



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346 508-947-1935 www.uumiddleboro.org January 2022

***We are offering virtual worship services at 10:30 a.m.
The link to each service will be posted on our website every week.***

Sunday, January 2
Rev. Sarah Person preaching
A Different Light

Parker Palmer once suggested that the only way to get through the long cold winter was to get out and enjoy it. Perhaps there is some illuminating realization about your life waiting to be discovered by you – an epiphany, so to speak. Music will be provided by Patty Simon on flute, recorder and crumhorn; Barry Simon on hammered dulcimer & bass viol; and Marcia Anderson and Polly Jacobson on recorder.

Sunday, January 9
Ed and Andrea Priest leading
Songs and Words That Have Sustained Us in This Pandemic

Ed and Andrea Priest will be leading the service today based on a workshop they led at Ferry Beach last summer. Adrienne Williams will bring her magic to the mix. Let us know what you have been listening to and what words have brought you comfort.

Sunday, January 16
Rev. Sarah Person preaching
The Boy from Troy

Join us for a reflection on the life of John Lewis, who is often quoted as declaring, "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." – A tweet from June 2018. Music will be provided by Bet Giddings, piano and vocal.

Sunday, January 23
Rev. Sarah Person preaching
Transitions

There will come a time when we will emerge from the pandemic. What do you imagine that future will be like? What lessons will we have learned? Let's explore what will have changed, what needs to change, and how we might dedicate ourselves to make that happen.

Sunday, January 30
Rev. Sarah Person preaching
Winter Melody

Home and hearth take on new meaning in wintertime. They represent a spiritual stronghold against the cold and neglect of the world. There are many ways we can and do create more warmth and welcome in our own lives and in the lives of others.



PLEASE NOTE:

The details in this Newsletter are up-to-date as of the publication, but there may be changes/updates, so be sure to check the weekly "UU Updates" for any updated information. If you are not subscribed to receive the "UU Updates," send an email to office@uumiddleboro.org, and we will add you to the mailing list.

MINISTER'S MEDITATION

Janus, the Roman god and the origin of the name of the month of January, is the god of dualities; beginnings and endings, gates and doorways, boundaries and passages. Time was inextricably linked to motion in space. Janus, and his meaning, were invoked at the outset of every year, every month, every celebration, every day. Horace used to call him Morning Father.

Perhaps, for this month of January, we might mark the beginnings of our days by reminding ourselves that we live in endless possibility. That one day was never meant to be exactly like another. That we are in constant motion even while still – a perpetual dance through time and space. Worth an invocation, don't you think?

Blessings,
Rev. Sarah



For thirteen-plus years, my top priority has been to build a musical community, and that begins with the singers and instrumentalists who support the music program in our church. As I write these musings, I am scheduled to have total knee replacement the end of December, and I think I'll be "off the bench" at least the first three Sundays of January.

I want to write about the "deep bench" at our church. Although I sit at the piano (and organ and keyboard), when I slide off the bench, we are blessed to have "music angels" to take up the figurative baton. I only had to ask, and they stepped up to take turns. The Chalice Choir will be on winter break in January, but the beat goes on with a collaborative and super-talented team.

On January 2, Patty and Barry Simon will be our music makers, bringing us the sweet sounds of hammered dulcimer, bass, and flutes. Patty has a collection of wind instruments: flutes, recorders, even a crumhorn. Barry is not only a talented folk musician, but also a master crafter who built his own hammered dulcimer AND his newly minted bass viol. Barry's instruments are a treat for the eyes as well as the ears!

On January 9, Ed and Andrea Priest will bring us an entire worship experience in the Ferry Beach style of inclusion and warmth. Ed has quite the collection of instruments including guitar, banjo, ukulele, and a combination of banjo and ukulele called a banjolele. Add to this the soulful power of Andrea's voice and you have magic.

On January 16, Bet Giddings will bring her YEARS of experience as a church music director. Bet is a director, pianist, and vocalist who is gifted in many styles of music including her own compositions. She's also a techie who mixed and mastered our virtual choir offerings last year. Who knows what she will come up with?!

There is a chance that my surgery date could be changed due to Covid – but please know that we have a plan, we are a team, and we will figure things out. **WE ARE A MUSICAL COMMUNITY!**

Happy New Year!
Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music



Sunday School Classes: An Amazing Journey, On the Road Again

We are on a pilgrimage of faith, exploring how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday action. We added trees and a wheelchair to our path, and Emmett, Eamon and Sebastian added their recent successes in helping others and following our Unitarian Universalist principles.

We meet weekly on a virtual platform at 10am on Sunday mornings. We meet once a month in person, tentatively on the third Sunday each month, at 12. More handouts will be prepared for the new year, and we will improve our "craft club" area which is near the nursery.

RE Parent Meeting

We will meet the second Sunday of the month (January 9) at 11:45 virtually. The link goes out via email and will be in the UU Updates each month.

Senior Youth and Junior Youth

We have made an adjustment to our programming and our schedule. Greg Stevens, Kelly Lownds and Barbara Bancroft are working with the Senior and Junior Youth Groups. We are meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings of the month. Greg and I run the group the second Sunday, and Barbara and I will run the group the fourth Sunday. The groups will now run from 4 to 6pm.

Coming of Age

Our next Coming of Age group is on 1/9/2022 at 4pm. We have added one more child to our group, making it six children working through the curriculum - Jeremy, Niko, Conor, Mia, Sebastian and Jesse. Our Parent Orientation was on 11/28/2021 at 12pm. Greg Stevens and I met and discussed the curriculum, our goals for the youth, and mentors and decided to start a small group program with the parents for Coming of Age that will start in January.

Mentors for Coming of Age Orientation

Our orientation will be in January. An email will go out in December with a few possible dates for the orientation.

Holiday Party

We hosted our Annual Holiday Party on 12/12/2021 from 12 to 2 at the church. We had a snowball fight on the lawn, played "catch the snowflake" on the lawn, made our traditional gingerbread houses and enjoyed pizza and sweets.

Popcorn and Hot Chocolate and Mulled Cider

On November 27 we sold Popcorn and Hot Chocolate and Mulled Cider at the Holiday Parade. We had new volunteers and had a very successful time at the parade.

On December 4, we sold Popcorn and Hot Chocolate and Mulled Cider outside the Christmas Market Fest. Our volunteers on both days made \$104 and had a lot of fun!

Thank you to all our volunteers! Our adults were Stephen, Tony, Nicole, Chris, and Maria and our kids were Niko, Sebastian, Emmett, and Eamon.

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration

**VIRTUAL
NEW MOON MEDITATION**
with Natalie Johnson
Sunday, January 2
6:00 – 6:45 p.m.




The Dark Moon in Capricorn starts off the New Year as we begin our journey into 2022. Like the Roman god Janus for whom this month is named, we stand straddling the threshold that leads to the unknown landscape that stretches before us. With a glance back at all that 2021 offered in terms of challenges, we turn our gaze forward into the future at the promise that lies ahead. Like a blank canvas, 2022 awaits a brushstroke as we decide what picture we shall paint.

Let us gather together tonight to gratefully acknowledge the insights and lessons of the past year and use our collective energy to plot our course ahead into co-creating a world that is more equitable, more loving and more inclusive for all beings.

All are welcome.

The link will be sent out for this event.




**VIRTUAL
COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER**
Tuesdays: January 4, 11, 18, 25
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Links will be sent out for this event.



**VIRTUAL
LET'S DO LUNCH**
Thursdays: January 6, 13, 20, 27

Links will be sent out for this event.



**VIRTUAL
JUST THIS SANGHA**
Fridays: January 7, 14, 21, 28
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Just This Sangha meets virtually (via Zoom) nearly every Friday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 for silent meditation and sharing of our practice experience. From a Buddhist, particularly Zen, perspective, we focus on bringing practice to daily life; exploring letting go of our usual habitual reactivity and opening to our selves and others as we actually are. Not a drop-in group, we do welcome potentially new members to join us for a few sessions to see if the group is a good fit. Contact Tom Tanguay at Thisjustthis@gmail.com for more information.

JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND PEACE VIGILS



Saturdays: January 8, 15, 22, 29

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

We will continue scheduling weekly ½ hour vigils on Saturday mornings from 11:30 a.m. 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. All are invited to join in.

Sign up for training and/or the vigil by visiting

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bh50gIGJo86U_kwcs9k95_PaZTPNP7i8CugTK77hd6o/edit#gid=247885754



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Monday, January 17

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

in the Parish Hall

The Book Club continues to meet on the third Monday of every month at 5:30. Our January 17th title is *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell.

Upcoming dates:

February 21: *Olympus, Texas* by Stacey Swann.

Our March 21st meeting will be "Choose Your Own Adventure" - members will be bringing their own recent favorite reads to share with the group.

For more info: email Carleen at Carleenml@aol.com.



VIRTUAL FULL MOON MEDITATION

with Natalie Johnson

Monday, January 17

6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

This Full Moon falls in the sign of Cancer, the ultimate nurturer, nourisher, life giver. A water sign, Cancer encourages us to plunge into the depths of our own emotions and to remember that we must always include the wisdom of the heart in all of our decisions and intentions.

Mercury goes direct on the 14th, so we can add his energy to our own in bringing precision and clarity to our thoughts and decisions. We are reminded that all of our actions must be guided by the triple flame of wisdom, power and love in order to be in right relation with all that is.

Come join us at this time to see how the New Year is unfolding thus far, to add the abundance of the Moon's light to our own, and to share our collective energy and light as we continue to walk the path of heart.

All are welcome.

The link will be sent out for this event.

VIRTUAL



The Parish Committee is looking forward to offering Listening Circles again in January. We'd like to invite you to participate in this opportunity to meet in a small group and talk with a PC member about the state of the Church. We'll talk about the PC's Vision for the Congregation and hear what's important to you as we look together toward the future.

We'll be conducting the Listening Circles virtually and offering a number of opportunities for you to participate. Below are the dates and times:

Tuesday, January 18 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 19 11:00 am

Thursday, January 20 2:00 pm

Saturday, January 22 9:30 am

Sunday, January 23 1:00 pm

Tuesday, January 25 7:00 pm

To sign up, send an email to uu362@comcast.net indicating your top preference, as well as two (or more) alternate choices. The number of participants in each session will be limited and dates will be populated on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to respond promptly to secure your desired choice.

We hope you'll participate in this important sharing process. Your input will help shape the direction of future initiatives in the Church. Thank you!

The Parish Committee



VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 19

6:30 p.m.

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

The link will be sent out for this event.



MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

December 15, 2021

Present: Bob Waterman, Rev. Sarah Person, Lois Aldrich, Katie Allen, Nicole Sykes

Absent: Jim Bonnar, Marc MacQueen

Additional Attendee: Kelly Lownds

Minister's Report: This Sunday Rev. Sarah will be preaching on the pandemic and precautions we have taken. During fellowship, she would like to ask the congregation to break up into groups and have the congregation enter into conversations about the sermon topic as a means to "take the temperature" of the congregation regarding our church's efforts to deal with the pandemic.

The Pastoral Care and Parish Care Teams are coordinating support for several parishioners. There have been several folks from the parish who have had health issues and have accessed pastoral care. In addition to Rev. Sarah's visits to folks, many thanks are extended to Mal Marvill who has been doing a wonderful job coordinating the needs of parishioners.

Rev. Sarah talked about plans for Christmas Eve which, given the pandemic, will be a combination of live elements and pre-recorded music as well as the Children's Nativity. The Christmas Eve service will be attended virtually by congregants. Rev. Sarah is considering the possibility of outdoor caroling, but this may not be possible due to the pandemic.

The PC discussed the internet outage that occurred at last week's service that "froze" the service for a period of time. However, congregants remained online. Bob Waterman suggested a Zoom co-host be assigned prior to the beginning of the service who could unmute participants and allow a time for conversation amongst congregants should another outage occur. The PC agreed with this idea, and Rev. Sarah said she will look into making this happen.

RE: Kelly Lownds provided the PC with updates on RE activities. RE has decorated the Christmas tree for church and had a successful holiday party last week making gingerbread houses and having pizza. RE also had a vendor cart at both the town's holiday parade and the lighting of the Christmas tree, selling popcorn, cider and cocoa. \$106 was raised at the two events. There was no parent meeting this month due to the holiday party.

For the coming year, RE will be looking at a Jesse Lewis curriculum on social/emotional growth.

Kelly reminded the PC that there will be five senior youth who will be graduating from high school in 2022 and will most likely be pursuing college. We need to think more about how to engage youth.... possibly start a young adult ministry?

Music Committee: Rev. Sarah reminded the PC that Susan Hotchkiss is scheduled for knee surgery on December 29 and will therefore not participate in the church service for the three Sundays after that. Other arrangements have been made during her absence.

Rev. Sarah reported that the Chalice Choir will be performing at an assisted living community where two of our parishioners currently reside.

Fundraising: Bob Waterman reported that the online auction that is currently in progress has so far raised \$2,013. Final day for bidding is December 18. The new auction platform being used has been working very well. Only need noted so far is to refine the payment process. We will plan to use this platform for future auctions.

Sign-up for tickets and meals for the New Year's Eve Countdown is underway. The event will be held December 31 at 8:00 pm. Deadline to purchase meals is December 18.

Bob Waterman plans to have a fundraising meeting at the beginning of the new year to plan for 2022 fundraising events.

Marc MacQueen had emailed the PC that \$700 has been donated for "special ask" for tech support so far.

Social Justice Team: Rev. Sarah will ask Lauren Haugh for a report for our next monthly PC meeting.

Listening Circles: The schedule for the Listening Circles was posted recently in the UU Updates. Five people have responded so far.

Cash in the Plate: The PC agreed that the Cash in the Plate for January will be for the Soupman; February Cash in the Plate will be for fuel assistance (Discretionary Fund). Rev. Sarah reported that the Discretionary Fund is stable at this point and that she has been able to allocate funds in response to requests from the community.

Next Check-In Meeting: The PC decided to meet on **January 5 at 7:00 p.m.** to: prepare for budget meeting; finalize Listening Circles; and begin planning for 2022-23 pledge drive.

Next monthly PC meeting is January 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Pastoral Ministry and Parish Care

Our church offers both Pastoral Ministry and Parish Care. If you have something weighing on your mind and would like to talk with a minister, please contact any member of our Pastoral Ministry Team. 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.

Sue Curtiss: Lay Pastoral Ministry Coordinator
Dave Kraemer: Lay Pastoral Minister
Sue St. Germain: Lay Pastoral Minister
Mal Marvill: Parish Care Coordinator
Rev. Sarah Person

Parish Committee

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

Church Calendar

To access the church calendar, visit
[Google Calendar - January 2022](#)



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.



JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2 10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Virtual New Moon Meditation	3	4 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister	5 6:00- p.m. RE Committee	6 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	7 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	8 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil
9 10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 11:45 a.m. Virtual Parent Coffee Hour 4:00 p.m. Coming of Age, Parish Hall	10	11 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister	12	13 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	14 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	15 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil
16 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 12:00 noon RE, Parish Hall February Newsletter Deadline	17  5:30 p.m. Book Club, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. Virtual Full Moon Meditation	18 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister 7:00 p.m. Virtual Listening Circle	19 11:00 a.m. Virtual Listening Circle 6:30 p.m. Virtual Parish Committee	20 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 2:00 p.m. Virtual Listening Circle 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	21 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	22 9:30 a.m. Virtual Listening Circle 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil
23 10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service 1:00 p.m. Virtual Listening Circle 4:00 p.m. Youth Groups, Parish Hall	24	25 10:00 a.m. Peaceful Quilters, Parish Hall 10:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee with the Minister 7:00 p.m. Virtual Listening Circle	26	27 12:00 noon Virtual Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Virtual Spirituality Group	28 6:00 p.m. Virtual Just This Sangha	29 11:30 a.m. Peace Vigil
30 10:00 a.m. Virtual RE 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Service	31					



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

New England Region

www.uua.org/new-england

Spiritual Leadership for Culture Change A Community of Practice

Whatever ministries you are part of — worship, music, faith formation, hospitality, social justice, governance, or anything else — the practices of Spiritual Leadership are a theologically faithful way to create Beloved Community within and beyond the congregation. So much pulls us away from living at the center of our values. The practices of Spiritual Leadership help us cultivate the creativity, resistance, and resilience that are needed to make the culture change we are called to make. Culture change takes practice...company...and remembering. You're invited to join Spiritual Leadership for Culture Change, a community of practice for anyone working to embed the practices of Spiritual Leadership into their congregation's ways of being. Mark your calendars for our first gatherings in 2022. We will send details for each 90-minute gathering as it approaches. The topic and design for both daytime and evening offerings will be the same.

- Day time: Tuesday, January 25, 1:00 PM
- Evening: Wednesday, January 26, 7:00 PM

For more information, visit [Spiritual Leadership for Culture Change: A Community of Practice | New England Region | UUA.org](https://www.uua.org/new-england/2022-01-25-26). Use this **form** to join this community of practice.

