

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

October, 2020

We are offering virtual worship services.

The link to each service will be posted on our website every week.

Sunday, October 4, at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Sarah Person preaching Coming Harvest

Mid-September to early December is our typical harvest season in this part of the world. If we had planted ideas last spring, what kind of harvest could we expect? Special music will include Patrick Giddings, vocal and guitar, singing Autumn.

Sunday, October 11, at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Sarah Person preaching *I'm Coming Out*

Hear the story behind the unwitting anthem for a generation of LGBTQ. Celebrate National Coming Out Day. In honor of Indigenous People's Day, Patty and Barry Simon will share *Zuni Sunrise/Sioux Chant*.

Sunday, October 18, at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Sarah Person preaching A Matter of Choice

Voting is a right and a responsibility that expresses not only our own values but the way we value others. Rise above the cacophony and make your voice heard.

Sunday, October 25, 2020 Rev. Sarah Person preaching *Lighthearted*

We have so many different ways of living and healing after loss. Join us for a look at what other cultures have to teach us.

Minister's Meditation

The last quarter of 2020 is upon us. These times call upon all our resolve. I know many of us had hoped that things would get back to normal with the beginning of the school year. Instead, not only are we still coping with the impact of the pandemic, but now we are taking a hard look at the idea of "normal." It has caused decades, even centuries, of harm to our country and the world. It will take steadfast love and courage to commit to living into these times with a clearer vision of what has gone before. Above all, we now know we cannot take anything for granted ever again.

As surely as we have lost our blue September skies to the smoke and haze of western fires, we have lost a mantle of illusion that everything was alright and would be better without any effort on our part. We are capable of great creativity and dedication to our rights and freedoms when our hearts are set to the task. My prayer for you, for me, is that we find our hearts in these times.

Blessings,

Rev. Sarah





Bertolt Brecht said it well: "In these hard times, there will always be singing." In spite of the cooler weather, the lovely colors of fall, and the excitement of a new church year, these are hard times! The landscape is rocky with political tensions, an ongoing pandemic, and much uncertainty and loss. And yet there is always that spark that can light and re-light our lanterns.

In music world at the church, the choir is singing Justice Songs in Zoom Choir every Tuesday evening. These are simple songs that can be augmented with harmonies and percussion. We enjoyed small group outdoor singing in September, and we'll be starting a virtual choir project this month. Many of us are recording instrumental music to share on Sundays, and there's talk afloat about putting together a virtual SHOW.

We know in our bones that there is something in the human spirit that defies gravity and can lift us into flight. Let's call it the song of hope, of possibility, of solidarity to stay the course. Hunker down. We're all in this together.

Susan Hotchkiss
Director of Music



The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough is sponsoring a fundraiser called "Soup's On" offering curbside pick-up of homemade soup, bread and a goodie ready to bring home for supper. The Lakeville Arts Festival has been cancelled, but the Soup's On! The UU church had a booth at the festival for many years selling their soups and goodies.

The Soup's On Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, from 3:00 to 5:00. The quart of soup, bread and goodies for 2 will sell for \$15 and be ready at curbside to be picked up. The soups available are Portuguese Kale Soup or Autumn Squash Soup (vegetarian).

The church is located at 25 South Main Street, but for traffic safety just turn the corner onto Nickerson Avenue for pick up. Cash or check will be accepted through an envelope handed from the driver. Glutenfree bread and goodies are available upon request. All safety guidelines will be followed to create a safe experience for everyone.

Church members can preorder by emailing Andrea at <u>andreapriesto@gmail.com</u> by **Friday, October 2**.

Needed:

Wednesday, September 30, at 12:00 noon - Kitchen helpers to prep soup

Friday, October 2, at 12:00 noon - Helpers to pack up soup and prepare breads and goodies

More bakers to provide goodies - Mini tea breads (pumpkin, zucchini, etc.), brownies and cookies

Help the day of event. Can you help? Email Andrea at andreapriesto@gmail.com



October 2020

Unexpected Heroes

We kicked off this year with our first hero, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and one of our children's grandpa. The children have many ideas about good heroes that can be brought forward that they meet every day. We examined rituals, both daily and annual, in our first classes, and we will continue to consider different aspects of Unitarian Universalism. Children will see how their lives can and do fit our traits and values and learn how their faith is a living faith with histories and teachings that fortify them.

Each week we will continue to share information about unexpected heroes, and the children will be invited to bring a hero to share with the group. We will collect stickers that represent our different values and traits in our hero books. Our classes will be virtual, and each month we will have a special guest to present our class work.

Senior Youth and Junior Youth

Greg Stevens and Kelly Lownds will continue to work with the Senior Youth Group. We will be choosing a curriculum together and planning for our social action work. We will meet two times a month, once in a virtual setting and once in person outside the church.

Senior Youth's next meeting will be in person on Sunday, October 4, at 4:00 p.m. Junior Youth will meet on Sunday, October 11, at 12:00 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Volunteers Needed! 2 Opportunities

Do you have a favorite story that I may be able to fit into the Message for All Ages? What childhood book was a favorite? I have received suggestions of *One* and *100 Dresses* and offers to read the Message during church. Please share yours with me, too!

I am still looking for a guest speaker for RE. Greg and I will be working with the Junior and Senior Youth, and we would love help with both the older and younger children. I will be reaching out to everyone but would love anyone who knows they are interested to reach out and let me know at dre@uummiddlboro.org.

Kelly Lownds
Director of Religious Exploration

RACIAL JUSTICE TASK GROUP

The Racial Justice Planning Committee has been meeting since July 28 on a weekly basis. It is co-chaired by Deanne Bonnar and Natalie Johnson, who meet weekly with Reverend Sarah to plan the work. We have followed the charge given to us by the PC to develop options and a process by which FUUSM can become actively involved in racial justice work. There are fifteen people who attend regularly. At the outset, we outlined four areas for possible development by the committee. Those areas are personal growth relative to issues of racism, education, advocacy and service. It was decided to focus on the first three areas and to investigate moving into service after we had done some work in the other areas.

The committee also felt it was important for those of us who are planning for the congregation to work on our own personal growth together. For the first several weeks, we worked on personal growth issues. Later, we split our weekly meeting into two parts. The first part of our meetings is focused on personal growth work. We have established a covenant for engagement, shared our hopes and fears about this work, looked at our own personal racial/ethnic autobiographies considered white privilege, and will be going into white identity, micro aggressions and the uses and management of conflict.

The second part of our meetings is used to work in task groups. The groups are self-growth, education and advocacy. The self-growth and education task groups have a lot of overlap and are working on series which will include introductory personal growth discussions and films followed by facilitated discussions. The advocacy task force is working on a congregational survey. Currently, we hope to be finished with our planning work by mid to late October. At that point, we will present options to the PC and then to the congregation at large.

Respectively submitted for the Racial Justice Planning Group,

Deanne Bonnar

RACIAL JUSTICE FILM INFORMATION

Virtual Discussion Saturday, October 10, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

The Racial Justice Planning Committee is sponsoring a **voting issues film night on Friday, October 9**, followed by a facilitated Zoom discussion from **9:30 to 10:30 a.m. the next day on Saturday, October 10**. The films are *Fannie Lou Hammer; Rigged; and Slay the Dragon*. Please watch *Fannie Lou Hammer* and one of the other two. They are all quite worthwhile.

The first two films are available for free on the internet. The third, *Slay the Dragon*, costs \$5 on Prime. (Some who have watched it say that *Slay the Dragon* is worth every penny.) The films can be watched at your convenience, although we encourage you to watch them as close to the Saturday discussion as possible so the issues are fresh in your mind. Voting is both a responsibility and a privilege in our democracy, and we look forward to a lively discussion about some of the barriers to it that have been erected.

P.S. The video, *Slay the Dragon*, is available through the SAILS library network for loan via hold, although only one library in the network has it.



VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS

LET'S DO LUNCH

Thursdays: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Links will be sent out for this event.



JUST THIS SANGHA

Fridays: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.



We meet every Friday at 6:00 p.m. Contact Tom Tanguay at tomjtanguay@gmail.com for further information. All are welcome.

FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson Saturday, October 3 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

The first Full Moon of October occurs on October 1, but we will gather to celebrate on Saturday, the 3rd. Known as the Harvest Moon, it is the iconic orange orb that looms large on the horizon when it first appears in the night



sky. Reminiscent of a pumpkin, it heralds the final harvest, the end of the growing season and the promise of increasing cold and darkness as we now fully move toward winter. It also brings the rich crimson of cranberries as the bogs are flooded, bushel baskets of apples and pumpkins, and the brilliance of colorful foliage that is unique to New England.

Please join us as we journey together to consider the blessings of our own personal harvest and share in our mutual abundance. All are welcome.

VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS (continued)

COFFEE HOUR

Tuesdays: October 6, 13, 20, 27 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Links will be sent out for this event.







NEW MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson Thursday, October 15 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

The New Moon of October occurs in the sign of Libra and invites us to consider the themes of justice and equanimity when we ponder what we wish to manifest in our lives moving forward. How can we use our unique talents, insights and spiritual gifts in service to ourselves, each other, our beloved community and our world?

Please join us as we ground into the Earth in this season of falling leaves and consider how together we can create spiritual compost that will receive the seeds of our shared future and allow them to thrive. All are welcome.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday, October 18

The deadline for submitting your articles for the November Newsletter is Sunday, October 18. You may send your information to office@uumiddleboro.org Thank you.



VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS (continued)

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, October 19 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The Book Club continues to meet on the third Monday of each month via Zoom. Our October 19 selection is *Unmarriageable* by Soniah Kamal ("Pride and Prejudice in Pakistan"). Carleen will have multiple copies available.

Our November 23 selection is *The Women of Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell, a novel about the early 20th century labor movement in the United States. If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Carleen: Carleenml@aol.com.



Carleen Loper

FULL (BLUE) MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson Saturday, October 31 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.



This night we are gifted with a second Full Moon or "Blue Moon." It is also Halloween or Samhain as it is known in Earth honoring traditions. It is a night when the "veil between the worlds" is said to be thinnest, allowing communication with our

ancestors and beloved dead.

This is a special invitation for anyone so inclined to gather in ceremony as we honor the spirits of the land, the ancestors of the original peoples of this land, and finally our own ancestors both distant and recent. We will hold this time in deepest reverence as we offer thanks to all whose lives have brought us to this moment and perhaps be able to receive a bit of wisdom from those who have completed the path we now walk upon. All are welcome.

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING September 16, 2020

Present: Jim Bonnar, Bob Waterman, Marc MacQueen, Katie Allen, Rev. Sarah Person, Lois Aldrich,

Eileen Smith

Guest: Sue Sherman

PC Meeting Minutes for June approved by PC.

Minister's Report: Rev. Sarah informed the PC that the congregation has been very generous, and there is a good amount of funds in the Church's discretionary fund. Rev. Sarah suggested we may want to consider donating funds for wildfire recovery in the Northwest during months of September and October. Rev. Sarah will forward a link listing the many organizations that support this cause and will plan to discuss at the next Church service to see if the congregation would be in support of this suggestion.

Rev. Sarah stated that there have been issues with internet connectivity at the Church, which has caused some issues with Zoom meetings and services. Internet service may need an upgrade with Comcast to increase bandwidth. She plans to review this with JR as well as the status of the Church's Facebook live page and will report back to the PC. There will be a cost to the Church if an upgrade is required (est. \$10/month). The PC supports an upgrade if needed.

Rev. Sarah asked that the PC revisit the installation of a donate button. Steve Larrett may be available to help with this. This could facilitate fundraising. Jim Bonnar offered to contact Steve.

Rev. Sarah is interested in forming a task group on how and when to reopen the Church to in-person meetings and services.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u> Marc MacQueen reported that Betty Bissonette has started working on Church's books. Once her work on the books is completed, she will work with Marc to transfer all financial activity to QuickBooks.

Marc reports that the Congregation has been very generous and that the Church has received \$16,490 in special gifts and deficit reduction funds since May 1, putting the Church in a much better financial position. Marc reports that the deficit for this fiscal year is now projected to be \$3500 (providing we reach our \$10,000 fundraising goal).

<u>RE Report:</u> No new report. Kelly Lownds continues to reach out to parents of kids, meet outdoors with Senior/Junior Youth Groups, and meet with parents. Curriculum has been developed. Kelly will be discussing with parents and youth the possibility of indoor meetings as the weather gets colder. She is also available to meet virtually.

<u>Building Update</u>: Sue Sherman informed the PC that she has received a proposal to complete repair of the roof. The cost is \$12,000. The PC approved the funds, which would be paid through the Fuller Fund.

<u>Music Committee:</u> No new report. Susan Hotchkiss submitted her recommendations for conducting and recording a safe choir rehearsal during COVID.

(continued on next page)

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING September 16, 2020

(Continued)

<u>Membership</u>: No new report. There was discussion on safe recruitment of members. Two new members have joined the Church over the summer.

<u>Racial Justice Report:</u> The "Steering Committee" has been meeting on a weekly basis. They are working on recommendations to share with the congregation in 3 areas - advocacy, education, and self-growth. They will make recommendations mid-October. An Advocacy group is proposing to conduct a survey of the congregation to get the "temperature" of church on this topic now and survey again after presentations.

<u>Fundraising:</u> Andrea Priest has proposed a soup and goodie sale as a fundraiser. It will be conducted in accordance with CDC rules. Bagged soups and goodies will be picked up curbside. Proposal was reviewed and OK'd by the Health Department. Andrea's detailed proposal was circulated to the PC. The PC agrees to proceed.

Bob Waterman plans to schedule a fundraising brainstorming meeting with any interested parties.

MAC Representative: Cheryl MacQueen and Rev. Sarah are currently the UU reps. Cheryl would like to retire as MAC rep. The PC will need to nominate a new rep.

<u>Vision Statement:</u> Bob Waterman reminded the PC that it is that time of the year when the Church's Vision Statement should be reviewed by the PC. There may be modifications needed due to COVID.

<u>PC Retreat:</u> There was discussion around a retreat for PC members. Ideas for topics include leadership styles, leadership as it pertains to PC's role, leadership at Church vs. other roles, what it means to us to be a PC member, etc. Bob will explore possible dates within the next two months.

 2^{nd} Quarter Congregation Meeting: To be held after the service on Sunday September 20. There was discussion around the agenda, which will include voting on the budget for the 2^{nd} quarter (October 1 – December 31).

Next PC Meeting: Wednesday, September 30, at 6:30 p.m.

Parish Care

Parish 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.

Lay Ministry Coordinator: Susan Curtiss
Lay Pastoral Minister: Sue St. Germain
Meals: Dody Adkins-Perry
Rides: Marc MacQueen
Cards: Volunteer Needed
Caring Choir: Valerie Fontaine

Prayer Shawls & Blankets: Juli Gould

Parish Committee

President:
Vice President:
Bob Waterman
Treasurer:
Assistant Treasurer:
Parish Clerk:
Members At Large:
Lim Bonnar
Bob Waterman
Marc MacQueen
Eileen Smith
Lois Aldrich
Katie Allen

Open Position

Church Calendar

We would like to keep the church calendar up-to-date. Please check the online calendar by visiting http://uumiddleboro.org/, click on About Us, and scroll down to Calendar to confirm that your meeting or event is scheduled. Contact the church office (office@uumiddleboro.org) with any changes or additions.

Mission Statement

We seek to provide a sanctuary where people can come together as a community to foster spiritual and personal growth through education and open discussion, to offer the opportunity for meditation and worship, and to serve as a liberal religious voice.

In our interactions with one another, we seek to build a strong community, great with acceptance, appreciation, caring love, respect, tolerance, trust, and forgiveness; to listen to one another and resolve our conflicts peacefully; to sympathize with and show compassion to one another; to express our creativity together; and to delight in fun and friendship.

As a religious community, we strive to help one another in our individual journeys to discover our spiritual selves; to find purpose, self-worth, and peace; to explore moral and ethical questions together; and to inspire, challenge, and to stimulate one another intellectually - with open-mindedness and without judgment.

As individuals and in the larger community, we will speak against injustice and cruelty. We seek to model tolerance and diversity; confront the fear of difference; and thoughtfully address the many difficult problems of our world.

0010BER 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch | 12:00 noon Soup's On Prep, Kitchen 1:00 p.m. | 3 1:00 p.m. Soup's On Prep, Kitchen 3:00 p.m. Soup's On Fundraiser, |
| | | | | 12:00 noon Soup's On Prep, Kitchen 7:00 p.m. | Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual | Curbside Pick-up 6:00 p.m. Virtual Full Moon |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Spirituality Group 8 | Just This Sangha | Meditation 10 |
| 10:30 a.m. Virtual | 3 | 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall | , | 0 | 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary | 10 |
| Worship Service | | 10:30 a.m. Virtual | | 12:00 noon Virtual | 6:00 p.m. Virtual | |
| 4:00 p.m. Senior Youth | 2:00 p.m. | Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. | 12:00 noon | Let's Do Lunch | Just This Sangha | 9:30 a.m. Virtual |
| Group, Parish Hall | Recording, Sanctuary | Zoom Choir Rehearsal | Order of Service Deadline | 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group | Voting Issues Film Night | Voting Issues Discussion |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | | 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall | | 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch | | |
| 10:30 a.m. | Columbus Day 10:00 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. Virtual | 12:00 noon Order of Service | 6:00 p.m. Virtual | 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, | |
| Virtual Worship Service | Recording, Sanctuary | Coffee Hour | Deadline | New Moon Meditation | Sanctuary | |
| 12:00 noon Junior Youth Group | 1:00 p.m. Piano Tuning, Sanctuary | 7:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 p.m. Virtual Music Committee | 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group | 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha | |
| 18 | Sanctuary 19 | 20 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service | 2:00 p.m. Recording, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. | 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour | 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline | 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch | 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary | |
| November Newsletter Deadline | Virtual Book Discussion Group | 7:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 p.m. Virtual Parish Committee | 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group | 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | | 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour | | 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch | 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary | 6:00 p.m. |
| 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service | 2:00 p.m. Recording, Sanctuary | 7:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal | 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline | 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group | 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha | Virtual Full (Blue) Moon Meditation |

JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND PEACE VIGILS

Please note that dusk is arriving earlier this month. In order to take precautions against EEE, we are holding our vigils **Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 5:00 p.m.** Although we keep adjusting our start time as the days get shorter, please continue to wear long sleeves and pants and spray with mosquito repellent.

You're invited to join, so if you'd like to know when others are planning to be there, use the link below to check the sign-up calendar. You can add your name if you're planning to go. Signs and sign-making materials are in the Parish Hall. We continue to welcome anyone from the community who would like to stand with us.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HFc3DUi9ZqpUS_c7IUJGi0Ofvwm2zxXX6OX-BycxU9s/edit#gid=8

