons”

What a day it was in church last Sunday! First of all, we believe that there were about eighty folk in worship (between in person and zoom)...a terrific number! There were not only visitors but beloveds we haven't seen in some weeks - all present and enjoying the beautiful spring weather AND the announcements to come in the service. The place was pulsing with energy.

In case you missed it - or even if you didn't - we shared news of the **hiring of a fabulous new Director of Faith Formation for the church, beginning August 1**. April Rosario, who is a credentialed religious educator and on the *Soul Matters* staff team, will join First Parish in Waltham in the summer. Along with her spouse Chris and her two kiddos, they were in church with us for this announcement. We are beyond thrilled about April's hire!

And then...this church's amazing search committee came up and announced, with unbridled joy, that **Reverend Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd will be the candidate for the settled ministry of the church.** Elizabeth, known as Elka and using they/them pronouns, is a fourth generation Unitarian Universalist (and a 'preacher's kid') who currently serves the First Parish in Dorchester MA. Elka, whose spouse is also a minister and who has four children, will begin Candidating Week here in Waltham on April 26 with a visit to the Potluck Passover Seder - and will continue through the next week with many other gatherings and opportunities to meet Elka and visit them. **Check the newsletter for both signup slots for private visits with them, for the Candidating Week Schedule, and for more information on this important time at church.**

And wait, there's more: our beloved Marianne Cutter - who, it turns out, had not signed our membership book - decided that it was indeed time - and she signed at coffee hour! A couple of other folk have also indicated their interest in signing and - joining with several who had previously signed this year - we are welcoming all into membership next Sunday, April 21! All of this is great news for First Parish in Waltham - and it does feel like the place is simply abuzz with great feeling. (And **if you are reading this and are not a member but want to be - please reach out to Rev. Megan or me right away - we want you "in that number" too!**)

And...there is one more thing that we all can do to make things just stellar, and it's important: **pledge to support this congregation.** The stewardship and finance team have asked for your support and yet we're still seeking a significant number of pledges of support which have not been received. Any ministerial candidate, any religious educator, any new member, wants to know how it is that we join together to keep our congregation financially stable. Any religious professional wants to make sure the congregation they serve can actually compensate them. Any newcomer wants to make sure that, if they decide to stick around, the congregation is fiscally stable. We all play a part in this venture, and we need to make sure that we've done our part to not only sustain, but build it.

So please - take a few minutes now to send in your pledge. If you lost those materials, [email me](#) and I'll make sure we get another set of materials for you. Or if you didn't receive anything yet - [tell me that and I'll connect you.](#) And oh yes, if you already pledged but are now so pumped up that you want to increase your pledge? Well, we can do that too. **But do it now...because we want to close candidating week knowing that we've met our financial goals,** so that we really can tie this fabulous package of a faith community celebrating its future, with beautiful ribbons.

And for all this - we thank you. See you in church!

Deb

Partner Organizations and Other News

Seeking flowers for Sunday Services!

Peter Babi is providing the flowers this Sunday, in memory of his sister - it is a year since her passing. We thank Peter for his generosity.

Would you like to provide flowers (or another artistic focal point) for our worship services in the sanctuary? 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 Jim Ohm mentioned at the vote on the Jones Partnership Fund grants, food insecurity is a major issue for folks in Waltham.



Project Bread's Boston Walk for Hunger, a major fundraiser addressing this issue, is May 5, the same day we'll vote on calling Rev. Elka. However, we are allowed to organize our own event as an offshoot of this to raise money locally. Let's pick another date and do a Waltham Walk for Hunger. Let me know how you'd like to help out!

Elisse Ghitelman,

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 or speak with any committee member.

Thanks for your interest!



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

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 April 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

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

- 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



An Invitation to Membership

Congratulations and welcome to Marianne Cutter, our newest members as of April 14th!

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.

Ministry Staff Team

Parish Minister

Rev. Megan Lynes

617.276.7655

revmeganlynnes@walthamuu.org

Office Administrator /

Music and Choir Director

Emma Campbell

781.893.6240

office@walthamuu.org

Transitional Ministry Associate
Deborah Weiner
617.513.6614
deb.weiner@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 and follow us to get updates and news!



Waltham UU Facebook Page



Waltham UU Webpage



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

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