

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 and Candidating Week Information

Messages from Our Community

Partner Organizations and Other News

First Parish in Waltham Contacts

Upcoming Sunday Services



Here's Who I Am Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd preaching April 28th, 10.30 am

Showing up as your full, complicated, authentic self is essential to living a rich life. It is a lot easier said than done. It requires courage, integrity and vulnerability. It leads us towards the wholeness that we seek. What does it mean to be a person of courageous faith in this world? How are we called to tell and wrangle with the stories that define how we understand ourselves?

This is the first of two sermons offered by our



I Know Your Name Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd preaching May 5th, 10.30 am

The debate over whether we are more good or bad has raged in the religious world for as long as humans can remember. Let us explore where our Unitarian Universalist tradition and the human goodness it proclaims leads us to greater integrity and resilience.

Spoiler alert: There will be discussion of two feature films' plot points, *Moana* and *Star Wars: The Return of the Jedi*. As these films came out in 2016 and 1983 respectively, we

Candidate for settled minister of First Parish in Waltham. Please come join us in worship!

hope you have had enough time to watch them on your own if you had such a desire. Watch them now if you want!

Sunday Services

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

This is the second of two sermons offered by our Candidate for settled minister of First Parish in Waltham. Please come join us, and be prepared, if you're a member of the congregation to stay and cast your vote on whether to call Rev. Carrier-Ladd as minister!

Candidating Week Events!

Office Hours

Wed. May 1st: 11:30am - 1:30 pm on Zoom

Thurs. May 2nd: 3:30-5:30 pm in person

Small Group Meeting

Thurs. May 2nd: 1:00-2:30 pm in person

Thurs. May 2nd: 6:30-8:30 pm on Zoom

Dessert Party

Fri. May 3rd: 7:00 pm in person



Find out more at
walthamuu.org

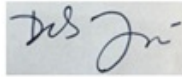
Upcoming Events

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



**From Our Ministerial Candidate:
Reverend Elizabeth (Elka) Carrier-Ladd**

Dear ones,

I can hardly contain my excitement. New people are my favorite. Especially Unitarian Universalists. Each of every one of you brings a rich, complex set of stories and experiences that make you who you are. They lead you to see the world in precisely the way you do. They inspire you to make the world a more beautiful and just place. And I get to learn some of them next week and perhaps for many years to come. What a gift!

I am often struck by my gratitude that such a large part of my vocation is relationship building. As a kid I was often in trouble for talking to my peers too much. I thrived in theater circles where community building was central. I was a misfit who had felt the sting of not fitting in so I drew people up into my world and care with gusto. I craved helping people find belonging. And now I get to do it for a living!

I know you have felt ready and excited for a new settled minister for a long time. I know that there is growing excitement amongst you about both my arrival and the arrival of your incredibly talented new Director of Faith Formation, April Rosario. I know that we all will want to hit the ground running. We may let our excitement get the best of us and carry us away.

Let us remember that we have plenty of time. Next week might feel intense and rushed and overwhelming. We all might feel the urge to get everything out on the table. To get me all the way up to speed. To tell me all of the stories, to point out all of the sacred cows and to show me all of the weird closets. I will want to know your entire life story and all of the ways in which your congregation has both healed you and broken your heart. I will want to skip the pleasantries and get straight to what healing has meant for you and where your broken heart leads you to action in the world.

We have plenty of time. This week is just about finding points of connection. Finding some understanding of each other. Envisioning what ministry in the congregation might look like with me among you. Beginning to dream of what our relationships could become.

I say this just as much for myself and for all of you: I am so eager to know you fully. And to share with you who I am. There is no rush. I hope to settle in and journey alongside you for a long time. And there is no hotwiring that kind of relationship. There is nothing quite like the depth of relationship that is built over years of working closely together on vital projects that build a community and equips it's members to heal themselves and the world. This is a marathon, not a sprint. Deep breaths. Take water breaks. We needn't rush. Let's go!

Faithfully,

First Parish Online Auction and Community Entertainment - A huge success!

Thanks to the donors, the bidders, and the organizers, the First Parish online auction was a great success! We raised nearly \$8,000 which surpassed our goal of \$5,000.

Thanks also to Brenda Asis and Scott Tougas for organizing our live event and all of the performers who shared their talents on Saturday night, not to mention Dan DeHainaut who is always there to run the sound and camera. It was a great evening with more than 40 people attending. Delicious desserts were provided by members of the Finance Committee.

Special thanks to Leslie Gildersleeve for all of her work behind the scenes.



Wake Up the Earth Festival! Saturday April 28th 1- 4 PM

The big day is almost here! There will be bands, solos, a storyteller, yoga, crafts and hot dogs for lunch. Please join us and bring some friends. We will be using Whitcomb Hall and the Lower parking lot for our festivities. We ask that if you come for the service you leave the Lower Parking Lot by 12:15 pm. Overflow parking will be in the old Elks. The Tick Tock Trolley will be driving around town making four stops at Chesterbrook, Hanson Road, Gardner Street and the old South Middle School - also a great way for anyone to just ride around our beautiful city. Bring your dancing shoes - you'll be celebrating spring with us! For more information please email pam.penton@walthamuu.org



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 First Parishioners, 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 meat, fowl or fish, 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> by **THURSDAY April 25th** to tell our organizers what you will bring and how many are coming with you.

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)

Green Sanctuary Committee

Do you believe it's important for us to live out the environmental goals in our mission statement? Do you believe we sometimes fall short of those goals? You can be part of a group that will help us, as a congregation, to live our mission. We need to explore the energy use, plastic/throw-away item use, environmental justice, and more.

We'd like to join the [UUA's Green Sanctuary program](#), which will allow us to:

- set and track specific goals for our parish life and our home life
- share/consult with other UU parishes around the country
- demonstrate to the world that we want to be the change that we seek and not just talk about it.

We really need an individual who would like to spearhead this effort, and several others who want to be part of the action group.

If that sounds like you - please reach out!
Dan Taylor:
property@walthamuu.org



Friday May 10th, 2024 6:00pm

Our final family-friendly potluck meal this year

PLEASE, NO NUTS OR NUT FLOUR

Please come even if you're not bringing food!

We will be playing games!

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!



First Parish Book Club
Harrington Room and on line
Thursday, May 16, 2024 1:00 pm

This month's title: 'Rough Sleepers' by Tracy Kidder

After Jim O'Connell graduated from Harvard Medical School and was nearing the end of his residency at Massachusetts General, the hospital's chief of medicine made a proposal: Would he defer a prestigious fellowship and spend a year helping to create an organization to bring health care to homeless citizens? That year turned into O'Connell's life's calling. Tracy Kidder spent five years following Dr. O'Connell and his colleagues as they work with thousands of homeless patients, some of whom we meet in this illuminating book. We travel with O'Connell as he navigates the city streets at night, offering medical care, socks, soup, empathy, humor, and friendship to some of the city's most endangered citizens. He emphasizes a style of medicine in which patients come first, joined with their providers in what he calls "a system of friends."

Much as he did with Paul Farmer in *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, Kidder explores how Jim O'Connell and a dedicated group of people have improved countless lives by facing and addressing one of American society's most difficult problems, instead of looking away.

Small Group with Rev. Megan Lynes
Weds. April 24, May 1st and May 15th
Noon to 1:30 in the Harrington Room

All are welcome at our small group whether

you've come before or not! We gather for a good discussion among friends, a chance to go deeper with a wide variety of topics. (Many are spiritual or big life questions related.) Most of all we all enjoy a solid chance to laugh. Join us!

Messages from Our Community

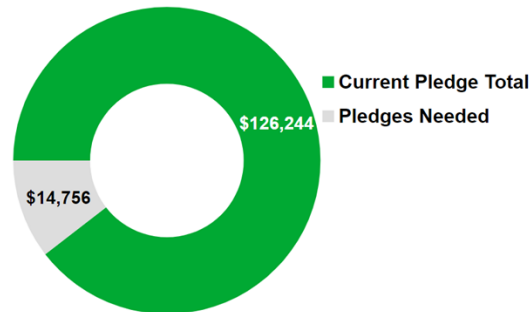
Pledge Drive Update - So far, so good! And still, we need to hear from many of you!

As of Monday, April 22, we have reached **90%** of our pledge goal with **44 pledges received!** We need **\$14,000** more to reach our goal. **If you have not yet pledged, will you please indicate your plans soon? We are striving for 100% participation.** Even if you cannot pledge, knowing that information is useful. Thank you!

Making your pledge is as simple as clicking on the link and filling out the blanks: [Pledge Form 2024](#).

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



From the Office Administrator: Emma Campbell

Do you remember the children's song "The Farmer's in the Dell"? I feel that life is sometimes a little like that. We want renters to use our wonderful building so they can help pay the bills but then we need more toilet paper, soap, and other essential items.

Chaplains on the Way are endeavoring to expand their operations to meet a growing need (see their article below for details) and we really need to provide them with their own fridge so we can retain room for the items we need for coffee hour.

I am aware that there is not room for another refrigerator in the kitchen, and squeezing one into the corner of Whitcomb Hall is not ideal - but we can make this work for the benefit of all! If you have a fridge you no longer need, or are willing to donate funds towards the purchase of one, please email me in the office. Your assistance will go far in supporting Chaplains on the Way *and* our important partnership.

Thank you,
Emma
office@walthamuu.org

Share the Plate is this Sunday: GreenRoots

GreenRoots is a resident-led, grassroots, community-based organization with 30 years of experience in achieving significant environmental justice accomplishments and public health victories in Chelsea, East Boston, and the Greater Boston region.



GreenRoots leads projects and campaigns to combat and prepare for climate change; realizes strategies to reduce the impacts of urban heat islands; implements green infrastructure and nature-based solutions to reduce flooding; engages with stakeholders to tackle climate justice assaults. We hope that, as we celebrate Earth Day, you'll consider lending your support to this important organization.

Partner Organizations and Other News

Please Help Our Unhoused Community!

Chaplains On The Way is excited to share with you that we are making unbelievable progress and growing stronger. However, the numbers of our unhoused neighbors and their needs for services and food are burgeoning. We can't turn our backs on the problem. We are seeking volunteers and support to welcome and serve them here at FPW every weekday morning for their breakfast program.



Will you join us with whatever support you can lend to be there for our Chaplains as they serve the needs of the vulnerable amongst us? We always need and appreciate:

- Volunteers to help out at our breakfast program
- New men's T-shirts
- New Men's and Women's Sweat Suits
- Men's and Women's Underwear/socks
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- DONATIONS

With a little more help, we can do a lot of good!

Volunteer Sign Up Link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u4o6Lpl_smywr0IRExw7d92lid3JsK_Xd1KB4Se1RI4Y/e_dit

Food Donation Sign Up Link:

[Food Donation Sign-Up - COTW Winter Program - 2023-2024 - Google Docs](#)

One Thing You Can Do:

This past Monday, April 22, was the 55th time Earth Day was acknowledged in the US. You can learn more about the history of Earth Day [here](#). Can you remember something you did on a previous Earth Day? Can you contemplate what you might do this week to improve the future for our planet?



I often listen to [Whose Garden Was This?](#), a very poignant song, written for the first Earth Day by Tom Paxton. Check it out and see if it inspires you too!

Elisse Ghitelman,
Outreach Commissioner

Birthdays Among Us!

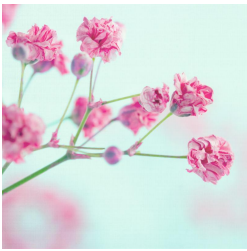


The Membership Committee is helping us celebrate birthdays as a

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



Seeking flowers for Sunday Services!

The flowers for this Sunday's worship service (April 28) are being provided by the Search Committee, in honor of the beginning

of our Candidating Week.

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

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!

With your help we can make our coffee hour a truly warm and welcoming event! 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



TUESDAY, APRIL 30 AT 7:30 PM
A Free Performance

FIRST PARISH IN WALTHAM
50 CHURCH STREET, WALTHAM, MA



Hail to the Chief Tuesday April 30, 2024 7:30pm in the Chapel

IN GOOD COMPANY will be giving a free performance of their popular show, "Hail to the Chief". It is a musical review of presidential campaign songs, from George Washington to John F Kennedy. Before radio, before television and Social Media, political candidates used campaign songs to get the word out about their campaigns. Join us for a fun trip through American presidential politics.

IN GOOD COMPANY is a musical theater troupe that creates and performs original musical plays inspired by true stories drawn from American history. We bring History alive. Come join us!

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

Ministry Staff Team

Parish Minister

Rev. Megan Lynes

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

617.276.7655
revmeganlynes@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
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Membership
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Brenda Asis
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Music and Worship Commissioner
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Property
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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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