



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

October 2022

*We are offering virtual and in-person worship services at 10:30 a.m.
The link to each service will be posted on our website every week.*

Sunday, October 2

Rev. Danielle Di Bona preaching

Purpose Not Perfection

This morning we welcome the Reverend Danielle Di Bona to the pulpit. Rev. Di Bona has served Unitarian Universalism for 30 years and is the 2018 recipient of the Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism. In her retirement, Rev. Di Bona serves as the Palliative Care Chaplain at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, MA. Special music will be provided by Bet Giddings.

Sunday, October 9

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

Columbus Meets Indigenous Peoples' Day

The teaching (and learning) of any society's history has ethical and cultural dimensions. Today, we'll talk about the uneasy coexistence of two national celebrations. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

Sunday, October 16

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

Finding Reverence in Everyday Life

Our daily lives seem to be composed of personal and public events: care of our bodies and our homes, our work life, shopping, running errands, driving from place to place. Where, in our daily routines, is there room for reverence? Special music will be provided by a Chalice Ensemble.

Sunday, October 23

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

Church Words

"Liturgical," "heresy," "pastor," "salvation," "grace." There are words we use at church that are not used elsewhere or that mean something different when used in secular life. Today we'll talk about a number of "church words," opening the windows of our sanctuary of understanding. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

Sunday, October 30

Rev. Dan Hotchkiss preaching

Life Eternal

In this season of All Souls, we remember those we loved and lost. We may anticipate rejoining them in heaven or treasure traces of their lives. We also wonder what will come of us when our time comes. Dan Hotchkiss will reflect on responses in our faith tradition to the pain and mystery of mortality. Special music will be provided by an instrumental trio: Patty Simon (flute, crumhorn, recorders), Barry Simon (hammered dulcimer, bass, percussion), and Polly Jacobson (recorders).

Rev. Dan Hotchkiss is a UU minister and author of *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*. Over the last 20 years, Dan has consulted on planning, leadership, and board governance with Christian, Jewish, and Islamic leaders in more than 33 faith families. Previously, Dan managed ministerial placement for the UUA and served parishes in New Haven and Boca Raton. He sings in the Chalice Choir and manages our website and online worship. His wife Susan serves as music director.

A Note from the Minister

Greetings, friends!

Whether we measure it by the meteorological calendar or the astronomical, there's no denying that fall has arrived. Our FUUSM community marked the beginning of a new church year, as well, with our annual ingathering service and water communion. From many places, many streams, we brought our containers of water, combining in one bowl this symbol of our ongoing life together. Then we added the water to our memorial garden, honoring our past and adding promise to our future.

Future minister's notes will be of a more reflective nature, I'm sure, but I thought my first letter to the congregation might serve best as a report on my first few weeks as your interim minister. I've met twice with the Parish Committee, once formally, once informally, and have enjoyed learning how the church conducts its business affairs and institutional functions. I've met with our wonderful Caring Teams and learned how truly they have earned that designation. I've met with our Social Justice Team and have been impressed with the variety of forms this church's social concern takes. I've led two worship services and delivered three sermons, trying my best to present myself authentically to the congregation as well as emphasizing the importance of building and sustaining community while watching out for the pitfalls that can complicate and even undermine our efforts. I've attended the second of many UUA trainings for those new to interim ministry and I attended the first of this year's meetings of the Ballou Channing UUMA chapter.

I've had my first meeting with church staff and have been favorably impressed by their skills, talent, and dedication. I've loved listening to the choir sing on two Sundays and have enjoyed Kelly Lownds' selections for stories for all ages. I've enjoyed meeting parishioners at coffee hours and church activities. And I've felt warmly welcomed by the church community, both at the "Welcome, Peter" event on September 11 (thank you, Andrea Priest for your leadership!) and elsewhere.

I think we're off to a wonderful start and I thank you all for the parts you've played in that. May the fall bring blessings of a fresh start to all of us in whatever stage of life we find ourselves. And may our spirits unite to light the way as we move into this new stage of church life together.

See you at church!

Rev. Peter

COTTAGE MEETINGS

Rev. Connolly and the Parish Committee invite you to sign up for one of the twelve cottage meetings that will be set up between October 12 and November 19. These meetings will be a chance for church members to meet and get to know the minister and Parish Committee members better.



We hope to hear from you as to what brings you to church, why you keep coming, what feeds your spirit, and what you feel passionate about. Most meetings will be in person, offered twice a week on different days and times to accommodate your schedule. Two of the meeting times will be reserved for "virtual" meetings for those who live at a distance or are homebound. (At least four members will need to sign up for a meeting to be confirmed.) Snacks and beverages will be provided by the Parish Committee. Please use the sign-up sheets on the Parlor table, check the [online church calendar](#) for dates, or email office@uumiddleboro.org.



OCTOBER MUSIC MUSINGS



What joy to be back in our precious resonant Sanctuary on Sunday mornings – congregants scattered throughout the room, rafters lifting with soaring voices, technology streaming to those who cannot be with us in person. We are indeed back in church, and we are on a roll.

Choir registration is currently on hold because our numbers are maxed out. This is not a bad problem! The Chalice Choir sings for worship every other Sunday, and the “non-choir” Sundays are reserved for musicians to share solos or ensembles. Several years ago, we had an occasional “Family Choir” where any singers who showed up at 10:00 practiced a song together to share in a Musical Offering for the service. It was a fun intergenerational happening. Anybody up for this in October? I’m looking at the 16th and would love to hear your feedback. Fear not, a few members of the Chalice Choir always show up – it’s not like you’re naked up there on the chancel.

We also occasionally put together Caring Choirs to go on the road to any congregant who desires some TLC with a 30-minute hymn-sing. I had a group on my front porch this summer after knee surgery, and it was thrilling to be surrounded by voices and familiar UU church music. True confession: I cried. I’m not a crier. It was great!

December is coming up. I’m working on a caring choir gig for caroling at group homes as well as our “shut in” congregants – stay tuned for more.

If you have questions about music, you can easily reach me through the church directory or by emailing music@uumiddleboro.org. And check out the new music page on the church website at www.uumiddleboro.org/music.

Susan Land Hotchkiss, Director of Music



RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, October 1 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Church Lawn

Our church will be offering its annual Rummage Sale Fundraiser this Saturday, October 1! How can you help?

1. Rent a table for \$25.00-proceeds are yours.

Spaces are 10' X 10' and available on a first come basis, large enough for an 8' table with plenty more space to lay out your treasures. Table and 1 chair are included. You must take away all items that do not sell.

Deadline: Friday at noon

Contact: andreapriesto@gmail.com

2. Encourage family, friends and neighbors to rent/share a table.

3. DONATE up to 5 items to the church table. Items MUST be clean, in good condition and useable.

Items that sell well include: small kitchen appliances, kitchen goods, tools, new clothes with original tags, toys/games. Please bring items Saturday morning between 8:00 and 9:00. Other arrangements may be possible. Contact Andrea.

4. Donate bags to yard sale.



Welcome Back Everyone! Sunday School is back in person this year!! Church starts at 10:30, and we will be meeting during the church service and head downstairs after the Message for All Ages around 10:45. Registration is rolling and can be completed at any time.

Registration Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQOe5r9Vrq3mvRsPLXYSRb6Xpcl-uhLg5ChzswG2ZVuPqiJQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Religious Exploration: This year we are *Exploring Beyond Our Walls*. Every day our children are faced with difficult decisions and situations. We have agreed as a group to really try to understand and learn our Seven Principles, and through the year we will be collecting gems that will represent our learnings through moral tales. Our youth will explore various types of worship, and we'll and take some "field trips" to other religious services in the area. Our older youth will meet on Sunday evenings every second and fourth Sunday starting October 9 from 5:00 to 7:00. We have been considering other times/days to accommodate work schedules, but we will start with our normal plan for now.

Parent Coffee Hour: Our parent group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month after church. We will meet at 11:45. I will set up a table in the children's area for anyone interested in meeting in person, and we will have a link that will go out in Updates for anyone wishing to join virtually.

Annual Bonfire Party: We will have our annual church bonfire (aka, Halloween party with roasted marshmallows over a small grill) on October 30, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. at the church. We will play some of our traditional games – the bone hunt, toilet paper mummies, balloon stomp, donuts on a string and trick or treat as well as some new ideas.

Volunteer Opportunities: Our first RE Committee meeting will be October 5 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at church, and new members are welcome. You do not need a child participating in the RE program to join, just ideas and a love of our youth. Please consider volunteering to teach downstairs for a section of our program. We also need volunteers to help with plays and skits during the year as well as readers for our Message for All Ages during the service. Please contact dre@uumiddleboro.org if you are interested.

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration



THE RETURN OF COFFEE HOUR

We are all so glad to be back together in our sanctuary for the worship service (sometimes with a mask).

Many of you have expressed to leadership the importance of a Coffee Hour following the service to be able to socialize. Coffee Hour will be offered in the Parish Hall. If we are not in the green risk level for Covid, please take your coffee or beverage outside to socialize. If there is not a volunteer Coffee Hour host, coffee plus will not be provided.

We hope that you will all sign up to host Coffee Hour so that we can provide a nice social hour. We have instructions, or Andrea can walk you through. We are trying to keep it simple, but providing drink and snacks to the public requires that we follow health department guidelines. For safety, we will be using paper products. Please contact andrepriesto@gmail.com to sign up to be a host. If we all take a Sunday or two, the job will get done.

2ND ANNUAL ROAD RALLY

Saturday, October 22 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Middleboro Town Hall Parking Lot

Fundraiser contest with teams competing for trophies by following directions and answering questions along a specific route. Start times spread out over an hour. Entertainment, snacks and beverages are provided at the end while awaiting scoring and awards. Cars/teams start at the Middleboro Town Hall Parking Lot. Gathering outside UU church as teams finish for entertainment and snacks.

Maximum number of teams - 20. Minimum of 2 per team (Driver and Navigator) and maximum of 4 per team (1 or 2 extra members to help with directions and answering questions). Severe weather date October 29.



UU FUNd Raiser Road Rally!!



Join those wild and crazy folks at the UU for the 2nd Annual Road Rally on 10/22/22!*
Maximum 20 teams departing at 3 minute intervals starting 9:30 AM.

A Road Rally is a **SKILLS** competition, not a race.

- Each team has a minimum of a Driver (at least 21 years of age) and a Navigator. It is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that each team have one or two additional team members to work on clues/questions. The Driver must concentrate on driving!
- The "course" is over public roads. The teams follow directions and solve clues. The team that drives the course in the time and distance closest to the official targets and correctly answers the most "Point Questions" wins**.
- One Trophy each will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, and each placing team member will receive a medal. There will also be a "trophy" for last place.

A donation of \$40 per vehicle is suggested. This is a fund raising event, so additional contributions welcome and appreciated.

JOIN THE FUN! Entertainment and snacks will be provided following the Rally at the UU.

Join us, rain or shine, for a most excellent **ADVENTURE!!***

Are we going the wrong way?



Go horsey! We're winning!!



I think we might be in the wrong race...



I can't see thru the tint!!



- * **Severe weather** date 10/29/22; otherwise, rain or shine, the Rally is on!
- **See "Rally Instructions..." for scoring details and more information.
- Contact John Mullen at JohnNMullen@gmail.com for more info and to request registration forms.



PEACE, JUSTICE & EQUALITY VIGIL

Saturdays: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We will continue scheduling weekly ½ hour vigils on Saturday mornings from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on the church lawn. 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. All are invited to join in. Sign up for training and/or the vigil by visiting [Vigil Sign-Ups](#).

SOCIAL JUSTICE GET OUT THE VOTE CAMPAIGN

Come have some fun, sociability and great munchies while working to further justice and strengthen our democracy. We have a letter writing campaign in conjunction with the UUA and Vote Forward to turn out as many voters in the November elections as possible. To date we have written almost 500 letters. Can we make it to 1000 by the end of Oct.? Maybe we can with your help.

The letters are mostly prepared. You simply write a small note in addition to the prepared letter about why you vote and sign your first name. We provide the letters, the names of the persons to whom the letters go, and the envelopes. We have some stamps or you can provide your own.

Can you take home 10 letters, fill them out sometime before October 24 and return them to the Social Justice box in the Parlor?

OR

Can you put a book of stamps in the collection plate for the offering?

OR

Can you join us in the Parish Hall on any of the following dates for a sociable hour of letter writing?

Monday, October 3 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 15 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Monday, October 24 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

If you have questions and would like more information, please contact either Deanne Bonnar or Dody Adkins-Perry or any member of the Social Justice Team. You can also send an email to sjteam@uumiddleboro.org. We hope to see you at one or all of the sessions. Together we can make a difference.



VIRTUAL JUST THIS SANGHA

Fridays: October 7, 14, 21, 28 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 ourselves 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 for more information.

VIRTUAL FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Sunday, October 9 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.



This Full Moon falls in the sign of Aries, the sign of the zodiac most associated with innovation, courage to act boldly and leadership. The Full Moon always holds a sense of completion, of bringing to fruition what we have been trying to manifest in our lives.

Aries lends his momentum to this night as we reflect on our progress with all we have taken on in this tumultuous year of 2022. At times it seems like the challenges keep changing and rather than reaching completion just morph into some new obstacle or issue to be dealt with. It is easy to feel discouraged and overwhelmed by all that needs tending in our world. On this night, however, let's share our dreams and plans and scrutinize them under the bright Harvest Moon. Let us reflect with clarity and true vision on how far we have come and how we have grown in strength, wisdom and compassion. Let us come together on this night to share our collective journey and consider how much further we can go.....together. All are welcome.

The link for this event will be sent out to *UU Updates* subscribers.



FOOD HANDLERS EXAM

Sunday, October 16, at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 p.m.

in the Parish Hall

Please use the sign-up sheet in the Kitchen OR call the Church Office at 508-947-1935

Food Handler Certification is required by the Town of Middleborough for anyone who handles or prepares food for the UU Middleboro church. There is no fee if you take your certification through UU Middleboro. For your convenience we have two dates set up for the training and exam. The certification will expire at the end of December 2023. This certification is also valid for other Town agencies serving food.

It is easy to become certified. You watch a video (approximately 40 minutes) and answer 10 questions on an exam which is corrected by the Town Health Dept. Please sign up for either October 16 or November 6 (both at 2:00). There is a sheet on a cabinet in the Kitchen, OR you may call the Church Office at 508-947-1935. If you need certification and neither date works for you, please contact Valarie in the Church Office.

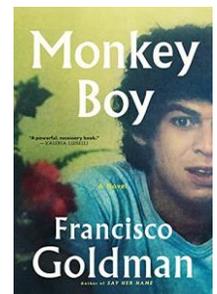


BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, October 17 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

in the Parish Hall

The Book Group continues to meet on the third Monday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our October 17 selection is *Monkey Boy* by Francisco Goldman.



If you would like more information please contact Carleen, carleenml@aol.com.

**VIRTUAL
PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, October 19 6:30 p.m.

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

The link for this event will be sent by email to *UU Updates* subscribers.



HOLIDAY FAIR NEXT MONTH!

Saturday, November 12 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

A reminder that our holiday craft fair will be taking place in the Parish Hall on Saturday, November 12, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. All available tables have been reserved, and there should be a nice variety of crafts as well as baked goods! I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the fair!

Linda Thompson has donated a handmade king-size blue and white quilt to be raffled off. She is generously donating to the church all proceeds from the raffle. She has made one request: a minimum of \$500 worth of raffle tickets needs to be sold for this quilt to be raffled off. **Beginning Sunday, October 21**, we will have raffle tickets for sale before and after church in the Parlor. Tickets will be \$5/ticket or a book of 5 tickets for \$20. Most of us know the quality and beauty of Linda's quilts, and she has been very generous over the years donating quilts to raise funds for the church. I am hoping to exceed Linda's goal of \$500 worth of raffle tickets! If you cannot get to church but are interested in purchasing some tickets, please reach out to me, and I will see how I can get tickets to you!



If you are interested in donating baked goods or craft items to the church tables at the fair, helping with set up on Friday afternoon, November 11, or working at one of the church tables, please let me know. I can be reached by email at katieallen57@outlook.com or on Sundays before or after church. Thank you so much for your support!

Katie Allen



INSULATE MIDDLEBOROUGH

Learn how you can save hundreds on your heating bill

Saturday, October 22 12:00 noon

Middleborough Public Library Community Room



You can save hundreds on your heating bill by weatherizing your home. Come learn how you can get some or even ALL of your weatherization costs paid for.

Loie Hayes, an energy efficiency expert from Green Energy Consumers Alliance, will explain how to get ready for the coming rebates and tax credits for weatherization, heat pumps, and more, when the new \$369 billion federal Inflation Reduction Act goes into effect January 1.

Our local volunteer group, Sustainable Middleborough, will be launching its Insulate Middleborough campaign at this event and telling how you can get involved. For more information, contact sustainablemiddleborough@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Monday, October 24

Articles for the October Newsletter may be submitted to office@uumiddleboro.org. The Newsletter deadline is the fourth Monday of every month; this is a firm deadline. Any items submitted after that date may be included in the *UU Updates*.



VIRTUAL NEW MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Tuesday, October 25 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

This New Moon falls in the sign of Scorpio, the sign that invites us to go deep, to have the courage to face the shadows in order to glean the gifts that lie within.



Just as all that has grown and flowered prepares now to draw its energy down through its roots and enter into the womb of the earth, so might we find solace and comfort in the darkness and allow ourselves to be held in that same warm embrace. Soon we shall enter into the dreamtime of the year, the time of cocooning, of rest and repair.

Let us come together on this dark moon night to share in this restorative time together. May Scorpio guide us in our collective journey toward greater discernment as we prepare to go within and embrace our true essence. All are welcome.

The link for this event will be sent out to UU Updates subscribers.



CUUPS

SAMHAIN RITUAL

**Monday, October 31, at 7:00 p.m.
in the Parish Hall**

The Wheel of the Year has turned once more bringing us to Samhain, the final harvest. Again, the year has been one of challenge and change for each of us and for our community. In our church family as well as the world at large, there have been losses of many kinds.

Tonight we will depart a bit from our usual format. We will create sacred space and share in calling directions, lighting candles and sharing the meaning of Samhain, but we will also invite anyone who chooses to share a remembrance of someone or something they have lost either recently or in the past. Anything that is on your heart to share is welcome. Samhain is the night when the veil between the worlds is the thinnest, and so our connection to those who have gone before is most available.

There will be space on our altar for photos or other remembrances to be placed and shared. We will also honor the ancestors of our lineages as well as our more immediate beloved dead. Witnessing in silence is also fine. It will be a time of connecting, honoring and celebrating the lives of all who came before and who still watch over us from beyond the veil. It is implicit that all are held in perfect trust.

A simple feast will follow our ritual. All are welcome.



NEW LIGHTING INSTALLED

by Dan Hotchkiss

Thanks to the efforts of many, new stage lighting designed by Stephen Larrett has been installed in the front of our sanctuary. A crew consisting of Mark Belanger, Jim Bonnar, Dan Hotchkiss, Bill Howe, Brian Kowalski, Marc MacQueen, and Alan Melchior did most of the work, all under the active leadership of Rick Benard. The main installation took place on August 21, with touchups continuing.

If you watch the video recording of the [September 11 church service](#), you'll see what a difference the new lights make. Cameras need light to see, and so do people. These new lights bring us closer to our goal of true "hybrid" worship that works for people in the room and people online, too.

The new lights are controlled from a laptop computer in the sound booth. They can vary in brightness from gentle to mind-altering—and in color from cool sunlight to warm candlelight. A simple work light in the chancel (where the organ is) runs on a simple switch, and we hope soon to have a one-switch solution for the remainder of the lights as well.



Bill Howe proved to be an agile scaffold climber.



Stephen Larrett supervising as the lights are aimed and focused.



Rick Benard provided scaffolding and much of the construction know-how.



Mark Belanger discusses the process with pew mover Mark MacQueen.



Alan Melchior, purchasing manager and arranger-in-chief

STREAMING WORSHIP IN NEW WAYS

by Dan Hotchkiss

Our church has been recording services for years and putting them on Public Access TV. Then in March 2020, the Covid epidemic pushed us into high gear. Without missing a beat, we put our services online by Zoom, staffed initially by the husbands of our minister and music director. Study groups, choir rehearsals, ministerial office hours, and business meetings went on Zoom as well. Our church is in much better shape today because we did all this.

Streamed worship is one thing; hybrid worship is another. Last spring, we started to invite people back to church in person. That was wonderful—but it presented a new challenge for the Stream Team in the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary. In addition to sending worship video out into the world, Stream Teamers simultaneously had to host a Zoom meeting, manage PA and hearing-assist systems in the sanctuary, and run PowerPoint shows containing hymn words, audio, and video. It was exciting!—in fact more exciting than most of us found comfortable. It was time to rethink the whole system for a new, and hopefully post-Covid, era.



ATEM in Action

Enter ATEM—more formally, the [Blackmagic ATEM Mini Pro](#) video switcher. ATEM* accepts up to four inputs (we use two cameras and a PowerPoint show) and lets the operator choose which one to stream by pushing a few buttons. The video appears live [on our own website](#) and is automatically recorded by YouTube. Early each week, we trim out all but the sermon, which remains available for church shoppers and others to watch.

We're still in learning mode, but already, life in the sound booth has calmed down considerably. With church open, we have fewer online viewers. Some of them—as before—leave without sticking around for a Zoom gathering that happens after church. We'll have to see how many people watch in the long run, and how useful having sermons available turns out to be.

If you have questions, you can contact [Dan Hotchkiss](#). He'll be especially glad to hear from you if you are interested in training as an ATEM operator. If you have suggestions about the overall direction of our worship work, tell Peter Connolly or a member of the Parish Committee.



*In case you're curious, ATEM is named after the Egyptian god usually spelled Atum, known as “the finisher of worlds.”

**MINUTES OF THE
VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
September 21, 2022**

Present: Bob Waterman, Lois Aldrich, Marc MacQueen, Jim Bonnar, Rev. Peter Connolly, Nicole Sykes

Guests: Susan Hotchkiss, Dan Hotchkiss

August 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes: PC voted to approve meeting minutes.

Treasurer: Bob Waterman has been acting Treasurer and emailed PC with July-August Treasurer Report. It was noted that we are a little behind in pledges. No other issues noted.

Minister's Report: Rev. Peter sent around a brief report on his activities since he came aboard. He has also been participating in UUA trainings for ministerial transitions. It was noted how well Rev. Peter's first Sunday service went, nice to see new faces and new energy! Much positive feedback was also received from the congregation. It was also the first Sunday service since the pandemic where masks were not required due to low risk levels in Plymouth County (per CDC report).

Music: Susan Hotchkiss submitted report for Music Committee to Jim Bonnar. Report included Music Committee's monthly report as well a report on finances, including the cost to run our music program and maintain instruments (including organ). Setting aside \$1000/year would help to build a cushion to ensure organ is properly maintained. Additional funds to enrich current music programs would also be appreciated. Discussion around the use of the Avis Clay donation to fund music programs.

Social Justice Team: Bob provided an update on our Social Justice Team, which continues its partnerships with local community organizations such as Brockton NAACP, BCCR, Sustainable Middleboro, and Matthew Mission. Social Justice is also coordinating opportunities for congregation members to engage in "get out the vote" activities and has scheduled six sessions where participants will write get out the vote letters for Vote Forward. Dates and times for these letter writing sessions can be found in the UU Updates. The Social Justice Team will have available the letters, envelopes, stamps, pens and some goodies to keep us writing. The goal is to write 1,000 letters over the six sessions. Letters will be mailed out October 29. The congregation is invited to donate stamps as part of Cash in the Plate over the next few weeks to help in this effort.

Rev. Peter visited Matthew Mission and reported that they are looking for volunteers. This will be posted in the UU Updates.

Cash in the Plate: The PC approved the Matthew Mission for November. Bob will ask the Social Justice Team to make a recommendation for October. Organizations that receive Cash in the Plate must be non-profit 501©(3) tax exempt.

Fundraising: Bob reported that the Church had a table at the recent Sip and Stroll event which took place on the Town Hall Green and was very well attended. It was not a big moneymaker for the Church, but it offered us a great opportunity for community relations.

(continued on next page)

Other Events: Yard Sale on October 1 being organized by Tony Soares and Steve Larrett; Road Rally on October 22 coordinated by John Mullen; Holiday Fair on November 12 coordinated by Katie Allen.

Public Relations/Communications: Looking to enhance Church's public relations strategies, use of website, etc. Rev. Peter, Jim Bonnar, Bob Waterman and Dan Hotchkiss to discuss and present ideas to the PC.

Cottage Meetings: Rev. Peter shared a proposed schedule for Cottage Meetings with the congregation members. The schedule offers two meetings per week between October 12 and November 19 at different times. The purpose of Cottage Meetings is not only to get to know each other better but to hear from people as to what brings them to church, why they keep coming, what feeds their spirit, and what is it they feel passionate about. It is hoped these meetings can serve as a foundation to revisit our Mission Statement and provide guidance to the congregation during this transition period. Meetings should ideally include seven people. Each PC member agreed to choose two meetings they will attend. Rev. Peter will need someone to take notes. There will also be refreshments. Bob will email the schedule to PC members and will speak with Val about sign up strategies for the congregation. Peter will present information on Cottage Meetings at the Sunday service.

Avis Clay Donation: Discussion of how the Church can best utilize the generous gift being donated by Avis Clay's family in keeping with the family's requests as to how they would like to see the donation used. Bill Howe is drawing up a proposal for this, and the PC will review.

Electrical Proposal: The estimated cost to replace fluorescent lights with LEDs is \$2200. -Marc will follow up.

Open Positions in the Church: Gil Cote has been acting as temporary Assistant Treasurer. Marc has volunteered to take on the position of Assistant Treasurer. The PC approved. The PC continues to seek someone to fill the position of Treasurer.

Eighth Principle: Some UUs have adopted the 8th Principle. It was agreed that our Social Justice Team would be the best option to explore this further for our church. However, it was agreed that Social Justice is managing many other projects at the moment so will need to table this for future discussion.

Quarterly Budget Report: Discussion around whether or not the PC should continue providing quarterly budget reports to the congregation and what format this should take. Decision was made to table discussion for a future meeting.

Next meeting: October 19 at 6:30.

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
Parish Care Coordinator: Mal Marvill
Minister: Rev. Peter Connolly

Parish Committee

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



OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Peter Connolly's office hours are
Wednesdays
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
He is also available by appointment.
Monday is the minister's day off.
He will respond to emails and messages
beginning on Tuesday of the week.

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

The details in this Newsletter are up-to-date as of the publication, but there may be changes/updates, so be sure to check the weekly "UU Updates" for any updated information. If you are not subscribed to receive the "UU Updates," send an email to office@uumiddleboro.org, and we will add you to the mailing list.

OCTOBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale, Church Lawn 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil
2 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration	3 10:00 a.m. Letter Writing Campaign, Parish Hall	4 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	5 9:00 a.m. Kitchen Cleaning 10:00 am-1:00 pm Minister's Hours 12:00 noon O of S Deadline 7:00 p.m. Virtual RE Committee, Parish Hall	6 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	7 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	8 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
9 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 11:45 a.m. Virtual RE Parent Coffee Hour, Parish Hall 5:00 p.m. Senior Youth, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. Virtual Full Moon Meditation	10 	11 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	12 10:00 a.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall 10:00 am-1:00 pm Minister's Office Hours 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 7:00 p.m. Virtual Music Committee	13 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	14 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	15 10:30 a.m. Letter Writing Campaign, Parish Hall 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn 4:00 p.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall
16 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 2:00 p.m. Food Handlers Exam, Parish Hall	17 4:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall	18 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	19 10:00 am-1:00 pm Minister's Hours 12:00 noon O of S Deadline 4:00 p.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall 6:30 p.m. Parish Committee	20 7:00 p.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	21 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	22 9:30 a.m. 2nd Annual Road Rally 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil 12:00 noon Sustainable Middleboro, Middleboro Library
23 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 5:00 p.m. Senior Youth, Parish Hall	24 November Newsletter Deadline 7:00 p.m. Letter Writing Campaign, Parish Hall	25 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	26 10:00 am-1:00 pm Minister's Office Hours 10:00 a.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	27 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	28 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 4:00 p.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	29 9:30 a.m. Road Rally Rain Date 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
30 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 12:00 noon RE Halloween Party, Parish Hall	31  7:00 p.m. Samhain Ritual, Parish Hall					



[NEW ENGLAND REGION PROGRAMS | NEW ENGLAND REGION | UUA.ORG](https://www.uua.org)

Claiming Our Spiritual Leadership: Faithful, Effective Practices for Boards, Staff, and Volunteers

Sunday, October 23, 2022, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

First Parish in Framingham UU, 24 Vernon St, Framingham, MA 01701

A workshop designed for boards, committees, church staff, newly nominated or elected leaders, and volunteers who want to tap their individual and collective power for living into the mission and purpose of their congregation. \$30 per person. Each person who wishes to attend should register individually. There are no group registrations for this event.

Presenters: Your New England Region UUA Staff Team

Family Ministry Training (online)

The Family Ministry Training Renaissance Module will be offered in an online format on **Wednesdays, October 26 to December 7 (skipping November 23) from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.** This training will be led by Kathy Smith and Rev. Samaya Oakley. Registration is limited to 15 participants and the standard fee is \$225. If the standard rate price is prohibitive, please take advantage of our community rates. The registration deadline is Tuesday October 11, 2022.

