



# THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

November 2019

*Theme for the Year: A Purposeful Life*



**Saturday night, November 2**

**Sunday, November 3, at 10:30 a.m.**

**Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching  
*Shadow and Dream***

Between the shadow of what has been and the dream of what could be is hope. Today we remind ourselves, fearlessly, that we live with love and we live with loss, and yet what is essential to life is hope. Join us for our All Souls Service – a service and ceremony of remembrance to honor our dead and give support to our living. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

**Sunday, November 10, at 10:30 a.m.**

**Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching  
*Can We Talk?***

A heavy-duty canvas duffel bag dropped in the middle of the floor; unopened, unpacked, silent. That is how I imagine the weight some of us carry, of things and times that are hard to talk about – and hard to hear. Many veterans and their families may know this all too well. ‘Can We Talk’ is a fair question with no easy answers. What does your faith call you to do? Special music will be provided by a vocal ensemble.

**Sunday, November 17, at 10:30 a.m.**

**Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching  
*Marching in the Light***

Join us for a look at how far we have come and how far we have to go in our journey toward justice for those of us who live on the margins. Faith traditions have a lot to answer for, and it’s time we got started. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

**Sunday, November 24, at 10:30 a.m.**

**Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching  
*I Was Hungry and You Fed Me***

Our nation’s policies on hunger are undergoing potentially irreversible changes. What does this mean for our families and our mission? Special music will be provided by Sixteen Shillings, Rob Dragunas and Mark Belanger.

## *Minister’s Meditation*

Tucked away in a corner of the organ closet is a framed covenant. It is an edited version of the Charles Gordon Ames Covenant, and it reads: “In the Love of Truth and in the Spirit of Jesus, We unite for the Worship of God and the Service of Man.” (Interesting note: Ames’ original ends with “service of all.”) It’s clear at some point during the twentieth century we set the covenant aside.

The idea of covenant, or ‘affirmation’ as it is used in worship, is an ancient one. It is also at the root of our congregational polity. In case you are wondering, a covenant is a congregational statement of the values we will uphold as we walk and work together on our journeys of faith. Congregational polity is how our churches govern themselves and relate to one another by mutual consent.

A congregation’s affirmation sums up its aspirations and inspirations for all to see. Here are two others that we encounter often in UU churches:

*Love is the doctrine of this church,  
The quest of truth is its sacrament,  
And service is its prayer.*

*To dwell together in peace,  
To seek knowledge in freedom,*

*To serve human need,*

*To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine-  
Thus do we covenant with each other and with God.*

— Arranged by L. Griswold Williams

*Love is the spirit of this church,  
and service is its law.*

*This is our great covenant:*

*To dwell together in peace,*

*To seek the truth in love,*

*And to help one another.*

— James Vila Blake

Many of the New England churches I know have a unison affirmation at the opening of the service. Others do not. Often, when asked, members said that years beforehand it had been decided it would be too difficult to agree on a single statement that could express their deepest intentions toward one another. This may or may not be what transpired in Middleborough. It would be interesting to find out! Would you like to investigate this history and have a larger conversation about affirmations? Let’s hear from longtime members and newcomers alike.

Rev. Sarah



### **Calling All Sustainability Sleuths!**

This month we will continue learning more about life cycles, life-giving plants and creativity in nature. We will be working with Jeff Stevens and Bill Howe. We will be planting some herbs and hoping we can grow them for the spring dinner we are planning, keeping our worm habitat going and exploring creativity in nature.

#### **Junior Youth**

Junior Youth will be meeting on November 17 in the Minister's Office from 10:45 to 11:45. We will have snacks and conversation as we talk about social justice and social action. The youth are very engaged in the group and have a lot of ideas to share with their leader, Greg Stevens.

#### **Senior Youth**

Senior Youth will be meeting on November 10 and 24 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We will continue to plan for our interfaith service that will occur in the spring. Reverend Sarah will be joining us to help in our planning efforts for one of our sessions. We can't wait to share our ideas with the congregation.

#### **Successes and Goals**

We ended our September by volunteering time at the Building Bridges program at the Taunton UU Church making friendship bracelets and God's eyes. At the beginning of October we sold popcorn at the Lakeville Arts and Music Festival and have continued with our goal of giving back to the church community by hosting coffee hour and celebrating Halloween. We had nearly thirty adults and children celebrating at church together for our Halloween Party on October 27. We enjoyed games, story time and food; and we were excited for our great turn out!

We will begin planning for a holiday gathering in December, another popcorn and hot chocolate offering at the town hall tree lighting and additional coffee hour efforts.

*Kelly Lownds*  
Director of Religious Exploration



## MUSIC MUSINGS



The fall leaves are finally settling down, leading us to preparations for Thanksgiving and the coming of winter. Once again, the Chalice Choir will be participating in the **Middleborough Music Guild Thanksgiving Concert, held at 3:00 on Sunday, November 24, at Sacred Heart Church.** This annual event brings together musicians from various walks of life: churches, schools, ensembles, solos. At the end of the concert, all the singers fill the front of the church and lift their voices together. It's very exciting to be in the middle of 100 or so singers! The freewill offering from this concert goes into scholarships for graduating seniors who are admitted to college music programs.

Right on the heels of Thanksgiving are caroling activities, beginning with the **December 1 Town Hall Christmas Tree Lighting celebration.** Members and alumni of the Chalice Choir will be there to lead carols, and several of us will join the choir from the Central Methodist Church to sing a lively anthem from the Christmas cantata they are presenting later in the month. In mid-December, our choir and alumni will be singing at nursing homes (Oakhill HealthCare & Serenity Home) and visiting members who are shut in.

*Susan Hotchkiss, Music Director*  
[music@uumiddleboro.org](mailto:music@uumiddleboro.org)



## MORE MUSIC



In addition to Middleborough's Thanksgiving Concert, our Town Hall Christmas Tree Lighting celebration, and our Christmas Eve service, our next **Soulful Sanctuary** will be **Friday, January 31, at 7:00 p.m.** We'll start the new year with this time for celebration and reflection. Our selection of music, poetry and readings are designed to feed your body, soul and spirit; a chance to relax and participate in music-making. If you would like to participate in this experience, please contact Rev. Sarah Person at [minister@uumiddleboro.org](mailto:minister@uumiddleboro.org).

We'll have more information for you in our December newsletter.



## CALL OUT TO PERFORMERS!

Tony Soares invites you to our **Springtime Gala on May 16**, our famous spring fundraiser under a new name! We'll be offering a delicious dinner and a bounty of Broadway music.



We welcome musicians of all ages – kids too! Contact Tony ([Tony45232@aol.com](mailto:Tony45232@aol.com)) to join the fun!



## LIVING IN THE QUESTIONS

with Dan Hotchkiss

Saturday, November 2, 9:30 to 11 am in the Sanctuary

Question for November:

“Who was Clara Cook Helvie, Middleboro’s first woman minister?”

Sign up for monthly emails at [www.danhotchkiss.com/Q](http://www.danhotchkiss.com/Q)

For November’s Living in the Questions session, I’ve set myself the task of learning all I can about **the Reverend Clara Cook Helvie**, who served as minister of the First Unitarian Society of Middleborough from 1929 to 1936. I hope to recapture some of the atmosphere of our church during those years, and the social and religious issues that most interested Ms. Helvie, so that we can explore together our own thoughts and feelings about our pioneering foremother.

Next session of Living in the Questions will be **February 1, 2020**, on “What do we mean when we say ‘God’?”

**What is Living in the Questions?** One Saturday morning most months, Dan Hotchkiss hosts an opportunity to learn and talk about religious questions. Drawing insights from a variety of sources, including art, religious traditions, science, and philosophy, we support and challenge one another in group conversation. You are welcome to attend when you can and skip when you must. If you’re at all interested, please subscribe to the group mailing list. Each month, Dan will send some optional advance reading and a follow-up reflection. The list is open to everyone, even those who don’t attend!

**Rev. Dan Hotchkiss** — author, workshop leader, coach, and consultant—is well known to leaders of churches and synagogues across North America. A member of the First UU Church of Middleboro, Dan majored in religious studies at Oberlin and graduated from the Harvard Divinity School. Leading Living in the Questions is Dan’s way of returning to some of the basic questions about life, faith, and history that have always fascinated him.



## CUUPS

**Monday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

Trees have been in the news a lot of late. Science has confirmed that trees are sentient beings with an intricate underground communication system by which they funnel nutrients to those in need, warn each other of imminent danger and caretake their own offspring as well as those of others.



Trees have been called the “lungs of the Earth”.....indeed without their generous acceptance of our CO2 in exchange for life-giving oxygen, we would not be able to live. Trees have played an important part in the spiritual and magical lives of many cultures down through the ages.

We invite you to join us in a fascinating discussion of trees as we explore their botanical gifts as well as their folklore, spiritual significance and uses in Magick. All are welcome.

**Monday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

*This invitation to our Thanksgiving Ritual is for all of you who need a break and want to be in quiet reflection.* In fall, many thoughts on how much needs to change on our earth give me pause. I wasn't sure who I was going to vote for, nor am I sure my candidate will win, but I know this is the first year since JFK died when a time of thanksgiving feels possible. A new type of thanks, a call to

action from our youth Greta Thunberg, “Since our leaders are behaving like (BAD) children, we will have to take the responsibility they should have taken long ago”.....and The Woman's Movement, the 4Oceans effort, the number of windmills I see, and solar fields that are everywhere, the use of LEDs for lighting and so much more. There really is a long list

Today going forward I am uplifted by the many hopeful ways we have to think and feel our energy for a modern holiday. But all our technology is only a part of what the future needs to become. On behalf of CUUPS, I invite you to share your personal thoughts and ways for us all to move forward in thanksgiving.

*Susie Sherman*

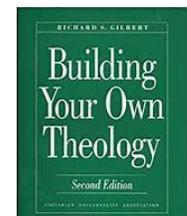


***BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY continues***

**Vi Fairweather and Bob Waterman, Leaders**

**Wednesdays: November 6 & 13 and December 4**

**6:30 – 8:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall**



*Building Your Own Theology* was built on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian. This classic UU adult education course invites participants to develop their own personal credo and the fundamental religious beliefs, values and convictions that inform and direct their lives. Gilbert poses five developmental tasks in order to come to terms with human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics and religious meaning. Because the book contains all the lessons, you can join us regardless of whether you did its beginning last year. You can catch up with us on your own.

Session 8: We Are Meaning Makers

Session 9: So What? Imperatives of My Theology

Session 10: Wrapping It Up – A Credo

*Viola Fairweather*

## **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

at The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts Worcester, MA  
Saturday, December 21 2:00 p.m. Performance  
Mid Orchestra, center seats \$51 each

For tickets, contact Stephen Larrett - [stephenlarrett@hotmail.com](mailto:stephenlarrett@hotmail.com)  
*The deadline for reservations/payment is Thursday, November 7.*

Twenty-five seats have been reserved for the 2:00 p.m. December 21<sup>st</sup> performance of *A Christmas Carol* at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester. The ticket price reflects a group savings of over \$15!

This holiday spectacle is one that every member of the family will enjoy. From the opening concert of carols on the mighty Wurlitzer theater organ that magically rises from the orchestra pit, to the wonderful presentation of Dickens' story of transformation and redemption. This production is jammed full of music, dance, special effects and all of the characters made famous in Dickens' "Ghost Story".

Travel on your own, car-pooling is recommended, and make a day of it with either a lunch before or dinner after the theater at one of the many great and affordable venues in the area.

Parking is available at these locations:

Federal Plaza Garage, Main Street (directly across from the Hanover Theatre)

The Surface Lot (PREFERRED LOCATION) (enter from Myrtle St. directly adjacent to theatre)



### **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for submitting your articles for the December Newsletter is Sunday, November 17. You may send your information to [office@uumiddleboro.org](mailto:office@uumiddleboro.org).



### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Monday, November 18

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall



The UU Book Group continues to meet on the third Monday of every month. Our November 18 selection is *The Incendiaries* by R. O. Kwon.

For more information, contact Carleen: [carleenml@aol.com](mailto:carleenml@aol.com).

## **MINUTES OF PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 16, 2019**

Present: Bob Waterman, Eileen Smith, Marc MacQueen, Lois Aldrich, Katie Allen and Josh McKiernan (via internet)

Minutes of the September 18 meeting were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The RE checking account has been closed.

We discussed recommended roof repairs, and the PC authorized spending up to \$10,000 for these repairs.

We will decide on recipient of Cash in the Plate for January at our next meeting.

### **Fundraising**

The Lakeville Arts & Music Festival was a great success, netting an estimated \$1500. The simplified system worked very well. We extend thanks to all involved.

The Elvis Show will take place on Saturday, October 19. We have 13 raffle donations. We have sold ~50 tickets so far. The PC recommended sharing news of the event on social media.

We do not have a date for the Savers Drive.

**All About Us** event will be held on October 20 after the service.

### **Plans**

We discussed having listening Circles in January. Marc MacQueen and Lois Aldrich will coordinate. Our plan is

- (1) For the PC to prepare and present a vision statement before the circles begin.
- (2) Leaders of circles will review the PC's vision statement and ask participants for their input.
- (3) The PC will review and summarize feedback from the circles, and
- (4) Present feedback to the Congregation verbally and in writing. We had a lengthy discussion of a possible vision statement for the next two years.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 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:	
Caring Choir:	Valerie Fontaine
Prayer Shawls & Blankets:	Juli Gould

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## *Our Broadcasts*

Our worship services are videotaped and broadcast over local cable television in Middleboro and in Lakeville. You can watch the service any time online at <http://71.126.251.154/CablecastPublicSite/>.

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## *Worship Services*

Everyone is welcome. Members and friends are invited to help with Coffee Hour or serve as a Greeter on a Sunday morning. Child care for the littlest children begins at 10:15 a.m. in the Nursery Room.

We are handicapped accessible with an elevator serving both levels of the church. We also have hearing assistive devices and large print hymnals available.

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## *Food Pantry*

Our congregation supports the Sacred Heart Food Pantry in Middleboro. Among items most needed are: peanut butter and jam; canned tuna, salmon and mackerel; cold cereal - bran flakes, Cheerios, Kix, etc.; powdered milk; dry hot cereal mixes - oatmeal, farina, cream of wheat, etc.; granola bars; whole wheat and graham crackers; dried fruit; boxed pasta and noodle mixes; canned beans; vegetables and fruit; ketchup; mayonnaise; vegetable oil; honey; microwavable meals; canned meats; staple meal items; and toiletries such as shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant and baby wipes. No expired items, please. Place your donations in the baskets located in the parlor. Thank you.

## *Parish Committee*

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

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## *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](mailto:office@uumiddleboro.org)) with any changes or additions.

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## *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.

**NOVEMBER 2019**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					<p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Musikgarten, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Meditation Sangha, Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>9:30 a.m.</b> Living in the Questions, Sanctuary</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Craft Class, Parish Hall</p> 
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Worship Service and RE</p> <p><b>11:30 a.m.</b> On Topic, Parlor</p>	<p><b>6:30 p.m.</b> Words Matter Planning, Parlor</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> CUUPS, Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>12:00 noon</b> Order of Service Deadline</p> <p><b>6:30 p.m.</b> Building Your Own Theology, Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>9:30 a.m.</b> Ministers Inland Cluster, All Downstairs</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Spirituality Group, Minister's Office</p>	<p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Musikgarten, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Meditation Sangha, Parish Hall</p>	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Worship Service and RE</p> <p><b>11:30 a.m.</b> On Topic, Parlor</p> <p><b>5:00 p.m.</b> Senior Youth, Parish Hall</p>		<p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>12:00 noon</b> Order of Service Deadline</p> <p><b>6:30 p.m.</b> Building Your Own Theology, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Music Committee, Parlor</p>	<p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Spirituality Group, Minister's Office</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Satsang, Off Site</p>	<p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Musikgarten, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Meditation Sangha, Parish Hall</p>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Worship Service and RE</p> <p><b>10:45 a.m.</b> Junior Youth, Minister's Office</p> <p><b>11:30 a.m.</b> Minister's Q &amp; A, Parlor</p> <p><b>Dec. Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>5:30 p.m.</b> Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> CUUPS, Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>12:00 noon</b> Order of Service Deadline</p> <p><b>6:30 p.m.</b> Parish Committee, Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> PR Committee, Minister's Office</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Spirituality Group, Minister's Office</p>	<p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Musikgarten, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Meditation Sangha, Parish Hall</p>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Worship Service and RE</p> <p><b>11:30 a.m.</b> On Topic, Parlor</p> <p><b>3:00 p.m.</b> Music Guild Concert, Sacred Heart</p> <p><b>5:00 p.m.</b> Senior Youth, Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>Order of Service Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall</p>			<p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Meditation Sangha, Parish Hall</p>	



New England  
Region

**NEW ENGLAND REGION WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS & TRAININGS**

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

**CLAIMING YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP ~ INTRO INTO THE PRACTICES**

**Saturday, November 2, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester,  
90 Holden St, Worcester, MA 01606**

**and**

**Saturday, November 16, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Unitarian Church of Montpelier,  
130 Main St, Montpelier, VT 05602**

**Presenters: Your New England Region UUA Staff Team**

This program is designed for religious professionals and lay people to build collective practice for collective action. Grounding congregations in the practice of Spiritual Leadership can fortify us individually and collectively. People of faith who are interested in a transformed world are called to step into their Spiritual Leadership. Our souls need it. Our congregations need it. Our world needs it. Spiritual Leadership is an orientation and practice by which individuals and congregations create, sustain, and restore Beloved Community in which everyone experiences belonging, wholeness, greater equity, and an increased willingness to risk on behalf of our values.

