



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

February, 2020

Theme for the Year: A Purposeful Life

Sunday, February 2, at 10:30 a.m.
Four Chaplains Day Service
Offered by the American Legion

This service commemorates the bravery of four first lieutenants, friends from the Army chaplains school, assigned to serve aboard the ill-fated Dorchester. On February 3, 1943, when the ship came under attack and sank, the chaplains were instrumental in saving many lives before sacrificing their own. Please join us in welcoming veterans from our congregation and the communities we serve. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

Sunday, February 9, at 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching
The Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles:
A Look Back

In the words of Doug Muder, our seven principles are not a creed, but "a commitment to envision a world in which the Principles have become true, to envision it so intensely and in such detail that it becomes a genuine possibility, and to join with others in making that possibility real." Explore the richness and the challenges they bring to our lives. Special music will be provided by a vocal ensemble.

Sunday, February 16, at 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching
UU the Vote

Regardless of your party affiliation, it is important that all of us exercise our right to vote and encourage others to do so. There is no more important right of privilege and responsibility. It is our opportunity to try and make our visions real. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

Sunday, February 23, at 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching
Faith in Black and White

Find out more about the contributions, leadership and history of people of color in our denomination. Special music will be provided by Owen Kidd.

Minister's Meditation

Anomalies in the Field

Years ago, when my children were infants, I was fascinated by what they were fascinated by, what captured their attention longer. I realized that one thing was the anomaly, the standout object. Like the Sesame Street song said: "One of these things is not like the other. One of these things just doesn't belong." Physicists and scientific analysts call this the anomaly in the field. They have to judge whether its existence can be accounted for in their prevailing theories, or whether they stand theories on their respective heads.

Scientific observations aside, we all can still be attracted by the unique. Think about art. Taking a photograph of a lone, bright red British telephone booth plunked mysteriously down on a grassy copse is much more interesting than the grassy copse.



The anomaly in the field is unique, disruptive, and attractive. It grabs our attention. And depending on our world views of life, we are either pleased or disturbed.

Think about extending that concept to people. We certainly know people who might be considered outsiders, outliers, different, disruptive in our communities. (Some would claim that pretty much describes every younger generation.)

A person who is unique, disruptive and attractive can turn society on its head. The challenge is knowing whether that is a good thing or a bad thing. My faith tells me it depends on whether it leads to chaos or caring. What does yours tell you?

Blessings,
Rev. Sarah

PARISH COMMITTEE - VISION OF MINISTRY 2020-2021

The Parish Committee has set forth a vision of ministry in our Church that we'd like to share with you and hear your thoughts about. Let's talk about how we can work together to make this vision a reality!

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro Parish Committee's Vision for Our Church in 2020–2021

The Parish Committee sets forth this vision of our Church that we hope to help realize in the coming years by focusing on the following priorities:

- **Connecting with the community beyond our walls.**

Our Church's efforts to reach out to the larger community will be well-integrated, particularly in reaching out to diverse populations and young families. Our public relations strategies will spread our good news and let the community know what we have to offer. Our offerings will be fully accessible to the larger community.

- **Building our Church family community.**

Our welcoming strategies will effectively integrate newcomers. People will be well-connected with one another, deeply engaged in Congregational life, and involved in leadership roles. Ours will be a safe place for all, with strong and clear safe congregation policies and standards.

- **Deepening our sense of spirituality and religious identity.**

There will be many opportunities for spiritual exploration and nurturing. Our quality religious exploration offerings for all ages will enlighten us, challenge us, and help us define our values. Our programming will be fully accessible, enhancing participation and engagement.

- **Living our faith through service to the community.**

There will be many opportunities for hands-on service to our neighbors. The Congregation will encourage and support members' social-justice advocacy work. In doing this, we will be living out our principles in a deliberate manner and helping heal the world.

- **Growing a financially thriving Church.**

Fiscal responsibility will remain a key priority. Our decisions will help us continue to move toward a balanced budget. There will be a culture of ownership, where everyone feels a part of helping ensure the health and solvency of our Church.



Sustainability Super Sleuths!

We have spent our time engaging in the mystery and wonder of nature and starting to think about what we can do to save the earth. Now we will really be digging into finding out more that we can do as Sustainability Super Sleuths! We will continue to explore our principles, and each month we will explore a different part of nature.

We are going to continue to search for clues to decrease our impact on the environment and explore our planet Earth and its place in the universe. In January, we thought about plastic straws and how long they can remain in the earth without decomposing. In February, we will consider alternatives to plastics for our day to day activities.

Junior Youth Group

We will have Junior Youth Group (5th – 8th grades) on February 9 and 23. The Junior Youth are working through the curriculum of "Heeding the Call" and will be working on sessions six and seven in the month of February. We will be talking about cooperation and abundance during our sessions.

Senior Youth Group

The Senior Youth Group will meet on the 2nd and the 16th. We are preparing for an interfaith service one evening this spring. Our service will be focused on music and how music brings us all together.

We have shared our ideas about the Unisex bathrooms with Bob Waterman and discussed how to make this a reality for our church. We will be working with the Parish Committee and bringing our thoughts and ideas to a survey near you very soon!!

Junior and Senior Youth Joint Activity!

During February vacation, the Junior and Senior Youth are invited to a church sleepover in the Parish Hall. We will be piling up our sleeping bags and having karaoke, games, movies and junk food! We will start the evening at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 16, and will end in the morning at 10:00 a.m. on the 17th. We will have a big breakfast together and then be on our way!! Please direct any questions or RSVPs to Kelly Lownds at dre@uumiddlebor.org or Greg Stevens gstevens31@yahoo.com.

Parent Coffee Hour

On the last Sunday of this month, we will continue inviting parents who would like to join us to meet together for coffee hour. We will have a facilitated discussion that will offer an opportunity to meet and get to know each other better. One of the things I enjoyed when my kids were younger were other people in the church with children. I loved sharing my interests with others, but I craved a place to spend time with others in similar circumstances. Some of us work in professional settings, and others of us stay home and have different working situations. Some of us have young children, and others of us have older children. All of us have unique children with their own identities and needs. Wouldn't it be nice to have a place to connect with others and share our joys and our challenges? Please join us. The group will meet on February 23 from 11:45 until 12:30 in the Minister's Office.

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration



FEBRUARY MUSIC MUSINGS



Kudos to the many people who contributed to the success of our January 4 Solstice Singers Show + Hearty Soup and Dessert Supper. In addition to having a great time together, we brought in some decent bucks for the coffers and learned some lessons about maximum capacity. Mark your calendars now for the next musical splash on May 16 with the **Springtime Gala: Broadway**, co-chaired by Tony Soares and Stephen Larrett. If you would like to perform in the Gala, please contact Tony Soares – his roster is already filling up. Stay tuned for more information as we move toward spring.

Meanwhile, if you're looking for some great entertainment, First Parish Players is presenting **Big Fish, the Musical: a tale of mythic proportions**. Our Joshua McKiernan has a leading role, and performance dates are February 6, 7, and 8 at 7:00 PM, plus Sunday, February 9, at 3:00 PM. The venue is First Parish Unitarian Universalist, 50 School Street, Bridgewater. Tickets are available at www.firstparishplayers.com.

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music



LIVING IN THE QUESTIONS

with Dan Hotchkiss

Question: "What do we mean when we say 'God'?"

Saturday, February 1 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

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

Of all religious words, none carries a more potent punch than "God." Many people, if you ask about their religion, say they believe (or don't believe) in God. But this begs the question: what do we mean when we say "God"? I hope we can explore a variety of God-concepts, so that whether we emerge as theists, atheists, or something else, we'll feel a bit more deeply the full resonance of our culture's most widely used religious word.

Future topics:

3/7/2020. What does it mean to be free?

4/4/2020. How can we know what is fair?

5/2/2020. [skipped]

6/6/2020. What does it mean to have faith?

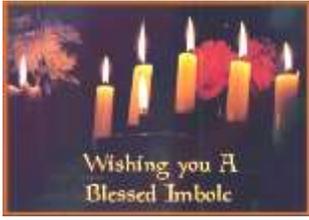
What is Living in the Questions? One Saturday morning most months, Dan Hotchkiss hosts an opportunity to learn and talk about religious questions. Drawing insights from a variety of sources, including art, religious traditions, science, and philosophy, we support and challenge one another in group conversation. 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 and readers of www.congregationalconsulting.org. A member of the First UU Society 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, February 3 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Imbolc Ritual



As the mid-point through winter, Imbolc is a time when we recognize the returning power of the sun. The time was traditionally celebrated as a fire festival with candles and hearths ablaze to mirror and encourage the lengthening of the days. This is a time when we start to notice the first stirrings of new life — the earliest breaths of spring. Just as nature is beginning to awaken after its winter dormancy, so too are we reawakening with new dreams and exciting new plans. Imbolc is a great time for letting go and releasing what no longer serves us, to prepare for the exciting new growth and new experiences in the coming year. Our ritual will be followed by a simple potluck. All are welcome.

Monday, February 17 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Interactive Birdseed Bell Workshop with Frank Girard

Throughout this year our focus has been to bring attention to Mother Earth and both her human and more than human beings. In our outdoor Lamas ritual at Soule Homestead in August, we honored the indigenous people whose land the farm now stands on and also named and honored the many “other than human beings” who live there now, including the trees, plants, birds, insects and animals whose home it is.



In November we each chose a tree and shared knowledge of botany, historical importance, folklore, medicinal properties and magical associations of 13 trees indigenous to this area. This month, Frank Girard will offer an interactive workshop teaching us how to make an all natural hanging treat for our feathered friends. All materials will be provided, and everyone will go home with a hanging birdseed bell.

If you are not a member of CUUPS but wish to attend this workshop, please let us know so we have supplies for all. Contact Frank Girard or Natalie Johnson.



GAINING INSPIRATION FOR ACTIVISM FROM OUR LEGACY

Sunday, February 9 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

UU history is filled with stories of brave people who acted when they could have let others do it, people who helped save lives, eased suffering, made real change in a world that constantly changes – and it is up to each of us to participate in the direction that change will take. On February 9, the second session of “**Who We Are as Unitarian Universalists in Today’s World,**” we will gather to learn about how our UU predecessors took active roles in many struggles for justice – worldwide, nationwide, and local – and are involved in the struggles of today. How can we each make a difference? **Let’s do this together!**

Even if you were unable to attend our January 5 session, you are heartily invited to what we hope will be a deep and rich conversation on February 9, 12:00 to 1:30 (possibly 2:00). Please let Dorine Levasseur know at dmlevasseur925@gmail.com as soon as possible so that we may plan appropriately for space and food.



MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the March Newsletter may be sent to office@uumiddleboro.org by **Sunday, February 16.**



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, February 17

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall



Our book club continues to meet on the third Monday of each month, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Titles for February and March were chosen to represent the themes of Black History Month and Women's History Month.

February 17: *Grant Park* by Leonard Pitts, Jr. Thanks for the author recommendation by Dody Adkins-Perry.

Our March 16 selection is nonfiction - *Triangle: The Fire That Changed America* by David von Drehle.

For more information, contact Carleen Loper at carleenml@aol.com.



SOULFUL SANCTUARY

Friday, February 28, starting at 6:30 p.m.

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



Join Barry and Patty Simon and friends in the Sanctuary for Celebration and Reflection. 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.



SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for the

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE SERVICE AUCTION

Sunday, March 15, at 12:00 noon!



**MINUTES OF THE
PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING - DRAFT
January 15, 2020**

Attendees: Bob Waterman, Marc MacQueen, Eileen Smith, Lois Aldrich, Katie Allen, Rev. Sarah
Guest: Sue Sherman

Summary from December meeting: Accepted.

Reports:

Ministry – Grant available for safety measures; will consider applying; need to educate Congregation about Alcohol Policy.

RE – Young kids (2-7 participants) focus on sustainability sleuth, connecting with nature; Junior Youth (4 participants) working on proposal for video project to introduce leadership; Senior Youth (5-8 participants) working on restrooms project, planning service with junior youth, planning interfaith service in May.

Music - Chalice Choir sang on December 1, 15, 24. Choir was joined by children for family service on the 15th; ensembles and solos on Jazz Sunday, December 22, December 29; caroling at tree lighting event; "concerts" at Oak Hill and Serenity Home; trips to shut-ins; choir potluck; Solstice Singers fundraiser a big success; will host coffee hour in January; Springtime Gala fundraiser coming up in May.

Finance – Pledges behind but on target for budget; investments did well in 2019.

Building & Grounds/Expansion – Most outside work being completed; roof work delayed until spring; trees being addressed; holes in sanctuary floor being fixed; work on front sign in progress; will look into getting doorbells; will explore creating a "How To" procedures manual.

Membership – Held "Who We Are as UUs," 24 participants, went very well.

Public Relations/Outreach – Good press for Solstice Singers.

Social Action/MAAC – New participants in MAAC; Kimberly French will be guest at MAAC meeting in February to talk about Sustainable Middleboro.

Cash in the Plate: February – Will pick an organization to support helping with fires in Australia.

Fundraisers: Solstice Singers – Great success, so great it prompted review of event planning guidelines and safety SOP's to address crowd control issues; Savers – TBD; Service Auction – in planning stage; Music Sunday meal – put on by Youth; Plant Sale – TBD; Springtime Gala – in May.

Key Policy – Discussed; need to stick with current policy to limit number of keys; will review list to see if any should be returned.

Handicap Parking – B&G will look into this.

Restrooms Project – Youth developed survey, will submit to PC for review.

PC Vision – Final draft completed; will be used in Listening Circles; will publish in newsletter and updates.

Listening Circles – Plans in place; one held so far, rest in the next few weeks.

Pledge Drive – Plans in progress; kick-off moved to February 23.

Budget Planning – Will work on at the next meeting; will plan for presentation to Congregation in April.

Meetings – Will plan special project meeting in the next couple of weeks, then regular meeting will be on 2/19.

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

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/>.

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.

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

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.

FEBRUARY

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:30 a.m. Living in the Questions, Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. Soulful Sanc Mtg. Parish Hall
2 10:30 a.m. Worship & R.E. 11:45 a.m. Gala Planning, Minister's Office 4:00 p.m. Senior Youth, Parish Hall	3 7:00 p.m. CUUPs, Parish Hall	4 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall	5 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	6 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Minister's Office	7 6:00 p.m. Meditation Sangha, Parish Hall	8
9 10:30 a.m. Worship & R.E. 10:45 a.m. Junior Youth, Minister's Office 11:45 a.m. Valentine Making, Parish Hall 11:45 a.m. RE Committee, Minister's Office 12:00 noon Gaining Inspiration, Church	10	11 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall	12 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 7:00 p.m. Music Committee, Parish Hall	13 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Satsang, Off Site	14  6:00 p.m. Meditation Sangha, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Knitting Group, J. Gould's Home	15
16 10:30 a.m. Worship & R.E. 11:30 a.m. Minister's Q & A, Parlor 12:00 noon Listening Circle, Parlor 5:00 p.m. Senior Youth, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. Youth Sleepover, All Downstairs March Newsletter	17  Till 10:00 a.m. Youth Sleepover, All Downstairs 5:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. CUUPs, Parish Hall	18 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall	19 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 6:30 p.m. Parish Committee, Parish Hall	20 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Minister's Office	21 6:00 p.m. Meditation Sangha, Parish Hall	22
23 10:30 a.m. Worship & R.E. 10:45 a.m. Junior Youth, Minister's Office 11:45 a.m. Parent Coffee Hr., Minister's Office	24	25 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall	26 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	27 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group, Minister's Office 7:00 p.m. Satsang, Off Site	28 6:30 p.m. Soulful Sanctuary, All Church	29

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020 IN PROVIDENCE, RI



Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

REGISTER FOR THE 2020 GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PROVIDENCE www.uua.org/ga/registration
General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28, 2020 in Providence, Rhode Island for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Meet us in Providence and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!

The theme for General Assembly in June 2020 is ***Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!*** We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world. For more information contact newengland@uua.org.

