



# THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346 508-947-1935 [www.uumiddleboro.org](http://www.uumiddleboro.org) September 2021

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**Sunday, September 5, at 9:00 a.m.**

**Led by Susan Hotchkiss & Friends**

*Outdoor Hymn Sing*

The final Summer Service of 2021 will be an outdoor “HymnSongFest” on the Nickerson Street lawn, complete with keyboard, guitar, ukes, and members of the Chalice Choir. Chairs will be set up, both hymnals will be available, and we will have a PA system. If it’s raining, the service will be virtual. Keep your eye on Updates for the venue change if needed.

*The Parish Committee has decided to delay returning to in-person services. For now, we will offer Zoom services live with participants only at church and everyone else viewing remotely at home.*

**Saturday, September 11**

**Drive-by Water Communion**

**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

Bring a small amount of water from some place that means something to you – a home, a destination, a special time, a special person. Park in front of the church between 10:00 and noon, and we’ll gather your donation. Tomorrow we’ll bless the water and pour it over our Memorial Garden.

**Sunday, September 12, at 10:30 a.m.**

**Rev. Sarah Person preaching**

*Almost There*

Our motto this fall is going to be “flexibility;” in other words, prepared for whatever comes. In person or online, things are going to be different. We’ve been gearing up and getting ready to meet you through whichever portal you want to enter on a Sunday morning, be it a door or a screen. It’s all about connection and reflection and coming together for a purpose. Because the pandemic is still with us, as of this writing, we are leaving our options open. Our *Water Communion* ritual may be a drive-by or a trip down the aisle. Please gather a small amount of water that represents a significant place or experience you have had during the summer, and stay tuned for instructions. However we do this, we’ll do it together. Special music will be provided by members of the Chalice Choir.

**Sunday, September 19, at 10:30 a.m.**

**Rev. Sarah Person preaching**

*Mirror to the Soul*

Looking back over the past few years, I feel like layers of this world are being forcefully, or at least energetically, peeled back, revealing realities I hadn’t been prepared to see. Others see this life, and how we are all supposed to be a part of it, completely differently from the way I do. But I’ve realized if we want to make progress, we have to understand what is good, necessary and real for others as much as we do for ourselves. Bet Giddings and Susan Hotchkiss will play *Sandpaper Ballet* by Leroy Anderson. This duet is performed by piano and ... SANDPAPER.

**Sunday, September 26, at 10:30 a.m.**

**Rev. Sarah Person preaching**

*On Hallowed Ground*

The power of the vote is the power of identity, the power of “I am, and I can.” It is the language of agency in a time of deprivation. Today we honor the sacrifices made to ensure our right to vote and steps we might take to preserve it. Special music will be provided by members of the Chalice Choir.

## *Minister's Meditation*

*Welcome to another September of the pandemic. We are not out of the woods yet. But it seems like we have a better idea of where we are going and what we have to do. This year, our staff and I will focus worship on the idea of Journey – the distances we have crossed to come to terms with the new and newly discovered realities we face.*

*We are still juggling priorities; can we be as inclusive as possible and remain as safe as possible? That is why, with your generosity, we are embarking on a multi-platform ministry that will provide for both remote and in-person participation in worship and, hopefully, in social activities. It will be a matter of equipment, logistics, and volunteerism. Our tech team is selecting a computer that will help us expand our use of our camera and sound system. We have restored our chancel ceiling and will improve our lighting system. The plan is to be cleaned up and ready by September 12.*

*Blessings to you all, and I look forward to starting the new church year with you.*

*Rev. Sarah*

### New Volunteer Opportunity:

*Are you interested in learning very straightforward skills on audio or video equipment? We just need four or more volunteers to help us bring our services to those at home or out of state. We would provide training and supervision. Each volunteer would pitch in about once a month. This is a vital part of what we do and, as with everything else, a labor of love. If you are interested, please get in touch with either Rev. Sarah or Steve Larrett.*



**Saturday, September 18**

**(Rain Date - September 25)**

**8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Join the friendly folks at UU Middleborough, 25 South Main Street, for a congregational Rummage Sale!

This is a joint sale involving over 18 families! Plenty of treasures to be had. Our resident horticulturist will be offering plants from her personal collection, and there will be refreshments and a Bake Sale!

There will be live entertainment on the front entrance from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.!

Plenty of fun for the whole family!



Things are always changing, and that's a true story. I've been watching the emerging edges of this pandemic and shifting plans for the music program. It will be different this year: singers will need to be vaccinated, members of the Chalice Choir will sing in smaller ensembles, we will wear masks, we will learn new tricks. The congregation will learn to hum.

Some things will remain the same: we will watch the science and do our best to hold our community together, safe and sound. We'll aim for a Holiday Concert on December 4, and our favorite harper Shelley Otis will join us for Christmas Eve.

Living on the edge is dynamic. Surely, practicing controlled flexibility is an art form and maybe a candidate for an Olympic event!

*Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music*



### 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  
Lay Pastoral Minister: Dave Kraemer  
Meals: Juli Gould

### Parish Committee

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



### Church Calendar

We would like to keep the church calendar up-to-date. Please check the online calendar by visiting

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r/month/2021/9/1> 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.



## **An Amazing Journey**

This year we will embark on a pilgrimage of faith, exploring how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday action. We will explore historic and contemporary examples of the Unitarian Universalist faith in action through stories about real people who have activated their personal agency and capacity to act faithfully.

Each week we will share our faithful footprints, sharing examples of moments we have acted in faith with our seven principles. The footprints will add up to a grand path throughout the church year throughout our Parish Hall leading to our new club house and other special spots throughout.

## **RE Parent Meeting**

We will meet **Thursday, September 9, virtually at 7:00 p.m.** We will discuss planning for this year, what our ideas are for the children, and what our goals are for them for the year. A Zoom link will be sent out for our meeting in the Updates and via email prior to that day.

## **Senior Youth and Junior Youth**

Greg Stevens and Kelly Lownds will continue to work with the Senior and Junior Youth groups. We will have Youth Group from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. - splitting the time so that Junior Youth attends from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Senior Youths attend from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. I am looking for a volunteer who will be willing to run the groups with me once a month on the opposite weeks of Greg's time with the youth. We will once again make choices about our curriculum together.

## **Volunteers Needed!**

I am looking for teachers!! I have several volunteers who are ready for anything that ends up happening this year, but I can use a few more. There will be a training offered to any who are interested, and the lesson plans are all laid out for the year.

There are also opportunities to share the Message for All Ages if anyone is interested. It is always nice to have different voices to share the story, so let me know if you are open to telling the stories.

Once a month I am looking for a support for Junior and Senior youth. Ideally it would be one volunteer for ten Sunday evenings (once a month) over the church year. Greg and I will be working with the Junior and Senior Youth, and we would love help with both the older and younger children. I will be reaching out to everyone but would love anyone who knows they are interested to reach out and let me know at [dre@uumiddleboro.org](mailto:dre@uumiddleboro.org).

*Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration*

## VIRTUAL LET'S DO LUNCH



Thursdays: September 2 & 9  
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Links will be sent out for this event.



## VIRTUAL JUST THIS SANGHA

Fridays: September 3, 10, 17, 24  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

*Just This Sangha* meets virtually (via Zoom) nearly every Friday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 for silent meditation and sharing of our practice experience.



From a Buddhist, particularly Zen, perspective, we focus on bringing practice to daily life; exploring letting go of our usual habitual reactivity and opening to our selves and others as we actually are. Not a drop-in group, we do welcome potentially new members to join us for a few sessions to see if the group is a good fit. Contact Tom Tanguay at [Thisjustthis@gmail.com](mailto:Thisjustthis@gmail.com) for more information.



## JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND PEACE VIGILS

Saturdays: September 4, 11, 25  
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

We will continue scheduling weekly ½ hour vigils on Saturday mornings from 11:30 to 12:00 noon. In addition, we will be offering training to help us respond to folks with strong opinions. 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 visiting

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bh50g1GJo86U\\_kwcs9k95\\_PaZTPNP7i8CugTK77hd6o/edit#gid=247885754](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bh50g1GJo86U_kwcs9k95_PaZTPNP7i8CugTK77hd6o/edit#gid=247885754)



## VIRTUAL NEW MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson  
Monday, September 6  
6:00 - 6:45 p.m.



This month's New Moon falls in Virgo, the sign that rules precision, responsibility and accountability; gently nudging us toward personal mastery and right action.

As we emerge from the sweltering, murky heat of summer, we begin to breathe more clearly and deeply as the crispness of autumn approaches. We can use this atmospheric shift to good advantage as we set our intentions for the New Moon and plan the ways in which we can be of greater service to ourselves, our immediate and planetary families and to Mother Earth Herself. The challenges of our time seem to only be increasing, and we are all called upon to step up and step forth with clear vision, strong voices and an unwavering connection to our spiritual foundation.

Come join us on this night as we plan our next steps within the safety of our Circle. All are welcome. The link will be sent out for this event. (Please note: There will be no Full Moon Meditation this month.)



## VIRTUAL COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER



Tuesday, September 7  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

The link will be sent out for this event.



## ORDER OF SERVICE DEADLINE

If you would like an announcement or any information in the Sunday Order of Service, it is due in the church office ([office@uumiddleboro.org](mailto:office@uumiddleboro.org)) by the preceding Wednesday by 12:00 noon.



## PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 15  
6:30 p.m.  
in the Parish Hall

All members and friends are invited to attend the Parish Committee meeting.

## TRAIL WALK

Sunday, September 19

4:00 p.m.

On September 19 at 4:00 p.m., Juli Gould and Mike Schroeder will take their last entomology/botany walk for the year. This time they will walk at Pratt Farm in Middleboro.



They will follow the woodland trail that starts behind the sheep paddocks. It begins with a short incline and then curves with some ups and downs through lovely woods. As the trail circles the hill, swamp is always off to one side. If things are not too wet, they might just be able to take a side trail that crosses the swamp on a boardwalk. The vegetation is very diverse along this trail, so insect life will be diverse, too. Should be fun.

Juli and Mike hope you will join them. Please try to email Mike ([mwschroeder379@gmail.com](mailto:mwschroeder379@gmail.com)) if you are coming so they don't head out without you! And remember to dress to deter those insects that love to bite us human beings.

*Mike Schroeder and Juli Gould*



## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday, September 19

Please send your information for the October Newsletter to [office@uumiddleboro.org](mailto:office@uumiddleboro.org) by September 19.



## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, September 20

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

in the Parish Hall

The Book Club has continued to meet on the third Monday of each month. Our September selection is *The Moor's Account* by Laila Lalami. The October 18<sup>th</sup> title is *In Five Years* by Rebecca Serle. Carleen has multiple copies available to borrow. For more info, email her: [carleenml@aol.com](mailto:carleenml@aol.com).



## CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP

Wherever you are in the world, wherever your truth takes you on your spiritual journey, the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is there to keep you connected with Unitarian Universalism. Our thousands of members live all over the world. What brings us together is the desire to connect, seek, share and grow within Unitarian Universalism. Visit [clf.uua.org](http://clf.uua.org) for more information.

# MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

## July 21, 2021

**Present:** Jim Bonnar, Bob Waterman, Marc MacQueen, Rev. Sarah Person, Lois Aldrich, Katie Allen

**Minister's Report:** Rev. Sarah has been working on planning for the coming church year as well as working with the Pastoral Care Team in engaging with parishioners who are in need. The care team is seeking a new position, Pastoral Care Coordinator, that would oversee and work with Parish Care volunteers. The Pastoral Care Team will send draft of the position to Bob Waterman for review by the Leadership Team.

Paul Macuch, building contractor, will not be able to complete needed work by the church's original deadline due to the rain. He anticipates completing the work by September 19. A revised cost estimate will be forthcoming. If work cannot be completed in time for re-opening of church on September 12, the re-opening service will need to be held downstairs or held virtually, or both.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marc MacQueen reviewed the most recent Treasurer's Report for the church year ending June 30, 2021. Although we had budgeted a \$14,816 deficit for 20-21, we actually ended the year with a surplus of \$18,867. This is due to the generosity of gifts from parishioners, the hard work of those who coordinated and participated in fundraisers throughout the year, and a reduction in operational expenses during the pandemic year. Thank you to all who helped make 20-21 a fiscally strong year for the church!!

**Fundraising:** Bob Waterman reported that the final total for the spring auction is \$3,237!

Tony Soares and Steve Larrett are coordinating a Yard Sale to be held September 18 (or 25<sup>th</sup> pending weather). People will be able to rent tables to sell their wares, and food will also be sold. Further information will be provided in the UU Updates.

**Lakeville Arts Festival:** The festival is scheduled to be held on October 2. Applications for non-profits are due August 29. The PC discussion was centered around whether we should participate in the festival event or if there are other activities that may have similar yield with less work on the part of volunteers. Bob Waterman will email those who participated in the Lakeville Festival in the past to hear their ideas on how to proceed.

**Retreat:** The potential date for the PC Retreat was set for August 29, from 10:00 to 1:00. Given recent outbreaks of COVID, the decision on whether or not to have the retreat in-person is TBD. Decision to be made through email at a later date. Ideas for agenda items include: getting to know each other and church; how to be a leader/professional development; leadership as spiritual practice; discussion/review of church policies.

**Church Re-Opening/Multi-Platform Ministry:** Rev. Sarah has been meeting with Dan and Susan Hotchkiss and Alan Melchior to discuss strategies and estimate costs for implementing a multi- platform ministry that can offer both live and virtual access of church services. Three options were presented. Options vary according to cost/type of streaming services and level of equipment as well as various levels of copyright protections and privileges. The PC agreed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> option and authorized up to \$2,500 to purchase streaming services and tech equipment as needed to develop the platform. Steve Larrett volunteered to coordinate AV and train volunteers. Once developed, the tech team plans to evaluate during the course of the year to see how it is working and recommend any modifications. Currently, the church does not have a dedicated computer for this purpose, and Alan and Dan have been using their personal computers to manage the virtual services. The PC agreed that the church needs to have its own dedicated computer. Katie Allen offered to research the purchase of a computer for the church.

Bob Waterman suggested we put out an ask from the congregation for funds to donate toward this tech effort and will draft communication and send to the PC for review.


**Cash in the Plate for September:** Rev. Sarah reported a balance of \$10,000 in the Minister's Discretionary Fund, as there has been little call for assistance during the pandemic, mainly due to availability of COVID funds and policies. The PC agreed that the Cash in the Plate for September will go to the Discretionary Fund for now but will check with Social Justice at the end of the month to see if there is a more pressing need.

**Assistant Treasurer Position:** Bob Waterman reported that the Leadership Team continues outreach to fill this position.

**Next PC meeting: September 15, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**



## SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch  7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	3  6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	4  1:00 p.m. Pat Corbett Memorial  11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil
5	6   6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation	7 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall  10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister  7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	8  12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline  5:30 p.m. Music Committee, Parish Hall	9  12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch  7:00 p.m. Virtual RE Parent Meeting  7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	10  6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	11  10:00 Drive-By Water Communion  11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil
12	13	14 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall  7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	15  12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline  6:30 p.m. Parish Committee, Parish Hall	16  7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group	17  9:00 a.m. Yard Sale Set-Up  6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	18  8:00 a.m. Yard Sale, Church Lawn
19 10:30 a.m. Worship Service and R. E. Oct. Newsletter Deadline 4:00 p.m. Trail Walk 4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Parish Hall	20  5:30 p.m. Book Club, Parish Hall	21 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall  7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	22  12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	23  7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group	24  6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	25  Yard Sale Rain Date  11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil
26 10:30 a.m. Worship Service and R. E.  4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Parish Hall	27	28 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall  7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	29  12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	30  7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group		



[www.uua.org/new-england](http://www.uua.org/new-england)

***System Theory Learning Experience Module***

**This module is offered in an online format on Fridays: September 10, 17 & 24 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

Explore System Theory and how it can provide a unique perspective for understanding dynamics in the congregational setting. This training will be led by Connie Goodbread, Co-Lead of the Southern Region's Congregational Life Staff Team, and Nancy Combs-Morgan, religious educator and Congregational Life Consultant in the Mid-America Region. Registration is limited to 20 participants, and the fee is \$150, payable on a sliding scale according to availability to pay. More payment details are available on the registration form.

***Leading UU Culture Change Module***

**This module is offered in an online format on Mondays: September 13 & 20 2:00 - 4:45 p.m.**

Imagine a Unitarian Universalism that does not yet exist, where all people are welcome to bring their whole selves to our pluralist faith! This training will be led by Joy Berry and the Rev. Claudia Jimenez, credentialed religious educator. Registration is limited to 15 participants, and the value is \$340, payable on a sliding scale according to availability to pay. More payment details are available on the registration form. The registration deadline is August 30.

***Administration as Leadership Renaissance Module***

**This module is offered in an online format on Wednesdays: September 22 & 29 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Come learn how to set administrative duties in the context of the larger portfolio of religious education leadership! The module will be led by Andrea Lerner and Jess Hunt. Registration is limited to 15 participants, and the learning valued at \$250 with sliding scale, grant, and payment plan options available. More details are included on the registration form online. The registration deadline is September 8.

