

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH



25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

April, 2017

Sunday, April 2, at 10:30 a.m.

Music Sunday

Music Sunday will feature Paul McCartney's five-movement choral suite called *Ecce Cor Meum (Behold My Heart)*. The Chalice Choir will be accompanied by Susan Hadfield (piano) and Nancy Kidd (double bass). In addition, Patty Simon (flute) will perform in three instrumental selections from John Rutter's *Suite Antique for Flute and Piano*. There will be readings, congregational song, and a brief reflection on the "chords and discords" of contemporary "classical" music. Directed by Susan Hotchkiss.

Sunday, April 9, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching

Lovingkindness

We tell our new members you will be cared for, and you will care for others. Meet the people who help us make that happen. Hear stories of how teams of caring individuals in our congregation and elsewhere make a difference in people's lives. Celebrate our volunteers with a Commissioning Ceremony to recognize and thank them for all that they do to make this church truly a place where love is at the very heart of our lives together. Special music will be provided by the Caring Choir.

Sunday, April 16, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching

The Courage to Accept the Unknown

The empty tomb is an immovable mystery. We are not invited to explain it; we are invited to make meaning out of it and to find great joy in the meaning we find. Join us as we celebrate an intergenerational Easter Sunday with family rituals, glorious music and a message grounded in renewal, restoration and delight. The Chalice Choir will be singing. **Don't forget to bring in a blown decorated egg to hang on our Easter Egg Tree.** (We will also have some on hand.)

Sunday, April 23, at 10:30 a.m.

Chuck Collins preaching

Coming Home: A Pathway to Reducing Inequalities

Chuck Collins grew up in the wealthiest 1 percent and has spent the last 30 years working on issues of racial and economic justice. He has come to appreciate the power of "coming home" and committing to place as an essential ingredient in reducing inequality and the transition to more equal and resilient communities. There will be special music celebrating Earth Day this morning. Join Chuck Collins after the service for a brief discussion of some of the actions people are taking to reduce wealth inequality in the face of political change.

Chuck Collins is a lifelong UU who has worked for 25 years to reduce growing wealth and income inequality. He is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies where he edits Inequality.org. His newest book is *Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good*

Sunday, April 30, at 10:30 a.m.

The Trial of Mohandas K. Gandhi for Sedition

March 18, 1922 Ahmedabad, India

Please join us for this **Family Wrap-Up Service** on the life of Mohandas K. Gandhi as we explore one of the most famous events in his life – his trial for sedition in India in 1922. The Chalice Choir AND a Family Choir will be singing.

Minister's Meditation

Think of a time when you received care from someone in our church community. It might have been from me, but it might also have been from someone at coffee hour, or a teacher, or a group leader, or a child. It might have been from someone bringing you food, or a warm shawl, or to your doctor's appointment or church. It might have been from a choir bringing you a song-filled hour. It might have been from your neighbor in the pew asking how you are and really listening to your answer. It might have been from someone at the other end of the line calling to see how you are, or simply sending you a card. People will remember receiving a blessing more than they will remember receiving a logical, relevant point from the pulpit. It is the glue that holds a congregation together through all the vicissitudes of church life.

*Care is the faithful ministry of a religious community to the needs of people in face-to-face or voice-to-voice relationships. "This ministry comes from a genuine concern for each person, caring about her as a person of unique worth, and caring for her as a mutual responsibility." (Paul Johnson, *A Theology of Pastoral Care*). It is one of the core aspects of building and maintaining a covenantal community. Care is one of the major currencies of love in a congregation. Ideally, a call to care permeates the entire community; reflected in person-to-person encounters, by our care teams, religious educators, within small groups, from the Ministers, from the congregation's staff, from the leadership, and in worship.*

We are lucky to have two great teams providing Parish Care (providing practical assistance and social contact) and Pastoral Care (providing deep listening and emotional and spiritual support). You'll meet many of them on April 9 when we'll honor them for donating their volunteer time to our well-being.

Thank you for the hundreds of ways you support one another and this church,

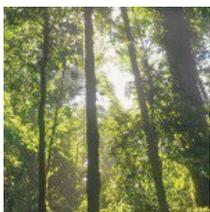
Rev. Sarah

Notes from the PC

Last month we kicked off our annual pledge drive with a "Miracle Sunday," and we want to thank everyone who has made a pledge. With your support, we can continue to build on our quality programs and offerings. Our main goals looking ahead are to: (1) continue to focus on growth, (2) demonstrate fiscal responsibility, (3) treat our staff in a fair manner, (4) invest in our facility, and (5) expand our religious education/exploration programming. We're making some good headway on these goals, and we look forward to making even more progress as we move ahead. Thank you for your generosity and goodwill. We certainly can do great things together.

Bob Waterman, President

CUUPS



In the month of April we have Earth Day to remind ourselves and each other just how important the earth is to our existence. As Pagans, we respect the earth every day. We will be offering programs specific to our Mother Earth. All are invited to attend.

Monday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall: We will be honoring, working with and giving back to Nature.

Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m. at The McKinstrey House, 115 High Street, Taunton: Wicca? Pagan? Atheist? Polytheist? What's what? with Tanya Trzeciak.

Monday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall: *Healing with Crystals*, a program that will show you the healing properties of common crystals and how to use them.



Learn how just the simple act of wearing the right pendant can keep you calm or reduce stress.



MEMORIAL GARDEN



The Memorial Garden is showing tulip and daffodil foliage and crying out for mulch before the weeds begin. As soon as a cheap source of mulch is located, there will be a call for helpers to spread it. Please pitch in if you can.

The spring meeting of the Garden's Task Force will also be coming up soon, most likely **April 9 following the church service**. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

We will review any suggestions to care for the garden this coming season and will discuss actions to make the walkway along the slope more stable and safer. Watch for confirmation of the meeting date.

Mike Schroeder



ON THE TABLE

Center for Spiritual Practice

McKinstrey House 115 High Street Taunton, MA

Wednesday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m.



Rev. Sarah will be hosting a conversation on how to be actively involved with the issues that are important to us in times of change. This month's topic is "*Should houses of worship pay taxes?*"

1. *Does tax exemption uphold the separation of church and state?*
2. *Are there people in your congregation or in your neighborhood who would suffer if the local church had to pay taxes?*
3. *Is there another way houses of worship could support the communities in which they reside?*

All are invited to attend. Visit <http://commongroundcsp.org/> for more information.

Please join us soon for

THE EXAMINED AND DELIBERATE LIFE – AN INTROSPECTIVE BOOK GROUP

where people can thoughtfully read, reflect, write, and share on the book

The Endless Practice: Becoming Who You Were Born to Be

by critically acclaimed spiritual teacher and author Mark Nepo.

5-6 sessions, every other Saturday, starting April 15

We'll meet in the Parlor from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.



Please RSVP as soon as you are able (we need a head count) to Nicola Wilbar - nwilbar@gmail.com or Chris Korben - chriskorben@gmail.com



ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 13



Have you heard peeper frogs or noticed how the trees and shrubs have new color in their twigs? At the end of this cruel tease of a March, there is water again where there was ice, and the sun shines right through the wind to do its magic. So we are again asking gardeners and quasi-gardeners to do their magic. Dig, pot, and bring for the plant sale divisions from your errant or overgrown perennials, houseplants, and even shrubs and trees that have produced side sprouts or seedlings. If you have native plants in enough abundance, we would especially like for you to share as, happily, there is resurgent interest in keeping or restoring what nature put here long ago.

The sale will be May 13, 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. Plants may be brought to the church **May 11 or 12**. However, pot them up as soon as you can so their roots will be strong in the pots. If you are unsure how to dig or divide, please give one of us a call.



Even in nasty weather, this is always a fun day and a great fundraiser. We would love to have your help, so watch for sign-ups later in the month, and plan to shop for Mother's Day or your own landscape. As always, there will be annuals, vegetables, gorgeous hanging plants as well as our own pottings.

Maria Pucillo-Dunphy (meowia@mns.us) and Mike Schroeder (mwschroeder@verizon.net)



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE TAUNTON WATERSHED-WORKSHOP SERIES

<http://www.srpedd.org/rtnw>

Has your town been impacted by drought, floods, or poor water quality? What are local vulnerabilities to weather extremes? How do they interact with development, and how can we be more resilient to climate change? Join us in the Taunton watershed workshop, hosting two free interactive, half-day workshops to identify what keeps our communities healthy. Explore how green infrastructure provides free services that reduce costs and vulnerabilities to our built infrastructure (roads, buildings, utilities). Learn and share ideas to solve many of the challenges we face. Workshops will be held in Norton, Taunton, Middleboro, Dighton, and Halifax from January to June, 2017. These workshops are eligible for 3.5 AICP CM credits per session.

Questions? Email shapingthefuture@massaudubon.org or bnap@srpedd.org

Registration Is Required: The workshops are free of charge, but registration is required. You can register online at www.massaudubon.org (search term: resilience workshop), via the Mass Audubon email address above, or by calling [781-259-2146](tel:781-259-2146).

Workshop Dates in Middleboro at the Middleboro Town Hall, Selectmen's Room: April 7 & April 21
Workshops are from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Attendees should plan to join both sessions.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



This year the Coming of Age group chose to help children in foster care as one of their social justice projects, and last Sunday they created and presented a worship service about the joys and challenges of foster care. Thank you to everyone who shared their stories and to Ed Priest for helping with the music.

That evening we invited foster families to the church for dinner and some social time. It was a busy evening where we made connections with foster families over food and activities. Thank you to Dan Hotchkiss, Susan Kosuk, Chris Hoyle, Kim Correia, Kelly Lownds and Maria and JR Pucillo-Dunphy for all their help and support.

During this project the youth realized that children in foster care often leave their homes with no possessions of any kind and often have just a trash bag to transport all their belongings. The youth decided that they wanted to provide foster children with a proper backpack that they could use to keep their belongings in and also provide them with some basic supplies. A simple thing like owning your own pillowcase can go a long way in easing the transitions as children move from home to home.

The PC approved that the Cash in the Plate for March could go to this project, and I would like to thank everybody for their generosity in donating money enabling the youth to buy backpacks and supplies for these children in need.

Juliet Donaldson, Director of Religious Education



Generally, I do not think of what we do on Sunday mornings as “performance.” I think of it as working hard as musicians and offering the fruits of our labor to our worship experience. April starts up with Music Sunday, which focuses on performance as a worship experience. The choir is working diligently to learn a full-scale oratorio, and this experience of singing an extended work is a first for about half the singers. You’ll need to come to the service to see what it’s all about!

On April 8, our sister UU church in Bridgewater will be celebrating their 300th anniversary. The Chalice Choir will be singing two solo anthems, plus joining a combined choir for the grand finale. The service-celebration begins at 7:00 p.m.

April 30 is the Youth Concert sponsored by Middleborough Music Guild. This annual community event will be held at Central Congregational Church at 3:00. Hopefully, some of our youth will be participating as performers in the concert. Stay tuned for details in the Updates as the month progresses.

We reach, we grow – it’s must be spring

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

February 15, 2017

(Approved March 15, 2017)

Present: Bob Waterman, Reverend Sarah Person, Amanda Huggon-Mauretti, Eileen Smith, Pam Davis, Holly Begley, Nancy Backus, Barbara Bancroft, Bill Howe, J.R. Pucillo-Dunphy, Christine Hoyle

Attending: Sue Sherman

The meeting was called to order.

Minutes of the January PC meeting were accepted.

Minister's Report: An estimated 50 - 60 people are currently attending services with weather and illness impacting participation. The Hospitality Committee has determined that recruiting more volunteers, training, a chairperson and/or budget manager are needed to sustain coffee hour. Rev. Sarah is rebounding from her injury and organizing who will be preaching during her sabbatical, which will be addressed during the March 12 service. Additional lay ministers are being recruited. On March 19, Miracle Sunday, a high-energy, condensed-format pledge drive will take place. The PC will provide support and follow-up.

Treasurer's Report: Pam Davis estimates that the proceeds from the *Service Auction*, *Spring Plant Sale* and *Men Who Cook* events should allow the church to meet this year's \$20,000 fundraising goal. Church departments are working together to standardize financial management and accounting methods. Pam Davis and Bill Howe are drafting next year's budget. Expenses can't be reduced – new income will be sought. Bill Howe, Pam, J.R. and others will examine the need for a finance team to guide and oversee church finances. The UUA has information available to help guide these decisions and processes.

The R.E. Committee Report was presented. With increasing attendance at RE, Juliet's hours may need to be increased. She will soon be a certified RE instructor; a salary increase should be considered. The RE Committee is considering adding a Youth Coordinator to work with the Coming of Age and high school-aged kids.

Music Committee and Building & Grounds Reports were provided to the PC via email. B & G chair Sue Sherman will initiate lock and key changes next Tuesday. Christine Hoyle has drafted wording for UU Updates, etc., explaining why the changes are necessary for church security.

Social Action Initiatives: Bob Waterman is seeking a PC liaison to communicate with those leading Social Action efforts. Christine Hoyle volunteered to serve in this capacity. It was noted that participants should become familiar with "Real Rules for Lobbying" to understand what is allowable for churches (focus on issues, not candidates). Ideas for meeting times and locations were discussed, with a *caveat* that everyone strive to be open-minded, inclusive, and avoid one-sided thinking. A conversation may be needed about sanctuary churches and whether we should become one. Rev. Sarah will seek a point person to gather information on this.

Incorporation and Non-Profit Status: Bill Howe and Dan Hotchkiss are gathering information about how to become legally incorporated, and how to achieve (non-profit) status 501(c) 3 status.

A Donations Acceptance Policy has been drafted. There was discussion, with consensus, that any donations must become church property in order to be manageable and avoid conflicts of interest. The policy will be re-drafted and re-visited.

Events: Music Topics on Fridays are open to all. The **Minister's Q & A** will continue. **Web of Life** participants will discuss follow-up actions. **Raising our Sites/Miracle Sunday** will be high energy with testimonials, rousing music and more.

Employee Classification: Upon review, in order to maintain compliance with the law and to minimize liability, we will classify those who perform child care services as part-time hourly employees with payroll tax withholdings, etc. We will reconsider how to handle grounds care services, perhaps outsourcing tasks.

The PC will hold an extra meeting on Saturday, 3/11, at 9:30 a.m. The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, 3/15, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

PARISH CARE

Pastoral Care help is available to assist with meals, transportation, emergency babysitting, and hospital visits during illnesses or other family emergencies. We are a diverse, active and caring community; and we welcome your questions and your participation. You are always invited to call or visit our minister to discuss any matter of concern to you.

Pastoral Care:	Susan Curtiss
Meals:	Dody Adkins-Perry
Rides:	Tricia Tummino
Cards:	Chris Korben
Caring Choir:	Valerie Fontaine
Prayer Shawls & Blankets:	Juli Gould

DO YOU LOVE FLOWERS?

We're looking for someone who would like to facilitate ordering the plants for Easter this year. If this is something you would like to do, or if you need more information, please see Rev. Sarah.

SACRED HEART FOOD PANTRY

Our congregation supports the Sacred Heart Food Pantry. There are baskets in the parlor in which you may place your donations. Please continue to bring non-perishable food and sanitary items every Sunday. Evalyn Buczek will deliver the items to the Sacred Heart food pantry as the baskets fill up. Please consider planting an extra row for the food pantry when planning your gardens this spring. Thank you.

FACEBOOKS POSTS

Did you know that when you "Comment" or "Like" a Facebook post from First UU Middleboro, the comments go back to Maria Pucillo-Dunphy or to others who commented or liked the post. When you "Share" the item, it goes out to the larger Facebook community, and lots more people will see it. Please "Share" the Facebook posts to help other people to find our great church. They need us, and we need them.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Child care for the littlest children begins at 10:15 a.m. in the Nursery Room on Sunday.
Large-print hymnals and hearing assistive headsets are available.



PARISH COMMITTEE

President:	Bob Waterman
Vice President:	Amanda Huggon-Mauretti
Treasurer:	Pam Davis
Assistant Treasurer:	Eileen Smith
Parish Clerk:	Holly Begley
R.E. Liaison:	J. R. Pucillo-Dunphy
Members At Large:	Nancy Backus Barbara Bancroft Bill Howe Christine Hoyle

OUR BROADCASTS

Our worship services are videotaped and broadcast over local cable television in Middleboro on Comcast channel 95 and Verizon channel 35. You can watch the service any time online at <http://bit.ly/1CLvEmm>.

Middleboro:

Sunday & Monday:	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday & Thursday:	4:00 p.m.
Friday:	3:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Saturday:	7:00 p.m.

Our worship services are now broadcast over local cable television in Lakeville on Verizon channel 32.

Lakeville:

Sunday:	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday:	10:00 a.m.
Saturday:	6:00 p.m.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

Providing flowers or another kind of altar decoration for a Sunday Service is a wonderful way that we honor important life events and people we love or wish to memorialize. The donations are noted in our order of service on Sunday morning.

Full participation helps us get to know one another better as we share our memories of events and people that are important in our lives and, at the same time, it keeps our altar table looking fresh, adding a touch of beauty and interest to the week's service.

Please check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for a time when you might like to provide flowers for the altar.

Thank you.

**APRIL
2017**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  10:00 a.m. Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary
2 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 11:30 a.m. On Topic, Parlor 11:45 a.m. 10 Actions, 100 Days, Minister's Office	3 7:00 p.m. CUUPs, Parish Hall	4 10:00-3:00 Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 6:30 p.m. Expansion Committee, Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	5 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	6 3:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 5:30 p.m. Committee on Ministry, Parlor 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Parlor 7:00 p.m. Music Committee, Parish Hall	7 9:30 a.m. Kidd's Musik, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. Sangha Meditation Group, Parish Hall (Recycle Week)	8 7:00 p.m. 300 th Anniversary Celebration, First Parish UU, Bridgewater
9 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 11:30 a.m. On Topic, Parlor 11:45 a.m. Memorial Garden Task Force, Minister's Office 6:00 p.m. RE Coming of Age, All Downstairs	10	11  10:00-3:00 Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. PR Committee, Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	12 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 6:00 p.m. RE Committee, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. On the Table, Taunton	13 3:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 5:45 p.m. Leadership Development Team, Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Parlor 7:00 p.m. Satsang, Minister's Office	14 9:30 a.m. Kidd's Musik, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Knitting Group, J. Gould's Home	15 9:30 a.m. Book Group, Parlor 10:00 a.m. Service Auction Offering, Parish Hall
16  10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service May Newsletter Deadline 4:00 p.m. Rental, All Downstairs	17  7:00 p.m. CUUPs, Parish Hall Rev. Sarah's Sabbatical Begins	18 10:00-3:00 Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	19 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 6:00 p.m. Parish Committee, Parish Hall	20 3:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Parlor	21 6:00 p.m. Sangha Meditation Group, Parish Hall New England Region Regional Assembly, Woburn (Recycle Week)	22 New England Region Regional Assembly, Woburn
23 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 11:30 a.m. <i>Solutions to the Growing Wealth Gap,</i> Parlor 11:45 a.m. Annual Budget Meeting, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. RE Coming of Age, All Downstairs	24	25 10:00-3:00 Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	26 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	27 3:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Parlor 7:00 p.m. Satsang, Minister's Office	28 9:30 a.m. Kidd's Musik, Parish Hall	29 9:30 a.m. Book Group, Parlor
30 10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service 11:30 a.m. On Topic, Parlor 11:45 a.m. 10 Actions, 100 Days, Minister's Office 3:00 p.m. Youth Concert, Central Congo Church 4:00 p.m. Rental, Parish Hall						



UNITARIAN
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ASSOCIATION

New England Region

WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

<https://www.uua.org/new-england/workshops-webinars>

- **4/5/2017 Leading - and Feeling - Change in Congregations** with Hilary Allen, Online/Webinar
- **4/10/2017 Beyond Banners**, with the G.R.A.C.E. (Growing Racial and Cultural Equity) Team, Online Gathering
- **4/21/2017 Regional Assembly** at the Hilton Hotel, Woburn, MA
 - Evening reception and UUA Presidential Candidates Forum with Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Rev. Allison Miller, Rev. Jeanne Pupke, and UUA Moderator Jim Key
- **4/22/2017 Regional Assembly** at the Hilton Hotel, Woburn, MA
 - Worship with Rev. Robin Bartlett and Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout
 - Creating & Leading Dynamic Lay-Led Worship with Rev. Sue Phillips
 - Justice Ministry Matters with Meck Groot
 - Congregational Relevance with Hilary Allen
 - Community Sing with Dr. Ysaye Barnwell
 - Ballou Channing and Northern New England District Annual Meetings
- **5/9-5/10/2017 Renaissance Module: UU Identity** at the Walker Center, Auburndale, MA
- **5/13/2017 Making Religious Education Accessible To All Children and Youth: Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders** with Melissa Plowman, M.A., LMHC, Online/Webinar
- **5/20/2017 Sermon Writing for Lay Preachers** with Rev. Sue Phillips in Hartford, CT

