



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

January, 2021

***We are offering virtual worship services.
The link to each service will be posted
on our website every week.***

Sunday, January 3, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Person preaching

For There to Be Peace in the Heart

"For there to be peace in the world," begins a quotation by Lao Tze. Where do we look for peace in this new year? Special music will feature Erik Lindgren playing recent compositions on piano.

Sunday, January 10, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Person preaching

A World Without Whiteness

For those of us working for an end to racism, envisioning the depth and breadth of what that would look like is a vital and necessary part of who we are and who we intend to be.

Sunday, January 17, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Person preaching

Inauguration Redux

The sermon delivered four years ago on January 15, 2017, asked us to realize a new path built from understanding, clarity and passion. We still have work and irresistible hope before us.

Sunday, January 24, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Person preaching

The Wall

Imagine yourself on a visit to Jerusalem, to the Wailing Wall. Where would your thoughts lead you? Jerusalem is more than a destination; it is the mingling of the past and the present that demands something of us.

Sunday, January 31, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Person preaching

After COVID: Let's Dream!

I will be joining with colleagues from around the area to exercise our imaginations and share dreams about what happens next. How do we imagine the pandemic will affect different parts of our culture: Justice after COVID, Church after COVID, Love after COVID and more! Joining us will be ministers from Canton, Cohasset, Franklin, Middleboro, Reading, Salem plus Revs Clyde Grubbs and Michelle Walsh.

Minister's Meditation

December 29th Anniversaries

Today marks two important events in my family. On this day I wrote in my elementary school biography "At the age of 11, my baby sister was born." Her name means "her father's source of joy." My baby sister's arrival opened a whole new dimension in our lives. My middle sister and I got to see our mom and dad mothering and fathering in a very different way than we remembered. We assumed very important roles; for the first time someone depended on us. It dawned on us that we, all of us, were unique individuals with feelings and experiences completely distinct from one another. We don't realize that as children, until we see the blooming of a new personality before our very eyes (and ears).

Today is also the anniversary of my mother-in-law's death. Bert passed away four years ago. I still miss her. I love seeing her resemblance in my daughters and having her things about me. I wrote about her at the time, and some of the lessons I learned. Take care of yourself before you take care of others, but do understand that you take care of others. Let go of clutter and things that are not important to the person you are now. Hold on to things that have shaped who you are now. Be the one who listens, really listens, to children – no matter how young (or old) they are.

Birth and death are very much alive to me today. It is all about loving.

*Stay safe and well,
Rev. Sarah*



JANUARY MUSIC MUSINGS



For the past few years, I've sat with a weekly Insight Meditation Sangha led by Tom Tanguay, and I've come to muse on "just this." When I manage to strip away all the mental chatter, the emotional roller coaster gives way to just this moment, just this precious silence, just this glimpse of eternity. It is enough.

With rising Covid numbers in our area, we will be moving into more restrictions on in-person group music making during the month of January. Zoom Choir rehearsals will continue, and there's a chance we'll be able to debut our first virtual choir anthem, "Draw the Circle Wide." We are not alone, but we have more alone-time.

On January 3, Erik Lindgren will be with us to share three of his latest piano compositions, all written since the pandemic. "Spiritual: By an' By" is part of a multi-movement work called *Breakfast at Noon*. "Acedia" means apathy and "Coronacoaster" is exactly what it sounds like. Erik's music is in the *classical* genre, meant to challenge intellect and bring new ideas and gestures into the community of listeners.

So, what do "just this," coping with isolation, and classical music have in common? I believe that stripping away expectations and meeting each moment as "just this" allows us the feeling of satisfaction, that this is enough. In facing isolation (just this), we can find our most creative selves—a kind of emotional salvation. Classical music is one of many art forms we can use to help us meet the challenges of this new year.

Wishing you Joy, Love, Health, and Peace,
Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music

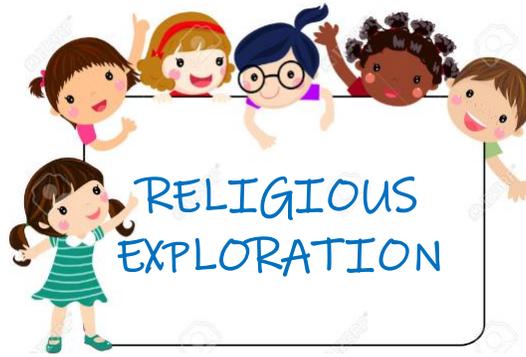


JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND PEACE VIGILS

As the days get colder and darker, we are bowing to the elements and scheduling weekly ½ hour vigils on Saturday mornings. Your choices are 11:00 to 11:30 AM or 11:30 AM to 12 noon. Please sign up by clicking on the following link:



https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bh50g1GJo86U_kwcs9k95_PaZT_PNP7i8CugTK77hd6o/edit?usp=sharing



In Youth News

On December 6, the Senior Youth made holiday swags for their doors and participated in the Middleboro Tree Lighting. They were photographed for *The Middleboro Gazette* and had a fun time watching Santa light up the tree!

On December 20, many of you had the opportunity to share “a few of our favorite things” with the youth in church. Several of the youth spoke during the homily, and many took part in the readings and prayers.

On December 27, the Junior and Senior Youth had a game night together and played “Jack Box” games with Greg Stevens and Kelly Lownds.

Unexpected Heroes

In December the youth got together for Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. We had groups of 2 to 6 students for the early classes, and we had good participation. The Zoom link goes out on Saturday evenings to the RE families. On December 6, the smaller children received bags with candles for Christmas Eve service and holiday decoration crafts.

In January, we will continue to share our heroes and will share our newest chapter in *Changing the World*. We will plan for a spring service/play and talk about more UU characteristics, including sharing and remembrance.

Message for All Ages

Thank you to all those who have sent along stories for our Message for All Ages project. This month we used “One” by Kathryn Otoshi, thanks to Laura Stevens! Please continue sending your ideas and your videos, and we will continue to fit them in where we can in the services.

Junior and Senior Youth

Senior Youth will meet virtually on Sundays during the month of January from 4:00 to 5:30 the first and the third Sunday of the month. Junior Youth will meet virtually on Sundays during the month of January from 4:00 to 5:30 the second and fourth Sunday of the month. We will coordinate one group outdoor outing in January--details to follow. During our virtual meetings, we play games some weeks and talk about multiculturalism and the anti-racism project.

Parent Coffee Hour

We are resurrecting Parent Coffee Hour one Sunday a month starting in January. We will meet the second Sunday of the month starting at 11:30. A google Meet link will go out in the Updates the week prior to our meeting. Looking forward to some time together!

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration

VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS

COFFEE HOUR

Tuesdays: January 5, 12, 19, 26
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.



Links will be sent out for this event.

LET'S DO LUNCH

Thursdays: January 7, 14, 21, 28
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Links will be sent out
for this event.



JUST THIS SANGHA

Fridays: January 8, 15, 22, 29
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.



NEW MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson
Tuesday, January 12
6:00 - 6:45 pm



The New Year is underway and although we may still be firmly in the grasp of winter, the sunlight has increased steadily for nearly a month now. It is a reminder to us all that even when times may seem endlessly cold and bleak, there is always a tiny flame that abides within our own hearts, ready to be fanned into greater light by acts of love and compassion.

Join us as we gather under this Capricorn dark moon to check on the health of the seeds we sowed in darkest December and to ponder what others we might plant to grow our collective future.

All are welcome. A link will be sent out for this event.

VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS (continued)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Planning Committee is continuing its virtual presentation of films, discussions, and some exercises for deepening our understanding of racial injustice in our country. This is part of our process for deciding what actions we would like to take.

For the remainder of the church year, we will be meeting two Saturdays a month from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. You do not have to commit to all of them to come to some of them. However, we recommend that you come to the discussion on January 9 as we will be establishing guidelines for creating a space that that can both hold us and stretch us while we explore this path.

In January we will be focused on thinking about white supremacy through film and our own racial and ethnic autobiographies. In February we will watch films which deepen our understanding of our history with Indigenous peoples on this continent. In March we will continue films which go deeper into the discussions of both January and February. In April and May and perhaps June, we will be looking at various manifestations in our present day of what our history has produced in our legal system, housing, education, policing and personal interactions. All through this process there will be conscious work at building our own tools for becoming more effective racial justice advocates.

Below is the schedule through March.

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|--------------|---|
| Jan. 9, 2021 | Discussion of film
<i>Me and White Supremacy: Interview with Layla F. Saad</i> |
| Jan. 23 | Discussion of Racial/Ethnic Autobiographies |
| Feb.13 | Discussion of film <i>We Shall Remain</i> |
| Feb. 27 | Discussion of film <i>Sand Creek Massacre</i> |
| March 13 | Discussion of film <i>The Color of Fear</i> |
| March 27 | Discussion of documentary <i>Native American Boarding Schools</i> |

Specific information about accessing the films will be provided in the weekly updates. We hope you can join us.

Questions/Comments:

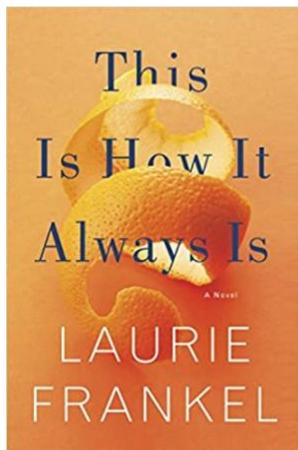
Contact Deanne Bonnar, Natalie Johnson or Rev. Sarah Person

VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS (continued)

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, January 18

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.



The UU Book Discussion Group will be reading *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel on January 18. Our February 22 selection is *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.

Carleen will have multiple copies available, and our meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom with thanks to Dorine Levasseur for hosting.

If you would like to join us or need more info, please contact Carleen: carleenml@aol.com.



FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Thursday, January 28

6:00 - 6:45 pm

Our country has a new leader. We the People face many challenges, and there is much work to be done by us all to begin to manifest the future we have been envisioning.

The Leo full moon shines down on us like a cosmic spotlight, illuminating the shadow places and showing us what needs to be healed. Leo is the magnificent lion of the zodiac who can teach us how to lead with courage and with the wisdom of the heart. Join us as we gather in clarity and brilliance to begin our own part in tending and mending the Web of Light.

All are welcome.

A link will be sent out for this event.

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
December 16, 2020

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

Guests: Lauren Haugh and Alan Melchior to talk about Social Justice Committee and Give Lively, respectively.

The PC accepted the minutes from 12/2/20 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Marc MacQueen reported that donations for Reboot 2020 have been coming in with \$650 raised so far. Much of this is coming in through the new Give Lively fundraising platform that Alan Melchior has been working on.

Marc reported income for the month of November as \$16,800 and expenses as \$19,000. Included in expenses is \$12,000 for payment for roof work. This money will be transferred from the I Love My Church fund. Budget report will be adjusted to reflect this.

Pledge income has so far been meeting projected goal for this year. Income on pledges will be included in budget report for 12/27 quarterly budget meeting and will provide congregation with comparison data (i.e., to demonstrate that pledges are on target and may, in fact exceed what we projected last year).

Discussion around professional expenses line item for this year. There may be savings from this line item due to pandemic; however, it was agreed to leave line item as is for now, as it is unclear what 2021 will bring. Rev. Sarah said she would check with the staff to see where they are at with their professional expenses.

Cash in the Plate: Cash in the Plate for January-February 2021 will be for fuel assistance. Rev. Sarah would like to check in with the Middleboro police chief regarding any needs due to recent tragedy in town. PC agreed this would be a good idea. Rev. Sarah will contact police chief and report back to PC.

Service Auction: Bob Waterman reported that the recent Service Auction raised \$2500. Thanks to Bob and to all who helped make this possible!

Social Justice: Lauren Haugh was introduced as the new chair/coordinator for the Social Justice Committee, which will also be the new home for the Racial Justice Committee. Lauren reported that the Racial Justice Task Group Survey of the congregation has been completed; 38 responses were received. Unclear how many received the survey, but there are 213 individuals on the church's mailing list who could have had access. Responses were overwhelmingly positive in support of the church moving forward on social justice action, no negative responses received. It was agreed that survey results will be reported in the Updates and the Newsletter, and a final opportunity to respond to the survey will be provided for anyone who has not taken the survey to do so. Lauren will send information to Bob to be included in the Updates and Newsletter. Lauren and Bob will work on steps to form the Social Justice Committee and incorporate the Racial Justice Committee and other social justice topics. Such steps may include: developing charter, deciding on scope

and number of members, steering groups, subgroups, activities, etc. Formal document will be drafted.

Review of Guidelines Taking Action as a Congregation: The PC discussed the draft of Guidelines provided by Bob. Guidelines mainly impact the Social Justice Committee, and Social Justice Committee members will need to be aware of the guidelines. Bob will amend Guidelines to reflect comments received at the meeting and forward to the PC.

Give Lively: Alan Melchior reported that Give Lively, the new event and fundraising platform that the church will be using, has gone live for two campaigns -- General Donation page, and Registration/Donate page for Reboot 2020. People have been registering and donating for Reboot 2020, and so far, all is going well. Alan walked the PC through the Give Lively donation process and demonstrated how the platform monitors and tracks donations and amounts. Alan said he has been impressed with Give Lively and suggests the church may want to set up other campaigns in the future, such as the Minister's Discretionary Fund, food pantry, pledges, etc. Individuals could also use their phone to text their donations on Give Lively, which may appeal to younger members. Thank you letters are automatically generated by Give Lively but may need some revision to language related to tax deductions.

The PC recommends slow roll out of the platform and using only the two live campaigns for now (Reboot 2020 and General Donation). This will provide an opportunity to monitor and get feedback on the process. Option to use Give Lively will be written up in the Newsletter to ensure congregation is informed.

Eileen Smith and Marc MacQueen expressed concern as to how donations made through Give Lively will impact Quick Books and transfer of financial information. Alan offered to meet with Eileen and Marc to further review the process. Will review progress with Give Lively at next PC meeting.

Next PC Meeting (check in): January 6 @ 7:00 p.m. Review Give Lively and Listening Circles.



Parish Committee

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

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 4:00 p.m. Virtual Senior Youth	2:00 p.m. Recording, Sanctuary	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Virtual Choir Rehearsal	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	9:30 a.m. Virtual Social Justice Film Discussion
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Virtual Parent Coffee Hour 4:00 p.m. Virtual Junior Youth	2:00 p.m. Recording, Sanctuary	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour 6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation 7:00 p.m. Virtual Choir Rehearsal	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 7:00 p.m. Virtual Music Committee	12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 4:00 p.m. Virtual Senior Youth February Newsletter Deadline	 2:00 p.m. Recording, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Book Discussion Group	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Virtual Choir Rehearsal	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 6:30 p.m. Virtual Parish Committee	12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	9:30 a.m. Virtual Social Justice Film Discussion
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 4:00 p.m. Virtual Junior Youth	2:00 p.m. Recording, Sanctuary	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee H. 7:00 p.m. Virtual Choir Rehearsal	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 6:00 p.m. Virtual Full Moon Meditation 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	
31						
10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service						

TANYA'S CREATIVE MASKS



Tanya Trzeciak created some beautiful and unique masks for our Fall Holiday fundraiser. I want to thank Tanya and all of you who contributed your skills and artistry. And if you would like to know more about these masks, please get in touch with Tanya.

Rev. Sarah

JANUARY