

# THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

June 2021

We are offering virtual worship services. The link to each service will be posted on our website every week.

#### Sunday, June 6, at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Sarah Person preaching Raised Voices

"Well-behaved women seldom make history" was a misused quote that became a meme before memes existed. The author herself changed her mind from her original intent. Misbehavior has opened the doors to our collective liberation. Special music is a reprise of our third virtual choir project, "released" in December of 2020. Sixteen Chalice Choir singers created vocal tracks for *Draw the Circle Wide*, mixed and mastered by Bet Giddings.

# Sunday, June 13, at 10:30 a.m. Religious Exploration Youth leading A Post Pandemic World

Our youth have spent the last year learning how to go to school virtually and in person with a mask, how to maintain friendships and connections, virtually and safely in person and how to be part of their families when everyone is home "all the time." We will hear their thoughts about their goals and hopes for the future. Special music is our newlyminted and final virtual choir project, "You Are the New Day." Kudos to Bet Giddings for her fabulous tech work.

#### Sunday, June 20, at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Sarah Person preaching Horizons

The prospect of returning to in-person services has set the stage for a new way of thinking about not only how we do church but why we do church. Meet the volunteers who have been keeping the conscience of the congregation alive and well. Special music features Jeff Stevens singing "Child of Mine" by Bill Staines.

# SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES BEGIN Sunday, June 27, at 9:00 a.m.

UUA General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship East

Join us virtually for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. Members of the public are welcome to the livestream presentation. We will watch the video together and then gather for our virtual coffee hour afterward.

# Minister's Meditation

### The Paper Thief

Every morning I have my routine: get the American and Pride flags out front, grab the paper from wherever it landed, wave to early morning walkers, feed the cat, and attend to the start of my day. So it has caused no little disruption that the paper has started disappearing before I can retrieve it. Now, the paper thief has started helping themselves earlier and earlier - requiring that I adjust my routine earlier and earlier. I still find it kind of funny and imagine a commuter skulking about for something to read on the train, or an over-enthusiastic golden retriever, or someone engaging in an act of passive aggressive resistance to my flags.

I hope they're actually reading it. With all the debate about what really happened to us this past year and a half, I have seen how important it is to have in-depth, independent, knowledgeable and balanced reporting. Part of my dedication to home delivery is to support the paper. Yes, I have online subscriptions to several news agencies, in part to make sure I'm getting different perspectives; and, more importantly, from news sources that have the capacity to admit they were wrong. It is not possible for me, or anyone, to know everything; only that we try, and that our decisions be made with great care and hope. Democracy depends on us, on this.

Eventually I will put a camera out front to catch the culprit, but for now it's more fun to imagine that I am contributing to anonymous enlightenment.

Rev. Sarah



# JUNE MUSIC MUSINGS



Here we go with the final roundup for this Church Year 20-21. It has been a wild ride to balance safety, uncertainty, and group sanity. I think we all did a good job and are emerging with a new sense of resiliency.

Although the choir has not sung together in person in well over a year, many of us have enjoyed singing in small ensembles, tackling solo work, and making recordings. We average 17 singers in our weekly Zoom Rehearsals where we sing lustily (without our masks) in our little boxes. At the very least, we are keeping our voices alive with vocal warmups, easy songs, and a bit of our old repertoire. We often have volunteers who add new songs or games into the mix, and sometimes we open our mics for a bit of cacophony. The Zoom Choir season will close on June 15, and we're looking forward to a couple of Outdoor Sings over the summer.

Warm kudos to our musicians and techies this year: Dody Adkins-Perry, Katie Allen, Nancy Backus, Marese Barry-Belanger, Cindy & Rick Benard, Jim Bonnar, Joan Breen, Sue Curtiss, Valerie Fontaine, Bet Giddings, Juli Gould, Dan Hotchkiss, Nancy & Owen Kidd, Stephen Larrett, Dorine Levasseur, Mal Marvill, Alan Melchior, John Mullen, Sarah Person, Andrea & Ed Priest, Patty & Barry Simon, Tony Soares, Jeff Stevens, Nicola Wilbar, and Adrienne Williams.

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music



# FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY



# OF MIDDLEBOROUGH VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING Friday, June 11, 2021

7:00 p.m.

We will be holding the Annual Meeting of our Society virtually. Information about how to connect will be sent out later. All are welcome to participate. Only members of FUUSM as of May 11, 2021, 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.



#### **Unexpected Heroes**

In class last month the youth talked about a few new heroes including Manny from *Ice Age*, Superman, and Lewis from *Meet the Robinsons*. We also shared more characteristics that UUs value - uniqueness, witness to justice and fair group decisions. We will be wrapping up our lessons on UU values in June and celebrating our volunteers. Our *Change the World* book has taught us about "standing up" last month. Our Zoom link will continue to go out on Saturday, and if you are interested, please email us at <a href="mailto:dre@uumiddleboro.org">dre@uumiddleboro.org</a>. We meet from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m., and we have a lot of fun!

#### **Junior and Senior Youth**

Junior and Senior Youth met on May 23 together and shared snacks and painted pots for Foster Parent Appreciation Month. We also continued our conversation about racial justice and explored our personal racial understanding timeline. We are meeting again on June 6 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. to wrap up our Youth service that is being held June 13.

# **Dungeons and Dragons**

Dungeons and Dragons continues to be a monthly group for the Junior Youth. We have created our characters and are off on new adventures with our Dungeon Master Greg Stevens. We will meet the second Sunday of the month at 3:30 p.m. That will be June 13, and a link will go out the Saturday before the event.

## Message for all Ages

We have used up most of our recommended stories! Please feel free to send along stories you like as you find them. We are open to sharing a variety of stories, and we love to have stories that make others happy!

# **RE Family Coffee Hour**

We will meet on June 6 at 11:45 a.m. It will be our last coffee hour this season. Please join us for a virtual conversation with other parents.

#### **RE Committee**

New members are welcome. We will meet on Wednesday, June 2, at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please email the DRE at <u>dre@uumiddleboro.org</u>

### Fun Day!

All youth are invited to our end of church year fun day. We will meet at church on June 13 at 11:30, and we will have pizza and play lawn games. I will have sunscreen and bug spray!

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration



# JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND PEACE VIGILS

Saturdays: June 5, 12, 19, 26 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

We will continue scheduling weekly ½ hour vigils on Saturday mornings from 11:30 to 12:00 noon. In addition, we will be offering training to help us respond to folks with strong opinions. If you are interested in standing with us, but would like the training first, please add your name, but put an X in the first column. Sign up for training and/or the vigil by visiting <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bh5og1GJo86U\_kwcs9k95\_PaZTPNP7i8CugTK77hd6o">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bh5og1GJo86U\_kwcs9k95\_PaZTPNP7i8CugTK77hd6o</a>

/edit#gid=247885754

# TRAIL WALKS

Sundays: June 6, July 11, August 15, September 12 4:00 p.m.

Over the next four months, Juli Gould and Mike Schroeder plan on walking various local wild properties sharing what we know - Juli, as an entomologist, and Mike, as a native plant enthusiast. To honor the Seventh UU Principle, we would like to invite members and friends of our church to join us.



On Sunday, June 6, we plan to walk the trail that heads south from Long Point Road in Middleboro, starting at a gate between the ponds and Marion Road. On Sunday, July 11, we will walk at Betty's Neck, meeting in the parking lot. On Sunday, August 15, we will walk at Pratt's Farm. On Sunday, September 12, we will walk at Soule Farm.

We have tried to pick trails that are fairly level, but anyone with concerns might consider walking sticks to prevent tripping in rough places and ease the joints on downhill slopes. Note that while we might brave a bit of mist, we will not walk in the rain. Each time we will start at 4:00 and walk approximately an hour or an hour and a half. A late afternoon time means the heat of the day has passed, but mosquitoes may be coming out; so everyone will need to wear protective clothing or repellant. We hope anyone who wishes to join us will let us know before each walk.

If people show an interest, perhaps such walks could possibly become a regular adult education offering.

We are so looking forward to doing this. May you join us!

Mike Schroeder and Juli Gould



FOOD HANDLER'S EXAM Sunday, June 13 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

If you are interested in completing the food handler training course, please contact Susan Hotchkiss.

# JUNE VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

### SPRING AUCTION

# June 1 - 16, 2021

This spring we're organizing a virtual auction featuring a variety of goods and services. This time around, all items will be up for auction, meaning if you're interested in an item, you need to make a bid then keep an eye out to see if anyone submits a higher bid.

We're seeking offerings of goods and services that might include:

- Novelty/craft items
- Gift/theme/goodie baskets
- Meals, treats, baked goods
- Hosted events meals, picnics, outings, walks
- Garden/yard help
- Help with shopping, transporting items
- What else?





Please submit your offerings by email to <u>uu362@comcast.net</u> or contact the Church office at 508-947-1935. Include a description of your offering, quantities, picture (if possible), and suggested minimum bid. We'll be compiling a catalog of offerings that will be available prior to the start of the auction.

The auction will begin on **June 1 and end on June 16 at 11:59 pm.** Your time-stamped email will secure your bid. The highest bidders at the close of the auction get the items. You will make arrangements for delivery or pick up with the person who made the offer.

We'll provide more details in the coming weeks. Thank you for all you do for each other and for the Church!



# JUNE VIRTUAL OFFERINGS (continued)

# COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER

Tuesdays: June 1, 8, 15 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.



Links will be sent out for this event.



### LET'S DO LUNCH

Thursdays: June 3, 10, 17 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.



Links will be sent out for this event



# JUST THIS SANGHA

Fridays: June 4, 11, 18, 25 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.



We meet every Friday at 6:00 p.m. Contact Tom Tanguay at tomjtanguay@gmail.com for further information. All are welcome.

# JUNE VIRTUAL OFFERINGS (continued)

# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Early this spring, the PC established a 5-person standing Social Justice Committee under the leadership of Lauren Haugh. The purpose of the committee is to support, facilitate and coordinate the ongoing social justice work of the congregation as an expression of our UU principles. Current members of the committee, in addition to Lauren, are Dody Adkins-Perry, Deanne Bonnar, Natalie Johnson and Sandy Smiley.

After the murder of George Floyd, the PC established an ad hoc Racial Justice Planning Group that has been sponsoring a film and discussion series looking at the consequences of racism and white supremacy for Black and Indigenous people. We did this series as a way to educate ourselves in order to become better allies to people of color and to become active participants in the fight against racial oppression. The Social Justice Committee will continue the work of the ad hoc committee. Over the summer the Social Justice Committee will be looking at ways to move from education to action and will invite the congregation to participate in whatever actions are developed.

We know there are other important issues that FUUSM members have been involved with, including environmental concerns related to global warming. If you have a social justice concern or project you think you would like to see members of the congregation engage in, please contact Lauren Haugh at <a href="mailto:lomharper@gmail.com">lomharper@gmail.com</a>.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM DISCUSSIONS

Saturdays, June 5 and 19 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

6/5 FILM: The New York Times 26 Mini-Films for Exploring Race, Bias & Identity With Students - A Conversation On Race and Who, Me? Biased?

(6 videos) - Discussion

Discussion of *Microaggressions* paper.

Facilitators: Deanne Bonnar & Bob Waterman

6/19 WRAP-UP and FORUM for Questions, Thoughts & Insights.....

Facilitator: Natalie Johnson

ACTIVITY: Vigil to Commemorate Juneteenth.

Facilitator: Lois Aldrich

# JUNE VIRTUAL OFFERINGS (continued)

# NEW MOON MEDITATION

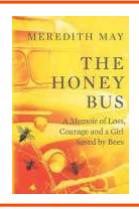
with Natalie Johnson Thursday, June 10 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

This month's New Moon falls in the sign of Gemini and continues this year's eclipse cycle with an annular solar eclipse. Gemini is about communication, connections, sociability, and the ability to meld disparate personality traits into one harmonious blend.



As we begin to emerge from our pandemic cocoons with greater freedom to gather, let's focus on what we want to share and how we want to share it. We invite you to join us as we explore what the return of freedom means and the ways in which we want to honor it. All are welcome.

The link will be sent out for this event.



#### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Monday, June 21 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The Book Club continues to meet on the third Monday of each month. Our June 21st selection is *The Honey Bus* by Meredith May. Carleen will have copies available. Meeting place to be determined. Please contact Carleen with any questions: Carleenml@aol.com.

# FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson Thursday, June 24 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.



The Full Moon shines tonight in the sign of Capricorn and invites us to consider how we balance our personal abundance with our sense of obligation to other beings and the planet. We will also celebrate the Summer solstice and the abundance Gaia shares at this pinnacle of growth and light before it begins its slow, gradual waning toward Fall. The Wheel of the Year has turned once again, and we honor its passage. Join us tonite as we consider our gifts and responsibilities. All are welcome.

The link will be sent out for this event.

#### MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

May 19, 2021

**Present:** Jim Bonnar, Bob Waterman, Marc MacQueen, Rev. Sarah Person, Lois Aldrich, Eileen Smith,

Nicole Sykes

Guest: Kelly Lownds

Minister Report: Rev. Sarah forwarded her report to the PC, which included three main items:

- 1) Update on post-pandemic planning for church. Rev. Sarah, Sue and Dan Hotchkiss, JR Pucillo-Dunphy, and Kelly Lownds will be meeting May 29 to brainstorm around protocols for transitioning from all virtual services to a multi-platform ministry.
- 2) Update on our UUA Zoom account for the church and instructions to access. (This means the church now has two Zoom accounts.) Bob Waterman, Katie Allen, and Kelly Lownds volunteered to be hosts as needed.
- 3) Update from Dan Hotchkiss on his progress in resolving issues with the Church's website. Issues mostly have been resolved, and Dan has made a few recommendations to maintain the website going forward. Many thanks to Dan for tackling this.

**RE:** Kelly Lownds provided an update on RE activities. Planning in process for youth service in June 2021. Working to combine junior and senior groups next year (part-time). RE parents continue to meet once a month. Kelly hopes to continue to have virtual access as well as in-person activity next year.

**Music Report:** No news to report.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u> Marc MacQueen reported April income is significantly down. But overall, for this year the church remains in good financial shape, on target for projected budget. Marc to further research reason behind low figures for April.

Marc has prepared budget for review at May 23 budget meeting with congregation. The budget will be posted in UU Updates for this week for review by congregation before Sunday's meeting. Discussion around whether or not budget needs four lines for donations or can these lines be combined? Marc MacQueen and Eileen Smith to review and make recommendations. Discussion around whether or not this year's budget should include income from 4% from investments (it currently does not). This would allow for additional carry over into 2021-22, if needed.

Budget report for this year shows a \$12,000 surplus!! (not including any withdrawal on investments). Marc is projecting \$3,000 deficit for 2021-22, unless pledge amounts increase. Budget does not include funds for tech support, which Rev. Sarah would like to see included in the future to reduce the need for volunteer time to manage virtual activity (currently provided by Alan and Dan).

**Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **June 11 at 7:00 pm**.

Black Lives Matter (BLM) Banner: Rev. Sarah reminded all that the plan is to hang the church's BLM banner on May 25, at which time there will be a silent dedication to honor the one year anniversary of the death of George Floyd. Banner will be hung on the right side of the Church's front entry. JR will be installing a security camera prior to May 25.

<u>Fundraisers</u>: Potential fundraisers so far: Service Auction in June – Bob Waterman to post details in Updates; PC okayed Road Rally for some time between August and October 2021 (John Mullen coordinating); Tony Soares has mentioned yard sale in September 2021; Lakeville Arts Festival is scheduled for October 2, 2021 (UU participation TBD); Katie Allen may coordinate craft fair in November; Service Auction in fall (in-person!); Service Auction in spring 2022.

<u>COVID Safety Precautions</u>: Discussion around the need to provide clarification to congregation on our requirements for mask wearing, social distancing, etc., as state relaxes rules on May 29. PC agreed that all should continue to wear masks, social distance, etc., when participating in church activities until further notice.

<u>Cash in the Plate:</u> Social Justice Group will make recommendation for June.

Next PC meeting (check-in) June 2 at 7:00 p.m.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER



Sunday, June 6, at 1:00 p.m.: Virtual Program Calendar Meeting

Friday, June 11, at 7:00 p.m.: Virtual Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 13, at 3:00 p.m.: Food Handler's Exam, Parish Hall

Sunday, June 20: Summer Newsletter Deadline (Firm)
Friday, June 25: Church Office Closes for the Summer

June 23 – 27: Virtual General Assembly Sunday, June 27, at 9:00 a.m.: Summer Services Begin



# 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:

Lay Pastoral Minister:

Lay Pastoral Minister:

Dave Kraemer

Meals:

Juli Gould

# Parish Committee

President:
Vice President:
Bob Waterman
Treasurer:
Marc MacQueen
Assistant Treasurer:
Eileen Smith
Parish Clerk:
Lois Aldrich

Members At Large: Katie Allen Nicole Sykes





#### Mission Statement

We seek to provide a sanctuary where people can come together as a community to foster spiritual and personal growth through education and open discussion, to offer the opportunity for meditation and worship, and to serve as a liberal religious voice.

In our interactions with one another, we seek to build a strong community, great with acceptance, appreciation, caring love, respect, tolerance, trust, and forgiveness; to listen to one another and resolve our conflicts peacefully; to sympathize with and show compassion to one another; to express our creativity together; and to delight in fun and friendship.

As a religious community, we strive to help one another in our individual journeys to discover our spiritual selves; to find purpose, self-worth, and peace; to explore moral and ethical questions together; and to inspire, challenge, and to stimulate one another intellectually - with open-mindedness and without judgment.

As individuals and in the larger community, we will speak against injustice and cruelty. We seek to model tolerance and diversity; confront the fear of difference; and thoughtfully address the many difficult problems of our world.

# **JUNE 2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Spring Auction Begins 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Virtual Choir Rehearsal	<b>6:00 p.m.</b> Virtual RE Committee	<b>12:00 noon</b> Virtual Let's Do Lunch <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Virtual Spirituality Group	1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	9:30 a.m. Virtual Social Justice Film Discussion  11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 11:45 a.m. Virtual RE Coffee Hour 1:00 p.m. Virtual Program Calendar Meeting 4:00 p.m. Junior & Senior Youth 4:00 p.m.	<b>2:00 p.m.</b> Recording,	10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Virtual	<b>7:00 p.m.</b> Virtual	12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation 7:00 p.m. Virtual	9:30 a.m. Kitchen Rental 1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha 7:00 p.m. Virtual	9:30 a.m. Kitchen Rental 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil,
Trail Walk	Sanctuary	Choir Rehearsal	Music Committee	Spirituality Group	Annual Meeting	Church Lawn
13 10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Youth Gathering 3:00 p.m. Food Handler Exam, Parish Hall 3:30 p.m. Virtual Junior Youth	2:00 p.m. Recording, Sanctuary	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Virtual Choir Rehearsal	6:30 p.m. Virtual Parish Committee  Spring Auction Ends	17  12:00 noon  Virtual  Let's Do Lunch  7:00 p.m.  Virtual  Spirituality Group	1:00 p.m. Organ Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	9:30 a.m. Virtual Social Justice Film Discussion Juneteenth Vigil 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service				Virtual General Assembly 6:00 p.m. Virtual Full Moon Meditation	Virtual General Assembly  12:00 noon Church Office Closes for the Summer	Virtual General Assembly
Summer	6:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.	Virtual	7:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	11:30 a.m.
Newsletter	Book Discussion	Peaceful Quilters,	General	Virtual	Virtual	Peace Vigil,
Deadline Firm 27	Group 28	Parish Hall	Assembly 30	Spirituality Group	Just This Sangha	Church Lawn
Virtual General Assembly 9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service	28	10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall	30			





#### 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for virtual GA 2021 is \$200 per person. Financial support for registration as well as a payment plan are available. General Assembly registrants receive access to the 2021 Online Participation Portal, including live, simulive, and on-demand video content, the virtual exhibit hall, chat features, support, and a (new!) GA mobile app.

- Adult Registration
- Youth Registration
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Financial Support

Registration for General Assembly is the same for delegates and non-delegates. Registrations must be for specific individuals and are non-transferable. Each registrant should have a unique email address to facilitate logon to the Online Participation Portal. Once registered, you will be sent email confirmation from <a href="mailto:generalassembly@uua.org">generalassembly@uua.org</a>. You may cancel a GA registration by replying to your registration confirmation or contacting the GA Registrar at <a href="mailto:generalassembly@uua.org">generalassembly@uua.org</a>. The cancellation fee is \$50 per person.

#### Registration is Required for All Participants

All participants in General Assembly (GA) programmed events must be registered for the conference. Everyone must also be registered, including program participants, presenters, invited guests, performers, office support staff, relatives, hosts, and dignitaries. This policy is consistent with our principle of equity and avoids arbitrary distinctions. GA registrants receive access to all workshops, performances, lectures, and events listed in the GA Program. Registrants will have exclusive access to a chatroom, recordings of previous streams, and dedicated support.

**Open to the Public:** General Sessions, Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship and Sunday Morning Worship will be streamed live and publicly accessible; registration is not required to view these events.

