



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

January 2023

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

Sunday, January 1

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

A Year of Challenge and Growth

In 2023, our church looks forward to assessing our status as a religious institution in the community and planning for a future of growth and promise. Today, we'll begin a conversation based on church members' thoughts and feelings, designed to move us forward in recognizing and establishing our sense of identity.

Sunday, January 8

Norm Grenier preaching

Good and Evil

Have you been turning off the news lately? Another war, another shooting, millions of incompressible votes, a raging climate, and so it goes on and on. The times we live in compel us to face the problem of evil. Can we make sense of all this?

Today's presentation will be by Norm Grenier, longtime congregant and student of the psychology of Carl Jung.

Sunday, January 15

Adrienne Williams & Andrea Priest presenting

Needed Now! A Taste of Sweet Honey in the Rock

Today's message is a personal testament to the a cappella, African American women's ensemble, Sweet Honey in the Rock... and, particularly, to the group's seminal freedom fighters, influences and shepherds, Drs. Bernice Johnson Reagon and Ysaye Maria Barnwell. For over forty years Sweet Honey's music has served as elixir and spirit guide in times of struggle. Let's sing! Special music will be provided by the Chalice Choir singing a musical offering.

This morning we welcome Adrienne Williams and Andrea Priest to the pulpit. Adrienne, a longtime member of this church, is a retiree from the many fields of "education." Andrea Priest has been a member of this church for over 30 years along with her husband, Ed. They have been active members of our Chalice Choir and Caring Choir.

Sunday, January 22

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

How Does Our Past Inform Our Future?

This Spring we will spend some time looking intently at the history of FUUSM with the intention of learning how past events have influenced our present status. Today, we'll look at some of the broader influences of our Unitarian and Universalist traditions.

Sunday, January 29

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

Lessons from the Streets

Not every job we hold in life will function as a vocation, but in whatever role we find ourselves, we can find some measure of meaning and purpose if we invest ourselves in it.

A Note from the Minister

As a new year begins we at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro look forward to a year of opportunity. We can expect to discover a number of ways to grow in our dedication to the church and in our influence as a religious and spiritual institution in the community. Our ability to grow and to flourish, though, will depend in large part on our ability to embrace change.

Embracing change is rarely easy either for individuals or institutions and becomes especially challenging as we get older. The ways we are accustomed to doing things are familiar and comfortable, even if not always effective as they once were. As the end of the first quarter of the 21st century draws near, we need more than ever to adapt to the changes brought about by advancements in technology, social media, modern aesthetics and outreach strategies. And we need to confront the cultural challenges that have resulted in a decrease in church membership statistics and Sunday worship service attendance throughout American society. We will do well to build upon the strengths that are so clearly recognized by our church members-- the vitality of our community both socially and spiritually, our desire to always grow in our education and our social commitment, an always enriching music program, a wonderful array of activities that engage our interest and build community, and spiritually enriching worship services.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming year of church life. I am well aware of the challenges that we, in common with all churches these days, face. And I am inspired by the dedication of those who have supported FUUSM over these past years-- and decades-- and by the rich and abiding love our members have for this spiritual home and social community that has enriched so many lives. 2023, we look forward to your coming as an opportunity to grow in faith, hope, love and commitment to our shared UU values!

Yours in peace,
Rev. Peter



JANUARY MUSIC MUSINGS



"To mask and to mum...to drive the cold winter away!"

"Solstice Singers" is coming to town on Saturday, January 7, at 4:00 PM. The last show at UU Middleboro was January of 2020, just before Covid changed our world and the way we gather. This year is the 30th anniversary of this Falmouth-based troupe. The show is called "The Holly and the Ivy" - presenting music, drama, and dance in the spirit of the Renaissance. Instrumental music is provided by Ensemble Passacaglia performing on beautiful period instruments including strings, winds, and percussion.

The songs come from a variety of sources ranging from the 13th century Montpellier Codex in France to the collection of King Alfonso the Wise in Spain, Henry VIII in England, traditional Welsh, Italian, and German tunes, right up to a present-day American song. There is a sword dance by the Vineyard Swordfish and an original Mummers Play to celebrate the promise of Spring. I'm happy to report that for the first time in many years Dan Hotchkiss does NOT get beheaded! (Rest assured, someone else WILL.)

Tickets for the show are available for \$20 each with children under 10 free. If anybody needs financial assistance, please call, or drop me a line at music@uumiddleboro.org.

Although we cannot yet gather for a hearty soup supper, we have delicious soups for purchase. Please check our website for further information.

As we settle down into the cold of winter, let's remember to tap into our reserves of memory and fantasy with the time-honored traditions of song, storytelling, and dance.

Susan Land Hotchkiss, Director of Music



SOLSTICE SINGERS AT UU MIDDLEBORO

Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

The show is directed by Lore Loftfield De Bower. In addition to a lively show, there will be a soup sale "to go" at \$15 per quart. Soups must be pre-ordered no later than January 6. And you can order soup even if you are unable to attend the performance. See all information and order tickets and/or soup through the link at www.uumiddleboro.org. Contact Dorine Levasseur at dmlevasseur925@gmail.com or at 617-733-5214 with any questions.



RE Committee

We met together in person with Reverend Peter Connolly and multiple RE parents on 12/7/2022. The next meeting in January will be virtual. Invitations will go out in the *UU Updates* and via email.

RE Children's Classes

This year RE is *Exploring Beyond Our Walls* using the moral tales curriculum. The children have collected many marbles/glass gems for their gemstones of goodness. The children continue to share stories of their efforts to follow their moral compass. Ed Priest joined us on 12/18 to sing holiday songs and share his experiences.

Youth Group

In December youth group met after the holiday party on 12/11 and will meet again on January 2 in the afternoon to share favorite holiday foods and movies. Next month we are meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 5:00 to 7:00. This group has children from 6th through 12th grade.

LGBTQ+ Youth Support Group

We had a good level of interest in a potential support group for youth and parents and allies. Christine Hoyle and I are working on a time and date for January to advertise to the interested parties - some from inside and some from outside church.

The Holiday Party was held on 12/11 at 12pm. We decorated the holiday tree, created additional holiday ornaments and decorated gingerbread houses. There was pizza at 1pm for the children.

Nursery care has been available during church. We have Niko Pucillo-Dunphy each week in the nursery, and they are supported by the DRE as well as adult volunteers if children are present. We have not had any new children in the nursery thus far.

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration



PARTICIPATION ON A SUNDAY MORNING

We believe that participation in a Sunday morning worship service will help us build community and work together to meet our individual and Society goals. We believe that your active participation will feed your mind and spirit.

Here are some of the ways you can participate in the ministry of this church:

Become a Greeter:

Our congregation is known for its welcoming spirit. A strong greeter program will help us grow our membership and strengthen our membership. Please sign up for one of the three slots on any given Sunday on the clipboard in the Parlor, or contact Dorine Levasseur. This simple 20-minute commitment will make all the difference in the connections newcomers and visitors make with us and the connections we make with each other.

Volunteer to be a Coffee Hour Host:

Many of you have expressed to leadership the importance of a Coffee Hour following the service. Coffee Hour will be offered in the Parish Hall for those who feel comfortable socializing. If there is not a volunteer Coffee Hour host, coffee plus will not be provided. The sign-up sheet is on the Parlor table, you may sign up [here](#), or contact Andrea Priest. If we all take a Sunday or two, the job will get done.

Volunteer to do the Welcome and Announcements:

The Worship Committee is looking for volunteers to do the Welcome and Announcements at the beginning of the worship service. Please contact Vi Fairweather.

Provide Flowers for the Altar:

Providing flowers or another kind of altar decoration for a Sunday Service is a wonderful way we that we honor important life events and people we love or wish to memorialize. The donations are noted in our order of service. Full participation helps us get to know one another better as we share our memories of events and people that are important in our lives and, at the same time, it keeps our altar table looking fresh, adding a touch of beauty and interest to the week's service. Please contact the church office for a time when you might like to provide flowers for the altar.

We hope that you will consider doing one of these important tasks.



VIRTUAL FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Thursday, January 5 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

The first Full Moon of 2023 arrives on Thursday, January 5, and is in the sign of Cancer. As we move into what is usually the coldest and snowiest time of year in the Northeast, it is fitting that we be mindful of home and hearth, of what it takes to keep the “homefires” burning both physically and spiritually, and how we can offer a place of refuge from the cold and harshness of both Mother Nature and of a culture that can sometimes be cold, careless and unwelcoming to the stranger.

Just as we would offer the warmth of our fire and a cup of hot tea to a friend, let us consider ways in which we can offer similar warmth and welcoming to those who live on the edges, on the periphery of society who also have need of a welcoming gesture, a warm smile, a helping hand. In this month of Janus standing at the threshold between the past and the future, let us explore ways to start anew, to sweep our hearth clear of ashes of the past and to kindle anew the fires of compassion and love. Hearth ...Heart..Earth. All words with the same root. All connected. Rather than resolutions that will soon be forsaken let us consider setting a firm intention to do and be more in 2023. More welcoming, more generous, more loving. Come join us.....all are welcome.

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



VIRTUAL JUST THIS SANGHA

Fridays: January 6, 13, 20, 27 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.



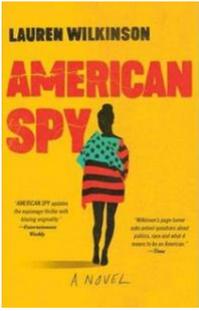
PEACE, JUSTICE & EQUALITY VIGIL

Saturdays: January 7, 14, 21, 28 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon



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](#).



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, January 16 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
in the Parish Hall

The Book Club continues to meet on the third Monday of every month in the Parish Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Our January 16 selection is *American Spy* by Lauren Wilkinson.

For more information, contact Carleen - carleenml@aol.com.



VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 18 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

Saturday, January 21 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

The first New Moon of 2023 falls in the sign of Aquarius, an air sign that is the higher octave of communication. It is the sign that assists us in sharing our innermost truths with clarity and discernment and teaches the power of the word in fostering greater understanding and solidarity.

The New Moon also falls on the eve of the Chinese New Year, ushering in the Year of the Rabbit. Rabbits are gentle and quiet. As prey animals they must react quickly to danger and often choose a swift and circuitous path of escape, eluding predators deftly by zigzagging until they reach the safety of the thicket. They are associated with fertility, new beginnings, the moon, good fortune and can serve as guides between the upper and lower worlds as seen in *Alice in Wonderland*. Rabbits teach us to think on our feet, to use discernment in plotting our course through life, and to use clear vision and cleverness rather than force to elude danger and to reach our ultimate destination.

Join us tonight as we consider the immense power of the spoken word and reflect on the importance of choosing our words wisely and lovingly in order to bring about greater harmony. All are welcome.

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



THE ELSIE GAUDETTE AWARD

The Elsie Gaudette Award can be given this spring (the third Sunday in June) to a person who exemplifies the service and dedication to this church that Elsie did for many years. The Elsie Gaudette Award Committee will be meeting to review the nominations. If you know of a deserving person to nominate for this award, you must nominate her/him in writing, telling of this person's contributions to the church over time and why this person deserves the honor. Send your signed letters to the Committee Chairperson, Linda E. Thompson.



**VIRTUAL
PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
December 21, 2022**

Present: Bob Waterman, Lois Aldrich, Marc MacQueen, Jim Bonnar, Nicole Sykes

Guests: Kelly Lownds, JR Pucillo-Dunphy

Meeting called to order by Jim Bonnar at 6:30 pm.

Minutes for 11/16/22 meeting approved by PC.

Minister's Report: Rev. Peter was unable to attend the meeting but distributed his report to all PC members. PC reviewed and approved the report.

RE: Kelly Lownds emailed her report to Rev. Peter and the PC. RE continues to meet weekly in the Parish Hall. RE classes continue to center around this year's theme "Exploring Beyond Our Walls." Children are learning about the many holidays that occur in December. Holiday foods, movies, making decorations, and pizza party have been popular with the youth.

The Holiday Party was held on 12/11 at 12pm. RE decorated the holiday tree, created additional holiday ornaments and decorated gingerbread houses. There was pizza at 1pm for the children.

Kelly reported that RE has continued to see a good level of interest in a potential support group for LGBTQ youth, parents and allies. Christine Hoyle and Kelly are working on a time and date during the month of January to advertise to interested parties, both inside and outside the Church.

Treasurer's Report: Report from Bob Waterman was distributed, reviewed and approved by PC. Pledge collections seem to be behind. Bob will discuss status with Liz (our outside bookkeeping consultant) to confirm.

Christmas Staff Bonuses: The PC agreed to staff bonuses this year, same amount as last year.

Building and Grounds: The church's printer is broken. JR Pucillo-Dunphy is able to repair, but requests \$150 for the part. PC approved the request.

JR provided the PC with an update on the church's security system. The system is currently non-operational and needs to be replaced. If we do replace it, we could look at a comprehensive system that would include cameras, doorbells, door locks, and recording equipment.

Fundraising: Bob Waterman reported that the recent Holiday Auction raised a little over \$2600, making us not quite halfway to our 6-month budgeted goal.

Upcoming events include the Solstice Singers concert with soup fundraiser and a potential auction in the spring. Discussion around possible feelings of "fundraising burn out" among the congregation.

(continued on next page)

Avis Clay Fund: Jim Bonnar reported that FUUSM recently received a generous donation from Avis Clay's family and that the funds have been deposited in the bank.

The Clay family requested that up to 20% of this money be used to renovate the church's Parlor, which will be dedicated to Avis Clay. In accordance with the family's request, the remaining funds from the donation will be put in a semi-restricted trust fund devoted to the church's music programs. This could include efforts that support the music programs (such as audio upgrades) but cannot include funds for staffing.

Cash in the Plate: The January Cash in the Plate will go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund to be used for Veterans' assistance. This is in response to Sandy Smiley's participation in MAAC, where Veterans' needs for fuel assistance, shelter, and food was discussed as a major need in Middleboro area. Stephen Adelman, the Veterans' Service Program's Agent in Middleboro, reported there are 1300 Veterans in our town, many of whom need assistance. Requests for assistance from the Minister's Discretionary Fund can be made directly to Rev. Peter. Rev. Peter can then decide the best way to respond to the request.

The PC discussed the process for requesting funds from the Cash in the Plate, which includes the Minister's Discretionary Fund. The Social Justice Team (SJT) is responsible for receiving requests and making recommendations to the PC for the Cash in the Plate each month. This recommendation could be for funds to go to a specific 501c3 non-profit organization, or to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This recommendation should go to PC at the beginning of the month to allow the PC time to review and respond.

FUUSM Organizational Structure: In his role as Interim Minister, Rev. Peter can help us look at how we currently operate and how we can become better and more efficient in our operation. To that end, Rev. Peter drafted an organizational chart for the PC to review. Dan Hotchkiss, who consults around church governance, has expressed interest in helping us through this process. Will discuss further at the next PC meeting.

Cottage Meetings: Rev. Peter has completed a series of Cottage Meetings with the congregation and will present his findings to the PC in January. We will not be having Listening Circles this year as the Cottage Meetings have served that purpose.

Pledge Drive: Gil Cote has offered to lead the task group this year.

Budget Updates: The PC will provide a budget update to the congregation in January, 2023.

Membership: Bob Waterman received a request from Dorine Levasseur, Membership Chair, to have a potluck dinner in the Parish Hall on January 20, 2023. This would not be a fundraiser, but rather a way for people to connect more. Many church members have expressed interest in having more such events. The PC approved the request.

Discussion around our COVID Policy and whether or not this event meets policy. The PC agreed that, if the event is considered optional (i.e., not a Church service), then people need to use their judgment as to whether or not they feel comfortable attending the event. Is it time to revisit our COVID Policy???

Meeting adjourned by Jim Bonnar at 8:09 pm.

Next PC Meetings:

January 4 @ 7:00 pm (check in - pledge drive)

January 18 at 6:30 pm (monthly meeting)

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. Rev. Connolly will not be available on the second Wednesday of the month as he will be attending the UUMA cluster meeting. He is available by appointment. Monday is the minister's day off. He will respond to emails and messages beginning on Tuesday of the week.

Rev. Connolly will be on vacation January 2 - 16.

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.

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**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](mailto:office@uumiddleboro.org), and we will add you to the mailing list.*

JANUARY 2023

| Sunday                                                                                                                  | Monday                                                                                                                             | Tuesday                                                                                                                                      | Wednesday                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                                           | Friday                                                                                      | Saturday                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br><br>10:30 a.m.<br>Worship Service | 2<br><br>2:30 p.m.<br>Youth Group,<br>Parish Hall                                                                                  | 3<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Peaceful<br>Quilters,<br>Parish Hall<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Virtual<br>Care Team<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Chalice Choir,<br>Parish Hall  | 4<br><br>7:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>RE Committee                                              | 5<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Full Moon<br>Meditation<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Spirituality Group | 6<br>1:00 p.m.<br>Organ Practice,<br>Sanctuary<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Just This Sangha  | 7<br>11:30 a.m.<br>Peace Vigil,<br>Church Lawn<br>4:00 p.m.<br>Solstice Singers,<br>All Church    |
| 8<br>10:30 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br>& Religious<br>Exploration<br>5:00 p.m.<br>Senior Youth,<br>Parish Hall           | 9                                                                                                                                  | 10<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Peaceful<br>Quilters,<br>Parish Hall<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Virtual<br>Care Team<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Chalice Choir,<br>Parish Hall | 11<br><br>7:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Music Committee                                          | 12<br><br>7:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Spirituality Group                                               | 13<br>1:00 p.m.<br>Organ Practice,<br>Sanctuary<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Just This Sangha | 14<br>11:30 a.m.<br>Peace Vigil,<br>Church Lawn                                                   |
| 15<br>10:30 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br>& Religious<br>Exploration                                                       | 16<br><br>4:30 p.m.<br>Book Club,<br>Parish Hall | 17<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Peaceful<br>Quilters,<br>Parish Hall<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Virtual<br>Care Team<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Chalice Choir,<br>Parish Hall | 18<br>10:00-1:00<br>Minister's<br>Office Hours<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Parish Committee | 19<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Spirituality Group                                                   | 20<br>1:00 p.m.<br>Organ Practice,<br>Sanctuary<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Just This Sangha | 21<br>11:30 a.m.<br>Peace Vigil,<br>Church Lawn<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>New Moon<br>Meditation |
| 22<br>10:30 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br>& Religious<br>Exploration<br>5:00 p.m.<br>Senior Youth,<br>Parish Hall          | 23<br><br>February<br>Newsletter<br>Deadline                                                                                       | 24<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Peaceful<br>Quilters,<br>Parish Hall<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Virtual<br>Care Team<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Chalice Choir,<br>Parish Hall | 25<br><br>10:00-1:00<br>Minister's<br>Office Hours                                         | 26<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Spirituality Group                                                   | 27<br>1:00 p.m.<br>Organ Practice,<br>Sanctuary<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Virtual<br>Just This Sangha | 28<br>11:30 a.m.<br>Peace Vigil,<br>Church Lawn                                                   |
| 29<br>10:30 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br>& Religious<br>Exploration                                                       | 30                                                                                                                                 | 31<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Peaceful<br>Quilters,<br>Parish Hall<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Virtual<br>Care Team<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Chalice Choir,<br>Parish Hall |                                                                                            |                                                                                                    |                                                                                             |                                                                                                   |



The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough  
25 South Main Street  
Middleborough, MA 02346



### Liberting Governance for Our Times: A Community of Practice

Inspired by the [Business Resolution](#) adopted by the 2022 General Assembly to create UUA governance that is “dynamic, accountable, flexible, and responsive,” we invite you to consider your congregation’s ways of sharing power and making decisions. Are your systems dynamic, accountable, flexible, and responsive? Are we creating liberatory ways of being within our congregations as we work for liberation in the world?

Most of us could use some help with this! We are creating a community of practice on liberating governance for our times.

We will meet every other month for 90 minutes to learn together and support each other in making the changes needed in our congregations. This program is open to all staff and lay leaders. **It is especially appropriate for Board members and others in the congregation entrusted with significant decisions.** We highly recommend participating as a team with others from your congregation.

Let’s learn together as we loosen stuck places, recenter our purpose and values, and learn more inclusive styles of decision making.

To join the email list to get invitations to our gatherings, and to help us know what you particularly need, please fill out [this form](#).

Our first gathering will be shared with our [Spiritual Leadership for Culture Change](#) community of practice on (choose one):

**Tuesday, January 24, 1:00-2:30pm ET, or Thursday, January 26, 7:00-8:30pm ET**