



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

<https://uumiddleboro.org>

508-947-1935

December 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, December 3

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

Jewish and Muslim Teachings on Peace

In a time of war, death, and destruction in Israel and the Gaza strip, it's helpful to be reminded of the teachings of peace embedded in the religious traditions of the adversaries. Erik Lindgren is our guest musician this morning, hosted by Ed Priest who will provide a Musical Offering.

Sunday, December 10

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

Religion Without Revelation

Most Western religious traditions are founded on the premise that the deepest meaning we can find in our lives depends on a revelation from a supernatural source. A humanist perspective finds natural sources to be enough. Special vocal will be provided by Nicola Wilbar singing *The Chandelier*.

Sunday, December 17

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

Whose Bible Is It, Anyway?

A literal reading of any of the various English translations of the original Hebrew and Greek has provoked all kinds of trouble in the America of our day. Today, we'll look at ways to make our way through Biblical inconsistencies to see if this seminal text can still hold significance for us. The Chalice Choir will be singing.

There will be no morning service on December 24.

Sunday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Rev. Peter Connolly preaching

A Refuge for the Outcast and the Alienated

There are many ways to view the Christmas story. The marginalization of the family of Jesus of Nazareth is one poignant theme that may have resonance for us today. In addition to the Chalice Choir, there will be Shelly Otis on harp and vocals, an intergenerational "Flute Choir," solos and surprises.

Sunday, December 31

Adrienne Williams presenting

Conceptualizing Kwanzaa in 2023: Personal Observations and Reflections

What was Dr. Karenga's intent in creating Kwanzaa in 1966? Has the holiday's observance changed over time? As an educational, cultural holiday celebrating the history of Africans in America and throughout the African Diaspora, what role must it play in the current, divisive socio-political environment? Let us mull these things over together and, of course, raise our voices in song and spirit! Adrienne will be assisted by members of the Chalice Choir.

A Note from the Minister

December, 2023

Ah, the holiday season! The Christmas cards and holiday displays that were already crowding the aisles of department stores and Dollar Stores before Halloween have finally (already!) appeared in stores and homes and public spaces at a time that feels more appropriate. Already the “Merry Christmas” vs. “Happy Holidays!” battles have begun online-- and at certain political rallies. And, so, we get ready for the mixed blessings that the holidays bring.

Happy Times. I got news a few weeks ago that Hope Rochefort, the daughter of my college room-mate Dave, and whom I've known all her life, gave birth to baby Ike David in early November. And this week, I got the news that Mary Grayson, who I've known since she was thirteen, daughter of my friend Jennifer in Bowling Green, gave birth to her first child, daughter Adalynn Quincy, on Thanksgiving Day. These families are looking forward to a joyous first Christmas with infants-- while Ike's 20-month-old brother Ernie tries to adjust to a new baby in the house. Lots of excitement amidst the stresses of raising a family in these times.

Sad times. Several friends and acquaintances would prefer to avoid the holidays altogether-- and some do. Sometimes, it's because a beloved family member died on or close to Thanksgiving or Christmas. Sometimes, it's because childhood memories of the holidays are anything but sweet.

And then, there are those of us in the middle. Recently, I saw a photo posted on Facebook of a family's living room in the fifties or early sixties. The tinsel- and ornament-laden Christmas tree has pride of place in the center. A model train is running along the train tracks that have been set up to surround the tree, which has a felt cloth draped around its base. Presents in old-fashioned wrapping paper are piled into the space between the tree and the train track. Memories. I found myself half-thinking that Christmas must still be like that someplace, not just in my mind.

Christmas holidays of old centered around the dinner table. My mother, like so many mothers, had roasted a turkey. The table was laden with the side dishes-- mashed potatoes, stuffing, and gravy; butternut squash, sweet potato casserole, buttered green beans, creamed onions, cranberry sauce-- a scene familiar to many of us. And around that table was seated the family-- mother (the last to sit), dad, brother John, sisters Mary and Donna, and always more than one guest. John's girlfriend, my girlfriend, John's friend Serge from Cuba with no family in the states, my friend Bruce, 1300 miles from his family in Florida. Some have passed away. Others we've lost track of. Happy holidays that exist in the memory while we do our best to make do with whatever other blessings life presents us these days. A poignant time, this mixture of pleasant memories tinged with regret.

Others of us are gathering for Hanukkah celebrations. Some emphasize the miracle of the lamp oil that lasted eight days as recorded in the Talmud. Others play the game of dreidel and eat latkes and sufganiyot. A time to gather with family, exchange small gifts, be grateful for the light in a dark season, especially this year, with worry over family or friends in Israel, with mixed feelings amidst another dark chapter in Middle East history.

Others will burn a Yule log in the family's hearth to celebrate the emerging light as the winter solstice comes and passes. Others have Kwanzaa celebrations to look forward to. Here at UU Middleboro, we will honor all these traditions. We look forward to seeing you all on the five Sundays of December and many days in between. Whether you anticipate a holiday season full of joy or sorrow or bittersweet memories, your church community, your church family, will be here to offer company, refuge, retreat and celebration.

I'm grateful for you all. Happy Holidays!

Rev. Peter



DECEMBER MUSIC MUSINGS

UU Middleboro church musicians are still basking in the warm glow of a superb Autumn Concert (in Memory of Avis Clay), performed on November 19. It was a huge push and a huge success. Kudos to all the performers and support people who came together to make it happen!

December promises to be its usual lively month, starting with two new offerings. Thursday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m., there will be a special gathering called “Finding Peace at the Holidays.” The music will be instrumental, gentle and meditative, a great way to ease into the busiest month of the year. The following evening, December 8, our newly established Song Circle will offer a “Holiday Song Sing” with snacks at 6:00 p.m. and singing at 6:30.

Members of the Chalice Choir and Alumni will present two caroling programs in December. We will be at the Middleboro COA at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 30. On Sunday, December 10, at 2:00 p.m., we’ll be offering a one-hour program of carols and songs at Oakhill HealthCare in Middleboro.

Rather than two services on Sunday, December 24, we will focus on just the evening service starting at 5:30 p.m.. The program will offer an array of music: choir, solo, ensemble, Celtic harp, organ, flute choir, and more. Seating is sometimes tight at this service, so come a bit early to secure your spot.

Looking into January, you will find a Solstice Singers Concert and Soup Extravaganza on Saturday, January 6. For now, mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details later in the month.

Happy Holidays to all – don’t forget to sing!

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music



SONG CIRCLE HOLIDAY SONG SING

Bring a Holiday Song to Lead, Sing, Share!

Friday, December 8 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Parish Hall



We hope you will join us for this fun night of music, sponsored by the Church and open to the public! We start at 6:00 p.m. 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



Our Annual Holiday Party for RE: We will be celebrating the holidays on Sunday, December 10. The children will be together from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. for gingerbread making, holiday crafting, food and fun. There is also an opportunity for them to then join the choir for some afternoon holiday caroling. All are welcome to join the children after church for holiday crafting and gingerbread house making. We will even share some of our treats!

RE Committee: Our next meeting will occur on Wednesday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. There will be a virtual option if people are interested. Please reach out to the DRE at dre@uumiddleboro.org to get a link if needed.

RE on Sunday Mornings: Every time we welcome a new child, we stuff a new bear during RE Storytime. This has led to some funny adventures in Sunday School! We will be adding an “I Am” badge and a “Home” badge in the weeks coming up. We continue to consider this year’s theme of home and have considered where animals create their homes and how we can be in nature (Henry David Thoreau, anyone?). We are looking forward to using our nature journals and spending some time outside when the weather cooperates in the coming month. Our bears hang out in the classroom while they hibernate and wait for their next wholeness badges....

Registration for RE: Forms are available in church. The registration fee can be paid anytime by check or with cash. We also have set up an online registration option. Thank you, Greg Stevens, for creating the link and the google form that allows our registrants to add their information. Registration Link: [RE Registration Form](#)

Youth Group: Our next meeting has yet to be announced as we are aiming for something that works for all of us! The youth are moving on to the element and power of Air. We have started our circle of elements, so everyone will be able to see our efforts on the RE wall under the windows when they are enjoying coffee hour on Sundays. The circle is under the windows near the bathrooms. The youth have decided to join the children in building bears of wholeness and are looking forward to stuffing their bears and adding their badges as we go through the curriculum.

Nursery During Church: Niko Pucillo-Dunphy and Jesse Hoyle offer child care during the church service. Please feel free to bring your infants and toddlers to have fun with Niko and Jesse while you are in the sanctuary participating in the service.

OWL (Our Whole Lives for youth 12-16): There are 3 leaders, Kelly Lownds, Greg Stevens and Katie Melchior sharing the responsibility and privilege of teaching OWL to our youth. There is still time for youth to join the group if interested! We started on November 5 and meet from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Please note, we are working hard to respect the youth’s privacy during the class and to ensure that they have a safe and separate place to meet.

LGBTQIA+ and Allies Group: This group is on hold for now. We will leave the 4th Wednesday of the month open to start the group in the late winter/early spring.

Volunteers: We need people, please! I’m looking for a few loving and caring people willing to sit with our children on Sunday mornings for RE to teach the curriculum with me. We rely on CORI’d people/volunteers to provide safety and learning for the children downstairs each week. Don’t be surprised if you get an email or call asking for help! You can also let the DRE know you are interested during the service, coffee hour or by email/phone call!

See you at church!

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration



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



SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION PRESENTATION (FREE)

Saturday, December 9 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

Parish Hall

The holidays are a fun time of year to celebrate with friends and family. However, it is important to stay vigilant and continue to help your kids make healthy and safe decisions around substances. Come enjoy hot chocolate, holiday snacks, crafts, goodie bags, and resources to start your year off right! Child care provided.

You will learn:

- How substances negatively impact youth development
- Recent trends
- Tips for increasing your child's resilience towards substances
- What to do if you suspect your child is struggling

Co-sponsored by High Point Prevention Services and UU Middleboro

For more information:

Email High Point Prevention Services plymouthareaprevention@gmail.com
or Lois Aldrich of the church Social Justice Team lois.aldrich63@gmail.com

CASH IN THE PLATE

The Cash in the Plate for the month of December will be donated to Doctors Without Borders in light of the casualties and suffering being experienced by Israelis and Palestinians.

NO-COST PHONE CALLS SIGNED NOVEMBER 16

Governor Healey has signed the "Putting Families Over Prison Profiteering" bill, passed by the MA legislature, into law. The new law will end the exorbitant charges prisoners and their families currently pay to stay in touch and goes into effect December 1.

ENSLAVEMENT & RESISTANCE IN NEW ENGLAND: 1620 TO 1760

Wednesday, December 6 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Race & Slavery at First Church (Unitarian) in Roxbury at UU Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam St, Boston, and Online

Boston played a major role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and people were enslaved throughout all of Boston's neighborhoods. This presentation looks at the relevance of the colonial past in answering the question: What steps should Boston take today? [Sign up now!](#) For more information go to <https://historicbostons.org/>

LGBTQ+ OLDER ADULTS & ALLIES – LUNCH AND ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, December 7 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Bridgewater Senior Center, 10 Wally Krueger Way

To reserve a space, call 508-697-0929 or email <https://www.bridgewaterma.org/157/Elder-Affairs>.

UUMA IMMIGRANT JUSTICE TEAM ONLINE MEETING

Tuesday, December 12 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

UUMassAction has launched an Immigration Justice Campaign. The UUMA Immigrant Justice Team meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. You need not attend all meetings. [RSVP here!](#)

FREE ONLINE BOOK DISCUSSION: RACISM WITHOUT RACISTS

Wednesday, December 27 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America, by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, professor of sociology at Duke University. RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-book-discussion-of-racism-without-racists-by-bonilla-silva-tickets-342449695257>



FINDING PEACE AT THE HOLIDAYS

Thursday, December 7 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

A quiet, contemplative service of meditation, poetry, and peaceful music to ease the stress of the holiday season. Free and open to the public. Please join us.



VIRTUAL HOLIDAY AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Ends Friday, December 8, at 8:00 p.m.



The bidding started at noon on Friday, November 24, and will continue to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8. We have a terrific collection of items, from wonderful meals, cookies and cakes to jewelry, museum trips, quilts and toys. Do your holiday shopping here!

To participate in the auction, go to the Auction website:

(https://fundraiser.bid/FUUSM_Holiday_Auction_2023) and register. Then, START BIDDING!

Visit the church website for the QR code.



NEW MOON MEDITATION ON ZOOM

with Natalie Johnson

Monday, December 11 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/91306989683>



This month's New Moon falls in the sign of Sagittarius, the great cosmic archer and the higher octave of Gemini. It is he who urges us to take our thoughts and ideas and elevate them to a higher level with the big picture in mind.

What might be good for ourselves and our innermost circle of family and friends is encouraged to radiate out in ever widening circles of kinship to include all of life on this planet and indeed, the cosmos. Sagittarius aims his arrows high, and we are invited under his careful watch to do the same.

We still have time to go within and utilize the growing darkness of the season to incubate new ideas, to use discernment to fine-tune who and what we really are, allowing versions of ourselves that no longer seem authentic to fall away, revealing our true essence in all its brilliance. It is this version of ourselves we wish to embody as we welcome the return of the Light on Solstice morning.

Come join us this night as we first employ the scalpel of discernment to peel away what needs to go and then to aim our arrows high, carrying our dreams and hopes and aspirations aloft to send forth our vision for a new world. All are welcome.

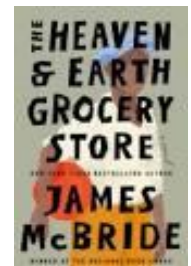


BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, December 18 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Parish Hall

We are continuing in the tradition of meeting and discussing various genres of books. We continue to meet on the third Monday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. New and old members are welcome. For December, we are reading *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. If you enjoy reading, please pick up the book and join us!





CUUPS WINTER SOLSTICE RITUAL

Monday, December 18 7:00 p.m.

Parish Hall

Join us as we honor the Longest Night and rejoice in the knowledge that from this time on, the sun will rise each day higher and stronger in the sky. Like many cultures worldwide, we celebrate the return of the Light, the triumph of Light over Darkness, the rebirth of the Sun.

Once we have reached this point on the Wheel, we can be assured that even though it is still cold and wintry, Spring will come, and life will once again be abundant and easier. In these current times of darkness in the world at large, it is an act of courage and hope to proclaim the growing light. As we light our candles, we will name our own hopes and desires for humanity everywhere to turn away from the darkness and step once again into the light.

We gather also to honor the darkness for the fertile ground it is, the source of dreams, of creativity, of the tender seeds we will safeguard deep with the earth until it is time for them to emerge into the light. Ours will be a quiet intimate gathering as we share stories, poetry, readings, and tell of our own hopes and dreams for the coming year and what we will do to ensure their success.

Our ritual will be followed by a simple feast. All are welcome.



PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING ON ZOOM

Wednesday, December 20 6:30 p.m.



All members and friends are invited to attend the Parish Committee meeting. The link for this event will be sent out in the *UU Updates*.



FULL MOON MEDITATION ON ZOOM

with Natalie Johnson

Tuesday, December 26 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/91235204260>

This Full Moon falls in the sign of Cancer, the sign most associated with the Divine Feminine, the Mother.

Beginning last month with the festival of Diwali, we have cycled through Hanukkah, Winter Solstice and Christmas, all centering the triumph of light over dark, good over evil. Now the Holy Nights are upon us.



In the Christian tradition, these are the twelve days following the birth of Jesus until the arrival of the Magi. However, there is an older, more esoteric meaning to this time...rather than an outward celebration, one that invites an inner journey, one that must be done in solitude. Just as we honor Samhain as the time when the veil between the worlds is thinnest, the Holy Nights are a time when one might journey to The Threshold and cross over to meet the Divine face to face. It is a time for prayer, meditation, solitude, contemplation and can be a welcome rest from the time of heightened outward expenditure of energy our modern celebration of the holidays demands. It is an opportunity to make contact with the indwelling spirit that abides in each of us. Such a communion may help sustain us as we continue to navigate a world that is ever more challenging. Come join us and explore this lesser known tradition. All are welcome.

Pastoral Ministry and Parish Care

The Pastoral Ministry Team seeks to listen with empathy to concerns of members of the congregation via in-person conversations, phone, or home/hospital visits, honoring privacy and confidentiality within the team.

The Pastoral Ministry Team Members are:
Rev. Peter Connolly (revconnolly@gmail.com)

Sue Curtiss
Sue St. Germain
Dave Kraemer
Mal Marvill

Parish Care: When the Pastoral Ministry Team identifies the need for short term assistance with meals, errands, rides, or more, for members of the congregation, the Parish Care Coordinator, Mal Marvill, contacts the meals coordinator or rides coordinator to enlist volunteers.

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
Open

The Parish Committee offers our thanks to Nicole Sykes for 17 months of service as an at-large member of the PC.



Our Mission:

To create and sustain a welcoming and caring community that embodies our UU principles, inspires spiritual growth without dogma or creed, and promotes and serves racial and social justice.



NEW NAME TAGS!

John Mullen has graciously offered to make new name tags for us. If you either do not currently have a name tag on the rack in the Parish Hall or would like a new one, simply email John at JohnNMullen@gmail.com. Include your first and last name and, if you like, preferred pronouns, a favorite quote, a favorite picture of yourself, a note as to what your name means, a flower or image you'd like, etc. John can also search for images you'd like; e.g., a picture of a frog. John will send you a draft for final approval.

Our goal is to be sure we all wear our name tags at least at Coffee Hour, making sure you return them before you leave. We have a number of newcomers/members, and this is an easy way to build on our welcoming atmosphere.

Thank you, John!



PLEASE VOLUNTEER

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 a Greeter 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.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

November 15, 2023

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

Guests: Susie and Bill Sherman, Alan Melchior (Virtual)

Meeting called to order by Jim Bonnar at 6:38 p.m.

Reading provided by Rev. Peter Connolly

Minutes - Approved as written.

PC Position: PC received notice from Nicole Sykes that she is resigning from her At Large position on the PC. Nicole has been a wonderful contributor to the PC and will be very much missed.

Building and Grounds (B&G): Susie Sherman, Bill Sherman, and Alan Melchior were invited by the PC to attend tonight's meeting to discuss B&G projects and financing the building's operating and maintenance costs. The PC agrees that we have not budgeted adequately for B&G in past years, reacting rather than planning for operations needs that surfaced. Funding has been an issue, and church has largely relied on one-time asks and capitol campaigns, such as I Love My Church, to meet building needs. \$118,000 was generously contributed toward the I Love My Church campaign, all of which has been spent. The Mary Fuller fund now has \$22,000 remaining that can be used for maintenance/repairs. Much has been done, but there remain many projects to be tackled in an old building such as ours. Space has also been an issue.

Currently, there are no dollars being set aside for building maintenance. The PC is proposing that B&G operations and maintenance be included in our annual budget. The PC needs to arrive at a dollar figure for annual maintenance costs that will take care of the building we have. To incorporate those costs in an annual budget, the PC asked the B&G Committee for a prioritized list of building maintenance and operations projects, along with cost estimates.

Susie Sherman, who is the lead for the Building and Grounds Committee, distributed handouts developed by the committee that describe the numerous building projects and their status and also an estimate of depreciation for church and contents developed by Bill Howe. Based on this documentation, suggestion was made to increase our annual budget by \$25,000 to cover repairs/maintenance. Having a line item in the budget for repairs/maintenance will allow funds to be available for repairs and maintenance as needed and reduce the need for special asks. The PC asked Susie and Bill Sherman to modify the "FUUSM Building project status" worksheets to include a column that assigns a priority rating (for example, high, medium, or low), as well as a column that explains the reason for the priority rating (i.e., safety, risk factors accessibility, liabilities). It was suggested that the priority ratings be defined. For example, "High" = must be completed within one year, "Medium" = must be completed within 2 years, or similar definitions.

The PC discussed how to proceed. Jim Bonnar suggested a team be coordinated that would be charged with coming up with an annual maintenance budget and a plan to fund it. Reminder that any effort in this area should also reflect our Mission Statement. Jim Bonnar and Alan Melchior offered to be on the committee.

Treasurer's Report: Marc MacQueen emailed the report to the PC, which was accepted. Marc informed the PC that we are where we should be for this time of year. However, some members sent in their full pledges early, and some members have not contributed towards their pledge yet. We therefore may be facing deficit spending in the 2nd half of the year. Fundraising events are in the works which may bring in additional revenue.

Suggestions made to encourage payment of pledges: auto-pay is an option that may facilitate pledge payments and something most people can set up with their bank; the PC should periodically remind congregation of their pledge commitments; hold off on any major fundraisers during the beginning of the pledge drive (March); use a thermometer graph to track our pledge goal and status of receipt of pledges to make status of pledge drive visible to the congregation.

Minister's Report: Rev. Peter Connolly's report was reviewed and accepted.

Music Committee: Report reviewed and accepted.

RE: Kelly Lownds emailed her report to the PC, which was accepted. The PC had informed Kelly that requested funds for additional babysitter have been approved.

Cash in the Plate (CIP): Social Justice Team recommends Doctors without Borders for December CIP. The PC approved recommendation, with exception of Christmas Eve service collection, which is traditionally reserved for Minister's Discretionary Fund. Lois Aldrich reported that CIP donations for October totaled \$1005, half of which has been donated to South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center, and half to United Way of North Central Mass. for victims of Leominster flooding.

Parlor Task Force: The task force has largely completed its charge to renovate the Parlor, which now looks wonderful and inviting. Stained glass windows will soon be repaired. Thanks to all on the task force who were part of this effort. Dedication of the Avis Clay Parlor will be held on November 19 prior to the Autumn Concert.

Minister's Agenda:

- At the recent Special Congregation Meeting held on November 5, some of the voting members expressed concern regarding the process used to draft the Covenant that congregants were asked to vote on. Some congregants stated they had not had a chance to review the Covenant being proposed. Rev. Peter asked that we examine the process used to determine what we did right and what we could do better. Rev. Peter had emphasized the importance of the Covenant during Sunday services, where the "Unison Reading" in the order of service was explained to be the draft Covenant. Andrea Priest and her team worked with others to develop a draft Covenant and post on the church website. It was agreed there could have been better communication through *UU Updates*, as not everyone attends services regularly. It may have also been helpful to have this presented at the cottage meetings. Rev. Peter reminded PC members that, when issuing a Warrant to the congregation, the language in the Warrant needs to clearly state the business to be transacted in accordance with Article VI of the Bylaws. The Covenant language was not specifically written in the Warrant. Recommend this be done going forward.

Next Steps: Rev. Peter distributed a hand-out "A Covenant-forming Process for the Church" to the PC. The PC will review, and a decision on how to proceed on the Covenant will be made at the next PC meeting. Important that whatever is decided that we make clear to the congregation what the process is and the timetable for completing it. Once a Covenant is finalized, it is recommended that the Covenant language be put in a clearly visible area in the church so all can see it.

- Policy Handbook: FUUSM has one binder that is the Policy Handbook for the church. Rev. Peter asked that PC members review different pieces of the binder and make any recommendations for change, as policies and procedures have not been reviewed in some time. Rev. Peter also recommends that the Index for the Policy book be sorted out by category to make it easier to find and read specific policies.

Request for Building Use: Vi Fairweather informed the PC that an author, Richard Trapp, would like to use the Parish Hall during either January or February for a discussion of his book regarding indigenous people. Vi will coordinate the event. PC approved request.

Governance Meeting: The PC will have a governance meeting for further discussion of bylaws, policies, Mission Statement, Covenant, etc. on November 29, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in person.

Next Monthly PC Meeting: December 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Rev. Peter provided a closing reading.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Aldrich, Parish Clerk

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 4:30 p.m. Social Justice Team Meeting on Zoom	9:00 a.m. Sound Team, Sanctuary 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn 4:00 p.m. Finding Peace Rehearsal, Sanctuary
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 12:30 p.m. OWL Meeting, Parlor 1:00 p.m. Spirit & Meaning Group, Parish Hall	7:00 p.m. Finding Peace Rehearsal, Sanctuary	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. Lay Ministry on Zoom 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 4:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor 7:00 p.m. Enslavement & Resistance Online	12:00 noon LGBTQ+ Older Adults & Allies, Bridgewater 7:00 p.m. Finding Peace at the Holidays, Sanctuary	1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Song Circle, Parish Hall 8:00 p.m. Virtual Holiday Auction Ends	9:00 a.m. Deco Dames, Sanctuary 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn 12:15 p.m. Substance Use Prevention, Parish Hall
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 12:00 noon. RE Holiday Party, Parish Hall	6:00 p.m. New Moon Meditation on Zoom	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. Lay Ministry on Zoom 12:00 noon UUMA Immigrant Justice Meeting Online 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 4:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor 6:30 p.m. RE Committee, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Music Committee on Zoom	7:00 p.m. Finance Committee on Zoom	1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 4:30 p.m. Social Justice Team Meeting on Zoom	11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
17	18	19	20	21	21	23
10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 12:30 p.m. OWL Meeting, Parlor	3:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Solstice Ritual, Parish Hall	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. Lay Ministry on Zoom 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall	12:00 noon Christmas Eve Order of Service Deadline 4:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor 6:30 p.m. Parish Committee on Zoom		1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary	11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service		11:00 a.m. Lay Ministry on Zoom 12:00 noon January Newsletter Deadline 6:00 p.m. Full Moon Meditation on Zoom	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 4:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor 7:00 p.m. <i>Racism Without Racists</i> Online		1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 4:30 p.m. Social Justice Team Meeting on Zoom	11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
31						
10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration 						



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

2024 General Assembly Schedule

We are pleased to share the tentative event schedule for the upcoming 2024 Virtual GA. This schedule was formulated to provide attendees with a wealth of opportunities for networking, captivating featured speakers, and plenty of time for engaging General Sessions and business. Please note the GA Schedule is subject to change.

PT	MT	CDT	EST	Thursday 6/20	Friday 6/21	Saturday 6/22	Sunday 6/23
08:00	08:00	07:00	06:00				
08:30	08:30	07:30	06:30	Colort A Gathering #1 1 hour	Colort A Gathering #2 1 hour	Colort A Gathering #3 1 hour	Colort A Gathering #4 1 hour
09:00	09:00	08:00	07:00				
09:30	09:30	08:30	07:30				
10:00	10:00	09:00	08:00				
10:30	10:30	09:30	08:30	Opening and General Session I 1 hour	Featured Content 1 hour	Featured Content 1 hour	Sunday Worship 1.5 hours
11:00	11:00	10:00	09:00				
11:30	11:30	10:30	09:30				
12:00	12:00	11:00	10:00				
12:30	12:30	11:30	10:30	Featured Content 1 hour			
01:00	01:00	12:00	11:00				
01:30	01:30	12:30	11:30				
02:00	02:00	13:00	12:00				
02:30	02:30	13:30	12:30				
03:00	03:00	14:00	13:00				
03:30	03:30	14:30	13:30				
04:00	04:00	15:00	14:00				
04:30	04:30	15:30	14:30				
05:00	05:00	16:00	15:00				
05:30	05:30	16:30	15:30				
06:00	06:00	17:00	16:00				
06:30	06:30	17:30	16:30				
07:00	07:00	18:00	17:00				
07:30	07:30	18:30	17:30				
08:00	08:00	19:00	18:00				
08:30	08:30	19:30	18:30				
09:00	09:00	20:00	19:00				
09:30	09:30	20:30	19:30				
10:00	10:00	21:00	20:00				
10:30	10:30	21:30	20:30				
11:00	11:00	22:00	21:00				
11:30	11:30	22:30	21:30				
12:00	12:00	23:00	22:00				
12:30	12:30	23:30	22:30				
01:00	01:00	00:00	23:00				
01:30	01:30	00:30	23:30				
02:00	02:00	01:00	00:00				
02:30	02:30	01:30	00:30				
03:00	03:00	02:00	01:00				
03:30	03:30	02:30	01:30				
04:00	04:00	03:00	02:00				
04:30	04:30	03:30	02:30				
05:00	05:00	04:00	03:00				
05:30	05:30	04:30	03:30				
06:00	06:00	05:00	04:00				
06:30	06:30	05:30	04:30				
07:00	07:00	06:00	05:00				
07:30	07:30	06:30	05:30				
08:00	08:00	07:00	06:00				
08:30	08:30	07:30	06:30				
09:00	09:00	08:00	07:00				
09:30	09:30	08:30	07:30				
10:00	10:00	09:00	08:00				
10:30	10:30	09:30	08:30				
11:00	11:00	10:00	09:00				
11:30	11:30	10:30	09:30				
12:00	12:00	11:00	10:00				
12:30	12:30	11:30	10:30				
01:00	01:00	12:00	11:00				
01:30	01:30	12:30	11:30				
02:00	02:00	13:00	12:00				
02:30	02:30	13:30	12:30				
03:00	03:00	14:00	13:00				
03:30	03:30	14:30	13:30				
04:00	04:00	15:00	14:00				
04:30	04:30	15:30	14:30				
05:00	05:00	16:00	15:00				
05:30	05:30	16:30	15:30				
06:00	06:00	17:00	16:00				
06:30	06:30	17:30	16:30				
07:00	07:00	18:00	17:00				
07:30	07:30	18:30	17:30				
08:00	08:00	19:00	18:00				
08:30	08:30	19:30	18:30				
09:00	09:00	20:00	19:00				
09:30	09:30	20:30	19:30				
10:00	10:00	21:00	20:00				
10:30	10:30	21:30	20:30				
11:00	11:00	22:00	21:00				
11:30	11:30	22:30	21:30				
12:00	12:00	23:00	22:00				
12:30	12:30	23:30	22:30				
01:00	01:00	00:00	23:00				
01:30	01:30	00:30	23:30				
02:00	02:00	01:00	00:00				
02:30	02:30	01:30	00:30				
03:00	03:00	02:00	01:00				
03:30	03:30	02:30	01:30				
04:00	04:00	03:00	02:00				
04:30	04:30	03:30	02:30				
05:00	05:00	04:00	03:00				
05:30	05:30	04:30	03:30				
06:00	06:00	05:00	04:00				
06:30	06:30	05:30	04:30				
07:00	07:00	06:00	05:00				
07:30	07:30	06:30	05:30				
08:00	08:00	07:00	06:00				
08:30	08:30	07:30	06:30				
09:00	09:00	08:00	07:00				
09:30	09:30	08:30	07:30				
10:00	10:00	09:00	08:00				
10:30	10:30	09:30	08:30				
11:00	11:00	10:00	09:00				
11:30	11:30	10:30	09:30				
12:00	12:00	11:00	10:00				
12:30	12:30	11:30	10:30				
01:00	01:00	12:00	11:00				
01:30	01:30	12:30	11:30				
02:00	02:00	13:00	12:00				
02:30	02:30	13:30	12:30				
03:00	03:00	14:00	13:00				
03:30	03:30	14:30	13:30				
04:00	04:00	15:00	14:00				
04:30	04:30	15:30	14:30				
05:00	05:00	16:00	15:00				
05:30	05:30	16:30	15:30				
06:00	06:00	17:00	16:00				
06:30	06:30	17:30	16:30				
07:00	07:00	18:00	17:00				
07:30	07:30	18:30	17:30				
08:00	08:00	19:00	18:00				
08:30	08:30	19:30	18:30				
09:00	09:00	20:00	19:00				
09:30	09:30	20:30	19:30				
10:00	10:00	21:00	20:00				
10:30	10:30	21:30	20:30				
11:00	11:00	22:00	21:00				
11:30	11:30	22:30	21:30				
12:00	12:00	23:00	22:00				
12:30	12:30	23:30	22:30				
01:00	01:00	00:00	23:00				
01:30	01:30	00:30	23:30				
02:00	02:00	01:00	00:00				
02:30	02:30	01:30	00:30				
03:00	03:00	02:00	01:00				
03:30	03:30	02:30	01:30				
04:00	04:00	03:00	02:00				
04:30	04:30	03:30	02:30				
05:00	05:00	04:00	03:00				
05:30	05:30	04:30	03:30				
06:00	06:00	05:00	04:00				
06:30	06:30	05:30	04:30				
07:00	07:00	06:00	05:00				
07:30	07:30	06:30	05:30				
08:00	08:00	07:00	06:00				
08:30	08:30	07:30	06:30				
09:00	09:00	08:00	07:00				
09:30	09:30	08:30	07:30				
10:00	10:00	09:00	08:00				
10:30	10:30	09:30	08:30				
11:00	11:00	10:00	09:00				
11:30	11:30	10:30	09:30				
12:00	12:00	11:00	10:00				
12:30	12:30	11:30	10:30				
01:00	01:00	12:00	11:00				
01:30	01:30	12:30	11:30				
02:00	02:00	13:00	12:00				
02:30	02:30	13:30	12:30				
03:00	03:00	14:00	13:00				
03:30	03:30	14:30	13:30				
04:00	04:00	15:00	14:00				
04:30	04:30	15:30	14:30				
05:00	05:00	16:00	15:00				
05:30	05:30	16:30	15:30				
06:00	06:00	17:00	16:00				
06:30	06:30	17:30	16:30				
07:00	07:00	18:00	17:00				
07:30	07:30	18:30	17:3				