



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

<https://uumiddleboro.org>

508-947-1935

October 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, October 1
Natalie Johnson preaching
Atonement/At-One-Ment

Exploring a seasonal practice of atonement and forgiveness as a way of returning to right relationship with ourselves, the ancestors, our family and friends, the Earth and All That Is. Offered in preparation for entering more open-heartedly into the coming season of Light. Special music will be provided by a vocal ensemble as well as Ed Priest leading "I Am Light" by India Arie Simpson.

Sunday, October 8
Rev. Peter Connolly preaching
The Legacy of America's Indigenous People

Indigenous People's Day gives us an opportunity to look at the cultures that populated the American continent before European settlement and to gain from their wisdom. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

Sunday, October 15
Rev. Peter Connolly preaching
Using Our Emotional Intelligence

Daniel Goleman, who popularized the term "emotional intelligence" in his 1995 book of that name, says that "the key to a high group IQ is social harmony." Today we'll take a look at some of the factors that contribute to that desirable state. Special music will be provided by Bet Giddings.

Sunday, October 22
Rev. Peter Connolly preaching
Caring for Our Mental Health

How is mental health related to spiritual health? And how can we best assess the state of our mental health to know when to seek pastoral care, psychotherapy, and other options for treatment? Today, we'll explore the role of mental health in our spiritual journeys. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

Sunday, October 29
Viola Fairweather preaching
Remembering the Dead and Living Fully

For centuries people around the globe have been honoring their ancestors and souls of the departed. Peter Morales, a former UUA President, urged us not to dismiss the Day of the Dead because we could easily miss the profound spiritual insight that makes the tradition powerful. **You are invited on this Sunday closest to Hallowed Eve to bring a picture or symbol of your loved one to place on the altar as you enter the sanctuary.** During the service we will all be invited to gather in a circle around the church aisles. We will pass the chalice around and, if you choose, you may speak aloud the name or names of your beloved dead. This will enable us to appreciate and value them with you. Special music will be provided by Ed Priest and Patty & Barry Simon.

Minister's Note

Greetings, members and friends of UU Middleboro! We're already a month into the new church year, and the weather is getting crisper as the days shorten and nights lengthen. It's time for pumpkins and candy corn and fall colors and (almost) time for pumpkin spice-flavored everything.

Our tasks for the second year of interim ministry are coming clearly into focus. We've tried out a few sample covenant statements (bonds of fellowship) as unison readings the first four services of the year, and plans are in place for Andrea Priest to lead up a team to present a draft statement for the congregation to consider adopting. When we say together a shared covenant, we strengthen our commitment to treat one another with mutual respect even when opinions vary and emotions run high.

The church will also be creating a fresh mission statement, one which is short and crisp and easily remembered. A mission statement captures those things that we believe in most strongly and will guide all our actions and the direction of our projects. There are many things that we hold as values-- a mission statement captures those values we hold as most salient. Our current mission statement does a wonderful job of capturing a broad range of values and concerns, but its 180-word length makes it unwieldy for its purpose. We might consider retaining it as an "expanded mission statement," to refer to for inspiration and reflection.

We are working, too, on strengthening our organizational chart, and there is great news to share there. Bill Howe has agreed to head up our Finance Committee, which will consist of the Treasurer, Investment Committee, Fundraising Team, and Pledge Drive staff. Thanks, Bill! Andrea Priest will chair a small Personnel Committee, dedicated to facilitating staff functions and allowing for mediation of disputes should the need arise. Thank you, Andrea! I will be convening the first meeting of a new Public Relations Team in the first week of October. We hope to strengthen our visibility and outreach and suggest changes in presentation that we hope will make us more attractive as a church for the 21st century.

The projects I've mentioned so far are all in the arena of "governance." We also will be strengthening ministry during this transitional time. To that end, Viola Fairweather and I will each be offering a small group ministry opportunity on the experience of grieving losses. It's not too late to sign up. There are sign-up sheets on the church parlor table. You can also contact the minister or office administrator to enroll. The first meeting of the October-November Wednesday group is on October 4 at 12:15 pm in the Parish Hall.

Finally, please take a moment to offer a word of welcome to our newest members, Bruce Henrikson, Diane Reed, and Paul Sanford. Welcome, all!

Autumnal blessings,

Rev. Peter



OCTOBER MUSIC MUSINGS

This month is starting out with a chance to drum-in a new month. On October 1 at 3:00 PM, Sam Holmstock will lead about 20 fine folks in a workshop to explore the rhythms of African and AfroCuban styles. We've got a range of talents from beginners to advanced. I'm so looking forward to learning new techniques and enjoying the magic that happens when we make music together.

Music is an invitation to enter a unique part of our minds and to share that emotional journey with others. Recently our minister started singing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" from the pulpit, and the congregation burst forth with the tune and all the words. In my mind's eye, I saw my mom singing and playing the piano. Music triggers memories. I often think about the power of the caring choirs we organize to visit people who are shut in, isolated, or lonely. We are triggering memories for others, as well as ourselves.

Other October dates include the Music Committee meeting on Wednesday the 11th at 7:00 by Zoom. The October Song Circle happens on Friday the 13th (You might want to wear a Halloween Costume!) in the Parish Hall: 6:00 for shared hors d'oeuvres and 6:30 for the singing.

Please mark your calendars for our grand fall concert on Sunday, November 19, at 3:00. Don't miss this!

Sing soon, sing often, just sing!

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music



SONG CIRCLE

Friday, October 13 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

We hope you will join us for this fun night of music, sponsored by the Church and open to the public!

We will start at 6:00 with a potluck of hearty snacks 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!

At 6:30 join folks who enjoy getting together with others to sing - no particular expertise required, the point is having fun and learning! This is a shared activity sponsored by the Church and open to the community at large. So invite your friends! The Song Circle meets on the second Friday of each month. RSVP to andrepriesto@gmail.com so we can add your chair to the circle! Hope to see you there!

Bet Giddings, Andrea Priest, Ed Priest



RE Committee: We will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, October 4, in person at the church at 6:30 p.m. This month we will be planning for our Annual Bonfire Party and our fall and early winter activities.

Coffee Hour for Parents: We will bring back an opportunity for parents to share during coffee hour. We will set up a table for parents and will try to meet once a month on the second Sunday of the month as appropriate. This month our time together will be on October 8. I will reserve a table for the group, and anyone who is interested is welcome to join us!

Registration for RE: Forms are available in church, and the registration fee can be paid anytime by check or with cash. We also have online registration. Thank you, Greg Stevens, for creating the link and the Google form that allows our registrants to add their information. Registration Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQOe5r9Vrq3mvRsPLXYSRb6Xpcl-uhLg5ChzswG2ZVuPqiJQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

RE Classes: This year the children will be exploring the concept of home, their family home, the homes of creatures of the earth, their spiritual homes and the homes of those outside our community and in the larger world. Our first lessons are about thresholds, and we will be decorating the threshold at church with pretty paper flowers. We will also share some flowers with a nursing home and decorate the threshold of someone in need of cheering up. We will consider our spiritual home and the symbols we embrace to represent it. We build a bear of wholeness through the year, stuffing a teddy bear and filling it with badges that match our values, goals and loves. We are meeting our bears on October 1.

Youth Group: We are going to "Sing to the Power" this year in Youth Group. We will be exploring the power we have to make the world a better place together. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. – October 8 and October 22. We will have some pot luck dinners this year as well as our favorite pizza.

Annual Bonfire: We will have our Annual Bonfire Party on Sunday, October 29. Currently, the party is planned at the church from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. More to come on our plans. We will have our traditional bone hunt, mummy wrapping contest, trick or treat game and donut eating contest but will also try to add some new traditions. Please plan to join the RE families and youth.

Candles and Crafts: We will be making candles together to sell at the Craft Fair UU table on November 4. More to come for plans regarding this.

RE Closet and Space: The RE families came together in August to clean out the RE closet, organize it and make it a more usable space. There are a couple small projects being finished by the youth in the upcoming month, but overall things are looking good! We are trying to configure the RE area so it is most usable with the new coffee hour tables, and our new book system is in the works. Thank you everyone who came to help!

LGBTQIA Support Group: We are still working on this being a functional group. We had a successful couple of groups for planning in the spring and will work to make this a great group this fall. We'll meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month, October 25, at the church from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. It is planned for youth, families and allies of the youth.

Social Action: I am looking for someone to help organize a few social action opportunities for the youth. Part of our curriculum this year will have us decorating the threshold at church and also at a nursing home, collecting food for the pantry and collecting toys for the shelters.

Volunteers for RE Classes: I will be reaching out looking for people to be downstairs with me again this year. I need an adult every week to help ensure we have a safe, well managed classroom for our youth. CORIs are completed on each volunteer and are good for three years.

Kelly Lounds, Director of Religious Exploration

UU Middleboro 3rd Annual

Road Rally!



Saturday, October 21st at 9:30AM
Middleboro Town Hall Parking Lot



Sign up your team for a fun
scavenger hunt on wheels!
\$40 per team

Trophies, snacks, and entertainment to follow.

For details and to register, email
JohnNMullen@gmail.com

Up to 20 cars can participate, and each car carries a team of two to four people. (Hint: Four is easier than Two!) Each team follows directions to navigate a slightly tricky course over public roads. The team's challenge is to use clues to answer questions while safely following all traffic laws along the way.

Cars will "launch" from the Middleboro Town Hall Parking Lot at three-minute intervals starting at 9:30 a.m. Teams with the most accurate combined scores for time, mileage, and answers will be awarded trophies and medals. Entertainment (Ed Priest) and snacks will be provided to contestants at the grand awards ceremony on our Main Street lawn. We're talking trophies and medals!

Detailed information can be found on the [TEAM INFORMATION SHEET](#).

[REGISTRATION AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORMS](#) may be filled out before the rally.



For more information, please visit [Social Justice](#).

Haitian Refugees at Middleboro's Quality Inn

We have learned that 75 Haitian refugees, 35 of whom are children, are being housed by the state in the Quality Inn; and we understand that they have many needs that are not being met: French and Creole translators, food to supplement 2 meals per day, diapers, toiletries, feminine products, clothing, etc. We will welcome offers of help from the congregation as we work out how best the church can assist.

Veterans group says white supremacist signs near Black businesses in Oak Bluffs need to be treated as hate crime

The placement of white supremacist signs near Black-owned businesses on Oak Bluffs should be treated as a hate crime, according to Task Force Butler, a research group made up of veterans. The D.A.'s office has declined to say whether that will be the case.

Peace Pole

The Rotary Club has asked if we would like to host a Peace Pole. We received this invitation too late to take action this year. A photo is on the church website. Would you like FUUSM to host a peace pole on our lawn?

***King Philip's War, the History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict* Monday, October 2 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

Michael Tougias, co-author of *King Philip's War, the History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict*, will speak on the subject at the Middleborough Public Library.

MA Indigenous Legislation

An Act to Establish Indigenous Peoples Day. S.1976/H.2989. Indigenous Peoples Day would replace Columbus Day. The hearing is expected to be **October 3**. [Take 2 minutes to send email testimony to the committee](#). You can use the language that is provided, or modify it if you wish.

Book Banning Forum

Wednesday, October 4 6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

BCCR will present a forum on Book Banning at the Bridgewater Public Library, 15 South St, Bridgewater; also on Zoom. Zoom link is on BCCR's website: <https://www.bccrcivilrights.org>

LGBTQ+ Older Adults & Allies – Lunch and Entertainment

Bridgewater Senior Center 10 Wally Krueger Way

Thursday, October 5 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

To reserve a space, call 508-697-0929 or email seniorcenter@bridgewaterma.org. Meets monthly.

Peace, Justice & Equality Vigils

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

Visit the Social Justice page on the church website to register for the following events:

Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Resiliency

Thursday, October 12 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Restoring Indigenous Foodways for Climate Resilience

Thursday, October 26 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Climate Change from the Indigenous Perspective

Friday, November 3 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Built from Bondage: Slavery and the Colonisation of New England, 1620-1700

Wednesday, October 18 7:00 p.m.

MINISTERIAL SEARCH SURVEY & COTTAGE MEETINGS

We have a different process for finding a new minister this year, and it is very important that we have input from the congregation.



In October we will be hosting Cottage Meetings to go over the summary of survey findings and to further refine your wishes and concerns. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parlor, or you can sign up **HERE**. We offer morning, afternoon, evening, and after-church meeting times at the church and an evening Zoom meeting for those who cannot attend in person. We plan to have eight participants in each meeting.

Members of the Search Committee are Lois Aldrich, Adrian Gunn, Andrea Priest, David Kraemer, Vi Fairweather and Jim Bonnar, chairperson.



WE COULD USE YOUR HELP THIS FALL



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, Greeter, or Worship Associate on a Sunday morning, or use the sign-up sheets on the Parlor table.

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide – it is greatly appreciated.



Two Workshops on Understanding Grief Are Being Offered:

WHEN WE GRIEVE

Led by Peter Connolly

5 Wednesdays, October 4 – November 1

12:15 – 1:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall

This Small Group Ministry is meeting weekly on Wednesdays for five weeks: October 4, 11, 18, 25, and November 1 from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. Group is limited to 8 participants. The sign-up sheet is on the Parlor table. If there is sufficient interest, the ministry will be offered again in the spring.



COPING WITH GRIEF

Led by Viola Fairweather

3 Saturdays: October 14, November 18, December 2

1:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Our calendars are filling up quickly and many of us have experienced real loss and grief over this past summer. Vi will try to give you some tools to help you bear your sorrow in community. Class size is limited to 10. The sign-up sheet is on the Parlor table.

NEW MOON MEDITATION

ON ZOOM

with **Natalie Johnson**
Sunday, October 15
6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/98054463691>

This New Moon is still reveling in the power of exerting her feminine energy to occlude the sun's rays from Earth in the recent annular eclipse. She also falls in the sign of Libra, encouraging us to employ greater equanimity and discernment in our relationships.



As we continue to move closer to the time when the veil between the worlds is thinnest, we can go within and review our life's path thus far... the influence those who have gone before, whether recently or in the long ago past, have had on who we are today. We recognize that although we are individual souls, we are also on a continuum and are the sum of all who have gone before in our lineage. We can take the time to learn of these ones and recognize both their gifts and their shortcomings... all of which have added to our own unique make-up.

Tonight we will consider how the ancestors have influenced us and have determined what gifts can be gleaned from their lives that can assist us in our own lives in the present time. All are welcome.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, October 16 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Parish Hall

Our selection for this month is *Shutter* by Ramona Emerson.

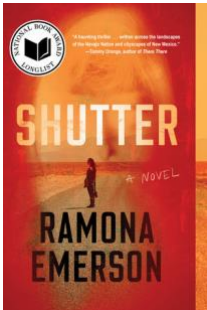
We hope to continue in the tradition of meeting and discussing various genres of books. We continue to meet on the third Monday of the month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. New and old members are welcome.

Linda Thompson



PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING ON ZOOM
Wednesday, October 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.





FULL MOON MEDITATION ON ZOOM

with Natalie Johnson

Sunday, October 29

6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/95666306093>

This Full Moon, also known as the Hunter's Moon or Blood Moon, is in the sign of Taurus, the quintessential earth sign. Firmly rooted in Mother Earth, this night calls to us to honor our final harvest as well as our animal kin who willingly offer their own lives in order that we may live.

When we are in right relationship with Earth - when we practice reciprocity and think to ask rather than just take - she supplies all we ever need to flourish. Under the light of this brilliant Full Moon, let us gather tonight to consider all that we owe Her, how we depend upon her generosity, and how often we have fallen short in showing appreciation or care. Consider initiating your own simple practice of honoring Her in small but powerful gestures. Perhaps instead of herculean efforts to undo all the damage we continue to inflict on Her, we could start by just offering Her our love. Maybe that is what She truly longs for.

Join us tonight to explore the possibilities. All are welcome.



CUUPS

SAMHAIN RITUAL

Monday, October 30, at 7:00 p.m.

in the Parish Hall



The Wheel of the Year has turned once again to Samhain, the final harvest. It is said to be the night when the veil between the worlds is the thinnest, and communication between the world of the living and that of the dead is most favored.

This past year has been one of particular loss and challenge for our immediate families, our church family and the world at large. Losses and departures have become more frequent and widespread, and it is fitting on this night to acknowledge all of that within the sanctity of our Circle and with beloved community.

Once again, we will invoke sacred space with our candles and callings, creating a safe container in which to share deeply felt emotions. There will be space on our altar for photos or other objects of remembrance to be shared. Whether the loss is recent or remote, personal or communal, all are welcome. In naming and witnessing, our grief is lessened and held tenderly by many hearts. In remembering our beloved dead, we keep them alive. Witnessing in silence and being a part of our Circle is also fine. It is understood that some grief is just too deep for outward expression. We will also honor the gifts of our ancestors tonight. It will be an evening of deep connecting, honoring and celebrating the lives of all who have come before and who still watch over us from beyond the veil. It is implicit that all are held in perfect trust.

A simple feast will follow our ritual. Robes are encouraged for CUUPS members. All are welcome.



Don't forget the

HOLIDAY FAIR



Saturday, November 4 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Parish Hall

All crafters, bakers and cooks are invited to make an item or items to donate for us to sell! If you are interested in renting a table for your own crafts, the cost is \$25 and includes a 6-foot table, two chairs and table covering.

If you can:

- donate an item or items for sale
- help with setup (Friday, 11/3, in the Parish Hall)
- help with a table anytime the day of the fair
- help with clean up
- be a member of the Fair Team
- help in any way needed

please let Katie know by email (katieallen57@outlook.com). We hope that this will be a great fundraiser for our church!

Andrea Priest will, once again, manage a jewelry table that will include scarves! If you have any jewelry or scarves you would like to donate for this table, please reach out to Andrea at andreapriesto@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide – it is greatly appreciated!



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:	Peter Connolly

Parish Committee

President:	Jim Bonnar
Vice President:	Viola Fairweather
Treasurer:	Marc MacQueen
Assistant Treasurer:	Jeff Giddings
Parish Clerk:	Lois Aldrich
Members At Large:	Stephen Larrett Nicole Sykes



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

September 20, 2023

Present: Lois Aldrich (virtual), Jim Bonnar, Steve Larrett, Jeff Giddings, Marc MacQueen, Viola Fairweather, Rev. Peter Connolly

Absent: Nicole Sykes

Meeting called to order by Jim Bonnar at 6:40 p.m.

Reading provided by Rev. Peter Connolly.

Minutes of last meeting: voted on and approved

Treasurer's Report: Marc MacQueen submitted the Treasurer's Report to the PC. Report accepted. Marc informed the PC that 24% of pledged funds have been received. Good balance in checkbook. Parlor work is near completion and will be paid through the Avis Clay fund. Rev. Peter Connolly suggested the church have a bi-annual meeting in addition to the annual meeting not only to update the congregation on the church's financial status but to address other matters of interest.

Building & Grounds: The Building & Grounds Team submitted reports for August and September. B & G has been very busy with various projects including investigating options for replacing runners in the sanctuary, Nickerson Street entrance, and the hall downstairs. Runners are old and disintegrating and are a safety hazard. The plan would also include taking steps to clean wood floors afterwards. Noted that runners could be more of a safety hazard for seniors so will need to be secured to the floor to avoid tripping over the runners.

Work has begun on making the basement entrance handicapped accessible (operated by pushing a button). Valerie Fontaine has been coordinating this project. \$4000 has been contributed by two donors toward the project, which will cost ~ \$6000. The PC agreed that the remaining balance will be paid through the Mary Fuller Fund. Concern was voiced with use of the Mary Fuller Fund as there have been many asks, and funds are gradually being depleted in that account. Need to prioritize the projects.

Social Justice Team Report: Lois Aldrich provided an update on the Social Justice Team activities:

Cash in the Plate: Since October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, the team recommends that half of the Cash in the Plate for October go to South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center (SSRAC) and half go to support people impacted by recent disasters. It was noted that the congregation was very generous with the previous donation in June of \$1200 for SSRAC and that having two organizations benefit from the Cash in the Plate in October would therefore be a good idea. Some PC members expressed their preference for supporting local disaster efforts. Lois informed the PC that the SJT is exploring options for donating toward relief efforts in Leominster, MA, where many people remain homeless.

Jeff Giddings received a request from Norm Grenier regarding the Cash in the Plate for November and whether or not it will be given to Matthew Mission, which has been done in the past. The Social Justice Team currently makes recommendations for the Cash in the Plate. Jeff will follow up with them.

The SJT has received a request from Middleboro Matters, a local substance abuse prevention coalition, to use space in the Parish Hall to conduct an educational event. However, the SJT is unclear as to the church's policy around use of church space by outside

groups (i.e., if there is a fee, etc.). The PC suggested Middleboro Matters submit a formal request in writing to the PC detailing date, time, number of attendees, etc. Rev. Peter suggested Lois follow up with Val Ortelt on policy and fee schedules for use of space. If FUUSM is co-sponsor of the event, a request to waive the fee may be made.

Dan Hotchkiss had circulated information to the SJT regarding the need for social justice activities to balance “Charity and Change,” i.e., “giving” actions (food pantry donations, clothing donations, etc.) and actions to bring about institutional change. The SJT will be following up with further discussion on this matter.

Reports: The following reports were received by the PC: RE, Music, and Minister’s Report. Rev. Peter noted that RE registration has nearly doubled with the addition of several new families.

Minister's Agenda: Rev. Peter spoke with the PC about some of his recommendations regarding the future of FUUSM and the need to modernize some of our policies and practices in preparation for contracting with a new minister. He asked the PC to consider amending Article 1 of the church’s Bylaws which state, *“The name of the Society shall be the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough, Massachusetts.”* This name reflects the original name bestowed on the church and is rarely used by the congregation or the public. Some members prefer the term “Society” rather than “Church.”

Rev. Peter suggested Article 1 be amended by adding a sentence indicating an informal name, such as “UU Middleboro,” which many people commonly use when referring to FUUSM. Drafting and approving such an amendment would allow us to move forward with changes to signage. The suggestion was made that this may be appropriate for Public Relations to take on as it relates to marketing.

Needed Committees: Discussion around which Committees need to be convened going forward to ensure we have a solid organizational structure. These include the Personnel Committee (meets as needed; Rev. Peter will write up charter); Nominating Committee (see Bylaws (meets as needed and before annual meeting each year); and the Finance Committee, which includes Treasurer, Fundraising, Investment, and Stewardship. Rev. Peter reported that he is currently working with interested parties on reviving the Public Relations Committee and scheduling a meeting. The PC is looking for volunteers to fill committee roles.

Mission Statement: The church’s Mission Statement is 20 years old and in need of revision. As the Governing Board, the PC agreed to be responsible for overseeing the development of a Mission Statement. The PC agreed to appoint a sub-committee to oversee the process and report back to the PC. Jeff Giddings, Viola Fairweather, Jim Bonnar and Lois Aldrich volunteered to be on the sub-committee. The sub-committee will discuss the next steps and strategies for engaging the congregation in the development of a Mission Statement. Given time constraints, the sub-committee will consider drafting a proposed Mission Statement that can be shared with the congregation to receive their input.

Book Discussion: PC members are in the process of reading and discussing the book *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Aldrich, Parish Clerk

OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Drumming Workshop, Parish Hall</p> <p>Congregational Surveys Due</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. King Phillip's War, Middleborough Public Library</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall</p>	<p>12:00 noon O of S Deadline</p> <p>12:15 p.m. When We Grieve, Parish Hall</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Book Banning, Bridgewater</p> <p>7:00 p.m. RE Committee, Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Calendar Setting, Parlor</p>	<p>12:00 noon LGBTQ+ Older Adults & Allies Lunch & Entertainment, Bridgewater</p>		<p>9:00 a.m. Memorial Garden Work Party</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration</p> <p>11:45 a.m. Parents Coffee Hour, Parish Hall</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Youth Group, Parish Hall</p>	 <p>2:00 p.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Search Committee, Parish Hall</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall</p> <p>12:00 noon O of S Deadline</p> <p>12:15 p.m. When We Grieve, Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Music Committee on Zoom</p>	<p>12:00 noon Online Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Resiliency</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Social Justice Team Meeting on Zoom</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall</p>		<p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Coping with Grief, Parish Hall</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall</p> <p>6:00 p.m. New Moon Meditation on Zoom</p>	<p>4:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall</p>	<p>12:00 noon O of S Deadline</p> <p>12:15 p.m. When We Grieve, Parish Hall</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Parish Committee on Zoom</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Built from Bondage Online</p>			<p>9:30 a.m. Road Rally, Town Hall Parking Lot</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Cottage Meeting, Parish Hall</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Youth Group, Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Cottage Meeting on Zoom</p>	<p>November Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Search Committee, Parish Hall</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall</p>	<p>12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline</p> <p>12:15 p.m. When We Grieve, Parish Hall</p> <p>6:30 p.m. LGBTQIA Support Group, Parish Hall</p>	<p>12:00 noon Restoring Indigenous Foodways for Climate Resilience Online</p>		<p>9:30 a.m. Road Rally Severe Weather Date</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p>
29	30	31				
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration</p> <p>12:00 noon Halloween Party, Parish Hall</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Full Moon Meditation On Zoom</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. CUUPS Samhain Ritual, Parish Hall</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Wedding, All Church</p> 				



<https://www.uua.org/new-england>

New Small Group Ministry Offering from the NER Team! (online, self-paced)

[Meeting the Rest of Ourselves](#)

The New England Region team is delighted to share our new seven-part series on the practices of [Spiritual Leadership](#). Consider offering the series this church year if you are planning or organizing Small Group Ministry in your congregation. For a closer look at what's included check out the [Facilitator Guide](#) and [Participant Handbook](#).

Right Relationship Congregational Team Training - Tending Covenant

Event format: Online

Thursday, October 5 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

This event is every other Thursday for 6 sessions starting on 10/05/23.

Creating beloved community requires intention and practice. Our covenants articulate our intention, but how do we live into the practice?

Liberating Governance for Our Time: A community of practice

Event format: Online Webinar

Tuesday, October 10 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

We will look at the practice of experimenting, learning, and adapting as we move toward more liberatory governance models. We will use the example of the UU Society of Amherst, MA and their experiments with the tools of Sociocracy.

