



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

September 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, September 4

Enjoy Labor Day Weekend! Remember to join us for our Ingathering Service on September 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 11

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching
Ingathering Water Communion and
Old Friend from Far Away

Bring a small amount of water from some place that means something to you – a home, a destination, a special time, a special person. We will gather the donations, bless the water, and pour it over our Memorial Garden after the service. Our new Interim Minister, Peter Connolly, will introduce himself to us, telling something about the experiences that have helped shape his worldview and spiritual outlook. The Chalice Choir will sing, and there will be a special coffee hour after the service to “Welcome Peter.”

Sunday, September 18

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching
The Virtues and Challenges of Community

As Unitarian Universalists, we value our individuality, our freedom to be the authors of our own destiny. But we are also each a part of an interdependent web of community. How do we reconcile these potentially conflicting roles? Special music will be provided by a Chalice Ensemble.

Sunday, September 25

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

Topic will be announced later in the month.

The Chalice Choir will be singing this morning.

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.



SEPTEMBER MUSIC MUSINGS



Homecoming, at long last! After two and a half years of mostly virtual church, we are moving into a time of mostly in-person worship. Last spring, as a few people started coming to church, I heard people crying. I was crying! Experiencing the resonance of our sanctuary reminded us of what we had lost during our months of virtual services--not only in music but in the warmth of physically being together. This year we are gathering in a new but familiar way. For those who cannot be with us in person, there will still be a virtual option, but the focus will be on the experience within the sanctuary. Kudos to our technology folks.

Chalice Choir rehearsals from 7:00 to 8:15 begin again on Tuesday evenings, starting August 30. There may be scheduled solo and ensemble rehearsals after or before the full choir rehearsals. The Chalice Choir sings for worship every other Sunday. Members of our music community offer special music on "non-choir" Sundays – instrumentalists, solos, ensembles. It would be lovely to have children involved in music-making once again.

This year the Chalice Choir will work on a masterpiece by John Rutter (*Requiem*) which has a 40-minute performance time divided into seven independent pieces. The bulk of the work will be presented for Music Sunday in May, but some movements will be offered in other services. John Rutter is perhaps the best-known living choral composer of our time, and last spring the choir sang his lush setting of "A Ukrainian Prayer."

If you have questions about music, please be in touch. If you are new to our church, welcome! 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 Hotchkiss, Director of Music



MEMORIAL GARDEN BLOOMS



This summer, the FUUSM Memorial Garden was a sight to behold! Kudos first of all to Mike Schroeder, who was the group leader for many years and has now moved and passed the baton to Patty Simon. Kudos next to the other gardeners for this season: Susie Sherman, Bill Howe, Nancy Backus, Cindy and Rick Benard, Jeff Stevens, and Susan Hotchkiss. This crew met twice a month starting in April through August. Now we will rest up to get ready for the fall clean-up. Please let Patty Simon know if you'd like to be part of our gardening work parties.



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. We head downstairs after the Message for All Ages around 10:45. We will have registration on 9/11/2022, and our first class will be on 9/18/2022. Our older youth will meet on Sunday evenings every other week. More to come on this!

Are you looking for a safe space to bring your children on Sunday mornings where they can grow socially, emotionally and spiritually? Please consider joining us on a Sunday morning. Enrollment is available at any time during the school year. Please join us in person or look for the registration link coming soon.

This year we are Exploring Beyond Our Walls. Every day our children are often faced with difficult decisions and situations. We will use moral tales and lessons to provide children with the spiritual and ethical tools they will need to make choices and take actions reflective of their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values. Our youth will explore various types of worship as well and take some "field trips" to other religious services in the area.

All RE youth are invited to get together on Monday, September 5, at 1pm. An invitation will be coming out soon with the address. We will have some pizza, some swimming and some fun to celebrate being together again!

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



JIM NORRIS HONORED BY PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE

On Saturday, August 12, Jim Norris was recognized by the Prime Timers Worldwide as one of three surviving founding members of the Boston Prime Timers. Boston Prime Timers was organized in 1987 as a social group for gay men seeking an alternative to the bar scene to socialize and gather in fellowship. The Prime Timers has since grown. Currently, there are over 80 chapters in North America alone! He was presented a medallion and award by the president and vice president of Prime Timers Worldwide during a visit to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the founding chapter. Jim is also a founding member of the Rhode Island Prime Timers!

Congratulations Jim!



ELSIE GAUDETTE AWARD

2022



The church body has a unique award presented to an individual who most exemplifies the qualities that the original Elsie Gaudette had. Though she passed away in the 1990's, this award was created in 1991 to honor her service. She was a most extraordinary member of very long standing. There were a very few positions and jobs she didn't hold. Back in the 1960's, the church nearly closed. She was and had been on the Parish Committee who voted to sell the parsonage and make one last attempt to keep the church going and find a minister. It worked, and the resurgence began.

Elsie defined service to the church. She simply saw a need and filled it. She never waited to be asked to help or gave it a second thought. All the recipients of this award do the same over many years. Many are still here, contributing. They are: Kimberly French, Sue Sherman, Rick Benard, Linda Thompson, Marc MacQueen, Jeff Stevens, Cheryl MacQueen, Cindy Benard, Andrea Priest, JR Pucillo-Dunphy, and Maria Pucillo-Dunphy. They are "who" we are.

Today we honor another such person for service to this church body. Since they first arrived in Middleboro, they have pitched in to small town life and small church life. Small churches need people who can be jacks of all trades, people who will try to do things they have never thought they would, but willing.

We needed helpful hands-on Building and Grounds projects, lighting repairs, carpentry projects, roof repairs, heating and air conditioning. Need a little help on Church yard sales, yard cleanups, an appetizing favorite dish by an amateur cook for Men Who Cook, Women Who Sing, an extra hand in the garden, or simple plumbing? He'll volunteer and do it.

He volunteered on the big I Love My Church campaign project, the Finance Committee, the Investment Committee, and has been a major participant in the Black Lives Matter Social Justice Committee actions and programs. He was a major contributor in the Web of Life Curriculum and has always been one of the "Show Up" people.

He has jumped into small town affairs as well, speaking up at Town meetings, helping to write a grant for the Sustainable Middleboro Project, and attends G & E meetings.

He has an easy way of engaging in conversation with anyone, has a great sense of humor and a great laugh! And he loves the Red Sox!

All of these activities would have been enough, but they all preceded his greatest contribution to church life. In March 2020, life changed for everyone in the world and in Middleboro, and here. I'm pretty sure he never expected to become an expert in streaming worship services to the confined-at-home congregants of FUUSM. But he did. He thought his new retirement plans were going to be different. Instead, he jumped into learning how to put Rev. Sarah and Susan Hotchkiss on ZOOM, becoming a ZOOM master taking the lead in managing Sunday services and creating virtual spaces for small groups to meet. This year he shifted toward creating a tech team to share the A/V work, and it's a good thing he did, because they were able to take over his work when he became incapacitated in May. Bravo!

Please congratulate our latest Elsie Gaudette award recipient,

Alan Melchior.

VIRTUAL JUST THIS SANGHA

Fridays: September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 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 for more information.



JUSTICE, EQUALITY & PEACE VIGILS

Saturdays: September 3, 10, 17, 24 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](#).



VIRTUAL FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Saturday, September 10 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.



This Full Moon is in the sign of Pisces and is a reminder that we have just recently emerged from the 2000 year long Piscean Age and crossed the threshold into the Age of Aquarius. The past two millennia have been steeped in 3D duality where we were taught that life was hard, that we needed to sacrifice in order to have the things we wanted or needed. We all grew up believing in the concept of lack, that there was not enough to go around, in survival of the fittest, in a dog eat dog world.....one of limitation and punishment for thinking too far outside the box.

This new world we are now beginning to navigate...the world of 5D.... dispels all of that. We now know that the world is what we make it to be, that we ourselves are co-creators of all that we see. The only limitations are those we impose upon ourselves. This world is a place where there is abundance enough for us all to thrive. It is a world that is kind and compassionate. We are beginning to understand that there is no need for sacrifice.....there is however the need for responsibility. We are moving out of fear and into love.

Join us on this night as we explore what is now possible if only we have the courage to open our hearts and dream. All are welcome.

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

SNACK & PLAY FUNDRAISER

COME JOIN IN THE FUN!

Saturday, September 17 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The Burt Wood School of Performing Arts is hosting another Sip & Stroll event on the Middleboro Town Hall Lawn. There will be more than 80 vendors selling goods and goodies, as well as several food trucks offering delectable delights.

Our Church will have a "Snack & Play" area. We'll be offering snacks and drinks for purchase, an area for kids (of all ages) with games and crafts, and a rest area with tables and chairs for folks to take a break from all the sipping and strolling. It's a chance for us to be visible and raise a little cash for our Church.

Please plan to come by, hang out, and have some fun. It's a great chance for us to make ourselves known to the community!

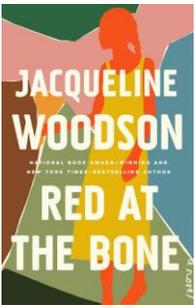


BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, September 19 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

The Book Club continues to meet on the third Monday of each month with a few changes. We now meet from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and everyone attending will be getting their own copy of the book.

The September 19th selection is Red at the Bone by Jacqueline Woodson. For more info, contact Carleen at carleenml@aol.com.



CUUPS MABON RITUAL

Monday, September 19 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The Wheel of the Year has turned again, bringing us to Mabon, the Second Harvest. We also celebrate the Fall Equinox, one of two times each year when the hours of sunlight and darkness are equal.

This night we stand on the threshold, revelling in the bountiful harvest while looking ahead to the fallow times soon to follow. Mabon asks us to consider all the dualities in our own lives: light and dark, male and female, good and evil, lack and abundance, grief and joy, love and fear. Keeping ourselves in a state of equilibrium takes constant vigilance as does understanding that both are important and necessary. To keep them in balance requires a nimble step as we dance this cosmic dance of Life.

We will share a simple ritual this night of naming and honoring both the shadow and the light. We invite you to bring something to read and share that reflects the season and the theme of this Sabbat. We will follow with a simple feast of finger foods. Current Covid guidelines shall apply. All are welcome.



VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 21 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.



VIRTUAL NEW MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Sunday, September 25 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

This New Moon is in the sign of Libra and falls a few days past the Fall Equinox, one of two times in the year when the hours of dark and light are equal. Libra encourages us to examine the dualities in our own lives and learn to balance them. To regard them not as “either/or” but as “both/and”. Everything has an opposite: night and day, light and dark, summer and winter, male and female, good and evil. Life is a never changing play between opposites, an intermingling of energies so that at any given moment one or the other might seem to reign; but in the end they share power and responsibility. It is a constant dance, a constant swirl of energies.

We are called to balance the dualities in our own lives.....the impetus to be an activist with the need for quiet time to be still and recoup; the call to share our gifts and talents freely with the world with the need to pull back and receive, replenishing our own emotional reserves. We are all being called at this time to be the architects of a new world, a new way of living on this planet if we are to continue at all. We must take care to balance it all so we do not burn out or lose courage or be swept away by sadness.

Come join us this night as we explore ways we can maintain the equilibrium in our own lives. All are welcome.

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

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Monday, September 26

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*.



**MINUTES OF THE
FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH
VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING
June 10, 2022**

FUUSM's 2022 Annual Meeting was held virtually on June 10, 2022. The Congregation was notified of the meeting through FUUSM's UU Updates, which included a copy of the Warrant, the proposed budget for 2022-2023 Church year, and the Church's Annual Report for 2021-2022. Twenty-six members attended the meeting.

President Jim Bonnar called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and provided a brief summary of the Annual Report. The congregation then voted on the following Articles:

Article I: To accept the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting.

Motion to approve Article I made, seconded and passed.

Article II: To receive reports of the Society for the past year.

Motion to approve Article II made, seconded and passed.

Article III: To recognize the gifts of time and talent given by members who are concluding roles in the Society.

Discussion: Sandy Smiley is stepping down as our representative at the Middleboro Area Assistance Coalition (MAAC). Katie Allen will be leaving her PC role as At-Large member at the end of this church year. Marc MacQueen is resigning as Treasurer at the end of this year. Marc was recognized for his many years of service and dedication in his role as Treasurer. The PC and congregation expressed their appreciation and recognized the contributions of all with rounds of applause.

*Please contact Bob Waterman or Jim Bonnar if you are interested, or know someone who is interested, in any of the above positions.

Article IV: To elect officers and members of the Parish Committee for the coming Church year (July 1, 2022 ,to June 30, 2023): President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, At- Large (one position).

Discussion: Jim Bonnar has offered to continue as PC President for 22-23. Marc MacQueen has accepted the PC At- Large position vacated by Katie Allen. The positions of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are vacant as of the end of this church year. Bob Waterman assured the congregation that all functions related to Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer will continue to be performed. Some are currently being performed by Liz Snay, a consultant, as well as by Alan Melchior. Gil Cote has been volunteering as Assistant Treasurer on a temporary basis. Bob Waterman also offered to assist as needed.

*Please contact Jim Bonnar or Bob Waterman if you, or anyone you know, is interested in filling the positions of Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer.

Motion to approve Article IV made, seconded, and passed.

Article V: To elect delegates (2) to the 2022-2023 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association, or authorize the Parish Committee to appoint these delegates.

Discussion: Two delegates are needed for the 22-23 GA, which takes place June 22-26 in Portland, OR, and on-line. Church covers the cost for delegates. Minister is an automatic delegate. Delegates commit to attend all business sessions at GA and to participate in planning strategies for informing the congregation of actions and outcomes of the GA. Decisions will be made at the GA as to what the focus points of UU will be over the next few years.

A motion was made to empower the PC to appoint delegates for 22-23 GA, seconded, and passed.

(continued on next page)

Article VI: To adopt a budget for the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023).

Discussion:

- A summary of the proposed budget was published in the UU Updates prior to the meeting. Deficit for the coming fiscal year is projected to be \$16,580. The proposed budget includes a placeholder in the amount of \$90,000 for a new minister, though it is expected that the actual amount spent will be less. Deficit may therefore be less than projected. Congregation had previously approved \$85,000 for ministry, PC enhanced to \$90,000. With respect to the minister search, Bob Waterman reported that there has been no match found through the UUA (full or part time), so we are looking for a team of ministers to cover our needs. The budgeted amount should be more than sufficient to cover this. Some members expressed concern with potential complications that may arise in dealing with a team of ministers rather than a single person. Clarifying lines of communication for staff, committees, members, etc., will be critical.
- The proposed budget includes \$4,150 for committees. PC clarified amounts per committee, including \$3,000 for music.
- Due to the generosity of the Congregation, we have exceeded our fundraising expectations this year.
- Pledgers have been following through with their pledge commitments.
- Salary figures for Church staff reflect a 5.3% increase for the coming year.
- Rev. Sarah reported that we are close to having a full summer schedule for services.

Motion to approve the proposed Budget for 22-23 made, seconded, and passed.

Article VII: To authorize the Parish Committee or designee to withdraw from investment funds and/or borrow funds in order to manage cash flow and/or cover unanticipated expenses during the coming fiscal year.

Motion to approve Article VII made, seconded, and passed.

Article VIII: To address any other actions necessary for the business of the Society.

- The PC recommends conferring status of Minister Emerita on Rev. Sarah Person. Vote is required by the congregation. The status of Minister Emerita not only symbolizes a congregation's appreciation and respect for the minister but also allows the minister to become a permanent delegate to the General Assembly. There are no financial implications or expectations in granting this status. A vote was taken via poll on Zoom. Seventeen votes were submitted. Votes were unanimous in favor of conferring title of Minister Emerita on Rev. Sarah.
- Deanne Bonnar, co-chair of the Social Justice Team, has heard from others in our community that there is interest in meeting together to discuss the troubled situation in our country. The congregation agreed that this would be a good idea. Deanne will contact Val Ortelt to set up a time for those interested to meet in church and post in the UU Updates.
- Marc MacQueen shared with the congregation that a total of \$8,028 has been contributed toward charities and/or the Church's discretionary fund this year and thanked the congregation for their generosity during these challenging times.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m. was made, seconded and passed.

**MINUTES OF THE
VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
June 15, 2022**

Minutes from May meeting – approved.

Treasurer

Report received and reviewed.
Behind on pledges; income received from auction is low so far.
Expenses as expected.

RE

Service was successful.
Coming of Age kids will be participating in Pridefest.
RE will be participating in Snack & Play event in July; looking to improve visibility.
Planning end of year wrap-up party.
Coming of Age field trip to be rescheduled.
Greg Stevens resigned Youth Advisor position; will be working on replacement.
Next year's theme – exploration of world, moral tales.
Possible group forming for LGBTQ+ kids and their parents.

Music

Susan's surgery is the first week in July.

Interim Ministry

No candidate for full-time interim ministry yet.
Working on an alternative plan for support.

Fundraising

Spring Auction was a great success; total raised - \$7060.
Upcoming - Snack & Play in July, Yard Sale in August/September, Road Rally in October, Holiday Craft Fair in November.

Exit Interview

UUA conducted exit interview with the PC.

Sarah's Shindig

Event postponed to June 26 at 10:30.

Social Justice

Cash in the plate recommendation for June and July – reproductive rights, voting rights; will research specific organizations.

**MINUTES OF THE
VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
July 20, 2022**

Present: Bob Waterman, Lois Aldrich, Marc MacQueen (At-large), Nicole Sykes, Jim Bonnar

Guest: Kelly Lownds

Search Committee: Committee provided update to the PC on search for Interim Minister.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Waterman is covering Treasurer duties until a candidate is identified to fill the position, and Gil Cote continues to cover Assistant Treasurer duties until a candidate is found for that position.

The PC reviewed the draft budget report for 21-22. Actual deficit is recorded as \$11,800. Pledges are \$15,000 short of which at least half should be received, which will impact final deficit amount. Gil Cote has been working on pledge collections.

Clarification needed on line 4230 \$6027 (special gift), which is believed to be funds raised for tech support - need to clarify amount spent. Final budget report will be complete in a couple of weeks.

Music Committee: No report this month. Susan Hotchkiss recovering from knee surgery.

RE: Kelly Lownds provided update to the PC:

-RE is in the midst of planning for next year.

-Annual picnic will be in August.

-Greg Stevens has stepped down as advisor. Barbara Bancroft will assist once a month. Kelly is looking for a volunteer to be advisor.

-OWL will not happen this year - not enough eligible children.

-Kelly will be working with Kim Correia on a modified Coming of Age group.

-Chris Hoyle has been working on coordinating an LGBTQ group for youth. Some kids from the Pride event in Middleboro have expressed interest.

-Plan for RE is to return downstairs this coming church year. All kids are vaccinated.

Worship Team: Seeking at least 3 volunteers for team. New minister will preach only three weeks per month, and volunteers will be needed to plan for the 4th week's service.

Leadership Retreat: Looking to have a Leadership Retreat in September to discuss revitalizing the church and bringing the church back from COVID. Participants could be those currently in leadership positions in the Church or those interested in taking on a leadership position. Will further discuss at the next PC meeting.

COVID Guidelines: Suggest PC review Church COVID Guidelines on a monthly basis and update as needed. Guidelines are currently posted on the Church website.

Upcoming Fundraising: Possible tag sale in September; Road Rally; Holiday Craft Fair.

Sunday Church events coming up (all at 9:00 a.m.):

July 31 - Kelly will do service

August 14 - Pot Luck Breakfast (outdoors) - Music Committee to sponsor.

August 21 - Jim Bonnar to do service

August 28- Pot Luck Breakfast - PC to sponsor

Next PC Meeting - check in: August 17 @ 7:00 - Report from Search Committee; Leadership Retreat.

**MINUTES OF THE
VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
August 17, 2022**

Present: Bob Waterman, Lois Aldrich, Marc MacQueen (At-large), Jim Bonnar

Absent: Nicole Sykes

Guests: Susan Hotchkiss; Kelly Lownds

Meeting Minutes: PC approved minutes from 7/20/22 meeting.

FUUSM COVID Policy: PC reviewed and discussed a revised COVID policy drafted by Dan Hotchkiss. Susan Hotchkiss and Kelly Lownds were present to help address any questions/concerns. Recommended changes were made to the policy and approved by the PC. Final policy is attached to these meeting minutes. *(See next page)* The policy will apply to all church programs, including RE. The policy will be circulated in the next UU Updates.

Welcoming New Minister: A special gathering/coffee reception to welcome the new minister, Rev. Peter Connolly, is being planned for September 11 after the service. The gathering will be held outdoors on the church lawn. Volunteers will be needed to make goodies and coffee, which attendees will bring outdoors.

Church Lawn Sign: The PC approved \$150 to put Rev. Peter Connolly's name on the sign in the Church's front yard. Marc MacQueen is coordinating with Mike McCarthy to get this done.

Cash in the Plate: The Social Justice Team requests that the Cash in the Plate for September be for Vote Riders, a non-partisan, non-profit 501 organization whose mission is to ensure that all US citizens over 18 years old are able to exercise their right to vote. The PC approved the request. See <https://www.voteriders.org/> for further information.

Leadership Retreat: The PC is looking at October, 2022, to have a Leadership Retreat once the new minister is aboard. Discussion around who will attend. In addition to the PC, may consider Committee leaders and/or those interested in becoming a Committee leader; staff (Susan, Kelly); and possibly special invitations. Bob will draft the invitation with the goal to send it out soon after Labor Day. Location and date TBD.

Food Pantry Collections: Bob informed the PC that the Taunton UU Church is available to come and pick up donations for their Food Pantry. Question as to whether or not FUUSM should keep donations local by reviving the basket we had at our Church. Bob will discuss with the Social Justice Team to get their input.

Next PC Meetings:

Check-in: September 7 @ 7:00 with Rev. Peter Connolly in attendance. Plan Leadership Retreat

Monthly meeting: September 21 @ 6:30

COVID SAFETY POLICY

Adopted 8/17/22

We seek to be a community that is inclusive, hospitable, and safe for all people. To this end, our Parish Committee has adopted the following COVID safety protocols.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has developed a system of Green, Yellow, and Orange Community Levels based on hospitalization rates, hospital burden, and case rates. We will rely on the CDC's Level for Plymouth County in adjusting our COVID safety protocols. Leaders of programs that pose special risks because of the vulnerability of participants may adopt stricter rules than those listed below. The Parish Committee President may also impose stricter protocols for the whole Church until the Parish Committee can meet to revise these policies.

CDC Community Risk Level	General Provisions	Specific Choir Provisions
Green (Low)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks are optional, but always acceptable and welcome.• Church activities and building use may proceed with reasonable precautions for public health.• Anyone experiencing virus symptoms or with known exposure is asked to worship with us online and refrain from other building use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks are optional.
Yellow (Medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks are required at worship services.• Masks are required for other indoor group events when social distancing of three feet or more is not possible (generally more than 40 people in the Sanctuary or more than 25 people in the Parish Hall).• Worship or program leaders may unmask when speaking or singing.• Anyone experiencing virus symptoms or with known exposure is asked to worship with us online and refrain from other building use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks are required for rehearsals.• Masks are optional when performing.
Orange (High)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks are required for all building use.• Anyone experiencing virus symptoms or with known exposure is asked to worship with us online and refrain from other building use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks are always required.

We encourage everyone to keep up to date with the COVID vaccinations for which they are eligible, to stay home if they are experiencing virus symptoms, and to wear masks whenever that might protect themselves or others.

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

Parish Committee

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



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.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 15 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
2nd ANNUAL ROAD RALLY

This is a 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 provided at end while awaiting scoring and awards.

Severe weather date October 22.

SEPTEMBER
2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				<p>12:00 noon Organ Practice for Wedding, Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group</p>	<p>Decorating for Wedding, Sanctuary</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha</p>	<p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>11:00 a.m. Wedding, Sanctuary</p>	 <p>LABOR DAY</p> <p>1:00 p.m. RE Swim Party, The Hoyles</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Virtual Care Team</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group</p>	<p>1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha</p>	<p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Virtual Full Moon Meditation</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration Registration</p>		<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Virtual Care Team</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Virtual Music Committee</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group</p>	<p>1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha</p>	<p>4:00 p.m. Snack & Play Fundraiser, Parish Hall</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration</p>	<p>4:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. CUUPS Mabon Ritual, Parish Hall</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Virtual Care Team</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Virtual Parish Committee</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group</p>	<p>1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha</p>	<p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p>
25	26	27	28	29	30	
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation</p>	<p>October Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Virtual Care Team</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group</p>	<p>1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha</p>	



[NEW ENGLAND REGION PROGRAMS | NEW ENGLAND REGION | UUA.ORG](#)

[Congregational Board/Trustee Quarterly Gathering](#)

Thursday, September 8, 7:00 - 8:30 pm Event format: Online

Join with your peers to share ideas, strategies, questions, concerns, and support. This event is open to current board members and those who will be on the board within the next several months. We'll send details for logging in to the conversation to all registered participants a few days before.

[Claiming Our Spiritual Leadership: Faithful, Effective Practices for Boards, Staff, and Volunteers \(3-part series\)](#)

Sundays: September 25; October 23; November 20 1:30 - 3:00 pm Event format: In person

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. PRESENTERS: Your New England Region UUA Staff Team

As leaders in your congregation, do you feel your church commitments are more like chores than a joyful expression of your faith? Are you collectively worried about having enough -- time, money, volunteers, funding, members? Do your people long to deepen or recapture their connection to each other, to spirit, to purpose? Do you have a vision for change but feel unsure how to bring it about or how to express it in a way that will be welcomed? If you answered "Yes" to these questions, now is the time to claim your spiritual leadership.

