



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

Summer 2023

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

Sunday, June 4

Religious Exploration Youth presenting

Articulating Our Faith and Accepting One Another

Our youth are thinking a lot about the world they live in and their place in it. Today we will ask the congregation questions about what they believe as Unitarian Universalists and how their time in church impacts them day to day. We will also be sharing some of the children's ideas about acceptance and love with everyone. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

Sunday, June 11

Pride Sunday: Where Have We Come From? Where Are We Going?

Even within our lifetimes, there has been much progress in the acceptance of gay and lesbian persons into the mainstream of American society. Today, two of our members will relate their experiences through these changes and an assessment of the challenges that remain. The Elsie Gaudette Award will be presented this morning. Special music will be provided by Tony Soares.

Sunday, June 18

Celebration Sunday

Probably more than in any other denomination, the success of a church in the Unitarian Universalist tradition depends on the active involvement of its members. Today we celebrate and give thanks for the many ways our members contribute to our success. The Chalice Choir will be singing, featuring Marty Hartford on clarinet.

Summer Worship Services Begin

Please join us for our Summer Worship Services. The typical service starts at **9:00 a.m.** and lasts about a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour with the rest of the time taken up by Fellowship time until 10:00 a.m. Summer services are held in our air-conditioned Parish Hall.

Sunday, June 25, at 9:00 a.m.

Viola Fairweather presenting

Journeying

At birth, each of us begins our own unique journey through life. One of my most significant highlights was hiking through the mountains of Spain on a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. James, known as The Camino. Today provides me with the opportunity to share with you some of the truths I learned along the way.

SUMMER SERVICES

*We offer in-person and online worship services at 9:00 a.m.
The link to each service will be posted on our website every week.*

July 2: **General Assembly Service by Zoom** **Dan Hotchkiss and Jeff Giddings**
Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining together in worship. The link will be posted.

July 9: **Indigenous Cooking** **Juli Gould**
Join Juli Gould as she talks about how to enjoy cooking using ingredients from pre-colonization times in North America. We will watch a short TED talk by Sean Sherman, author of *The Sioux Chef*, who will inform us about the loss and recovery of native foodways.

July 16: **Domestic Violence Awareness** **Social Justice Team**
Domestic violence claims a heavy toll here in Eastern Massachusetts. The presentation includes speaker "Jane Doe" from the Middleboro area who was badly injured and now lives under constant threat. She is dedicated to helping other victims. At the end of the service, we will erect a display on the church lawn as a "silent witness" to commemorate recent local victims.

July 23: **Transitions** **Sandy Smiley**
Join Sandy as she talks about how to move beyond the "getting used to" stage without actually moving to another place. She will explore how to plant roots rather than uprooting oneself.

July 30: **The Baha'i Faith** **Liz Elgosin**
The Baha'i faith is a worldwide religion founded in the 19th century, though many have never heard of it. It took Liz many years to finally find a faith she could truly believe in.

August 6: **Lughnasadh Ritual at Soule Homestead (No service at the church)** **CUUPS**
CUUPS will be celebrating Lughnasadh, or "First Harvest," at beautiful Soule Homestead, 40 Soule Street, Middleboro, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. We will gather in ritual to honor the land that continues to welcome us each year as well as other beings who live there. Come join us in ceremony, prayer, food and drink, dance the Elm Dance to honor the grand old tree that shaded our circle for many years, and offer up a living prayer for world peace. We will conclude with a Giveaway. You are invited to bring an item to share: from your garden, a local farmer, or a handmade offering from the heart. Join us as we come together to be held in the embrace of our beautiful Mother Earth. Note: If it is sunny, a hat and sunscreen are recommended.

August 13: **Summer Sunday Potluck Breakfast** **Vi Fairweather and Tanya Trzeciak**
Join us for a Potluck Breakfast starting at 9:00 this morning. You will be invited to answer the question - When would be a good time to have a "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday? What would we need to do in order for that to be a successful Sunday?

August 20: **Physically/Spiritually: Spiritually/Physically** **Valerie Fontaine**
These two ways of knowing/being have been of importance, of concern, to Valerie since early childhood. She will be sharing some of the times and the ways in which she has floundered around with what has seemed to be a conundrum.

August 27: **Quakerism, Meditation and Music** **Barry & Patty Simon**
Quakers, or Friends, have been attending services since the 1600s. During their meetings, there are periods of silence. Barry Simon will share with us what drew him to attend their services. He and Patty will also provide us with some meditative music.

September 3: **United in Song** **Susan Land Hotchkiss & Friends**
Susan Hotchkiss, Ed & Andrea Priest, and Bet Giddings will lead us in a reflection and singalong focused on the protest songs of the 1960's and '70's. The popular and powerful songs of that time celebrate community building and strength. Join us as we journey back into a world that looks surprisingly like the world we live in today.

A NOTE FROM THE MINISTER

As I write this, the month of May is coming to a close and June is just a few days away. Our June worship services promise to be celebratory as we recognize the work of our Religious Exploration program, Pride Sunday and, of course, Celebration Sunday itself, before we move towards closing the books on the 2022-23 church year and the beginning of a well-planned series of summer services.

It's been quite a year! Remarkable, first of all, for a return to "in person" services for the first time in 2½ years. I can still vividly recall the sense of excitement as we all gathered together for our first worship service of the church year on September 11. It was a remarkable transition for me, as well, as I returned to the church that provided me an opportunity to serve as your first student intern minister. I had considered myself retired and was not searching for a church to serve, but when I learned that the interim position here was available, my interest was piqued immediately. As I've said to several of you, it's not often that an experience can be classified as unqualifiedly positive, but that describes my experience as your student intern minister and is what sparked my interest in serving you again-- twenty years after my first student intern Sunday.

The interim period is, by definition, a time of change, of transition. I met with as many of you as I could in small groups ("cottage meetings") in October and November, and learned how you first became interested in UU Middleboro, the things that you most value about membership, your history with the church and some of the things you hope for the future. These were informative and rewarding meetings. I learned of the great importance you place on the sense of community, spiritual community, you find here. I learned that a good many of our members found the church through events other than our Sunday worship services. I learned that you love our music program and that you greatly enjoy opportunities to gather socially-- at coffee hour, at yard sales, at musical events, at brunches, potluck get-togethers, and holiday fairs. And that Sunday sermons are helpful in your path of discernment as you, like all of us, continue on your spiritual journey. And that, while you love our RE program, you are concerned that there are not more children participating.

What I'm looking forward to in the second and final year of interim ministry: a deeply thoughtful look at the church's present mission statement with a view of sharpening its focus. As wonderful as is the text of the statement, its length and breadth hamper its effectiveness as a mission statement, which should be short enough to state in a sentence: the whole work of the church conforms to and grows out of a mission statement that is clear and concise and treasured by church members. Also, I look forward to the church investing in developing a social media presence that conveys the liveliness of our community, the variety of our offerings, and a range of opportunities for spiritual growth. Finally, I would like the Middleboro community to discover in us, not just a building that has anchored a corner across from the town hall for generations, but "A 21st century church with roots in the 19th century."

I hope you will all enjoy a restful and rejuvenating summer, and I look forward to our second year of working together to continue building a healthy and flourishing spiritual community.

Blessings abounding.

Rev. Peter



SUMMER MUSIC MUSINGS



Many kudos to the many singers and instrumentalists who came together to present Requiem by John Rutter on Music Sunday, May 21st. This was our first in-person Music Sunday since spring 2019 - that's four years ago! Our 2019 program was ambitious, but this year's surpassed it! It was hard, rewarding work—and for me, pure pleasure bringing a masterwork to life for a worship experience.

It's hard to believe we're wrapping up the church year this month. The Song Circle gathers on Friday, June 9, and the final meeting for the Music Committee, led by our new chairperson, Bet Giddings, is Wednesday, June 14. The Music Committee is already hard at work planning a fall concert, a vocal workshop for the choir, and a drumming workshop for the congregation and community.

Many of us will attend music camps and conferences this summer, bringing ideas back to share. Valerie Fontaine will once again host the choir party on August 26. Weekly choir rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, August 29.

Have a super summer and sing LOTS!

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH



ANNUAL MEETING Friday, June 16, 2023 7:00 p.m.

We will be holding the Annual Meeting of our Society on Friday, June 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome to participate, though only members of FUUSM as of May 16, 2023, who have made an annual contribution to the Society are eligible to vote on any matters that will be decided at this meeting. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Parish Committee.

SUMMER PARISH COMMITTEE MEETINGS on ZOOM

Wednesdays: June 21; July 19; August 16 6:30 p.m.

All members and friends are invited to attend the Parish Committee meetings. The links for these events will be sent by email to *UU Updates* subscribers.





RE Children

We will wrap up our lessons and our *Explore Beyond Our Walls* in Ancient Greece and India with our last stories, *The Brave Little Parrot* and *A Bundle of Sticks*. We will be talking about courage, perseverance and cooperation.

Youth Group

Our last meeting will be on June 11 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will plan for a summer cookout together and will plan for Pridefest. There will be some crafting during this evening for those who are interested in keeping their hands busy while we talk. There will also be pizza and ice cream.

PrideFest

We are looking for volunteers for PrideFest on Saturday, June 24. We will be sharing our tables between 8:30 and 10:00, helping the vendors from 10:00 to 12:00, selling popcorn from 12:00 to 4:00, and cleaning up 4:00 to 5:00. It will be an exciting and fun day.

LGBTQIA and Allies Meeting, Parents and Youth

We will be meeting on **Wednesday, June 28, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall**. This meeting will include all LGBTQIA and allies as we continue discussing what we are looking for in a group. We will make some group agreements and plan for our summer meetings. Please join us for the conversation. Light snacks and refreshments will be offered.

Library Project

We are working to wrap up the Library Project and will have an opportunity for anyone interested to finish organizing and cleaning up the book shelves. Niko Pucillo-Dunphy has worked diligently organizing our bookshelves into a searchable catalog of books. A date will soon be announced for our wrap-up session.

RE Committee

We will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, in person at the church and will also have a link if it is easier for people to join virtually. New members are welcome. The link will go out in *UU Updates*.

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Committee exists to facilitate our congregation making a concrete, substantial positive difference in our community. The Committee accomplishes this charge partially by sponsoring events that directly benefit the immediate community of Middleboro and its neighboring towns: over the past year we've conducted a letter-writing campaign to get out the vote for the November Congressional elections; each Saturday morning we hold a "Black Lives Matter" vigil on the church's front lawn; each month we direct Sundays' Cash-in-the-Plate to a non-profit organization that benefits citizens of our area of Massachusetts. We also donate to national and international organizations that provide services in areas of great need, such as currently in Ukraine.

The committee is finding that our church's social justice objectives can often be most effectively achieved by joining and supporting programs run by other local non-profit organizations. During 2022/23 we strengthened our on-going relationships with three of these, staffing and supporting the Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights' (BCCR) Juneteenth program, participating in three Sustainable Middleboro events, as well as attending a breakfast and events of the Brockton Area Branch NAACP.

Much of our discussion and work this year has been directed at improving our process as a committee, speeding our ability to respond to requests and regularizing our processes for communicating with the congregation. With a HUGE assist from Dan Hotchkiss and great weekly cooperation and help from Valarie Ortelt, we now have a regularly updated page on the church website. Deanne Bonnar, Dody Adkins-Perry, and Lois Aldrich have developed on-going relationships with BCCR, Sustainable Middleboro, and the Brockton Area Branch NAACP, often attending their meetings and becoming friendly with their volunteers.

We have spent time discussing how much of our effort to spend generating programs ourselves for the congregation versus facilitating congregation members' interests. We believe we'll be most successful if we do some of both: we don't have the resources to put the weight of the church behind every interest of each congregation member but when we can, we can broaden the positive impact of our congregation members' social justice passions. We don't have the horses to do everything for everyone, but if we can't sponsor a program directly, we can still often assist or provide guidance and/or contacts for those wanting to become involved.

With our process improving, we're planning new initiatives over these coming months: Juneteenth celebration, a summer service presentation, a silent witness (domestic violence) exhibit, de-escalation training for the congregation next fall (what to do if there is hostile verbal or physical response at a vigil or protest), etc.

Current members of the Social Justice Team are Dody Adkins-Perry, Lois Aldrich, Deanne Bonnar, Bill Howe, Christine Hoyle, and Bob Waterman with Reverend Peter Connolly joining us. We hold Zoom meetings on alternating Thursdays.

Bill Howe

SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENTS

For more information, please visit the [Social Justice page](#) on the church website.

Peace, Justice & Equality Vigils

Every Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Church Lawn

All are invited to join in. Sign up for training and/or the vigil by visiting [Vigil Sign-Ups](#).

Taunton Pride Festival

Saturday, June 10 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Hopewell Park, Taunton

Join us for this "special day full of family fun to celebrate love and togetherness for everyone." Yoga in the park at 11am, live music, drag performers and dancers, food trucks, local vendors and crafts, health and wellness area—and dedicated spaces for kids and elders. You won't find a more active or passionate LGBTQ+ community than the one in Taunton. Go to <https://sclgbtqnetwork.org/events> for more details.

Bridgewater's 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, June 17 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Bridgewater Middle School 166 Mt. Prospect Street

There will be a variety of activities: Scavenger Hunt, Races & Contests, Craft Table, Refreshments, Entertainment, Food, Vendors, Raffles, Children's Activities and More! Free Event for Everyone to Enjoy.

Several FUUSM members are helping with the celebration. FUUSM will have a table there.

2nd Annual Middleboro PrideFest

Saturday, June 24 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Middleboro Town Hall Lawn

Food, vendors, balloons, games, crafts, queens - fun for everyone! Contact Dody Adkins-Perry for more information.

LGBTQIA Support Group for Youth and Parents

Wednesday, June 28 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Parish Hall

This meeting will combine all LGBTQIA and allies to discuss what we are looking for in a group. Please join us for the conversation. Light snacks and refreshments will be offered.

De-Escalation Training

Saturday, September 16 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Parish Hall

Impact Boston will be providing the congregation with de-escalation training. Increase your ability to prevent uncomfortable situations from escalating and learn concrete ways to increase your safety if they do.



JUST THIS SANGHA on ZOOM

Every Friday 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Just This Sangha meets 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. 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.



FULL MOON MEDITATION on ZOOM

with Natalie Johnson

Saturday, June 3 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/92906971312>



This Full Moon falls in the sign of Sagittarius, the great cosmic archer. Sagittarius is the higher octave of Aries. While Aries gives us the initial impetus to start things, Sagittarius helps us to aim surer and higher, encouraging us to place our intentions on the tip of his arrow, trusting that he will send them further and more precisely into the higher realms in order to reach their target.

From now until the Solstice, the sun continues to rise higher and burn brighter and hotter in the skies above. Let us gather tonight to review the seeds we have planted, assess their progress and use the last of the full solar energies to give them that final push towards successful harvest.



**Fridays: June 9; July 14; August 11 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
in the Parish Hall**

We hope you will join us for this lively activity sponsored by the Church and open to the public! We will start with a potluck of hearty snacks, coffee, tea, and water in the Parish Hall, so bring along a favorite treat to share. A circle of chairs will be set up along with a portable keyboard, and we will provide some percussion instruments. Participants can bring their own guitars, ukuleles, dulcimers, etc., or just their voices — hands for clapping and feet for stomping! Join folks who enjoy getting together with others to sing — no particular expertise required, the point is having fun and learning! So invite your friends! RSVP to andreapriesto@gmail.com so we can add your chair to the circle! Hope to see you there!

Bet Giddings, Andrea Priest, Ed Priest



NEW MOON MEDITATION on ZOOM

with Natalie Johnson

Saturday, June 17 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/93355804896>

This New Moon falls in the sign of Gemini, the cosmic twins, reminding us that we perceive reality from two sides of our brain, the right and the left. In earlier times, most of us processed life through our right brain and relied on the intuitive feeling of "knowing" things to help us navigate our daily path. We allowed the natural world to be our teacher and our guide. Since the so called "Age of Reason," we have been on an ever accelerating trajectory toward interpreting life only through our left brain....through intellect, reason, science, facts that can be proven. We see ourselves as separate from the rest of creation. This has allowed us to progress with inventions and technology but has robbed us of our deep connection to the natural world, to other people and to our own inner instinctual resources.

A return to more empathic right brained thinking is called for in these times to help us navigate through the challenges we now face. Tonight let us consider how we might bring both sides into better balance and lead from a place of combined heart/mind as we try to move beyond duality toward unity.



CUUPS SUMMER SOLSTICE RITUAL

Monday, June 19 7:00 p.m.

in the Parish Hall

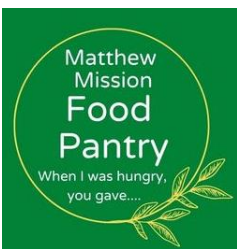


CUUPS will celebrate the Summer Solstice, a time to honor the Sun God at the peak of his power on the longest day of Light in the Northern Hemisphere. With this turning of the Wheel of the Year, we move ever deeper into the fertile energy of summer's abundance.

The seeds planted after the joyful and hopeful celebrations of last month's Beltane are now bursting forth around us. This time is also known as Midsummer, as the world is awash with the bright colors of flowers, the sounds of baby birds, the sight of bunnies and baby deer foraging, and the first signs of ripening berries as the warmth and longer hours of light draw us outside to bask in the beauty and abundance the God and Goddess provide for us. June is the time of traditional Strawberry Thanksgiving for the Indigenous people of our area.

Just as the seeds planted in the earth are giving forth their abundance, so the seeds we planted within ourselves during the long nights of winter's time of introspection are coming to fruition. What seeds of intention did you plant? What has been awakened in you as we move into the fullness of the Light? What is it during this time of year that brings you joy? How do you show your gratitude to Mother Earth and Father Sky? Perhaps we can share these gifts with one another this night.

Join us as we share the gifts of this season given so generously by the Sun God and Goddess Gaia. Bring a reading or poetry to share, or perhaps a photo or other image that speaks to you if you like. We will follow the ritual with a simple feast. In the spirit of being kind and respectful to our Mother Earth, and our church kitchen, please bring your own plates, cups and utensils. All are welcome!



MATTHEW MISSION FOOD PANTRY **FILL THE SHELVES**

Tuesday, June 20 (Rain date June 21) **6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**
Riverhouse Restaurant Fundraiser (21+)

\$100 donation includes Patio seating, finger foods, games, margarita, sangria, or beer flight.
Help the fight against hunger in Taunton.

Tickets: <https://matthewmissionfoodpantry.org> or contact Norm Grenier
at n.grenier@comcast.net or 508-822-2017.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Mondays: June 26; July 17; August 21 **4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**
in the Parish Hall

The Book Club recently celebrated its five-year anniversary and continues to meet the third Monday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30, in the Parish Hall. We occasionally meet via Zoom, so please check in advance if you are not on our regular email list and plan to attend. Please note our June meeting has been rescheduled for the fourth Monday, **June 26**. Our selection this month is *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng. For more info, please contact Carleen at Carleenml@aol.com.



FULL MOON MEDITATION on ZOOM

with Natalie Johnson

Monday, July 3 **6:00 – 6:45 p.m.**

<https://zoom.us/j/98084836445>

This Full Moon falls in the sign of Capricorn, the cosmic sea goat, and is ruled by Saturn, the planet of tasks, rules and limitation. This Full Moon falls also on the eve of our country's celebration of independence, when it claimed its freedom from the country that birthed it and set its sights on a course of creating a better way for its citizens, free from the yoke of limitation and fealty to a distant crown. It had lofty goals and aspirations at that time. Fast forward almost 250 years, and we find ourselves once again fighting for basic human rights, for freedoms we thought we had won and now need to defend and fight for once more. We are in as much turmoil as a nation now as we were back then.

The present threat to freedom, however, does not come from across the ocean. It lives on our own soil. Join us tonight as we consider what freedom means to us. What and who are we willing to fight for? What are we prepared to put on the line or lose in the process? How far are we willing to go to stand up for what we believe? If we are afraid alone, can we see ourselves doing it with others? How far have we fallen from what the founding fathers envisioned in 1776? Can we imagine taking those lofty ideals that never really took root and finally bringing them to fruition? Can we do it? Can we afford not to? Are we willing to try? Let's examine these questions tonight together under the spotlight of the Full Moon.

NEW MOON MEDITATION on ZOOM

with Natalie Johnson

Monday, July 17 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/96257791101>



This New Moon falls in the sign of Cancer, the quintessential sign of the Mother, be it birth, earth or cosmic. The expression of the Divine Feminine that embodies the qualities of life giver, nurturer, protector is in full flower everywhere we look.

We are in high summer now, surrounded by the lushness of growth, the fulfillment of the impulse to life... it is the time when the devas and nature spirits finally take a well deserved break and go off planet to rest and rejuvenate. The plants and all other life are well on their way to completing their life cycle and no longer need constant tending. We are surrounded by abundance, fullness, beauty and completion.

More than human mothers have done their jobs, and babies with fur and fin and feathers are well on their way to independence. Monarchs are eating their way to transformation, hummingbirds are already thinking about their flight southward, woodchuck babies are devouring gardens everywhere, bulking up for the cold times and hibernation that will come soon enough. Although to us humans it is still the height of summer, to the rest of the natural world, the wheel has already turned, and they are mindful of what comes next. But we can afford to linger in summer this night. Savor the warmth and beauty of flowers, the promise of a good harvest in our gardens, the magic of fireflies who come out of the deep woods to put on their light show each night and then disappear once again. Let us take some time this night to share memories of magical summer days and nights with each other.



FULL MOON MEDITATION on ZOOM

with Natalie Johnson

Tuesday, August 1 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/94466338656>

This Full Moon falls in the sign of Aquarius, the airwaves, the great communicator. We are living in a time when communication seems difficult. We seem to be at such odds at times it is as if we are not only of differing opinions but seem to be speaking different languages that are unintelligible to one another.

This Full Moon also falls in the middle of the period known as the Lion's Gate... an event that begins each year on July 28 and peaks on August 8. The ancient Egyptians marked this time as the heliacal rise of Sirius and the flooding of the Nile, which brought much welcomed water to their planted fields. The Lion's Gate occurs each year when the sun is in Leo and the Earth, Orion's belt and the star Sirius are in perfect alignment; 8/8 is a portal through which maximum solar energies are disseminated from the Solar Logos through our own sun through Sirius and down to Earth. It is a time of maximum love and support from the higher realms and a perfect time for us to set our intentions for what we wish to bring forth in service to earth and to humanity. Join us this night as we open ourselves to this blessing of cosmic energy and allow it to give wings to our intentions and desires.



NEW MOON MEDITATION on ZOOM

with Natalie Johnson

Tuesday, August 15 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/94091223572>

This New Moon falls in the sign of Leo, the wonderful shaggy maned being, the King of Beasts. Although lions exist in many forms and in many lands, including our own, it is the iconic African lion who comes to mind most often. Cultures worldwide have honored these beings, from the ancient Egyptians to the Aztecs and Incas.

The energy of Leo is expansive, sunny, loving, expressive, inclusive and openhearted. He models for us the right use of power and strength... not power over but power shared and used wisely, in service to the greater good, as protector and provider of his pride. His demeanor is regal, measured... nothing is done in haste but rather is well thought out.

Lions live in community, they hunt in groups, understanding that it is in working together that they can succeed in providing for the needs of the entire community. Male lions share responsibility and power with their female counterparts, and each knows its role and values the other as different but equal. The ultimate surviving and thriving of their species is their shared goal.

Let us gather tonight and welcome this wonderful being as he joins us in sharing wisdom about the right use of power and how we can learn better ways to be in service to our world.



ANNUAL CHOIR PARTY

Saturday, August 26

(rain date August 27)

12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

at Valerie Fontaine's Home



All Chalice Choir members are invited to Valerie's for our Annual Choir Party.



FOR JUNE

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. Please sign up [here](#) to be a Coffee Hour Host or Greeter on a Sunday morning in June, or use the sign-up sheets on the Parlor table. Thank you.

COMMUNITY BOOK BOX

Tony Chiuppi and his crew from Middleboro High School built our new Book Box in collaboration with the Middleboro Rotary Club. His crew managed the excavation and mounting of the Book Box at Tony's direction. At a future date, the Rotary Wheel will be added to the Book Box.

There will be a meeting to coordinate a UU team who will oversee the Book Box. Everyone is invited to donate books. Please look through your collection and put aside up to a bag full; we will announce how they will be collected. Books for children and young adults are very welcome.

This project started before COVID, so we are very grateful to see its completion.

Andrea Priest



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



**MINUTES OF THE
PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
May 17, 2023**

Present: Jim Bonnar, Bob Waterman, Marc MacQueen, Nicole Sykes, Rev. Peter Connolly,
Kelly Lownds

Minutes from last meeting - accepted.

Reports

Minister - PC reviewed written report; Rev. Peter was unable to attend the last interim ministry training.

Music - PC reviewed written report.

Religious Exploration - PC reviewed written report.

Finance - PC reviewed written summary.

Building & Grounds - Five windows downstairs are being replaced this week; decision on other five pending; we are waiting for estimates and more info on other priority projects; waiting for update on security system; Marc fixed loose board on back steps; work on ceiling over piano will be done in the summer.

Social Justice - Planning underway for domestic violence service and display in July; suggestion that a meeting be held for the Congregation to learn more and ask questions; will be referred to the Social Justice Team. Middleboro PrideFest scheduled for 6/24.

Discussed an incident involving an individual who confronted a member of the Congregation about the rainbow flag. The individual believed an element of the flag represented pedophilia. Discussed educating the Congregation on the symbolic meaning of the elements of the flag. Also, the Social Justice Team is organizing a De-escalation Training session to assist with such incidents.

Budget - Discussed the results of the Pledge Drive and the implications for the next year's budget. Pledges for next year were about \$13,000 short of goal. Decisions will need to be made about achieving a balanced budget. PC will further discuss and will prepare a draft budget to present to the Congregation in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Communications/Public Relations/Social Media organizing and planning. Rev. Peter has met with several people and will be convening a team to work on strategies and tasks.

Annual Meeting date set for June 16, in person in the Sanctuary.

JUNE 2023

				1	2	3
				3:30 p.m. Pride Flag Raising Ceremony, Bridgewater 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom	1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom	9:00 a.m. Memorial Garden Work Party 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn 6:00 p.m. Full Moon Meditation - Zoom
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 a.m. Worship Service 12:15 p.m. Reading Group, Parlor		10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. Care Team on Zoom 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	10:00 am-1:00 pm Minister's Office Hours 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 12:15 p.m. Reading Group, Parlor 6:30 p.m. RE Committee on Zoom, Parish Hall		1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Song Circle, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom	11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn 12:00 noon Taunton Pride Festival
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 12:15 p.m. Reading Group, Parlor 5:00 p.m. Youth Group, Parish Hall	Kitchen Closed	Kitchen Closed 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. Care Team on Zoom 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	Kitchen Closed 12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 12:15 p.m. Reading Group, Parlor 7:00 p.m. Music Committee on Zoom	Kitchen Closed 3:30 p.m. Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony, Bridgewater 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom	11:30 a.m. Blood Drive, Brockton 12:00 noon Church Office Closes for the Summer 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting, Sanctuary	11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn 2:00 p.m. Juneteenth Celebration, Bridgewater 6:00 p.m. New Moon Meditation on Zoom
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 12:15 p.m. Reading Group, Parlor	7:00 p.m. CUUPS Summer Solstice Ritual, Parish Hall	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. Care Team on Zoom 6:00 p.m. Fill the Shelves, Taunton	12:15 p.m. Reading Group, Parlor 6:30 p.m. Parish Committee on Zoom			11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn 12:00 noon Pride Fest, Middleboro Town Hall Lawn
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:00 a.m. Summer Services Begin, Parish Hall	4:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. Care Team on Zoom	6:30 p.m. LGBTQIA Support Group Parish Hall	7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom	6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom	

JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<div>1</div> <div>9:00 a.m. Memorial Garden Work Party</div> <div>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</div>
<div>2</div> <div>9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Parish Hall</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6:00 p.m. Full Moon Meditation on Zoom</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Happy 4th OF JULY!</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom</div>	<div>7</div> <div>6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom</div>	<div>8</div> <div>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</div>
<div>9</div> <div>9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Parish Hall</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom</div>	<div>14</div> <div>6:00 p.m. Song Circle, Parish Hall</div> <div>6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom</div>	<div>15</div> <div>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</div>
<div>16</div> <div>9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Parish Hall</div>	<div>17</div> <div>4:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall</div> <div>6:00 p.m. New Moon Meditation on Zoom</div>	<div>18</div> <div>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</div>	<div>19</div> <div>6:30 p.m. Parish Committee on Zoom</div>	<div>20</div> <div>7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom</div>	<div>21</div> <div>6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom</div>	<div>22</div> <div>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</div>
<div>23</div> <div>9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Parish Hall</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div>7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom</div>	<div>28</div> <div>6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom</div>	<div>29</div> <div>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</div>
<div>30</div> <div>9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Parish Hall</div>	<div>31</div>					

AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. Full Moon Meditation on Zoom	2	3 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom	4 6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom	5 9:00 a.m. Memorial Garden Work Party 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
6 9:00 a.m. Lughnasadh Ritual, Soule Homestead	7	8 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall	9	10 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom	11 6:00 p.m. Song Circle, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom	12 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
13 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Parish Hall	14	15 9:00 a.m. Church Office Reopens 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. New Moon Meditation On Zoom	16 6:30 p.m. Parish Committee on Zoom	17 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom	18 6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom	19 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
20 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Parish Hall	21 4:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall	22 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall	23	24 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom	25 6:00 p.m. Just This Sangha on Zoom	26 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn 12:00 noon Annual Choir Party, V. Fontaine's Home
27 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Parish Hall	28 September Newsletter Deadline	29 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	30	31 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Group on Zoom		



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

UU CAMPS, RETREATS, & CONFERENCES

Our vibrant network of retreat centers, camps, and conferences offer experiences of growth, connection, spirituality, and community throughout the year. Each of these independent camps and centers identifies with Unitarian Universalist (UU) values and traditions. Visit the following New England websites to see their updated offerings.

The Rowe Center

Rowe Center is an unusual and magical place cherished by thousands of people who come each year for relaxation, education, community, spiritual nurturance, and lots of fun. At Rowe they find a spirit of honesty, creativity, respect, and love. Rowe's summer camps have inspired and delighted kids since 1924. The adult camps have developed over several decades into self-sustaining communities ready to welcome new members.

Star Island

Star Island is one of the nine Isles of Shoals located seven miles off the coast of New Hampshire and Maine. All are welcome to explore the island for a day, enjoy a meal, spend the night, or attend a conference. For the last 100 years, Star Island has offered an all-inclusive summer camp experience for families and hosted a wide variety of themed conferences and personal retreats. Whether you find yourself mesmerized by the sunset in a rocking chair on the porch, exploring Gosport Harbor in a kayak, or learning about our innovative environmental programs, Star Island is unforgettable.

Ferry Beach

Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Center is located on the coast of southern Maine. We offer engaging conferences, retreats, vacations, and youth camp, plus meeting and celebration spaces on our beautiful 32-acre oceanfront campus. Wake up by the sea in our quaint cottages and halls or at our campsites in the Grove. Our relaxed campus features a sand volleyball court, two playgrounds, an art studio, fire pit, outdoor chapel, and of course, the beach! Our dining hall provides healthy, delicious food and good coffee—no shopping, cooking, or cleaning necessary. And since this is Maine, lobsters are available every week!

