



All Souls Church  
of Braintree  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

## April Chimes

### Monthly Newsletter April 2023

The Reverend Beau Rivers, Minister  
The Reverend Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita  
Jacob Clapper, Musical Director  
Maggy Evans, Church Administrator

Call 781-843-1388  
Text 781-817-3952  
[www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org](http://www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org)  
[allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com) or  
[ascbraintree@gmail.com](mailto:ascbraintree@gmail.com)



### Sunday Services – Our Spiritual Celebrations

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church welcomes all people to our faith community. Services are in the sanctuary, in person, with safety protocols in place, Sundays at 10:30 am. Our building is accessible; assistive listening devices and large print orders of service are available.

Please note: Exterior doors are locked while we are in service. If you arrive after 10:30 am, please ring the bell at the RAMP door and an usher will be happy to let you in. Coffee hour takes place after service in our parish hall for food and fellowship.

Service is also live-streamed on Facebook and Zoom. The Zoom link for All Souls services is <https://zoom.us/j/96571006038> If the technology is a barrier, call in by phone 646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 965 7100 6038  
Our Facebook page is <https://facebook.com/AllSoulsBraintree> Services are recorded there except for shared joys and concerns. Meetings and Connection Circles are online on Zoom.

## Minister's Message



SPRING IN ALL HER GREEN GLORY  
*Lorelei Greenwood-Jones*

Quick! Look about you!  
The snows of Winter are gone  
and the Earth has awoken once more!  
Hail the Spring in all her green glory!

The brave small flowers  
push up from the warming soil;  
birds return from their southerly homes;  
the first buds appear on the trees.

Our days are full of the songs of the feathered ones;  
our nights grow warmer as the sun strengthens.  
Warm air caresses us, filled with the scent of  
fresh earth and a thousand blooming flowers.

We shrug off the inactivity of colder days  
and move briskly through the delightful days.  
Birth and rebirth, new life from seeming death –  
the promise of old coming true once again.

The sleeping seeds awaken,  
the sap rises. Everything is renewed.  
What was once laid in stillness, now bursts forth  
in riotous activity; frozen dreams blossom.

Within us and around us,  
new life is blossoming;  
within us and around us,  
the promise of spring has come.

## **Hope**

*A friend tells me she hears peepers  
in her yard for the first time this year!  
Though I do not hear them in mine, I trust I will soon.*

*That is the promise of Spring.  
That out from the cold, dark days of winter,  
new life will emerge.*

The promise of Spring is an important concept for us to remember as we enter a season of discernment at All Souls. There is great wisdom in the Hindu tradition that compares the spiritual journey to the Lotus flower. The Lotus begins its journey in the mud and must grow up through the water until it reaches the surface to blossom.

When we explore new ways of being in the world, whether individually or collectively, we may feel as if we are in the mud of despair, disorientation, and confusion. It is through these murky depths, however, that we conduct our research to discern what we value most. Rooted in our reason for being, we emerge from the depths of discernment to the water's surface, where we may blossom in the light of new possibilities. I have come to rely on this truth repeatedly in my life and like the promise of Spring, I hope it brings you comfort as we continue on the journey.

## **Gratitude**

I also want to express my gratitude for your provision of a professional expense account that made it possible for me to achieve one of my professional goals this year. Having reached a professional milestone in my ministry, I longed to immerse myself in the peace and presence of all that is holy. Selfcare and spiritual renewal are essential to healthy ministry. Thanks to your generosity, I was able to spend 4 days at the Kripalu Center for Healing from February 27 – March 2. I am profoundly grateful for the healing and spiritual renewal I experienced there.

In April, I plan to virtually attend the *UUA Finding Our Way Home* annual retreat from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. I will be checking my emails once a day and can be reached via text in the event of an emergency.

With Gratitude and Love,  
Rev. Beau

## April Services

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023  
FOOD FOR THE SOUL  
*Stewardship Sunday*  
**Sunday Service Committee**  
10:30 am to 12 noon

The theme for this Sunday's Food for the Soul brunch will be spirit of loving kindness and generosity. The Kick-Off of our Stewardship Drive will take place at the brunch. Bring a dish to share and a spirit of generosity. "Estimate of Giving" forms will be provided there, and we invite you to either make your pledge on the spot, or take a form home with you to complete and return later. Our brunch takes the place of a Sunday service. There is no live-stream of the Sunday brunch.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023  
*The Resurrection of the Spirit*  
**Rev. Beau Rivers**



Photo by farfar, *Unsplash*

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023  
*Climate Change*  
**Rev. Beau Rivers**



Photo by Sarayut Thaneerat, *123RF*

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SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

TBD

**Rev. Tara Humphries**

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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

*Beltane: A Celebration of Spring!*

**Rev. Beau**

“The Earth Awakens from Spring to Summer!”



Photo by Marc Schulte, *Unsplash*

## Coffee Hour



Please join us online after Sunday service for virtual coffee hour. A time to socialize and connect with one another. Join us in person in the parish hall for food and fellowship coffee hour.

***We need volunteers to keep the ministry of coffee hour alive. Coffee Hour can only take place with everyone's help.***

If you would like to help, Sign up is online at this link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49AEAB23A2FBC25-coffee2>

Thank you.

## From the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees Retreat and Congregational Meeting took place on Saturday, March 18. The early morning session was devoted to the BOT monthly March business meeting.

Mary Mitchell (treasurer) reported that a down payment of \$3000 was paid on drainage work on leaks in a basement classroom. Magic Years is donating \$3000 also toward the total cost of approximately \$9000.

The Earth Day event scheduled for April 16 with Sagamore Faires Gray has been postponed.

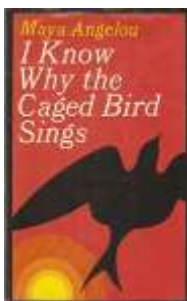
The Annual Stewardship Campaign will begin in April with a program at the next Food for the Soul Sunday brunch. All are invited.

The Elemental Theater has begun rehearsals for the performances in the Parish Hall of the musical *The Spitfire Grill* April 20-23. It is sure to be a good time.

The second part of the meeting on March 18 was composed of a presentation by the Steering Committee looking at future planning for All Souls to update members and friends on the research done so far. Presentations by the treasurer and on behalf of John Cobble as a building manager on the depth and breadth of what they are doing as volunteers was given. Various ways that local churches are organizing themselves were explored including clusters, ministry options, and cases to illustrate these. The work of the Committee is ongoing and further information will be shared as we go along

## Book Group

Tuesday, April 4, 7 pm - *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou



A classic work published in 1969, this riveting and beautifully written memoir immerses the reader in the childhood experiences and musings of the young girl who grew up to become a talented poet, author and civil rights activist.

Tuesday, May 2, 7 pm - The Paris Library, by Janet Skeslien Charles



Set in Paris during WWII and in Montana in 1983, this moving work of historical fiction (published in 2021) draws upon the lived history of the dedicated staff and clients of the American Library in Paris. The story of the German occupation of Paris and its ultimate liberation is told with sensitivity and skill. The main character's experiences during the war have repercussions in her later life in Montana.

All are welcome to join the conversation. Plan to attend on Zoom on Tuesday, April 4 at 7 PM and again on Tuesday, May 2.

For the Book Discussion Group,

Mary Mitchell

### Social Action and Environment Committee



The Social Action and Environment Committee (SAEC) will meet Tuesday, April 11, at 7:15 pm on church zoom. Agenda items include:

Preparing for UU Mass Action legislative day, on zoom,

Defending Fair Share funding for education equality by legislator contact,

Thoughts on Climate Justice issues coming before the legislature.

All are welcome to participate. George Goss, chair, SAEC

### Writing Group



All Souls Spiritual Writing Group is the last Wednesday of every month. We meet at 4 pm and we connect with zoom.

The next writing prompt will be Wednesday April 26, 2023- The subject will be, Fanfiction - insert yourself into your favorite story or meet your favorite celebrity.

If you like to write, we would love for you to join our small but intimate group and share your stories with us.

Nikki Milne, Writing Group Coordinator



## Connection Circles

Connection Circles provide a time to check in with old friends and welcome new friends in conversation.



Meetings on Zoom are held weekly on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 – 5:00 PM ET. Each meeting usually incorporates equal time for open conversation and a set topic for discussion.

Each month, ideas for circle topics and leaders come from circle members. Topics for March meeting dates will be:

April 6 – The focus of this session will be activist and musician, Nina Simone -presented by Judy

April 13 – To be determined - Check the weekly emails for more info.

April 20 – Read and discuss an article selected by Maureen

April 27 – To be determined - Check the weekly emails for more info.

You are invited to attend as you are able, to share your wit, wisdom, and willingness to connect with others.

Mary Mitchell, Connection Circle Coordinator

## Pot Luck Supper

Please join us for our next Pot Luck Supper to be held Saturday, April 29 at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. Bring something to eat with more to share and enjoy good food, great conversation and companionship. All are welcome!





## Treasurer's Report



### *Shaping Our Future Stewardship Season 2023*

The Board of Trustees has chosen “Shaping Our Future” as the theme of this year’s Stewardship Drive. It reminds us that our congregation has embarked on a journey to assess where we are as a community and where we want to go together. Twenty of our members gathered on Saturday, March 4, in person and on line, to explore how other UU congregations are meeting the common challenges of “doing church” in these times. The process of fact-finding, conversation and deliberation will likely span a period of more than a few months, but we hope what we learn will guide our future decision-making.

This month’s Chimes includes this year’s “Estimate of Giving” form for the next church year (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024). The commitments you make this month will help us develop a realistic budget that we will vote on at the Annual Meeting.

The Kick-Off of our Stewardship Drive will take place at the Food for the Soul brunch on Sunday, April 2 at 10:30 am. Bring a dish to share and a spirit of generosity. “Estimate of Giving” forms will be provided there, and we invite you to either make your pledge on the spot, or take a form home with you to complete and return later. Please return the form on or before Sunday, April 23rd as described on the bottom of the form.

Thank you for your continuing contributions to All Souls. This community relies upon your steadfast generosity so that we can support the staff that supports us, as well as bear the costs of insuring, maintaining and preserving our lovely, historic building.

With gratitude,

Mary Mitchell, Treasurer

Maryalthea52-at-gmail.com

The downloadable form is on the Donate page of our website. Here is a [direct link](https://www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org/uploads/2/8/6/2/28624491/estimate_of_giving_2023-2024__1_.pdf) [https://www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org/uploads/2/8/6/2/28624491/estimate\\_of\\_giving\\_2023-2024\\_\\_1\\_.pdf](https://www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org/uploads/2/8/6/2/28624491/estimate_of_giving_2023-2024__1_.pdf)



*Shaping Our Future  
All Souls Church of  
Braintree  
Stewardship Season 2023*

Dear friends,

Our community is engaged in an All Souls-searching journey, seeking to discern what gifts are ours to share with our changing world and what resources we have with which to do this. It's an exciting time that calls us to engage our imaginations and creativity along with a healthy dose of realism and practicality. Your generosity sustains and lifts up our community, enabling us to continue to preserve and maintain our building and grounds, and to compensate the members of our staff that help us carry out our mission.

Our annual Stewardship Season begins on Sunday, April 2, 2023. How we shape the future of All Souls and serve the world depends on each of us. Your contributions of your time, talent, and treasure will determine our budget and the pursuits in which we will engage in the next Fiscal Year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). Please give generously and help us shape our future as a liberal faith tradition in Braintree.

***ESTIMATE OF GIVING FOR THE 2023—2024 CHURCH YEAR***

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (see below)

I intend to contribute this total amount between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ABOUT THE ANNUAL PROGRAM FUND (APF) CONTRIBUTION (formerly "Fair Share")**

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) requests an annual fee from its member congregations for the Annual Program Fund (APF). The amount of the fee is based upon the prior year's expenditures of each congregation. **The 2023-2024 APF request to All Souls Church is \$5,874. This amounts to \$107 per member.** Because our church budget cannot absorb a fee of this size, we ask that you make a contribution of any amount to All Souls Church designated for APF. We will forward the amount of your gift to the APF in lieu of taking it from our operating budget. The UUA supports our congregation in numerous ways including offering workshops and resources on a wide range of topics, and assisting with congregational matters, including recruitment of ministerial staff. With your APF contribution, you support the growth of our Unitarian Universalist movement.

Please return this form electronically by Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> to [allsoulschurchbraintree@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulschurchbraintree@gmail.com)  
Or mail to: All Souls Church of Braintree, P.O. Box 850219, Braintree, MA 02185-0219

## Musical Theatre at All Souls Braintree

### Call for Volunteers

Elemental Repertory Theater, the theater company presenting "Spitfire Grill" at All Souls April 20-23 is looking for volunteers for the following during the show for multiple or single shows. **All volunteers will be able to see the musical for free, either on the night they are volunteering or another night.**

- Ushers (2 per night - handing out programs, helping people find seats)
- Ticketing (1 or 2 per night)
- Concessions (1 or 2 per night, throughout production - seated at the back of the theater, so you can see the whole show!)

Email [elementalrepertorytheater@gmail.com](mailto:elementalrepertorytheater@gmail.com)

If you would rather just be in the audience, that's great too! An appreciative audience is always needed. Be sure to get your tickets soon at [www.elementalrep.com](http://www.elementalrep.com)



## About the Show

This April, All Souls is hosting a brand new theater company in their premier production, the rousing and soul-lifting musical "The Spitfire Grill"! "Spitfire" tells the story of Percy, a young woman who has just been released from prison and is looking for redemption in the small town of Gilead, Wisconsin. But we soon find that everyone in this town needs redemption of some kind - from the owner of the local grill, to the town sheriff and beyond - and perhaps, a stranger with a dark past is the one who can help them all find it.

"The Spitfire Grill" runs from April 20-22nd at 7:30 and April 23rd at 3:00 in the ASC parish hall. Seats are assigned for this show, and are, of course, first-come first-served - so get your tickets today! To buy tickets and for more information on the company, go to [www.elementalrep.com](http://www.elementalrep.com).

## Food Donation Box at All Souls Braintree



All Souls Church has a Braintree Food Bank donation box for nonperishables located in the Parish Hall. Thanks to Kevin Driscoll for conceiving and executing this. We have joined with the First Congregational Church at 12 Elm Street who accept donations the first Wednesday of each month that then go to help Braintree residents through the Marge Crispin Center Food Pantry.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting this effort.

## Textile Recycling Fundraiser

ONGOING! Any time you have old clothing, curtains, towels, shoes, stuffed animals, belts ... IN ANY CONDITION ... Please bag them up and drop in the white recycling bin located in the parking lot right near the access ramp outside the church. If items are not wearable or repairable, the materials will be recycled. All Souls Church receives payment by the pound for all donations. Please see the LONG LIST of items below that you can drop in the bin. Remember to bag them up. Loose items cannot be processed. Thank you!





# All Souls Church

## Ongoing Textile Recycling Fundraiser



### Acceptable Items for Recycling

All of the following can be donated in any condition as long as it's clean and dry:

#### Footwear:

Shoes	Boots	Sneakers
Heels	Work Boots	Cleats
Pumps	Dress Boots	Slippers
Sandals	Winter Boots	Flip Flops

#### Clothing:

Jerseys	Pants	Undergarments
Sweaters	Jeans	Socks
Sweatshirts	Sweatpants	Shirts
Dresses	Skirts	Slips
Tank Tops	Shorts	Pajama's
Blazers	Slacks	Coats

#### Accessories:

Hats	Gloves	Scarves
Pocketbooks	Book bags	Backpacks
Belts	Ties	Bathrobes

#### Linens:

Sheets	Aprons	Comforters
Blankets	Dish Towels	Throw Rugs
Curtains/Draperies	Table linens	Pillows/Pillow cases



### Stuffed Animals

In any condition, 95% of all textiles can be recycled or reused  
45% of textiles collected are reused, the good is NOT shredded!!!

## Please Bag Your Donations

Donation box located in All Souls Church parking lot.

When cleaning out your closets, re decorating , or updating your house hold  
linens, support All Souls Church !!!

*Program generates a rebate of \$100 per ton on textiles collected*

[www.baystatetextiles.com](http://www.baystatetextiles.com)



P.O. Box 850219  
Braintree, MA 02185-0219



### Calendar Highlights from All Souls Church of Braintree



Sunday Service at 10:30 am

Food for the Soul Potluck Brunch: Sunday, April 2 at 10:30 am

Book Group: Tuesday, April 4 at 7 pm

Service and Music Committee: Wednesday, April 5 at 6:30 pm

Connection Circles: Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 3:30 to 5 pm

Social Action and Environment Committee: Tuesday, April 11 at 7:15 pm

Board of Trustees: Wednesday, April 12 at 7 pm

The Spitfire Grill Theatre performance: Thursday, April 20, Friday, April 21, Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 pm

May Chimes Monthly Newsletter Deadline: Friday, April 21 at 6 pm

Writing Group: Wednesday, April 26 at 4 pm

Pot Luck Supper: Saturday, April 29 at 6 pm