

# 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



### **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

### **Nature and Nurture: Embracing Those Who Help Shape Our Inner Selves** **Deborah Weiner preaching** **May 12, 10:30 am**

Mother's Day is a tricky holiday for many of us: we are not all mothers, nor parents; we have not all been raised in loving environments or with the 'perfect' parents. And yet, this is a day we celebrate, and the expectations are that we honor perfection. What are the ways in which nature shapes how we nurture, and what are the stories we want to tell about ourselves and our families? If you have a story or experience that you want to share on these subjects, please [email Deb Weiner](mailto:email_Deb_Weiner) to share them!

### **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)

### **Welcome to our Newest Members!**

We are thrilled to welcome our two newest members of First Parish in Waltham: Keith Boccock and Justine Hyland. They join others who have said 'yes, this is my spirit's home' this year. When you see Keith or Justine, please give them your congratulations!

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

*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!*



**From our Ministerial Candidate:  
Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd**

Oh, beloveds! I am having so much fun! You are just as warm and inviting and loving as I dreamed. I could feel that in the materials I read about you. And even more strongly I could feel it in my time with your search committee. And still, it feels so wonderful to be wrapped up in the embrace of this community.

I have remarked to several of my dearest friends and colleagues that my absolute favorite times with your search committee were the times that things were messy. The times that someone disagreed with someone else. Or called someone else on something that felt harmful. Or someone was snippy about something. I appreciate this in part because it meant they felt safe enough with each other and me to be real and raw and honest. And I appreciate this because they showed me again and again that they would love each other through those disagreements. I saw them practicing covenant in beautiful ways. While this might not have been so enticing to everyone, it was refreshing and drew me in. I want to be with people who can be messy with each other. Because being messy through the hard stuff is what community is really about.

I chose to start off last Sunday with a sermon about being real, honest and authentic. I encouraged you to be brave in sharing with me who you are. So far two of you have reached out to me to follow up on some of the words I said. Taking to heart that I truly wanted you to be vulnerable with me. This means the world to me. Honestly. Because you have brought me into your community of covenant. You are trusting me enough to let my sermon start some dialogue, especially around things that are hard to talk about or that we might disagree about. I am not looking to agree with you about everything. What I deeply long for is people who will be honest and open with me when we disagree. Not if. When. I long for a community where we can talk through things and try to understand where each other is coming from. Where we can love each other through difficult conversations.

It shows real emotional maturity to be willing to talk to me about what you heard and what it brought up for you. I aspire to be an approachable person who can hear feedback without getting defensive. And I truly care about understanding where other folks are coming from, especially if we disagree about something. I hope we can keep talking for many years to come about all of the ways we see the world. I hope we can always be learning from each other. I hope we can all work to keep our minds open to being changed by what we share with each other.

I mean it when I say that being messy and engaging in conflict lovingly is exactly what I am looking for. I have worked hard to overcome my deeply ingrained conflict avoidance. I have learned the hard way over and over again how damaging it is not to confront disagreements head on and with great love. I find your new relational covenant to be a beautiful culmination of hard work - and I am really interested in helping us find ways to keep it alive and functioning well in the life of the congregation. And what I am experiencing so far with you is a group who is willing to say hard things, do the work of changing behavior when it matters and keep practicing covenant especially when it is hard. You believe in each other. You take risks with each other. You work on building and maintaining trust with each other. You are practicing beloved community. I am here for it. What a gift!

*Rev. Elka*

# 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](http://walthamuu.org)

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## Upcoming Events

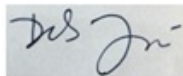
The First Parish in Waltham,  
Universalist-Unitarian, Inc.

# 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

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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](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.)

Thank you! - Sue Genser (organizer)

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### **Poetry Sunday, Our service on June 2 Requesting your poetry!**

Many members and friends will be at Ferry Beach the weekend of June 2, 2024. For many years, however, there has also been a lay-led, Sunday service of poems, meditations, and music at First Parish for those remaining here. That service has come to be known as Poetry Sunday.

If you would like to suggest a poem or an idea for that service, please send a copy of the poem or your idea suggestion to Michael Carmody at [https://worship.committee@walthamuu.org](mailto:https://worship.committee@walthamuu.org). You have the option to indicate 1) whether you plan to be present at the Poetry Service at First Parish and read the poem, either one you wrote or one you especially love, or 2) you plan to be present at First Parish but want someone else to read the poem, or 3) you do not plan to be present, but want someone who will be at the Poetry Service to read the poem you have sent.

Please remember to send a copy of your poem or other suggestions, e.g music, hymns, for the Poetry Service to Worship Committee Chairman, [https://worship.committee@walthamuu.org](mailto:https://worship.committee@walthamuu.org), by May 21, 2024. The Worship Committee looks forward to hearing your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and poetry.



**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!**



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### **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.

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### **Small Group with Rev. Megan Lynes Weds 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!

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## Partner Organizations and Other News

### One Thing You Can Do:

This is a very exciting week for this congregation. Whether or not you attended last Sunday's service led by Rev. Elka, please show up for this coming Sunday's service to participate in voting to call Rev. Elka as our settled minister. Between now and then, take advantage of the opportunities you have to talk with Rev. Elka about what your dreams, hopes and fears are for our congregation. Let them know what you love about First Parish in Waltham and find out what ideas they have for our future together.



Elisse Ghitelman,  
Outreach Commissioner

### 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 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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### Seeking flowers for Sunday Services!

The flowers for this Sunday's worship service (May 5) are being provided by the Search Committee, in honor this momentous occasion.



**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!

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### Pastoral Care in Our Congregation We're here for you!

Rev. Megan Lynes or Deb Weiner are available to meet with congregants to provide pastoral counseling and care in times of distress, indecision, theological wondering, or just for some support. Members of our Lay Pastoral Care Team are also available for compassionate listening and companionship.

Consider reaching out when you or a loved one:

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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)

Amy Eastwood 5/19  
Martha Gallagher 5/20

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### 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

- Have been diagnosed or are living with a serious illness
- Are going into the hospital
- Have a relationship in trouble
- Are coping with a personal loss
- Could use support around your gender identity or sexual orientation
- Have had a death in the family
- Want to discuss an addiction issue
- Are struggling with mental illness
- Want to talk about your spiritual journey
- Have vocational, ethical, or religious questions
- Want to plan your wedding
- Need to plan a memorial service

Our May contact person is Plum Kennard.

Please reach out to us if you believe we can help!  
[pastoralcare@walthamuu.org](mailto:pastoralcare@walthamuu.org)

want to be part of the action group.

If that sounds like you, or if you'd like to join the team that's starting up - please reach out!

Contact Dan Taylor:

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

### Pledge Drive Update

As of Monday, April 29, we have reached 95% of our pledge goal with 53 pledges received. **If you haven't yet made a pledge, now is the time!** We are aiming for 100% participation, to the best of your financial ability. All you need to do is click on the link and fill out the blanks: [Pledge Form 2024](#).

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)).

## 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)

### Facilities Coordinator

KJ Robertson Jr.  
 781.893.6240  
[kj@walthamuu.org](mailto:kj@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.

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Like and follow us to get updates and news!



Waltham UU Facebook Page



Waltham UU Webpage



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