



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346 <https://uumiddleboro.org> 508-947-1935 November 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, November 5
Rev. Peter Connolly preaching
In the Interim

We are now in the second year of a 2-year interim ministry. Today, we'll take some time to assess where we are as a congregation, the plans in place to ensure a smooth transition to our next chapter as a church and a look at the landscape for "church" in the 21st century. Special music provided from the Chalice Choir singing an anthem version of *There Is More Love Somewhere* arranged by Clif Hardin.

Sunday, November 12
Rev. Peter Connolly preaching
A Strong and Supple Faith

Faith is a puzzling word for some of us-- many of us, maybe. Today we will look at what we may meaningfully call "faith" and how it can help us move forward in our spiritual journey. Special music provided by an ensemble.

Sunday, November 19
Rev. Peter Connolly preaching
Native American Spiritual Traditions

Today we will explore some of the foundational assumptions concerning the nature of the world and our place in it from various indigenous perspectives. Special music provided by an ensemble.

Sunday, November 26
Rev. Bruce Taylor preaching
No-Self for Beginners

The Buddhist doctrine of *Anatta* or No-Self may seem obscure, even intimidating, to many people. But it's not so far from everyday experience for those who care to look within. Come explore this liberating teaching and its implications for daily life. Special music provided by an ensemble.

Rev. Taylor was an intern here at FUUSM fifteen years ago. He currently serves the UU Church of Medford, MA, and lives in Nashua, NH, with his wife Loretta. He enjoys hiking, skiing and creative photography.



REMEMBERING BOB WATERMAN

As many of you know, it had been our intention to offer a service in November to honor Bob and his contributions to our church.

Unfortunately, due to time constraints and a large number of other items on the church calendar, we have reluctantly concluded that such a service will need to be postponed. Updates will be provided.

Minister's Note

Details of the ongoing tragedy in Israel and the Gaza strip have dominated newscasts and newspaper headlines in the 25 days since the surprise attack on southern Israel by Hamas on October 7 killed 1,400 Israelis and injured hundreds of others. Israeli military forces responded with retaliatory strikes that killed more than 8,000 Palestinians in the Gaza strip, including 3,000 children, numbers almost impossible to comprehend. I confess I have not followed the progress of the conflict closely. News coverage has often focused on the carnage and destruction with graphic images prevailing. It's very disturbing to see images of the victims and the wailing mourning of the survivors. And such images do little to illuminate the history, culture, and ideology behind the attacks and counterattacks.

As many of you know, I spent five months in Israel in 1981. It's where I met my second wife, and it holds many, many memories for me, most of which warm my heart. My time there allowed for much travel, so I got to make trips to Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Capernaum, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Mount Carmel, Safed, Caesarea, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, the Qumran caves, Masada, Eilat, the Negev, Sharm el Sheikh, the Red Sea-- many places. So, Israel is lodged warmly in my heart.

Not all memories are fond memories, though. In early to late-June, the state of Israel entered a state of emergency. A conflict had erupted between Israel and the country of Iraq. All I remember hearing was that a flight of five Iraqi airplanes had flown over the airspace of Israel causing the whole country to be on a war footing. Everyone who was eligible to serve in the military-- and in Israel that was every able-bodied individual, male or female, between the ages of 18 and 40-- was placed on active duty. Things changed quickly at the kibbutz. Men and women we had been used to seeing moving at the leisurely pace of everyday life now walked purposefully and often hurriedly. Instead of their usual work clothes, soldiers now, they wore military camouflage uniforms. No one informed the volunteers officially, but we were told by some of the kibbutzniks that we had to prepare for a possible attack. For three days, we waited nervously for developments before the state of tension abated. Only much later did I learn that the flight of Iraqi warplanes was in response to "Operation Opera," an Israeli military surprise air strike on an Iraqi nuclear reactor southeast of Baghdad. There was sharp international criticism of the attack, including by the United States. Media response was also negative, including the LA Times' characterization of the attack as "state-sponsored terrorism."

The conflict in the Middle East has been centuries in the making, and there is no simple way to declare good guys vs. bad guys, aggressors vs. victims. As in all situations which require calm and reasoned analysis, we get instead, a reversion to tribalism: my side vs. your side. Both Israelis and Palestinians have been victimized over the years. The solution, if there is one, is certainly not heightened aggression and a determination to wipe out the enemy.

I don't know what we as Americans living so far from the battlefield can do to affect change, but I do know that threats of escalation by Mideast rivals may well result in more direct involvement of other powers and superpowers, including the United States. An article in the Nov. 1 edition of The Guardian provides a good analysis of the tribalism that we are in danger of falling into. The Middleboro Library is offering a presentation focusing on history and analysis on November 8 at 6:30 p.m. We owe it to ourselves to be as informed as we can be so that we can, at least, engage in civil and well-informed dialogue with each other and others in our circles.

[Conflict in the Middle East](#) [A kind of tribalism](#)

I am holding all of you and all those affected by the violence, in my heart.

Rev. Peter



Musicians make a lot of noise! It's part and parcel of learning a piece to the place where you can share it with others. There're all those wrong notes, funky rhythms, adrenalin, and repetition-repetition-repetition. I used to tell my piano students that during practicing, they should stop and correct that tricky spot until they can play it FIVE times in a row without an error. The downside is that sometimes you need to play that bar TEN times before getting five good ones. The rules change in performance: "Do not stop and correct. Carry on. Try to play in the right mood and DO NOT FALL OFF THE PIANO BENCH!"

November is the time of much practicing and preparation for the upcoming holiday season in December as well as something new for November.

On November 19 at 3:00, musicians and music friends of UU Middleboro present "AUTUMN CONCERT: In Memory of Avis Clay." Avis was a longtime member of this church, an artist, a lover of music, a fine conversationalist, and a beautiful person. The Clay "children" (Amy, Peter, and Joan) made a generous donation to the church, allowing us to renovate the small room adjacent to the sanctuary and set up an endowment fund for music. In gratitude, we are dedicating our fall concert to the memory of Avis Clay.

Other November dates include the Music Committee on Wednesday the 8th at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom and the November Song Circle on Friday, November 10.

Sing soon, sing often, just sing!

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music



The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough will be hosting a Holiday Fair in the Parish Hall on Saturday, November 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a selection of home-baked goods, soups and sauces, a jewelry and scarf table, and a variety of crafts from several local vendors.

Linda Thompson has made a beautiful queen-sized quilt in a pattern known as Labyrinth Walk that she is donating for the benefit of the Society. Chances will be available for \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20.

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

Katie Allen



RE Committee: Our next meeting will occur on Wednesday, November 1, 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: The children have begun to stuff their bears and add their first wholeness badges. So far we have had “team work,” “courage” and “best friends” badges go into our bears. We continue to consider this year’s theme of home and have considered our entrance into our homes, the symbols that connect us to our physical and spiritual home and how other creatures think about home (bzzzzz, think bees). We can look forward to continuing our exploration of animal habitats this coming month. Where will our bears hang out while they hibernate and wait for their next wholeness badges...

Registration for RE: Forms are available in church, and the registration fee can be paid anytime by check or cash. We also have an online registration set up. 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: The youth are nearly through the element of Earth and are moving on to the power of Air. We have started our circle of elements, and everyone will be able to see our efforts on the RE wall under the windows when they are enjoying coffee hour. It is near the book donation area. The youth have decided to join the children to build bears of wholeness and are looking forward to stuffing their bears and adding their badges as we go through the curriculum. They have homework each week and try to bring songs to match the new areas of power.

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 listening to the service.

OWL: Our Whole Lives is for youth ages 12 - 16. We have 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 start Sunday, November 5, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., and every other week afterwards 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

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 to 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!

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration



AUTUMN *Concert*

In Memory of Avis Clay

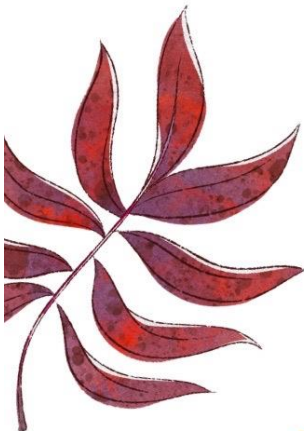


SUNDAY
NOV 19, 2023
3:00 PM



FESTIVAL OF MUSIC
CLASSICAL & CONTEMPORARY

Choir/Soloists/Instrumentalists



UU Middleboro, MA
25 South Main Street
Accessible Building



Free and open to the public!

For more information: uumiddleboro.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

An organization's mission is its purpose, its reason for being. A Mission Statement is a succinct expression of the organization's purpose. Ideally, it is a single sentence or phrase, easily remembered and communicated, that reflects the things that bring us together as members of our church.

We have now drafted a new Mission Statement that will be voted on at the November 5 congregational meeting. The proposed statement and a brief explanation are presented for members to consider before the vote takes place. [Click here to read more.](#)

We found overwhelming consistency among the responses to the Ministerial Search Survey. While everyone has their own view of the church and its mission, three overarching themes are clear: *community, inspiration, and service.*

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.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
First Unitarian Universalist Society
of Middleborough
Sunday, November 5, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.
Sanctuary



Members and friends are invited to attend the Congregational Meeting. All are welcome to participate. Only members of FUUSM as of October 5, 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.



WE HAVE BECOME MORE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE!

Updated Instructions

The entry door to the Parish Hall, which is at the ground level, is now an electric handicap door. There are handicap push plates for both entry and exit. For everyday purposes, the door will operate as usual.

There is an additional key-operated power security switch. It turns power on and off to the outside handicap push plate. If the push plate is powered on, it always opens the door. If the push plate is not powered on, the door will not automatically open.

To power the push plate, turn key to the left. To turn power off, turn key to the right. The power should routinely be off. When the power is on to the push plate, it always opens the door.

For security purposes, when leaving, the door has to be locked and the power switch turned off. (Turn key to the right.) Be sure, as usual, that the last person out locks the door and, if warranted, turns off the push plate power security switch.

Key fobs work at all times. If you need a key fob, see Valerie Fontaine.

Valerie Fontaine



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

Social Justice Team News

The early part of this church year has been a busy one for us: with major help from Dan Hotchkiss and Val Ortelt, we finalized our section of the church website so that we now provide current information about local social justice events. At our summer retreat we organized our future efforts into 3 categories: Charity, Change, and Education. We hope to offer events and options that appeal to the congregation in all three. Our recent programs included a July presentation on domestic violence that highlighted the problem in Southeastern Massachusetts and featured a talk by “Jane Doe” whose family has suffered from a domestic partner’s abuse. In September we held a well-attended and well-received De-Escalation Training session at the church. The unexpected arrival of 150 refugees in Middleboro in early October led to mobilization of our congregation to offer food assistance (25 members have offered to help!). Eventually, the State agreed to provide basic food and shelter; so our efforts have now shifted toward offering the refugees help with transitioning to life in the USA.

More Refugee Updates from Bill Howe

Jeff Giddings reports we have received several gifts to our Refugees Fund from inside and outside the congregation. He is keeping the money in a separate account so it can be identified. Thank you to all who have donated! Meanwhile, Bill has been continuing to push to try to get clarity on the evolving situation, but with limited success. The town Health Department has been doing assessments of individual immigrants regarding school and health needs, with the help of translators. Planning suggested to Bill that he ask the Health Department to report on any leadership or organization forming among the immigrants. Bill has called Health with this question but not received return calls.

Bill Howe has made contact with three refugees and says they are polite and pleasant. But meaningful communication, beyond wishing one another well, is not possible across the language barrier. Viola Fairweather has also visited with some of the children.

Cash in the Plate

The Cash in the Plate for September amounted to \$821. A check was sent to the Salvation Army of the Hawaiian Islands for the Maui fires. The Cash in the Plate for November will be donated to The Matthew Mission Food Pantry (<https://matthewmissionfoodpantry.org>), Taunton.

LGBTQ+ Older Adults & Allies – Lunch and Entertainment

Thursday, November 2 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Bridgewater Senior Center, 10 Wally Krueger Way

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

Climate Change from the Indigenous Perspective Online

Friday, November 3 12:00 – 1:30 pm

with Leslie Jonas, a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe and vice-chair of the Native Land Conservancy. Questions? Contact Lindsay Randall at lrandall@mapc.org. [Register Now](#)

Peace, Justice & Equality Vigil

Every Saturday 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Church Lawn

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



SONG CIRCLE

Friday, November 10 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 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**

Monday, November 13 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/94530953308>



November's New Moon falls in the sign of Scorpio, perhaps the most misunderstood and maligned sign of the entire zodiac. The popular perception of Scorpio is that those born in this sign are difficult at best, dangerous at worst. Real scorpions, although often surprisingly small, have the ability to inflict a great deal of pain. They deliver their venom via their tails and can quickly turn around and "get" you. Scorpio people, therefore, are thought to be those who can seem like good friends one minute, but quickly and for no apparent reason turn on you and inflict emotional pain.

This common perception is both simplistic and unjustified. Like all of the zodiac signs, Scorpio has a gift for all humans when interpreted with discernment and with an open mind. Scorpio invites us to dive deep, to have the courage to really get to the core of who we are and honor who we meet there; to commit to protecting that vital essence by any means necessary, even when that means protecting ourselves with venom particularly in the form of words. Scorpio reminds us of the importance of excavating and embracing our true self, the one we covered over so long ago to get along in a world that values conformity rather than charisma. Scorpio dares us to come out and stand in our own brilliance, unashamed and unafraid and prepared at last to share our unique gift of self with a world that desperately needs it.

Tonight under the dark of the moon we will listen to Scorpio's counsel and contemplate the ways in which we can be more authentic in service to the world. All are welcome.



PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 15 6:30 p.m.
Parish Hall

All members and friends are invited to attend the Parish Committee meeting.

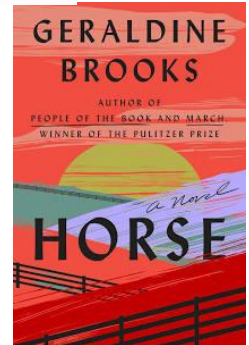


BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, November 20 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.

Our selection for this month is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.



FULL MOON MEDITATION ON ZOOM

with Natalie Johnson

Monday, November 27 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/95343244448>

November's Full Moon falls in the sign of Gemini, the sign of communication and connection with others.



Many of us probably recently celebrated Thanksgiving Day with a feast among family and friends. Others perhaps honored that day in a different way by attending the National Day of Mourning in Plimoth. Still others simply enjoyed an extra day off, celebrating with food, sports and shopping. The first two ways spotlight the importance of discernment and the power of words to heal or harm. The story of the First Thanksgiving that most of us were taught in school contained very little truth. It was written by those who conquered a people who lived here first and, as we know, it is the victors who write history. If you marked the day in the second way, you know this and chose to hear firsthand a very different narrative of both history and present day wrongs still being committed on these lands. Even if you gathered with family, you might still have had difficulty with those who hold a very different world view and political leanings than yourself. Communication can be fraught even among friends and relatives, and unpleasant surprises can be difficult to navigate.

The safest course perhaps is to ground oneself in gratitude. Being mindful of and grateful for all that we have is the best way to come into coherence with others. This year, in addition to the bounty most of us enjoy, we can also be grateful for the gift of peace, a roof over our heads, being in our own country of origin, feeling safe from attack, able to look to the future with hope, and so many things we often take for granted. On this night of the Full Moon, please join us as we allow the moonbeams to shine their brilliant light on our many blessings and share our gratitude with one another. All are welcome.

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

October 18, 2023

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

Guest: Kelly Lownds

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

Reading provided by Rev. Peter Connolly. Minutes from the 9/20/23 PC meeting approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Marc MacQueen submitted the Treasurer's Report to the PC. The budget is in good shape; we are behind in fundraising, but several fundraising events are coming up. There should be no need to borrow from our investments. Funding for necessary building maintenance is a concern, as the Mary Fuller Fund is running low. This needs to be addressed. A more formal campaign to address the issue was suggested, something significant that could yield \$3,000 - \$5,000 annually to be used as the need arises.

Valerie Fontaine has been working on increasing church accessibility by having an accessible door installed at the Parish Hall entry. Estimated cost is \$6,000. Valerie has received \$4,000 from donors towards this project. The PC agreed to fund the remaining balance through the Mary Fuller Fund.

Building & Grounds: No new report. Rev. Peter participated in a walk-through of the church with Susie Sherman and other committee members. Susie pointed out four large historical chairs that she would like to see put to use in the church. Suggested requests related to Building & Grounds should be written up for PC review and final decision.

Public Relations: Rev. Peter Connolly submitted a report from the newly formed PR Committee. Members include Andrea Priest, Bet Giddings, Holly Begley, and Rev. Peter. The first meeting was held October 4. One of the main items the Committee would like to address in the near future is to bring outdoor signage up to modern standards that reflect our current church. The Committee is investigating the plausibility of replacing or supplementing the current sign display. All signs would benefit from proper lighting. The Committee is also in agreement that the path leading to the accessibility entrance needs to be better lit, even with the solar ground lights. Steve Larrett suggested that the floodlight on the front of the church, which had been turned off because of the security cameras, be re-activated, as security cameras are no longer functional. Rev. Peter will check with Susie on this matter. The PC agreed that lighting is a priority and will look into lighting for the pathway leading to the accessible entrance. The PR Committee will put together a budget for signage replacement once assessment is completed.

Social Justice Team (SJT): Lois Aldrich reported on recent SJT activities. Members of the SJT and other members of the church continue to offer their assistance to support the Haitian refugees currently housed at the Quality Inn in Middleboro. Bill Howe and Dody Adkins-Perry have been key coordinators of this effort.

Lois provided an update on the request from Middleboro Matters to have an educational seminar at our church on December 9. The goal of the Middleboro Matters coalition is to provide substance use prevention resources through education and increasing awareness, particularly with families and youth in Middleboro. Some members of the SJT plan to be present for the event and will offer to provide refreshments. This is a good opportunity for the church to partner with our community. The PC supports the request for the space and for waiver of the fee. It would also be good to publicize the event. Lois will send contact information to Rev. Peter for publicity once date and time are confirmed with Middleboro Matters.

The PC also approved the Rotary Club request to have a Peace Pole built on the church lawn in time for National Peace Week (June, 2024). However, replacement/updating of signage needs to be resolved first.

Music Committee: Reports submitted by Music Committee. The Music Committee is in the midst of planning for the Autumn Concert: In Memory of Avis Clay, which will be held at the church on November 19 at 3:00 p.m. There will also be a reception. Most of the performers are church members, but there will be some outside performers. The Avis Clay Fund is available to pay performers if needed. There will be no admission fee, but donations will be accepted.

Finance Committee: Bill Howe submitted a report to the PC from the newly re-organized Finance Committee, which now encompasses 5 related functions: Accounting; Investments; Stewardship; Budget Process, and Fundraising. Thanks go out to the many church members who have volunteered to participate on the church's finance team. Going forward, the Finance Committee

will meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Several members of the team will provide the Ministerial Search Committee with their thinking about increasing the amount of compensation to be offered to the ministerial candidate (up to \$5,000).

Jim Bonnar mentioned that some people have expressed an interest in planning for fundraising events, but there is no chair at this point. Some ideas include a Service Auction and an event similar to "Men Who Cook, Women Who Sing."

RE: Kelly Lownds submitted the RE Report to the PC. RE is growing! New membership has brought in several new families; numbers vary each week, and space can be a challenge. We have 18 children total now. A critical need at this point is to have a 2nd babysitter for the twins. Kelly estimates an additional \$300 is needed for the RE budget to hire a 2nd sitter. The PC approved the request. Kelly is also looking to expand the RE volunteer group.

Another critical need is space for RE. Currently, the space is not sufficient, as the numbers of children have increased. The room is also used for coffee hour. The suggestion was made to hang drapes instead of using the current divider; drapes are more flexible and easier to maneuver. Another idea is to have children reunite with their families in the sanctuary just before announcements are made. Additional tables can then be set up for coffee hour after children go upstairs. The PC agreed to these suggestions.

Minister's Report: The Minister's Report was submitted and accepted. Rev. Peter had also previously submitted reports for May and June, which were not acknowledged in the June 21, 2023, meeting minutes but which the PC now accepts.

Parlor Committee: Jim Bonnar reported that the Committee is waiting for an estimate to repair the stained glass windows (~\$3,000). An "Avis Clay Parlor" brass plaque has also been ordered (\$400) and will be placed above the painting of Avis Clay in the Parlor. These expenditures will be covered through the Avis Clay Fund.

Minister's Agenda: Rev. Peter reported that many in the congregation have talked about the need to have a memorial service to honor and pay tribute to Bob Waterman. The tentative date has been set for November 16 at 7:30 p.m. The PC thought it important that the church contact the family first to run this by them as well as to invite family and friends to attend. Viola Fairweather said she will reach out to Deb Waterman regarding the service.

A discussion of ways to preserve the memory of Bob Waterman took place. Ideas offered include: framed photo recognizing contributions, put name on pew Bob used to sit in, rename the Parish Hall to the Bob Waterman Parish Hall. The discussion was tabled for the next PC meeting.

Rev. Peter worked 3 - 4 hours per day during the last 2 weeks in August and has requested one week off in January, 2024. Motion made and unanimously approved by the PC.

Rev. Peter informed the PC that he has met with Andrea Priest and Cindy Benard, who are working on drafting a Covenant for the congregation. The draft will be part of the "Unison Reading" during this Sunday's service. The congregation will be informed of the draft and will then have an opportunity to comment. The goal is to have a final draft over the next two weeks and possibly vote on the final draft at the November 5 congregation meeting.

Cash in the Plate: Contributions from the Cash in the Plate for November will go to the Matthew Mission.

Congregation Meeting November 5: A warrant was recently distributed through the *UU Updates* for the November 5 congregational meeting. One of the items the congregation is being asked to vote on is to increase the minister's package by \$5,000 (from \$89,000 to \$94,000). The package includes salary and housing, professional expenses, health insurance and/or supplement, life insurance, longterm disability insurance, dental insurance and funds directed to retirement. The proposed increase would be directed primarily towards salary and housing.

Another item to be voted on will be a Mission Statement. Having secured input from the congregation via the congregation survey, cottage meetings, and an open comment period on *UU Updates*, the sub-committee working on the Mission Statement will present a draft of several Mission Statements for review by the PC prior to the November 5 meeting. The PC will then decide on the final draft of the Mission Statement to be voted on at the Nov. 5 meeting.

Cottage Meetings: The Ministerial Search Committee has been holding Cottage Meetings to receive feedback from the congregation regarding the search for a new minister. The committee will meet on October 23 to review the information from the Cottage Meetings.

Book Review: PC members continue to read *Ministry and Church Governance* by Dan Hotchkiss and will meet November 1 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss Chapters 3 - 5.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Next PC meeting is November 15 in person at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Aldrich, Parish Clerk

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			<p>12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline</p> <p>12:15 p.m. When We Grieve, Parish Hall</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor</p> <p>6:00 p.m. RE Committee, Parish Hall</p>	<p>12:00 noon LGBTQ+ Older Adults & Allies, Bridgewater</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Piano Tuning, Sanctuary</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Concert Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall</p>	<p>12:00 noon Holiday Fair Set-up, Parish Hall</p> <p>12:00 noon Climate Change Online</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Holiday Fair, Parish Hall</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p> <p>Turn Your Clocks Back One Hour Tonight!</p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & RE</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary</p> <p>3:00 p.m. OWL Meeting, Parlor</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Saving Democracy on Zoom</p>		<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Lay Ministry on Zoom</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Concert Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall</p>	<p>12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Music Committee on Zoom</p>		<p>4:30 p.m. Social Justice Team Meeting on Zoom</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Song Circle, Parish Hall</p>	 <p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & R.E.</p> <p>11:45 a.m. R.E. Parents Coffee Hour, Parish Hall</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Youth Group, Parish Hall</p> <p>Auction Deadline</p>	<p>Mid-Day Organ Tuning, Sanctuary</p> <p>6:00 p.m. New Moon Meditation on Zoom</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Lay Ministry on Zoom</p> <p>12:00 noon UUMA Immigrant Justice Team Online</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Concert Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall</p>	<p>Stained Glass Repair, Parish Hall</p> <p>12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Parish Committee, Parish Hall</p>		<p>Stained Glass Repair, Parish Hall</p> <p>Stained Glass Repair, Parish Hall</p>	<p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Concert Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & R. E.</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Concert Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Autumn Concert, All Church</p>	<p>Order of Service Deadline</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Lay Ministry on Zoom</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall</p>	<p>4:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>LGBTQIA Support Group, Parish Hall</p>	 <p>12:00 noon National Day of Mourning, Plymouth</p>	<p>12:00 noon Virtual Auction Begins</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Social Justice Team Meeting on Zoom</p>	<p>11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn</p>
26	27	28	29	30		
<p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Exploration</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Youth Group, Parish Hall</p>	<p>December Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Full Moon Meditation on Zoom</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Lay Ministry on Zoom</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir, Parish Hall</p>	<p>4:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor</p> <p>12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Enslavement & Resistance Online</p>		

VIRTUAL HOLIDAY AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Friday, November 24 - Friday, December 8, 2023

Deadline to submit offerings is Sunday, November 12!

Back by popular demand, we're once again planning a holiday fundraiser centered on crafts and services. It's a chance to pick up some great items, be creative, connect with others, and have some fun!

We're seeking offerings that might include:

- Handcrafted and other items/gifts for sale
- Craft classes or do-it-yourself craft kits/materials
- Gift baskets, gift cards
- Meals, treats, baked goods
- Help with end of year/holiday preparations - winter storage, decorating
- Help with shopping, transporting items
- Valentine's Day goods or events
- What else? Be creative!



Please submit your offerings by email to FUUSMauktion@gmail.com or contact the Church office at 508-947-1935 **by November 12**. Include a description of your offering, quantities, picture (if possible), and suggested minimum bid.

The auction will kick off on **Friday, November 24 at noon** and run until **Friday, December 8, at 8:00 pm**.

Thank you for all you do for each other and for the Church!

