



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

March 2021

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

Sunday, March 7, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Person preaching

One Year Later

March 8, 2020, was our first virtual service. How have we changed? The idea of access for all has taken on a whole new and deeper meaning. Special music will be provided by Bet Giddings from her CD album *Golden Cities*. Bet's songs are original compositions, performed by her and her talented family.

Sunday, March 14, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Person preaching

Reverence and Relevance

Being good and doing good is one of our standby ideas of how to be in the world. Let's talk about how we can ground justice work in our essential spirituality. Special music will be provided by Tony Soares singing *My Wild Irish Rose*.

Sunday, March 21, at 10:30 a.m.

Jeannie Gagné & Stan Strickland

Springtime Jazz Sunday!

Today we welcome back Jeannie Gagné and Stan Strickland for a soulful morning of music and reflections on Spring Themes. Jeannie is the former Music Director of our church, and (except for last year) she and Stan have shared a *Jazz Sunday* with us annually for many years. Both Jeannie and Stan are professors at Berklee College of Music. This year they are joined by members of the Music Committee (Nancy Backus, Valerie Fontaine, and John Mullen) providing readings and reflections on springtime.

Sunday, March 28, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Person preaching

Deliverance Out of the Dust

Are we wandering in a desert waiting for things to change around us, or are we making the change happen? It may be a little bit of both.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!

**Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead
one hour Saturday night, March 13!**

Minister's Meditation

What They Said!

Let me say first that I thoroughly enjoyed last Sunday's service (February 21st). I felt like parading down the street wearing a T-shirt proclaiming What They Said! I had asked you to imagine what executive order you would issue if you were President for a Day. For the sake of those who couldn't make it and those who would like to get to know us, here's what you delivered (with some small edits):

Listen and work things out: Practice tolerance, honesty and collaboration. All members of the House and Senate should sit in alphabetical order and not by party and be forced to talk with each other. Term limits. Spend some time during a day with another person, where you ask them what would make them feel truly loved. A National Day of Listening. Sh*t up and listen! Everybody has to set aside violence and anger. Make it mandatory for people to be kind and respectful.

Healthcare: Produce more vaccine and get it to people who are disproportionately not able to receive it as fast. Have one health care system and equal healthcare opportunities for every citizen.

Voting access: National voter rights act, where it's required of every state to make sure they're making it as easy as possible for as many people as possible to vote. Require that our legislative branches use the democratic process and live by it.

Climate justice: A program to prevent global warming. Enact the best parts of the green New Deal.

Citizens of the World: Invite all the leaders of the world to collaborate in forming a charter of compassion and to work on ways that we can all work as equal partners as citizens of the globe.

Citizenship: Give green cards to all undocumented people who want them. Require that everyone has to find a positive cause and work on it for citizenship.

Paying for it all: Impose a wealth tax and a tax on the ultra-wealthy.

Children: National Day to recognize and uplift children. Strong support for children and for public education. Food and lunch programs and health. All the families that were separated at the border should be reunited. Free tuition at all state colleges. Required life skills classes at the high school level.

Jobs & poverty: Providing jobs for all people who want them in rebuilding infrastructure in a renewable way. All senators and congressmen have to live on a certain type of budget – see what it's like to function on a limited income. All executive agencies will develop policies that make reducing poverty in this country their number one goal. Basic security that one's basic human needs are met. Affordable, safe housing for all ages. Eliminate the work requirements attached to any forms of social service access.

Stand-alone priorities: All guns have to be melted down. A universal draft and requirement for community service for all young adults. Get rid of Columbus Day and change it to Election Day and make it a voting holiday. In all of our decisions, take into account equity and justice. Whether it's healthcare or housing or jobs, consider how we distribute power to people, and those who are in underserved communities, and prisons. Eliminate ideas of race for one day and just treat people as part of the human race. A Truth and reconciliation commission for the United States and territories. Incorporate ethics as part of school education.

Thank you all for your dreams, your values and your compassion,

Rev. Sarah



MARCH MUSIC MUSINGS



Springtime, Captured Music, Jazz

Jazz Sunday is March 21, the second day of spring. We are happy to host Jeannie Gagné and Stan Strickland in this annual worship service blending original and "classic" jazz with readings and reflections. Get ready for a soulful presence of warmth, spontaneity, and improvisation. This year they will create their musical offerings off-site, and we will receive them, "captured" and transmitted through the wonders of technology.

I'm fascinated by the idea of capturing music, either through notation, recording, or a robust oral tradition. Jazz is a style that is difficult to notate because of syncopations, complex rhythms, and improvisation. It's dense. It's tight. It's particular to the performer, and it lives somewhere between style and imagination. Fortunately, jazz is relatively new (historically) and has been captured by recordings.

Not all oral traditions survive. Early Greek bards chanted Homeric tales that were never notated. The closest scholars have come to the ancient Greek chanting is through the old Serbian storytellers who kept the art alive into the 20th century, long enough to be captured by recordings. My grandfather was a bard, although I never heard his tales. My mother told me he would carry on for hours until the sweat was dripping off his face, and the elders were weeping.

Today, almost all music is captured with either notation, recording, or both. Don't miss Jazz Sunday on March 21.

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

SOUP'S ON..... AND CHILI, TOO!

Saturday, March 27 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

This fundraiser is for UU Family and Friends

Pick up in church Parish Hall

A Quart of Soup, Bread and Goodies (serves 2)
Gluten free bread and goodies available by request

\$15



Chicken Barley Soup

Beef Minestrone (Veggie Minestrone too - gluten free)

Turkey Chili (Veggie Chili too - gluten free)

Pre-order required through "Give Lively" More Information TBA

Any questions? Email Andrea at: andreapriesto@gmail.com

We will be cooking all that week, and Andrea will contact you for help.



Unexpected Heroes

We continue to meet at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The Zoom link goes out on Saturday. If you need a link, please be sure to email dre@uumiddleboro.org. We meet for a half hour and are working on a curriculum about our UU values. February has been about memorial rituals and community. We are also working our way through the *Change the World* book and examining a different way to make an impact in the world each month. This month is about writing letters, and the children all received note cards in the mail so they could write their own letters and send them out.

In RE News

Junior and Senior Youth

We continue to meet virtually on Sunday evenings at 4:00 p.m. Our youth are growing so much, and our most Senior Youth are getting their licenses and driving!! We have continued our conversations about racism and how we can be the change we want to see in the world. We watched "13" together on 2/21 and discussed the movie and its implications. We look forward to more learning and growing in the coming months.

RE had a walk for all children in RE at Massasoit State Park. We enjoyed pizza and a cold walk in the drizzle. Greg Stevens and I were excited to have our youngest and oldest children together, sharing a walk in the snow.

Dungeons and Dragons continues to be a monthly group for the Junior Youth. We have created our characters and are off on new adventures with our Dungeon Master Greg Stevens. We will meet the second Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

RE Committee

Our RE Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. We are open to new members. Please email dre@uumiddelboro.org if you are interested.

Family Coffee Hour

We will continue to meet on the second Sunday of the month and will change the time to 11:45 so people have time to be at church coffee hour. The group is open to RE parents. A link will go out via Zoom on the Saturday before the group.

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration

VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS

COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER

Tuesdays: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.



Links will be sent out for this event.



Join Us



LET'S DO LUNCH

Thursdays: March 4, 11, 18, 25
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.



Links will be sent out for this event.

JUST THIS SANGHA

Fridays: March 5, 12, 19, 26
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.



VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS (continued)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Saturdays, March 13 and 27

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.



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.

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.

March 13 Discussion of film *The Color of Fear*

March 27 Discussion of documentary *Native American Boarding Schools*

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

NEW MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Saturday, March 13

6:00 - 6:45 p.m.



This Dark Moon is in the sign of Pisces, reminding us that we are now transitioning out of the Age of Pisces with its ideas of duality and into the Age of Aquarius, heralding a new concept of Oneness and Equanimity. As chaos continues to swirl around us, we find ourselves feeling newly grounded in a greater sense of purpose and of who we truly are and why we are here.

Join us as we explore our hopes for the future and look around to see who is with us on our journey. All are welcome.

The link will be sent out for this event.

VIRTUAL ZOOM OFFERINGS (continued)

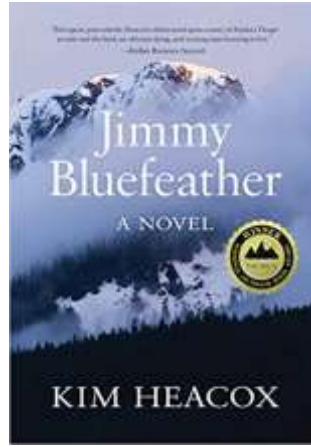
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, March 15

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The Book Club continues to meet virtually on the third Monday of each month via Zoom with thanks to Dorine Levasseur for hosting.

Our March 15 selection is *Jimmy Bluefeather* by Kim Heacox. Carleen will have multiple copies available.



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



FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Sunday, March 28

6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

This full moon is in the sign of Libra, reflected by the symbol of balanced scales.

We meet a few days past the Vernal Equinox which celebrates the balance between the hours of light and dark. We are encouraged to find balance in our own lives and to seek out ways in which to maintain equilibrium in a world that is constantly changing and often seems chaotic and challenging. Let us become like the trees, firmly rooted in Mother Earth and able to remain resilient as the March winds blow through our branches. All are welcome.

The link will be sent out for this event.

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

February 17, 2021

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

Guest: Gil Cote

The Minutes of the 2/3/21 PC minutes were approved by the PC.

Minister's Report: Rev. Sarah reviewed the Minister's Report for February. Lauren Haugh and Bob Waterman are working on a draft charge for the Social Justice Committee. Lauren has reached out to 4 people to be on the Committee. There will also be opportunities available for special interest initiatives and short-term projects.

Rev. Sarah discussed the adoption of an 8th UU principle related to anti-racism, anti-oppression work. It was agreed to review the proposed language with the congregation, possibly at the March quarterly budget meeting, and to take a vote at the Annual Meeting per the UUA recommendation as part of the certification process.

Rev. Sarah met with the Membership Development Committee and provided the PC with a report from the meeting. The group is seeking to further deepen a connection with members as well as to reconnect with those whom we have not seen at services in a while.

Treasurer's Report: Marc MacQueen reported the receipt of 2 unexpected special gifts and the collection of \$750 more from the Gala during the month of January. Overall, January was a slow month for income, but the church retains a healthy bank balance. Marc MacQueen and Eileen Smith reported that they will be working with a new consultant, Liz Snay, who is an accountant and has worked with other churches and will help us to set up QuickBooks online. The PC had agreed to pay for her services. Both Marc and Eileen say she has been a "breath of fresh air" to work with and has been very helpful in setting up accounts.

Music Committee: Report received and reviewed by PC; no questions.

RE: Rev. Sarah reported that RE continues in person meetings with youth. Junior Youth recently went on a "socially distant walk," which was a success. Kelly Lownds continues conversations with parents and shares any concerns with Rev. Sarah.

Social Justice: No formal report yet. Bob circulated the draft charter. The PC will review and send comments to Bob.

Listening Circles: The PC has received notes from all Listening Circles. Bob will draft a feedback summary from the Circles and send to the PC for review. The final summary will be posted in the March Newsletter for the congregation to review.

Pledge Drive: Gil Cote, who will be spearheading the Pledge Drive this year, attended the PC meeting. Bob drafted a charge for the Pledge Drive Task Group (TG), which was approved by the PC. The charge describes PC and TG roles. Marc drafted a schedule of tasks. Next steps will be for Gil to work on identifying a team who will be responsible for "Asks." Gil is seeking further information on what will be in the packets to be distributed to the congregation. The PC is working on this. The proposed theme for the pledge drive: "Together We Can." The PC identified March 28 as the kick-off date for the Pledge Drive.

Next Quarterly Budget Meeting will be March 21, 2021. Proposed agenda items include updated budget information, 4th quarter budget, intro to 21-22 budget, and highlights of the Listening Circles. Liz Slay should be able to provide a report on budget estimate. Bob will draft the warrant for the meeting.

Jim Bonnar announced that Marc is staying on as Treasurer until the end of his term (2022). Eileen's term as Assistant Treasurer is up in June, 2021; and the Leadership Committee will begin the search for a new Assistant Treasurer.

Next PC Meeting check-in is March 3, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Proposed agenda: Start work on budget goals, discuss directions for Pledge Drive Task Group, plan for March 28 Pledge Drive kick-off.

MARCH 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | 2:00 p.m. Recording, Sanctuary | 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Virtual Choir Rehearsal | 5:30 p.m. Virtual RE 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 | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 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 | 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 | 9:30 a.m. Virtual Social Justice Film Discussion 6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation Daylight Saving Time Begins – Turn Your Clocks Ahead One Hour Tonight |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship 11:45 a.m. Virtual RE Coffee Hour 12:00 noon Rehearsal, Sanctuary 3:00 p.m. Virtual Junior Youth | 1:00 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 |  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 |  |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 11:45 a.m. Virtual Quarterly Budget Meeting 4:00 p.m. Virtual Senior Youth April Newsletter Deadline | 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 | 12:30 p.m. Piano Tuner, Sanctuary Soup Prep, Kitchen | 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch Soup Prep, Kitchen 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group | 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary Soup Prep, Kitchen 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha | 9:30 a.m. Virtual Social Justice Film Discussion Soup Prep, Kitchen 3:00 p.m. Soup's On Fundraiser, Parish Hall  |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| 10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 4:00 p.m. Virtual Junior Youth 6:00 p.m. Virtual Full Moon Meditation | 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 | | | | |

JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND PEACE VIGILS

For our winter schedule, we are bowing to the elements and scheduling weekly $\frac{1}{2}$ hour vigils on **Saturday mornings from 11:30 to 12 noon**. In addition, we will be offering training to help us respond to folks with strong opinions. Keep an eye out in our Updates for dates and times. If you are interested in standing with us, but would like the training first, please add your name, but put an X in the first column. Sign up for training and/or the vigil by clicking on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bh50g1GJo86U_kwcs9k95_PaZTPNP7i8CugTK77hd6o/edit?usp=sharing

