



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

508-947-1935

July/August 2021

We are offering virtual worship services for the months of July and August.

The link to each service will be published on our website. Summer Services begin at 9:00 a.m.

July 4: For our Fourth of July Sunday, we'll join the Murray Church in Attleboro for a joint service. A link will be provided in our Friday Updates, July 2nd.

July 11:

Springtime Jazz Sunday!

Jeannie Gagné and Stan Strickland

From our archives, we welcome Jeannie Gagné and Stan Strickland for a soulful morning of music and reflections on Spring Themes. Jeannie is the former Music Director of our church, and (except for 2020) she and Stan have shared a Jazz Sunday with us annually for many years. Both Jeannie and Stan are professors at Berklee College of Music. This year they were joined by members of the Music Committee (Nancy Backus, Valerie Fontaine, and John Mullen) providing readings and reflections on springtime. Jazz Sunday, March 21, 2021.

July 18:

The Other Virus

Norm Grenier

Something else is in the air besides the covid virus. Any scan of the news of the day reveals disturbing events and odd beliefs. There is plenty of evidence that we are not only suffering from a biological disturbance but a psychological one also. We will use some of the insights of Carl Jung to point out how a country can seemingly go mad.

July 25:

Food May Not Be the Answer to World Peace, But It's a Start

Lauren Haugh

What We Can Learn from Our Food to Promote Social Justice: Food has a history, and many times we don't know the origins of the dishes we enjoy most. I believe in the power of naming and knowing things. This is true for our food as well. In this service, Lauren will examine some historical roots of our food, and what that food can teach us in order to start moving forward to a more just world.

August 1:

Lughnasadh Ritual

Our Local Chapter of the Covenant of UU Pagans

We invite you to join us at beautiful **Soule Homestead, 46 Soule Street, Middleboro**, as members of CUUPS celebrate our annual outdoor ritual of Lughnasadh or First Harvest. We gather to honor the generosity of Mother Earth as she shares her abundance with all of creation. We celebrate our reciprocal relationship with Her and invite you to partake of our ritual and offer your own thanks for our beautiful natural world. A giveaway will be held at the end, and we invite you to bring a small offering to be shared with others in the form of fresh food you grew or purchased, baked goods, flowers or herbs, a poem or even a reflection of your own gratitude or a prayer, handwritten with love. All are welcome.

August 8:

The Web of Life Is Calling Us

Sustainable Middleboro

Author Joanna Macy, who coined the term "active hope," inspired the 27 enrollees in a climate-justice course at this church in early 2017. We learned where the energy we use comes from—not just to be educated but so we could take action. For the past four years an independent, grass-roots group has been meeting every other week over kitchen tables and Zoom, working for change in our community, and holding on to "active hope." Join us to learn what we have accomplished and how you can make a difference, too.

August 15:

Music in the Time of Covid

From our archives, a one-year celebration of transitions and transformations. Join members of the Chalice Zoom Choir for shared insights on music as a bright spot holding us together. There will be vintage clips of prior Music Sunday performances, high spots from this past year, dialogues, and surprises. Music Sunday, April 18, 2021.

August 22:

Letting Love Guide Us: Our Connection with All Beings

Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Executive Director and Senior Minister at the UU Urban Ministry

We are connected to the animals, and compassion often guides our relationships. But some systems disconnect us from the animals. Here, we consider how we can reawaken our connection and widen our circle of compassion.

August 29:

A Post Pandemic World

Religious Exploration Youth

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 newly-minted and final virtual choir project, "You Are the New Day." Kudos to Bet Giddings for her fabulous tech work. Religious Exploration Sunday, June 13, 2021.

September 5:

Hymn Sing

Susan Hotchkiss and Friends

Join us for a sort of Traditional Hymn Sing with Susan Hotchkiss. This Sunday we plan to sing some of our favorite hymns outside, using safety precautions. Get rid of all those cobwebs in your voice, see others you've only had a chance to see in small boxes onscreen! It's one step closer to back to church, so let's do it!

MINISTER'S MEDITATION

Welcome to Summer at the Society! Although our church office is closed from June 28 to August 17, there will be a lot going on, and we look forward to seeing you 'virtually' throughout the summer. We have lay-led worship on **Sunday mornings at 9AM** and will continue virtual get-togethers throughout July and August.

This summer, with things well in hand thanks to our volunteers, I will take most of July off for study leave. Study leave is my opportunity to improve my craft and prepare for the coming church year. This means I will be available in emergencies and for weddings, child dedications and memorial services. I will also continue to host "Coffee with the Minister" on Tuesday mornings and "Let's Do Lunch" on Thursdays. You can reach me at my home office, (508) 967-2763. If I am away and you have an emergency, you can reach our **Lay Pastoral Ministers - Sue Curtiss, Dave Kraemer, or Sue St. Germain**. I will take a vacation in August and will let you know when. I will not be replying to calls on my home office phone or responding to emails during my vacation. During this time, not only will one of our Lay Pastoral Ministers be available, but also a minister from a nearby UU church who will be offering vacation coverage. My colleagues and I are sorting out our summer schedules now. We will continue to bring you Updates over the course of the summer.

We are emerging from this pandemic slowly but surely. We are committed to re-opening in the safest, most inclusive way possible on **September 12th**. As we have all along, we will let the science guide us. When we do gather together in person or in spirit, our hope is that it will be with multi-platform attendance options for everyone who needs or wants them. One of the lessons of this past year is that "it was never about the building" but it's nice to have the building, too!

Blessings,
Rev. Sarah



HOLIDAY FAIR

As announced by Bob Waterman earlier this year, our church will be hosting a Holiday Fair (in person if at all possible). As of now, I am holding two possible dates on the church calendar: Saturday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 20. I am looking for people to join a team to work out all the details of hosting a fair:



set up, working the day of the fair, break down, soliciting items for sale, different tables we might want to have, etc. I have offers from Linda Thompson (a quilt for raffle), Stephen Larrett (handcrafted wood ornament) and Andrea Priest (help with a

jewelry table). If you are interested in:

- helping out as a member of the "Fair Team" to work on one or more of the MANY details to have the fair run smoothly;
- helping out with set up, working the day of or breaking down;
- donating an item or items for sale; or
- anything else I may not have mentioned or thought of!!



Please let me know!! I can be reached via text or call to 774-454-7021 or email at katieallen57@outlook.com

The church will benefit from any help you can provide. Thank you so much!

Katie Allen



SUMMER MUSIC MUSINGS



This summer we have a chance once again to travel a bit, visit with family and friends, have adventures, and stretch our wings in the sunshine. It has been a long lock-down, but here we are with an emergence happening. Although there are safety precautions, places like Star Island and Ferry Beach are running live UU programs. Check out Facebook and websites to learn more about programming options.

The Chalice Choir is going to meet for outdoor summer sings on July 20 and August 10, as well as our annual choir party on August 28. Fingers are crossed that we'll be able to meet in person for regular choir rehearsals starting August 31.

We are all thinking about being together in worship come fall. Meanwhile, eyes are on the science, and of course we have a Plan B for scaled back and virtual options.

HAPPY SUMMER TO ALL!

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music



Thank you to everyone who made this year a success! I love being the Director of Religious Exploration and found this church year to go as well as we could have hoped! I'm extremely grateful to everyone who contributed inside and outside the classroom. We were successful in having weekly Sunday School virtually, and we still found ways to get together in person. We will use a combination of virtual and in person classes in the year ahead. This coming year we will be going on a pilgrimage exploring how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday actions.

We can't do a good job without everyone in church pitching in to support our program! What can you offer to our youth? Are you willing to teach a session for 4 to 6 weeks, work with youth one evening a month or substitute one or two times during the year, offer a special project, become part of the RE Committee? Please email the DRE at dre@uumiddleboro.org to let me know you are interested. I will be reaching out to everyone to ask for any help people are willing to give.

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration

EVENTS THIS SUMMER



VIRTUAL **LET'S DO LUNCH**

Thursdays:
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
August 5, 12, 19, 26

Links will be sent out for this event.



VIRTUAL **JUST THIS SANGHA**

Fridays:
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
August 6, 13, 20, 27
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.



VIRTUAL **COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER**

Tuesdays:
July 6, 13, 20, 27
August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Links will be sent out for this event.



VIRTUAL NEW MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Thursday, July 8 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

This month's New Moon is in Cancer, the sign most attuned to the Great Mother. As a water sign, it reminds us to honor all women as water protectors, life bringers, life sustainers and keepers of our emotional well-being. Summer burns brightly with the fire of the sun, the colorful brilliance of dragonflies and the ethereal light of fireflies in the night sky, but we are reminded of the importance of water to temper the fires, to refresh the often parched earth and to encourage us all to remember to offer ourselves that life affirming mother love in the form of self-nurturance and rest.



Join us tonight as we honor the Great Mother and explore ways in which we all can love ourselves a little more gently. All are welcome.

The link will be sent out for this event.



TRAIL WALKS



Sundays:

July 11, August 15, September 12

4:00 p.m.

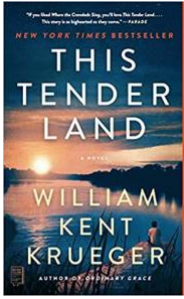
Juli Gould and Mike Schroeder plan on walking various local wild properties sharing what we know - Juli, as an entomologist, and Mike, as a native plant enthusiast. To honor the Seventh UU Principle, we would like to invite members and friends of our church to join us.

On Sunday, 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 repellent. **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



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Mondays:

July 19 & August 23

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

in the

Parish Hall



Our Book Club will meet on July 19 and August 23, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the church hall. Our summer selections are: July 19 - *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger and August 23 - *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. Carleen will have multiple copies available each month. For more info, contact her at carleenml@aol.com.



VIRTUAL FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Thursday, July 22

6:00 – 6:45 p.m.



This month's Full Moon falls in the sign of Aquarius. We are now in high summer, and the airwaves are abuzz with the sound of crickets, June bugs, bees, hummingbirds, and each morning, the cacophonous din of birds as they continue their task of raising the next generation. All around us we see a riot of color, texture and scent as Mother Nature gives her all to cover the earth with lush bounty.

We, too, are encouraged to put forth our best efforts as we continue to reconnect with the rest of creation after the long imposed hiatus brought about by the pandemic. As we work to re-establish lines of communication, repair lost connections and forge new alliances and passions, let us use the energies of Aquarius to assist in mimicking the natural world and fill our own lives with the language of love.

Join us tonight as we bask in the light of the Full Aquarian Moon. All are welcome.

The link will be sent out for this event.

VIRTUAL NEW MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Sunday, August 8 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

This month's New Moon falls in Leo, the sign governing the full opening of the heart to greater love and courage. It also marks the yearly opening of a cosmic portal known as the Lion's Gate. This event marks the rising of the star Sirius in the pre-dawn sky...an occurrence venerated by the ancient Egyptians. It is a time of heightened energies and solar blessings coming to Earth and an opportunity to harness these energies for forward on our own spiritual paths as well as improving conditions on Earth for all sentient beings. It is a powerful time to gather and open our hearts fully to these blessings from the heavens.



Come join us as we use both the celestial impulses as well as our own group energy to amplify our New Moon affirmations. All are welcome.

The link will be sent out for this event.



VIRTUAL FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Sunday, August 22 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

This month's Full Moon falls once again in the sign of Aquarius. Summer is winding down, and we might even have detected the first scent of Fall on the wind. We have benefitted from opening our hearts more fully with the Leo New Moon and been empowered by the Lion's Gate. Our communication skills should be sharper as we leave the dreamy heat-infused energies of summer and move further into the task of rebuilding our world.

The importance of sharing thoughts and ideas and of keeping our hearts open has never been greater. The higher octave of Aquarius can assist us with this task.

Join us as we fill the airwaves with bold ideas, heart based connections and a greater understanding of our interconnectedness as we step into the future with wide open hearts. All are welcome.

The link will be sent out for this event.



**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL
PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
June 16, 2021**

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

Guest: Bill Howe

The PC approved minutes from 6/2/21 meeting.

Minister's Report: Rev. Sarah reviewed her report to the PC. Safety Committee is working on draft protocols for the re-opening of Church. The goal is to have the needed resources to offer multi-platform services upon church re-opening and to ensure all in-person Church activity is safe. This means there may need to be a limited number of people allowed in Church at any given time, with proper social distancing. Rev. Sarah will provide PC with any updates from the Safety Committee.

Rev. Sarah and Andrea Priest have been approached by the Rotary Club asking if our Church would be interested in having a library box on UU property. Rev. Sarah provided details on what this would entail in her report to the PC. Rotary Club would work with a contractor to install the box. Financial assistance is available through various sponsors. Rotary also has some books available. Questions/concerns from PC include: How does having a library box fit in with our UU principles? Do we have the needed resources to manage this on an ongoing basis? Are there any protocols around the type of books, and who decides which books are put in the box? If the Church agrees to have a library box, and then it does not work out, what are protocols to remove the box? Having and managing a library box could be considered outreach for UU, and perhaps a way to attract more members. Rev. Sarah will follow up with PC questions.

Treasurer's Report: Marc MacQueen reports that 87% of 20-21 pledges are in. Income is exceeding expenses for this year. Bob Waterman asked if a final budget for the 20-21 year could be shared with the congregation once all final numbers are in. Marc agreed to work on this.

The PC agreed to continue having quarterly congregation meetings where the PC will provide the congregation with quarterly budget reports.

Leadership Development Team continues to seek to find someone to fill the Assistant Treasurer position, which will be vacant as of July 1, 2021.

PC discussed the need for education of congregation around planned giving for church. One idea would be to have workshops on planned giving offered to the congregation.

Marc mentioned that \$10,000 has been made available by generous donors toward the 2100 Growth Fund.

2100 Growth Fund: Bill Howe presented a summary of the 2100 Growth Fund that is planned to begin in the 21-22 Church year. Bill recommends the Church set up the fund with Charles Schwab. Since the focus of the 2100 Growth Fund is on long-term growth, there will be more volatility, more risk, and therefore keeping this fund separate from all other church accounts is highly recommended. The PC agreed that the fund will be with Charles Schwab. Jim Bonnar will sign the necessary documents to set up the fund.

The plan would be to wait for 3 years before drawing on the investment. The PC can set ground rules as to the amount to be withdrawn, etc. The Church's Investment Committee would oversee the fund, and it has not yet been decided whether investments will be in mutual funds or individual companies. The Investment Committee currently reports to the Treasurer on a monthly basis, and this will continue. The PC will have further discussion on whether or not a Financial Advisory group needs to be established to plan financial strategy and policy for the Church.

(continued on next page)

Bill cautions setting any restrictions at this juncture around types of investments for this fund. Funds identified as “socially responsible” investments may have different meaning to different people. The UUA may have resources on socially responsible investing.

Music Committee: Focus of the Committee has been on promotion of car rally fundraiser. Application to use town hall parking lot needs to be made, and Rev. Sarah will sign application.

RE: RE most recent report is included in the Church’s Annual Report.

Fundraising: Bob Waterman reported that the Spring auction has so far raised \$2657!!

Recordings of Meetings: The question as to whether or not congregation meetings should be recorded was raised at the Annual Meeting and tabled for PC discussion. The PC members agreed recordings of congregation meetings are not necessary. Recordings are not required by the UUA. However, minutes of meetings are taken by the Clerk and shared with the congregation in UU Updates.

Cash in the Plate: Rev. Sarah will ask Social Justice Committee for ideas.

PC Retreat: PC will plan its retreat for the summer. Maybe in person!!!?

PC members extended their gratitude to Eileen Smith for her many years of outstanding service as the Church’s Assistant Treasurer. Many, many thanks Eileen!!

Next PC meeting: July 21 at 6:30 PM



PARISH COMMITTEE (2021 – 2022)

President:	Jim Bonnar
Vice President:	Bob Waterman
Treasurer:	Marc MacQueen
Assistant Treasurer:	Open
Parish Clerk:	Lois Aldrich
Members At Large:	Katie Allen Nicole Sykes




PARISH CARE

Parish Care help is available to assist with meals, transportation, emergency babysitting, and hospital visits during illnesses or other family emergencies. We are a diverse, active and caring community; and we welcome your questions and your participation. You are always invited to call or visit our minister to discuss any matter of concern to you.

Lay Ministry Coordinator:	Susan Curtiss
Lay Pastoral Minister:	Sue St. Germain
Lay Pastoral Minister:	Dave Kraemer
Meals:	Juli Gould

JULY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	2 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	3 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
4  9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service	5	6 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister	7	8 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	9 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	10 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
11 9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 4:00 p.m. Trail Walk	12	13 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister	14	15 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	16 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	17 Moquin Memorial Service 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
18 9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service	19 5:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall	20 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister 7:00 p.m. Outdoor Choir Sing, Church Lawn	21 6:30 p.m. Virtual Parish Committee	22 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 6:00 p.m. Virtual Full Moon Meditation 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	23 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	24 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
25 9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service	26	27 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister	28	29 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	30 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	31 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn

AUGUST 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service	2	3 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister	4	5 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	6 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	7 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn 7:00 p.m. Outdoor Choir Sing, Church Lawn
8 9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation	9	10 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister 7:00 p.m. Outdoor Choir Sing, Church Lawn	11	12 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	13 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	14 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn
15 9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service September Newsletter Deadline 4:00 p.m. Trail Walk	16	17 9:00 a.m. Church Office Reopens 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister	18 6:30 p.m. Virtual Parish Committee	19 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	20 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	21 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn Pumphray Wedding
22 9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Virtual Full Moon Meditation	23 5:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group, Parish Hall	24 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister	25	26 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	27 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	28 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil, Church Lawn 12:00 noon Choir Get-Together, V. Fontaine's Home Corbett Memorial Service
29 9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 12:00 noon Choir Get-Together (Rain Date), V. Fontaine's Home	30	31 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall				

THINKING OF SUMMER?

Our vibrant network of UUA Retreat Centers, Camps and Conferences offers experiences of growth, connection, spirituality, and community. Each of these independent camps and centers identifies with Unitarian Universalist values and traditions. Many are implementing necessary health and safety restrictions and are restructuring some of the activities. Their proposed protocols are designed to reduce risk while still enabling them to connect with one another in a meaningful way.



Visit the following New England websites to see their updated offerings.

The Rowe Center (<https://rowecenter.org>)

Star Island (<https://starisland.org>)

Ferry Beach (<https://www.ferrybeach.org>)

(Circle of Music at Ferry Beach Conference Center, Maine, is scheduled in person August 15-21. **Ed Priest** is musician of the week. There will be chapel in the woods, workshops, song circles and more in addition to coffeehouse and talent/no talent show. A few offerings will be streamed to allow everyone to attend. The guest artists will offer a workshop virtually. The week will be a bit quieter than usual to allow us to regroup after a crazy year. Check out Facebook page and Ferry Beach website as it gets updated.)

