



All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

196 Elm Street Braintree, Massachusetts

Open Hearts ~ Open Minds ~ Open Doors

www.allsoulsbraintree.org www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org
allsoulschurchbraintree@gmail.com office@allsoulsbraintree.org
 781 843-1388 Steve Wilson, Minister



Courtesy of Full Moon Graphics

The Chimes

January 2015 Happy New Year!

Sunday Services

Spiritual Celebration (formerly known as Worship Service) is Sundays at 10:30 AM, followed by food and fellowship at an informal coffee hour. *All are welcome here!* Join us—for reflection, music, and fellowship (and our fun Young Explorers Religious Education program starting up again in January)

We are happy to announce that Danielle McKenna is taking over RE on a volunteer basis and has 'tons' of projects planned for the kids. In addition to that, she is going to be teaming up with Rev. Wilson for Family Nights and will be incorporating donation drives and volunteer opportunities for the kids, with outreach to more families in the community. We are expecting to do some really fun things in the new year!

We have staffed Nursery care for newborns to age 5. Starting at 10:15 on Sunday mornings bring little ones down to the nursery. Paid staff will care for them throughout the service. Please be sure to sign in with the caregivers.

January 4th Spontaneous Questions IV: As in prior years, in this service, Rev. Steve Wilson will take serious written questions gathered at the collection, and respond as best he can. So, on this Sunday you are invited to bring any religious questions or positions that seem perplexing, or you seek or wish to raise.

January 11th Memorial Service for the Passing Year: Individuals in this service are invited to take the best and worst of 2014, combine them with the good and bad news of the last year, and walk through the grieving process of what has passed in a New Orleans-style Funeral service. This is a participatory service.

January 11th UN-decorating Following coffee hour on January 11, we will take down the holiday decorations and pack them away for next year. *Over the years we have accumulated a lot more decorations than we can use. Some are a little worn and could use a little TLC. We will have a TAKE ME HOME table for those items looking for a new Christmas home. Come help us wrap it up.*

January 18th Topic Farming and the Web of Life with Ed Safford: On this Sunday Ed Safford, a farmer, UU, and policy wonk, will share with us his observations on our food systems in the context of our Unitarian Universalist principles. Come learn how Richard Nixon and the Italian Communist Party impact how we eat today. And how we might respond. This is Social Action Sunday.

January 25th Abraham and the Ancient and Modern Family: One of the earliest documented moments of family drama takes place in the tent of Abraham, with Sara, Hagar and their two children. In this service we revisit the stories and impact of the famous Patriarch and father of three's faith.

February 2015

February 1st Life is a Superbowl Game: Using the metaphors that come from a football game, on this Superbowl Sunday we will look at the life lessons that are available on the football field later tonight. From the importance of time management, to the lessons offered by penalties, there is a lot more than concussions that can be harvested from an exploration of the big game.

Social Action / Environmental Committee Notes

The Board of Trustees wishes to send a hearty and heartfelt thank you to the entire congregation and friends for your support, generosity, and commitment to the many programs that All Souls is able to do each year. From providing school supplies and backpacks, to serving the hungry at The Table, to volunteering for Dickens, purchasing gifts for a family in need at the holidays, to working on committees to keep our Church

running and in so many other ways, you ALL always come through. This is the spirit of community that we share with each other and those outside of our All Souls. Thank you, thank you, thank you !!!

At the UU General Assembly last June, the UU membership voted a new Congregational Study Action/Issue (CSAI) focusing on ***Escalating Inequality in America***. The UUA is studying this issue and providing information and action plans. As part of this effort, the Social Action Committee will be hosting 2 discussion sessions on this topic for some education on what a CSAI is and how the process works and to share some of the resources that the UUA has provided on the issue. It is also a time to share your thoughts. The two sessions will be:

Saturday Jan 10, 2015 from 12-2:30 in the Parish Hall. Come join us for Pizza and Discussion

Sunday February 15, 2015 The worship service that day will be devoted to this topic and will include a lengthy time for discussion.

Here is a link to the UUA with some material for your review and study at <http://www.uua.org/economic/escalatinginequality>

In addition, the SAEC has purchased a few copies of a book by Stephen Caliendo called "Inequality in America, Race, Poverty, and Fulfilling Democracy's Promise". Even reading a few chapters in this book is enlightening. See Rev. Steve if you wish to borrow a copy for a brief time. Please join us at one or both of these sessions. We are really interested in your voice.

In our commitment to the Environmental part of our committee's mission, SAEC will be hosting the **Worship Service on Sunday January 18**. Our worship leader and speaker that day will be **Ed Safford** whose topic is **Farming and the Web of Life**

Save the date for a second environmental program **Saturday February 28 from 4:30-5:30 PM** in the Sanctuary (just before the potluck so bring something to share and to eat, too). Our speaker will be geologist **Greg Burman from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute** speaking on **The Changing Coastline and Its Effect on Global Warming**.

So you see that we have a very active January and February planned. No need to get cabin fever this winter. Come out, participate in the discussions, enjoy the pizza or potluck, and maybe learn and share a bit as well.

~ Linda Steiner

A Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

BOARD RETREAT – January 17th, 2015

It has become the practice of the Board of Trustees to hold an annual retreat in the beginning of each new calendar year. The focus of each retreat is established based on our experience of issues that arise during the course of the first half of the church year. One year it was Religious Education that got our attention; last year we considered new fundraising ideas for the future. This year, the Board has invited a staff member from the Unitarian Universalist Association's New England District to facilitate a conversation about some of the challenges we face. We are not the only church that is finding it increasingly difficult to fill our leadership positions and fill our pews on Sunday mornings. The date of the Retreat is Saturday, January 17th, from 9:30 to 2:00 pm. We are still planning our agenda, but in the past we have frequently invited interested members and friends to participate in parts of the day. We will try to provide further details as plans are firmed up.

APPRECIATION – Maggy Evans, Church Administrator

This month, the Board extended its gratitude to Maggy Evans for the many ways she enriches our church community. She is a major player in the Tuesday Lunch Group, organized the recent concert by Krisanthi Pappas, and played a big part in the Dickens Festival and program book. She keeps church communications humming, designed our new church website, and has taken on new bookkeeping duties. Throughout it all, Maggy extends her patience and love to all of us, making All Souls a much better place to be.

PAY YOUR PLEDGES, PLEASE!

The Board of Trustees greatly appreciates the financial commitments that our members and friends have made to the church in the form of an annual pledge. Having these pledges in place helps our church leadership plan for the church programs that we can offer each year. It is through these programs that we are able to make our Unitarian Universalist values real in the world. The Board and the Finance Committee respectfully requests that you make your pledge payments to the church on a timely basis so that we can comfortably meet the expenses of the church throughout the year. We are truly grateful for the financial support that is offered by so many members and friends to sustain this community and help it to thrive.

With wishes for an enlightening 2015!

Mary Mitchell
Acting Chair, Board of Trustees

The Minister's Corner

There have been rumors, perhaps you heard them - rumors that I was leaving All Souls at the end of the church year in June. It was true. It was my plan. I had entered All Souls back in 2009 with a very clear idea that somewhere between 2015 and 17, I was going to leave. I entered this year with the plan that this would be my last year. I shared that with many of you.

I had even started drafting a letter. I had up to just about Dickens planned on it. I am glad I did because it changed my mind. Watching people feel generally disappointed by the news, led to my own sadness. And soon enough, I realized that all I felt in my own heart was disappointment, too. A disappointment in the idea of leaving a place I love, and a disappointment in myself. I felt sad and I realized that I had shut down, and was following a script that I had written for myself years ago. Only when I allowed myself to feel how broken up I was by the idea that I was forcing a departure it seemed nobody wanted did I begin to reconsider my choice.

I had even drafted a letter that tried to explain my departure. In it I wrote that "Change is inevitable," almost the very definition of what life is. That might be true, but as we know, not all changes are good ones; and, as it turns out, not all plans require follow-through.

I can't tell you exactly what changed my mind. There was no moment. Basically, when push came to shove, I felt just a little too comfortable, happy, and even useful to follow through on my plan. I was moved by how it seemed that really nobody seemed to want me to go; and upon deeper reflection included on that list was me.

So, for some lengthy amount of time that has no calendar mark, I will continue to happily be your minister. There may be some changes to my patterns, as I am still exploring other opportunities that will fit in around my role here as your minister. But for as far out on the horizon as I am willing to project, I am here; and having walked this journey, happy to be here.

Closing Humor

Through the eyes of a child: The Bible in a Nutshell

In the beginning, which was near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas.

The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one,' but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

~ *Steve*

Calendar Highlights

Weekly Hero Each week, join All Souls Church and Braintree Rotary in sending messages of support and thanks to a different soldier overseas. Linda Cozzens mails the notes and cards on masse and hopes to send 20 messages each week.

January 10th 12 to 2:30 pm Inequality and Pizza The UUA has selected Economic Inequality as a point of focus and exploration. On January 10th, likely with some participation by other UU communities in our area, we will gather this afternoon to explore how we will participate in the process. Come, we need your voice on one of the most defining issues of our times.

January 13th 4 to 5:30 pm Writing Group will meet The writing group is in full gear, but still open to anyone who wishes to drop in and possibly join us. Topics assigned are personal and rich, and the group is both deep and fun. What a Joy.

January 13th Social Action meets in the Elliot Room Be there or be part of the unmoved masses who contribute to the spread of evil by being complacent. ☺

January 17th Board Retreat (9:30 to 2) On one Saturday a year, right in the midst of winter, the Board hides itself away to look seriously at a number of issues, and the church in general headed forward. January 17th is that day. This year we are bringing in district executive Doug Zelinski who will listen and share as we look into the future. All are invited.

January 17th Family Night 5:30 to 8pm Let me explain Family Night. Somewhere between 6 and 20 kids gather to do a mix of the following: eat pizza, be cute, play cooperatively with one another, watch movies, run around in a disorderly manner picking on the minister. That's enough for one sentence. Oh right, parents talk about their kids, the children do an arts and crafts project, and play uncooperatively or never wake up from their nap. It's a "can't miss".

LGBT Senior Brunch

All Souls Church is pleased to continue hosting a monthly Saturday morning Senior Brunch, operated by South Shore Elder Services. This brunch is designed to create a special place for the Senior LGBT community. **The next brunch returns to the last Saturday**

of the month and will be January 31 from 10 AM to 12 noon. If you would like to attend as a guest, please RSVP to 781 848-3939 Extension 325 or email lgbtseniors@sselder.org. \$2 requested donation to defray costs for guests 60 years and up. A fee of \$5 is charged for those under 60. All are welcome.

Mark your calendars, save your recipes, and invite your friends for the annual **Potluck Supper and Yankee Swap on January 31 at 6 PM.** There is always a gift that everyone seems to want, and one that no one does ... and these get passed from hand to hand until the swap ends.



Notes from the Office

The Minister's Office Hours vary. If you need to speak with Reverend Steve, the best way to reach him is to call him directly. His phone number is (617) 852-2292.

Church Office Hours are usually Tuesdays 10 to 5 and one Sunday a month from 11 – 1. She works remotely much of the time. Please feel free to call the office with questions at 781 843-1388. If you reach the answering machine, please leave a message as voicemail is checked every day whether or not the office is open. Email is also checked daily office@allsoulsbraintree.org

To include something in The Chimes, issued monthly, please email office@allsoulsbraintree.org or drop off the article or notice at the church office.

February newsletter submissions are due January 26.

www.allsoulsbraintree.org

email: office@allsoulsbraintree.org

[Join the conversation on Facebook](#)

A big THANK YOU to the Kearns and Ellstrom families for hosting brunch after service on Sunday, December 28. It was delicious and most appreciated!

JANUARY 2015 ALL SOULS CHURCH CALENDAR

Please visit our [website](http://www.allsoulsbraintree.org) www.allsoulsbraintree.org News and Events for the live calendar [HERE](#)

DECEMBER	Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 31	JANUARY	Thu 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
9a Choir Practice 10:30a 10:30am Spiritual Celebration 6:30p Chalice Circle 7p G A in PH	3:30p Irish Step Class 7p Quincy Bay AA	11:30a Women's Sharing Circle 8p AA in PH	6p AWOL in PH	New Year's Day	5:30p rehearsal 7p 12 Step in ER		1p wedding	
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
9a Choir Practice 10:30a 10:30am Spiritual Celebration (Su 12p Newcomers 7p G A in PH 7p Drumming	3:30p Irish Step Class 7p Quincy Bay AA	11:30a Women's Sharing Circle 8p AA in PH	6p AWOL in PH 7:30p Chalice Circle	6:30p Yoga 7:30p Gay Men's Discussion Group	7p 12 Step in ER		12p Pizza&Discussion Escalating Inequali	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
9a Choir Practice 10:30a 10:30am Spiritual Celebration (Su 12p Church UNdecorating 6:30p Chalice Circle 7p G A in PH	12p UUMA meeting ER 3:30p Irish Step Class 7p Quincy Bay AA	11:30a Women's Sharing Circle 3:30p Writing Workshop 7:15p Social Action/Environmental 8p AA in PH	6p AWOL in PH	6:30p Yoga 7:30p Gay Men's Discussion Group	7p 12 Step in ER	9a Board Retreat 5:30p Family Night		
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
10:30 Social Action Sunday 9a Choir Practice 10:30a 10:30am Spiritual Celebration (Su 7p G A in PH	Martin Luther King Day 3:30p Irish Step Class 7p Quincy Bay AA 7p Singing Meditation Group	11:30a Women's Sharing Circle 6:30p 6:30 pm Board Trustees 8p AA in PH	6p AWOL in PH 7:30p Chalice Circle	11-1 Homeschool Group PH 6:30p Yoga 7:30p Gay Men's Discussion Group	7p 12 Step in ER	6:30a CPR		
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
9a Choir Practice 10:30a 10:30am Spiritual Celebration (Su 6:30p Chalice Circle 7p G A in PH	3:30p Irish Step Class 7p Quincy Bay AA	11:30a Women's Sharing Circle 7p Buddhist Reflections 8p AA in PH	6p AWOL in PH	11-1 Homeschool Group PH 6:30p Yoga 7:30p Book Group 7:30p Gay Men's Discussion Group	7p 12 Step in ER	10a LGBT Senior Brunch 6p Pot Luck Supper 7p Yankee Swap!!		

All Souls Church of Braintree
 Unitarian Universalist
 P.O. Box 850219
 Braintree, MA 02185-0219



781-843-1388

office@allsoulsbraintree.org

www.allsoulsbraintree.org

Rev. Steve M. Wilson, Minister

Rev. Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita

Jacob Clapper, Musical Director

Maggy Evans, Office Administrator

The Chimes – January 2015



Calendar Highlights at All Souls Church

January 10 Inequality and Pizza 12 to 2:30pm
 January 11 Church UN-decorating following coffee hour
 January 13 Writing Group 4 to 5:30 pm
 January 13 Social Action Committee 7:15 pm
 January 17 Board Retreat 9:30 to 2
 January 17 Family Night 5:30 to 8 pm
 January 31 LGBT Senior Brunch 10 am
 January 31 Pot Luck and Yankee Swap 6 pm