



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

July/August, 2020

**We are offering virtual worship services for the months of July and August.
The link to each service will be published. Summer Services begin at 9:00 a.m.**

July 5:

Justice Choir

Susan Hotchkiss

Pete Seeger said it well: "Get people to sing together, and they'll act together too." There's nothing new about singing for justice, but there is an exciting array of newly-written songs collected since 2017 into a growing Justice Choir Songbook. Susan and singers will explore the vision and some of the songs.

July 12:

As Long As We Are 'Other'

Natalie Johnson

If we believe in the interconnectedness of all life, we need to remember that social justice and climate justice are rooted in the same misperceptions. Join Natalie as she examines the grave injustices that permeate our culture to find how they are linked together.

July 19

A Taste of Zen

Tom Tanguay

What does Zen practice - which challenges us to wonder without answers, to journey from here to here, to sit and rest - have to offer us in a world seemingly gone mad? Zen Masters won't explain and instead invite us to come to our senses and explore the wonder of presence. Tom Tanguay has been studying and practicing in the Mindfulness and Soto Zen traditions for many years. He facilitates our Friday Meditation Sangha and teaches Zen precepts and koans with Empty Sky Sangha.

July 26:

TBD

August 2:

Lughnassadh Ritual at Soule Homestead

CUUPs

We invite you to join us at beautiful Soule Homestead, 46 Soule Street, Middleboro, as members of CUUPs celebrate Lughnassadh or First Harvest in our annual outside ritual. We seek to incorporate elements of native medicine and ceremony without infringing upon their unique spirituality but in the spirit of sharing the reverence and deep love for the natural world that we hold in common. Ritual will be held rain or shine. All are welcome.

August 9:

Austria: Remembering the Holocaust

Kate Melchior

For decades, Austria identified as "Hitler's first victim," a narrative that remained in place until well into the '90s. Kate Melchior, Assistant Director of Education at the Massachusetts Historical Society, will talk about the rapid transformation of Austrian Holocaust memory in the 21st century and the struggle between competing narratives of identity and trauma in public spaces.

August 16:

Bringing Women's History to Life

Laura Stevens and Adrienne Williams

Laura and Adrienne have both been featured in the remarkable theatrical production "We Did It for You! Women's Journey Through History." The musical answers the question how women got their rights in America, as told by the women who were there. Hear from Adrienne and Laura what it was like to be part of this amazing work of art.

August 23:

Abundance

Bill Howe

There is so much good news, and we could all benefit from focusing on the good that surrounds and supports us every moment. We so often seem to be products of our sub-cultures and families' assumptions about lacks of one sort or another. It seems to color our perception of ourselves and of what is possible for ourselves now and going forward.

August 30:

A Middleboro Girl's Personal Journey to Racial Justice Work

Deanne Bonnar

September 6:

Hymn Sing

Susan Hotchkiss

On this Labor Day weekend, join in a traditional UU hymn sing to close out our summer season. We'll sing our favorites from the grey and teal hymnals and maybe throw in a couple of Justice Choir songs.

MINISTER'S MEDITATION

Welcome to Summer at the Society! Although our church office is closed from June 19 to August 18, there will be a lot going on, and we look forward to seeing you 'virtually' throughout the summer. We have lay-led worship on Sunday mornings at 9AM and will continue virtual get-togethers throughout July and August.

Due to the coronavirus, I will not be going away for any extended period of time and will be available by appointment for most of the summer. You can reach me at my home office, (508) 967-2763. If I am away and you have an emergency, you can reach our Lay Pastoral Ministers, Sue Curtiss or Sue St. Germain.

This has been an extraordinary time, and we are being called to extraordinary transformation. Your friends and fellow members are gathering to explore how we might individually and as a congregation respond to the Black Lives Matter movement. I welcome your thoughts and feelings as we walk this path of discovery together. Thank you for sharing your presence at our activities and for trusting us with your struggle to understand where this is all coming from and where we are going. I am committed to helping all of us navigate these issues and events together - even if we do not all arrive at the same destination when all is said and done!

Rev. Sarah



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



SUMMER MUSIC MUSINGS

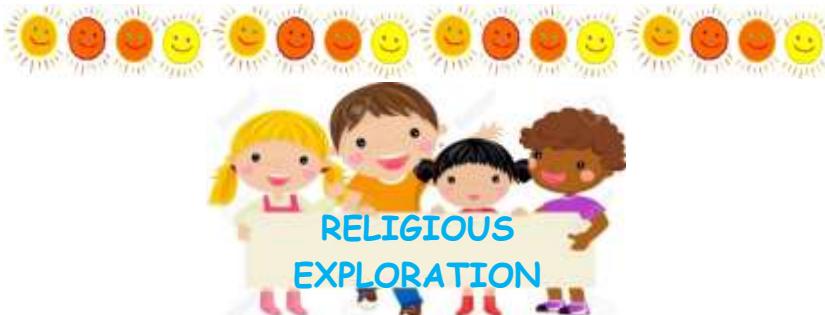


The last four months have temporarily closed some doors AND opened some new windows. Most of us would never have bothered with Zoom outside a work environment, contributed individual voice recordings to a virtual choir, or wondered how to maintain community remotely. Sometimes I wonder about how long we need to remain vigilant, the residual impact of this isolation, and the positive take-homes we might acquire as musicians and UU friends.

Summer conferences are mostly closed this summer, which offers a perfect chance to explore outside our usual radar range. I'm finding lots of inspiration including dance, literature, gardening, and my current focus on Justice Choir, which I'll tell you about on July 5 in a summer service.

May you find fun-stuff this summer, things to stretch your mind a bit, things to share, things to help live fully into this precious moment.

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music



Thank you to everyone who made this year a success! I was grateful to be the Director of Religious Exploration this church year and grateful to everyone who contributed inside and outside the classroom. We moved through a lot of change in the second half of the year with the pandemic and with the increased tension in our country. We will use this as a jumping board for our upcoming church year.

This coming year we will focus on social action and social justice. We will spend our year exploring our relationship with ourselves and our wider community. There will be opportunities to get to know each other and to reach out and help others.

We don't know what the church year will look like, but whether we are together virtually or in person we will need help to make the year successful. We can't do a good job without everyone in church pitching in to support our program! What can you offer to our youth? Are you willing to teach a session for 4 to 6 weeks, substitute one or two times during the year, offer a special project, become part of the RE Committee? Please email the DRE at dre@uumiddleboro.org to let me know you are interested. I will be reaching out to everyone to ask for any help people are willing to give.

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration

VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS



COFFEE HOUR

Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Links will be sent out for this event.



LET'S DO LUNCH

Thursdays 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Links will be sent out for this event.



MEDITATION SANGHA

Fridays 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

Sunday, July 5 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

July's Blood/Thunder Moon rises one day after we celebrate our Nation's birthday. We continue to live through difficult times. May we meet the challenges in a way that honors the founders' original vision. May we serve as midwives of the birth of an even more perfect Union. As we harness the energies of both the Full Moon and an eclipse, let us celebrate our resilience and our resolve to create a new world that honors the inherent and equal worth of all beings. Please share your energies with us. All are welcome.



A link will be sent out for this event.

VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS (continued)

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Mondays, July 20 & August 17 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Book Club members have continued to 'meet' for the past few months via email chats and Zoom gatherings. We meet for our book discussions on the third Monday of every month at 5:30. Our July 20 title is *Florence Gordon* by Brian Morton. Everyone is currently still responsible for obtaining their own copies due to limited library openings/availability. Our August 17 title has not yet been selected as of the Summer Newsletter deadline.



For more info please contact Carleen Loper at Carleenml@aol.com.



NEW MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Monday, July 20 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

As we continue to collectively envision the new world emerging from chaos, we will plant our seeds of hope, love, understanding, compassion, respect, resilience and reverence for all life. Seeds sown in darkness and lovingly tended by people of goodwill can emerge to become nourishment for all. Please join us as we co-create a new vision for the Earth. All are welcome.



New Moon Meditation



FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Monday, August 3 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

We begin to enjoy first harvest at the time of the Green Corn Moon. Our hard work of tending rewards us in the form of fruits, vegetables and flowers of every kind. So too our hopes for the world have begun to take root as we continue to work toward needed change. Let's combine our group energies with those of the Full Moon to potentize our ideals. All are welcome.



A link will be sent out for this event.

VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS (continued)



with Natalie Johnson

Tuesday, August 8 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

Mother Nature is at the height of her growth now as the Green nation is at its zenith of growth. Soon, the nights will begin to grow cooler, the hours of sun visibly less since the Solstice, and we begin to turn an eye toward a time of slowing down and deeper reflection. This New Moon is the ideal time to get quiet, go within, reflect on which seeds prospered and which ones did not. It is a time to re-envision, and make necessary changes to our dream for the future. What to keep, what to release, what to re-form. Summer is slowing down, and we also will benefit from taking a breath before moving forward again. Come join us. All are welcome. A link will be sent out for this event.



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|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday, August 16: | September Newsletter Deadline |
| Tuesday, August 18: | Church Office Reopens |
| Sunday, September 13: | Ingathering |

**Have a good
Summer!**

VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

June 17, 2020

Present: Rev. Sarah Person, Bob Waterman, Eileen Smith, Katie Allen, Marc MacQueen, Jim Bonnar

Minister's Report: Attendance at services has been good, and staff morale is high. The minister is working on monthly reports of expenditures from the Minister's Discretionary Fund. The calendar for summer services is set.

RE: Kelly Lownds has continued to actively engage youth and families. Revised summer plans are developing.

Music: The choir will have two summer Justice Choir sessions outdoors. Susan is working on a catalogue of recorded hymns and choral pieces for church use.

Finance: Time to spend the PPP grant money has been extended to 24 weeks. It will all be spent on salaries. The Plant Sale netted \$1100, and the Service Offering Fundraiser has brought in \$1000 so far. We are still faced with deficits for next fiscal year. We discussed how to prepare for presenting our financial situation in the September meeting of the congregation. Bob Waterman will reactivate our Financial Advisory Task Group to aid the PC in working on strategy, philosophy and policies for our long-term needs. The PC will hold a joint session with the Task Group tentatively scheduled for July 8 at 7:00 PM.

Building & Grounds: The men's room has been painted. The oldest sign has been removed. We discussed having the sexton repair the holes in the Nickerson Ave. stairway.

Cash in the Plate: Over the summer Rev. Sarah will announce at each service that checks for Cash in the Plate can be sent to the church, and she will name a local charity to which parishioners might want to send checks.

Racial Equality Task Group: During the first week in June, parishioners held nightly vigils on the church lawn in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Community response has been positive. On June 11 a group met virtually to discuss next steps. It was decided that the PC would issue a charge to create a Racial Equality Task Group. The group is charged with (1) educating themselves on issues related to racism in our society, (2) help educate the congregation on the same, and (3) lead the congregation in reaching consensus on actions we will take.



Parish Committee (2020-2021)

President: Jim Bonnar

Vice President: Bob Waterman

Treasurer: Marc MacQueen

Assistant Treasurer: Eileen Smith

Parish Clerk: Lois Aldrich

Members At Large: Katie Allen

Open

**JULY
2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group	3 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meditation Sangha	4 
5 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Virtual Full Moon Meditation	6	7 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour	8 7:00 p.m. Virtual Joint Session of PC and Financial Advisory Task Group	9 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group 7:00 p.m. Satsang	10 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meditation Sangha	11
12 9:00 a.m. Worship Service	13	14 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour	15 6:30 p.m. Parish Committee	16 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group	17 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meditation Sangha	18
19 9:00 a.m. Worship Service	20 5:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group 6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation	21 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour	22	23 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group 7:00 p.m. Satsang	24 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meditation Sangha	25
26 9:00 a.m. Worship Service	27	28 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour	29	30 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group	31 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meditation Sangha	

AUGUST
2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour	5	6 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group	7	8 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meditation Sangha 6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation
9 9:00 a.m. Worship Service	10	11 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour	12	13 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group 7:00 p.m. Satsang	14	15
16 9:00 a.m. Worship Service September Newsletter Deadline	17	18 9:00 a.m. Church Office Reopens 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour	19 6:30 p.m. Parish Committee	20 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group	21 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meditation Sangha	22
23 9:00 a.m. Worship Service	24	25 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal	26	27 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group 7:00 p.m. Satsang	28 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meditation Sangha	29
30 9:00 a.m. Worship Service	31					

**VIRTUAL
SERVICE OFFERING FUNDRAISER CONTINUES**

Our fundraiser is off to a great start! So far, we have over \$1,000 in sales, which is fantastic! Let's keep it going and see how much more we can do. There are still plenty of items available, and even a few new items that have been recently added. Keep checking the catalog for updates, and spread the word to your friends, family, and anyone else who you think might be interested in any of the items.

- You can view the catalog of offerings by clicking this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CLHHgVky5bEShoMTktGamhkCRIvb9cPmSfVwmBd1Gtc/edit?usp=sharing>

- You can purchase items for sale by sending an email to: uu362@comcast.net. Please indicate the item number(s) for the item(s) you would like to purchase, and be sure to include your contact information.

- Items for sale are on a first come first served basis, and your time-stamped email will secure your purchase.

- Some items are up for auction and are so designated in the catalog. If you would like to bid on an auction item, you can send your bid to: uu362@comcast.net. Bids will be posted in the catalog daily, so be sure to check the catalog often to see if a higher bid was submitted. You can raise your bid, if you wish, by sending another email to the same address. The fundraiser will end on **June 30 at 5:00 p.m.** The highest bidder at that time for auctioned items will get the item.

- You can mail your payment for your items to the church. If that poses a problem in any way, you can contact Eileen Smith for assistance.

- You will make arrangements with the person making the offer for pick up or delivery of the items. (Note that one of the items in the catalog is assistance with transport.)

If you have any questions, please contact any one of the fundraiser organizers:
Norm Grenier, Bob Waterman, Jim Bonnar, Andrea Priest, Alan Melchior. Thank you for all you do for each other and for the Church!!

