



All Souls Church
of Braintree
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST



Monthly Newsletter April 2020

The Reverend Joanna Lubkin, Minister
Jacob Clapper, Music Director

The Reverend Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita
Cheri Krueger, Administrative Assistant

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Sunday Services Online at 10:30 am

As we care for our communities and neighbors during this time of COVID-19, our services will happen online via Zoom, an easy-to-use video conferencing site. While we're staying away from one another in person, let's stay connected online. Join us for a time of reflection, music, singing, and a short sermon. People of all ages are invited. Click here on Sunday mornings to join <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/9131419079>. If the technology is a barrier, you can call in by phone at 646-876-9923 and enter Meeting ID 913 141 9079.

Our Favorite Things: Sharing Music, Art, and Poetry

Sunday, April 5 from 9:30-10:15 at <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/9131419079>

Join Rev. Jo and Jacob before our Sunday service for a time to share some of our favorite things with each other. Have a song that's meaningful to you? A poem you love? A piece of art that inspires you -- maybe even one that you made? Hop on the Zoom call to listen or share. If you'd like to have Rev. Jo play a song for everyone via Youtube on the call, send it to her by Saturday at 4 pm to minister.allsouls@gmail.com. All are welcome!

April 5: Sunday Service Led by Rev. Fred Small, Guest Minister and Musician

A Unitarian Universalist pastor, singer-songwriter, and former environmental lawyer, Rev. Fred Small is Minister for Climate Justice at Arlington Street Church, Boston. Cited by Bill McKibben as "one of the key figures in the religious environmental surge," Fred left parish ministry in 2015 to devote his energies to climate advocacy.

April 12: Honoring Easter and Passover with Rev. Joanna Lubkin

April 19: Community Sunday: A Lay-Led, Reflective Service

April 26: Blessing the Animals with Rev. Joanna Lubkin

As part of honoring Earth Day, we'll take a moment to thank and bless our animal companions. Our UU neighbors from First Church in Jamaica Plain will join us for this service! Connecting with our Neighbors: A Sunday Service Exchange

One of the sweet things about us all holding services online is that it's easy to connect, visit, and collaborate with other congregations. Our UU neighbors from First Church in Jamaica Plain will plan to join us for our Sunday service on April 26, and **we're invited to join Rev. Elizabeth Bukey for their service on May 3**. Let's be together!

From the Minister

Beloveds,

How is your heart? What has been bringing you comfort and hope during these times?

Hope is a tricky word, in a pandemic. I'm not talking about an unfounded optimism that nothing bad will happen -- how could I? Our scientists, public health specialists, and the experiences of people around the world are clear that we are facing a serious illness that will affect people we care about. I'm talking about a hope that **we will make it through** this, that we will find the possibilities emerging out of this time. Already, we're finding new ways of being connected to each other, we're being reminded of our interdependent web of existence, and we're learning how to slow down the pace of our lives. It makes me wonder what else is possible to emerge.

I've been getting a lot of hope and comfort from poetry, and share this piece from Rev. Theresa I. Soto, a UU minister in Oakland, California:

In this community, we hold hope close. We don't always know what comes next, but that cannot dissuade us. We don't always know just what to do, but that will not mean that we are lost in the wilderness. We rely on the certainty beneath, the foundation of our values and ethics. We are the people who return to love like a North Star and to the truth that we are greater together than we are alone.

Our hope does not live in some glimmer of an indistinct future. Rather, we know the way to the world of which we dream, and by covenant and the movement forward of one right action and the next, we know that one day we will arrive at home.

I'm holding hope -- and you -- close to my heart. Please be in touch to let me know how you're doing, by email at minister.allsouls@gmail.com or phone at 781-428-4606.

With love,
Rev. Jo

Calendar Notes

Rev. Jo's online office hours: Tuesdays from 10-11 am, March 31-May 5
at <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/845456209>

Stop by to chat, see some friendly faces, or talk through something with Rev. Jo. You can just drop in!

We are hosting Zoom (online) [Tuesday 12 noon lunch bunches](#) and [Friday 10 am coffee hours](#) through mid-May. Bring your lunch, a snack, coffee or just yourself to a computer near you for some companionship and conversation. These are gender-neutral and open to everyone. Lunch bunch zoom room <https://zoom.us/j/616819931> Coffee hour <https://zoom.us/j/313330077>. More detailed instructions for connecting or calling in to Zoom are [on our website](#).

Book group in April is meeting online with Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/997551853>

Writing group will likely meet online with Zoom. Details will be provided later.

Sunday Services for the month of April will be online beginning at 10:30 am. <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/9131419079>

The Social Action and Environment Committee will be corresponding by email while we are unable to meet in person. If you need to reach George Goss, Chair, his email is agdgs@aol.com

All other groups, classes and meetups are on hiatus for now. Keep an eye out for communication regarding the monthly LGBT brunch and the Community Social potluck supper on the last Saturday to see if they will be taking place.

From the Board of Trustees

What a difference a few weeks makes in our lives! Now, as most of us stay at home, we are communicating and being together remotely. If ever we needed our loving community, it is now. And our community has responded with wonderful online Sunday Services, virtual coffee hours on Sunday as well as during the week, and meetings via Zoom. I was thinking how fortunate that this is happening at a time when there is the opportunity to connect virtually.

However, please remember those who do not use computer social media. It would be so helpful to make a quick phone call to them. Remember that the church directory with contact information can be found on the [member page](#) of our website. If you don't remember the password for the members only page, contact Cheri at allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com or Maggy at ascbraintree@gmail.com or call the church at 781-843-1388.

The Board of Trustees met remotely via Zoom on Monday March 16. We agreed to send letters and contact all of the groups who use our space reminding them of the DPH restrictions on meetings. As of this writing, only the Sunday night GA group and the Monday night AA group (both of which are smaller than the maximum 25 persons) continue to meet. All other groups are on hiatus.

Sadly, we have had to postpone the English Tea. If possible, we will look for another date after the coronavirus situation has resolved.

Pledge and other donations can be made out to All Souls Church and mailed directly to Mary Mitchell, our treasurer at 418 John Mahar Hwy, Unit 104 Braintree MA 02184. Donations can also be made [via our website](#). While we are not meeting in person, the work and expenses of the church continue. Your offerings are needed and will be gratefully received to help our cash flow.

We were able to submit the grant application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission by the deadline and expect to hear back from them sometime in June.

We did set a date for the Annual Budget hearing for Sunday May 17 at noon. Also, a reminder that the Annual Meeting is on Sunday June 14 at noon. Please put these dates on your calendars.

Meanwhile, some of the work of the church continues. The Nominating committee (Marge Kearns, Diane Doucette facilitated by Joe Maloney) will be working to fill open positions on the Board and other committees. You can contact them if you are interested in serving.

Hoping to “see” you at services or coffee hour. Please stay safe.

Yours in fellowship

Lin Steiner and Joe Maloney

Book Group

On **Tuesday, April 7, 2020**, the Book Discussion Group will gather remotely in our homes through a ZOOM connection.

Topic: All Souls Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/997551853>

Meeting ID: 997 551 853 (This is a recurring meeting)

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,997551853# US (New York)

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) - Meeting ID: 997 551 853

In April we will be discussing Delia Owen’s debut novel, Where the Crawdads Sing. The author is a retired 70-year-old wildlife biologist. Her book has sold more than four and a half million copies. She has created an absorbing, atmospheric tale about a girl who is isolated in the marshes of North Carolina and wrestling with loneliness. The plot combines elements of a murder mystery, lush nature writing, romance and a coming-of-age survival story. (Credit to Alexandra Alter’s NYT article 12-21-19)

On May 5 we will gather in person or virtually, depending upon circumstances at that time. If we meet virtually, you can use the same Zoom Meeting Number as April: Meeting ID: 997 551 853

In May we will be discussing Station Eleven, by Emily St. John Mandel.

“Set in the days of civilization's collapse, *Station Eleven* tells the story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity.”

“One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of *King Lear*. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Moving back and forth in time—from the actor's early days as a film star to fifteen years in the future, when a theater troupe known as the Traveling Symphony roams the wasteland of what remains—this suspenseful, elegiac,

Spell-binding novel charts the strange twists of fate that connect five people: the actor, the man who tried to save him, the actor's first wife, his oldest friend, and a young actress with the Traveling Symphony, caught in the crosshairs of a dangerous self-proclaimed prophet.” (Credit Goodreads.com for review.)

Writing Group

Liberation is the April theme of the All Souls Writing group. We will share our writings either by email or by Zoom conference, on April 29 at 4 pm. Further instructions for participation will be posted at a later date.

By definition, liberation is the act of setting someone free from imprisonment, slavery, or oppression. The idea of Liberation converges with the objectives of religion, philosophy, ideology, and human freedom.

For Example, Liberation theology arose in the 1960s as a response to the widespread poverty and injustice in South America and in third world countries. It was the goal of religious groups to counter exploitation and bring about social equality. Unfortunately, the efforts were undermined by ideological warfare.

Liberation and freedom are not interchangeable concepts. The idea of liberation as personal freedom must include freedom from discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, age, and gender. The list goes on; there is birthright, social class, education, and ultimately, money.

The writing group will take up the challenge and write on Liberation in April. All are welcome to join us for a thought-provoking discussion as we share our wellspring of ideas.

Diane Doucette – for All Souls Writing Group

Survey of All Souls Members and Friends

This is a "last call" reminder to please complete the brief survey that was released by the Committee on Ministry last March. As of this writing, we have received 16 responses. If you haven't yet responded, we would love to hear your ideas. Please do so by Sunday, April 5th so we can move forward with compiling the results. The survey is [HERE](#). It is also posted on our website on the [member page](#). Please contact Mary Mitchell, [781-864-7743] Chair of the Committee on Ministry, if you have any questions or need help finding or submitting your survey.

Thank you!

From the Development Committee

The Development Committee postponed the Spring Tea due to COVID-19. We hope to hold it when we are past the days of social distancing and can come together in group settings. Thank you to everyone who had already volunteered to help. We look forward to rescheduling the Spring Tea as well as other fun and fundraising events.

Please remember to stay six feet away from people you don't live with, wash your hands and enjoy being outdoors if possible. Wishing everyone good health, comfort and peace.

Sandra Lingley Chair, Development



From the Treasurer

Dear Friends,

Surely, these are tumultuous times. Looking into the future, it's hard to predict just about anything. When will we join together in person within the walls of our beloved building? When will those of us who have been laid off be able to work again? When will we feel safe going out to eat, to a movie, to live performances?



ALL SOULS CHURCH OF BRAINTREE
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Elm and Church Streets
P.O. Box 850219
Braintree, MA 02185-0219
(781) 843-1388
www.allsoulsbraintree.org
Rev. Joanna Lubkin, Minister



ESTIMATE OF GIVING FOR THE 2020–2021 CHURCH YEAR

Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone Nos. _____
E-mail: _____

My estimated annual financial commitment is: \$_____
I expect to pay : \$_____ per week \$_____ per month
\$_____ other_____

In addition, I will make a contribution to the Annual Program Fund (APF) of: \$_____

I intend to complete payment of this estimate of giving between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

Signed: _____

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR GIVING AS GENEROUSLY AS
YOU ARE ABLE

Please return this form electronically by Sunday, April 26th to:

Maryalthea52@gmail.com

Or mail to: Mary Mitchell
104 John Mahar Hwy, Unit 104
Braintree, MA 02184-

The Stewardship Drive at All Souls Church was scheduled to get underway in late March. This is a time when we ask you, our members and friends, to estimate how much you will be able to contribute to the church in the next fiscal year, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. This is a difficult “ask” to make in a time of uncertainty.

Nevertheless, we must make the “ask” in order to assess whether we will have the funds to operate at the same level next year as we have this year. Will we be able to retain our half-time minister and music director? Can we continue to benefit from the important tasks that our administrative staff perform to insure that communication within or community and to the wider world is as effective as possible?

In this time of separation, it has been heart-warming to see one another on virtual platforms and to learn how to stay connected in new ways. Our church is here to facilitate these connections and invites you to take advantage of these opportunities.

The form above asks you to estimate what you might be able to contribute through a pledge in the next year. This is not a legally binding commitment, so if your circumstances change unexpectedly, we only ask that you notify me, the church Treasurer, so we can plan for any reductions in budgeted income.

We are still accepting donations and pledge payments for this year. You can convey them to the Treasurer by mailing your check directly to my home address (above) or visit the [member page](#) of our website and fill out the pledge form. You will need the password – available from [Cheri](#) or [Maggy](#).



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The Chimes - April 2020



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