



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

May, 2019

The theme for the month is "Breath of Life."

Sunday, May 5, at 10:30 a.m.

Music Sunday

Like Dust I Rise

with Susan Land Hotchkiss, Director of Music

Within each of us are hidden places longing for light, hope, affirmation, strength, and fortitude. Our UU Chalice Choir, accompanied by Ruth Iampietro, will be joined by church instrumentalists (Owen Kidd, Patty Simon, Nancy Kidd, Adrienne Williams, and Edward Kidd) to present "Like Dust I Rise," a choral song cycle combining the poetry of Maya Angelou with the composition of Mark Hayes. Come join us in our exploration of the power of music to bring light into the places of shadow.

Sunday, May 12, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Person preaching

Imprints

This is a new world, when the science of genetics is plumbing the mysteries of why we are who we are. Let's explore what legacies we are prepared to pass on to those coming after us, and what we would repair if we could. Music will be provided by guest pianist Jack Radcliffe as well as Sixteen Shillings with Mark Belanger (guitar) and Rob Dragunas (mandolin).

Sunday, May 19, at 10:30 a.m.

Family Worship Service

A Winkle in Time

Join us for this family service when we go on a journey through time and space as we join thirteen-year-old Meg on a mission to find her father. She discovers that her faults are also her strengths and that she has more power than she had ever imagined before. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

Sunday, May 26, at 10:30 a.m.

Multi-Generational Worship Service

Join us for a multigenerational activity service. We'll begin and end together in the Sanctuary, but in the middle we'll break out into activity groups where you'll get to choose what you would like to do. There'll be a deep poetry reading in the Sanctuary, May Pole dancing in the Parish Hall, and a Spirit Play story and seed planting activity in the Parlor.

Minister's Meditation

Since the 1800's, people have gathered here to seek companionship in the journey. We seek to know how we are meant to be in the world, how we are of worth, how we can offer care, and be cared for. We are grateful for one another's commitment to provide a place and a spirit for this journey. Each of us has come here from different upbringings, different experiences, and different questions. But with all our diversity, we pledge to sustain one another in body, mind, heart and spirit.

The relationships we form here are vital to our capacity to live humane lives. We do more than offer simple support. In this place, we offer as much inquiry, vulnerability, grace and truth as we can bear.

It is with deepest gratitude that we recognize the bonds of fellowship and love and dedicate ourselves to preserving this community for the future.

Please join me in welcoming our newest members on May 19 and celebrating the strength of our community.

Blessings,

Rev. Sarah



We are wrapping up this year's program "The Quest for the Six Sources" with our first source, "direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life." We will update our journals, earn more rings and start new experiences of mystery and wonder. Last month we enjoyed all our learning about science and have obtained a new perspective on our world, our universe and the environment!

We are looking to have a few Junior Youth Group meetings through the end of the church year. If anyone is interested in helping pull together a small group between now and June, please let me know. We want to get our group to know each other better before we start our next sessions of OWL and Coming of Age.

Our next Senior Youth group will be meeting on May 12 and May 26. We will be talking about courage and forgiveness. We will also start discussing how to talk to the church about gender neutral bathrooms. Our group has been enjoying their time together and is planning for an outing this spring in addition to our continued volunteer time at coffee hour.

Kelly Lownds, Acting Director of Religious Exploration



The hot ticket item in May is **MUSIC SUNDAY on May 5!** Please bring your friends and family to this once-a-year "happening" on a Sunday morning. This year we present choral settings of four of Maya Angelou's most famous poems: *On the Pulse of Morning*, *Caged Bird*, *Equality*, and *Still I Rise*.

We have another hot ticket item on **Saturday, June 1, at 7:30 p.m.** The Music Committee is hosting a special free concert featuring local composer and pianist **Erik Lindgren and The Bespoke Consort**. In addition to Erik, members of the consort include Thomasine Berg (flute), Vessela Stoyanova (marimba lumina), and Valerie Thompson (cello). These amazing musicians present invigorating concerts of crossover chamber music, moving in and out of classical, jazz, pop, and rock. It's sophisticated, fun, and unique—spring-loaded musical escapades a-go-go! Check it out! Admission is free (donations accepted), and this program is supported in part by a grant from the Middleborough Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

Susan Land Hotchkiss, Director of Music



ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 11 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



It is May and time again for our annual Plant Sale! We hope you have plants from your garden potted up and ready to add to the sale. If you do, you may bring them to the church Thursday afternoon, May 9, through Friday evening, May 10. Leave them (well labeled) near the Parish Hall door so that we can price them.



Most of all, we hope you will stop by and bring your friends to shop. There will be hundreds of perennials grown in our own backyards, pesticide free, including a wide variety of natives pollinators will appreciate. There will be flats of bedding flowers already in bloom, vegetables seedlings for summer bounty, and lush hanging plants.

Make this your most important garden stop!

Whether you are a gardener or not, hanging plants or pots of annuals you have put together make beautiful Mother's Day gifts! Spread the word!



Helpers are needed for this most enjoyable day, all day long, but mostly 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. when we are setting up and the first customers arrive, and again at the end of the sale when we start to tidy up. Sunday morning we will sell again and possibly for a few hours the following Saturday and Sunday. Let Mike (mwschroeder379@gmail.com) or Maria (meowia@mns.us) know if and when you can help, or watch for sign-up sheets at church.

Also, we invite you to let us know if there is anything you are looking for specifically. We might be able to come up with it!

Hope to see you May 11!



ANNUAL MEETING Friday, June 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Members of The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro as of May 14, 2019, are invited to meet in the sanctuary of the church on Friday, June 14, at 7:00 p.m. for our Annual Meeting. Child care will be provided for the Annual Meeting.



POT LUCK SUPPER 6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., there will be a Pot Luck Supper preceding the Annual Meeting. Please bring enough for your family and more.

THE ELSIE GAUDETTE AWARD

The Elsie Gaudette Award can be given this spring (the third Sunday in June) to a person who exemplifies the service and dedication to this church that Elsie did for many years. The Elsie Gaudette Award Committee will be meeting to review the nominations. Ask any award winner (listed on the plaque displayed in the Parlor) about it.



If you know of a deserving person to nominate for this award, you must nominate her/him in writing, telling of this person's contributions to the church over time and why this person deserves the honor. Send your signed letters to the Committee Chairperson, Linda E. Thompson.



CUUPS



Monday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall
Beltane

Come join us as we celebrate the fire festival of Beltane. We honor the sacred union of Goddess Gaia and the Green Man and delight in the proliferation of flora and fauna that springs forth at this time of new beginnings and increase. After months of cold and drabness, the Earth now explodes in a riot of color, sweet scent and song. It is a time of ease and sensual delight as we revel in the warmth of the sun, the sweet scent of spring flowers on the wind and the music of insects and birds. All of Nature rejoices at this time.

Our ritual will be followed by a simple potluck. All are welcome.



Monday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall
It Is in Loving the Earth That We Heal



We live in a time of great challenge. Climate change and human unrest are mirror images of a great imbalance stemming from our disconnection from the natural world. The way to heal both ourselves and the Earth is to reconnect to our place in the Web of Life and to remember that the Earth and all life is sacred. In this presentation, we will identify some of the problems facing both ourselves and the planet and explore ways to work with energy, the elements and the plant and mineral kingdoms to restore balance and vibrant good health for all.

Power is in the Earth. It is in our relationship to the Earth. By reconnecting with that ancient power we can restore balance and once again walk in beauty and reverence upon the Earth.

Join this discussion with Natalie Johnson of CUUPS. All are welcome.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Knitting Group: Friday, May 10, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Juli Gould's Home

Healing Circle: Monday, May 13, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

June Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, May 19



LIVING IN THE QUESTIONS

with Dan Hotchkiss

Saturday, May 18 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall



Question for May: "How can we be scientific about religion – or vice versa?"

Sign up for monthly emails at www.danhotchkiss.com/Q

Many people think that the advance of science leaves less and less room for religion, and in some ways that is true. But our Unitarian founders celebrated science and invention and believed religion should evolve along with them. Come and learn about our history and discuss some current issues at the science-and-religion boundary.

May 18 is your last chance to experience this class before the summer break. But don't despair! Dan plans to revive Living in the Questions starting October 5. Everyone is always welcome, and anyone can sign up for Dan's e-mails at www.danhotchkiss.com/Q. Drop in anytime – and bring a friend!



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, May 20, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall



The UU Book Discussion Group meets on the third Monday of each month in the Parish Hall. From May to November, I have multiple library copies available for loan.

Our May 20 book selection is *Mud Season* by Ellen Stimson. Our June 17 title will be *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman.

If anyone would like more information, please contact me: Carleenml@aol.com

Carleen M. Loper



SOULFUL SANCTUARY

Friday, May 24, at 6:00 p.m.

Feed your body, soul and spirit in community. Join us for a "time out" with a relaxing dinner and a special evening of music and readings. Not traditional worship, not a performance, but a heartfelt opportunity to create something joyous and meaningful together.



We start with a light supper at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Dinner will be followed with Soulful Sanctuary, and we join Barry and Patty Simon and friends in the sanctuary for Celebration and Reflection. The time will be filled with music, poetry, and readings. The evening is designed to feed your body, soul and spirit with a chance to relax and participate in music-making.

Child care provided upon request; please call 508-947-1935. Come as you are. All are welcome.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING (DRAFT)

April 17, 2019

Present: Bob Waterman, Rev. Sarah Person, Eileen Smith, Marc MacQueen,
Joshua McKiernan, Bill Howe

Visitors: Kelly Lownds, JR Pucillo-Dunphy

Minutes of the March 20 meeting were approved.

Minister's Report: Pastoral Care has had a very busy month. The last meeting of the Ballou Channing District will be held after Easter. (It is merging with UUA).

RE: Recently Sunday attendance has been running at 3 to 6 kids. The junior youth program probably won't get started until next year.

Music: A June 1 Concert by Erik Lindgren at the church has been approved. The annual "Men Who Cook, Women Who Sing" event will be held on April 27. *The Treasurer was asked to obtain insurance to cover the new piano.*

Treasurer's Report: Member payments of their UUA dues are well behind where they should be by this date, so Marc MacQueen will send out special reminders that also explain the forthcoming changes in 2019/20 (i.e. Dues to be paid directly by the church with pledgers requested to increase their annual pledge by \$100 per person to cover that cost).

Building and Grounds: The committee is getting quotes on repainting the church exterior and is working on new signage for the front.

Restroom Re-Configuration Project: The youth will be spearheading the project to consider reconfiguring the restrooms to provide more gender-inclusive options.

Membership: The committee is developing methods to systematize the handling of new members and to offer continuing support of current members. There is also interest in helping to develop members for positions of leadership in the congregation.

Cash in the Plate: May gifts will go to the Foster Care Families Group that serves the Middleboro area, and June gifts to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

2019/20 Stewardship: A testimonial will be made at the Easter service, and a summary of current results will be made after the Special Congregational Meeting on April 27.

Listening Circles: The PC identified what it believes are the 5 most pressing issues raised. They are 1) care and support of volunteers, 2) PC communication with the congregation, 3) improving the exterior of our church building, 4) developing new ways to raise money for the church, 5) the gender-neutral bathroom project.

The PC will hold its next regular meeting on Wednesday, **May 15, at 6:00 p.m.** A special meeting on **May 1** at 6:00 p.m. will focus on the coming year's budget and current Stewardship campaign.

The Annual Meeting of the church congregation is scheduled for **June 14, 2019.**

MAY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 6:00 p.m. Parish Committee, Parish Hall	2 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Grp., Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Ukulele Lessons, Sanctuary	3 6:00 p.m. Sangha Meditation, Parish Hall (Recycle Week)	4 9:00 a.m. Final BCD Annual Meeting, Canton, MA 10:00 a.m. Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary
5 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 11:30 a.m. On Topic, Parlor	6 7:00 p.m. CUUPs, Parish Hall	7 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall	8 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 7:00 p.m. Music Committee, Parish Hall	9 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Ukulele Lessons, Sanctuary 7:00 p.m. Satsang, Off Site	10 6:00 p.m. Sangha Meditation, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Knitting Group, J. Gould's Home	11 10:00 a.m. Plant Sale, Parish Hall
12  <i>Mother's Day</i> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 11:30 a.m. On Topic, Parlor 6:00 p.m. Senior Youth, Parish Hall	13 7:00 p.m. Healing Circle, Parish Hall	14 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	15 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 6:00 p.m. Parish Committee, Parish Hall	16 6:00 p.m. PR Committee, Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Ukulele Lessons, Sanctuary	17 6:00 p.m. Sangha Meditation, Parish Hall (Recycle Week)	18 9:30 a.m. Living in the Questions, Parish Hall
19 10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service 12:00 noon Spring New UU Luncheon, Parlor June Newsletter Deadline	20 5:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. CUUPs, Parish Hall	21 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	22 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	23 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Grp., Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Ukulele Lessons, Sanctuary 7:00 p.m. Satsang, Off Site	24 6:00 p.m. Soulful Sanctuary, All Church	25
26 10:30 a.m. Multi- Generational Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Senior Youth, Parish Hall	27  MEMORIAL DAY	28 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall	29 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	30 4:00 p.m. Membership Development, Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Minister's Office	31 6:00 p.m. Sangha Meditation, Parish Hall (Recycle Week)	



Visit <https://www.uua.org/new-england/workshops-webinars> to register for any of the New England Region workshops.

Final Ballou Channing District Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 4, at 9:00 a.m., First Parish Unitarian Universalist, 1508 Washington Street, Canton, MA. The Annual Meeting shall attend to the business of the District as posted on the final agenda. Register at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1diJHjZ_qk7r4_-1uAXS9TKW2FSudxgqjh9wPU4NiSe7Vg/viewform

Walking the Talk of Covenant, Saturday, May 11, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church, 7 Elm Street, Harvard, MA, by New England Region UUA. We frequently talk about Unitarian Universalism as a *covenantal* tradition, as opposed to *sacramental* or *creedal*, but what does that mean exactly?

Come, Let Us Worship: Cycle of Song Vol. 2, Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., The Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill, 16 Ashland Street, Haverhill, MA, by Rev. Jason Shelton. Celebrate the release of *Come, Let Us Worship: Cycle of Song Vol. 2!* This collection of eight brand-new anthems inspired by calls to worship by the Rev. Gretchen Haley is written with the needs of the smaller choir in mind. We'll spend the day exploring this new music with Jason, ending the day with a public performance of the pieces.

Mosaic Makers: Toward Vital Anti-Racist, Multicultural Ministries, Saturday, May 18, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., First Parish Church of Northboro, 40 Church Street, Northboro, MA, by Dr. Janice Marie-Johnson, Co-Director of Ministries and Faith Development UUA. This first New England Regional Mosaic Makers gathering will include dynamic worship, the co-creation of brave space, brief presentations, and lots of opportunity for rich conversation as we explore and experience together how to do anti-racist, multicultural ministry in and with our congregations.

