



# All Souls Church of Braintree

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

196 Elm St, Braintree

781.843.1388

[allsoulsbraintreechurch.org](http://allsoulsbraintreechurch.org)

## *The Chimes*

*February 2020*

*Newsletter*



*We accept you as you are.*

*You have a home  
at All Souls Church.*

*Welcome Home!*

Rev. Joanna Lubkin, Minister  
Jacob Clapper, Music Director  
Maggy Evans, Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator  
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Office Hours: Mondays usually 10-2; Saturday hours vary

## **February Services**

Services are Sundays at 10:30 am, followed by food and fellowship at an informal coffee hour. Assistive listening devices are available during service. Children and families are welcome to play in the back corner of the sanctuary or bring quiet toys to their pew. Make yourself at home!

**February Service theme – What does it mean to be a people of resilience?**

## **February 2 It's Groundhog Day! On Do-Overs and Second Chances**

**Rev Joanna Lubkin**

We'll explore the spirituality of second chances, breaking cycles, and re-writing the endings. For bonus pre-sermon preparation, you're invited to watch the 1993 film *Groundhog Day*.

## **February 9 Choosing Courage**

**Rev. Natalie Malter, guest preacher**

There is simply so much we cannot control in our beautiful and hurting world. How do we cultivate resilient communities in spite of all the uncertainty around us? What does it look like to make courage into a daily practice in our lives? Join Guest Minister, Rev. Natalie Malter, to reflect on choosing courage amidst the messiness.

## **February 16 Forget your perfect offering**

**Rev. Joanna Lubkin**

Ever have something you cared about so much and wanted to get so perfect that you never do it? Together, we'll look at those moments when perfectionism paralyzes us and how we move past it to give our gifts to the world.

## **February 23 Community Sunday**

**A Gathering for Connection, Reflection, and Inspiration**

We'll gather in the round in the Parish Hall for a lay-led, interactive service as we explore themes of flexibility, resilience, and bouncing back.

## **A Message from the Minister: Play the Ball Where the Monkey Drops It**

Some phrases are just so beautifully evocative; this is one that always makes me laugh. Here's the story.

When the British colonized India, they brought many of their customs with them, including golf. The story goes that the British built a golf course in Calcutta -- but didn't factor in the monkeys.

The golfers would hit their golf balls, and the monkeys who'd been watching from the trees would rush onto the course, grab the little white balls, and run off with them. How fun for the monkeys!

The golfers didn't see it that way. They tried everything they could think of to keep playing their game uninterrupted. They tried building fences, but the monkeys would climb them (being monkeys, after all). They tried luring the monkeys away, but not all of them could be distracted. They even tried capturing the monkeys, but more would always come.

Eventually, they came up with a new ground rule: Play the ball where the monkey drops it. Sometimes the monkeys would mess up your perfectly good shot, and sometimes they'd drop it right in the hole for you. The rule was: You roll with it (rolling pun intended).

Our theme for the month of February is, "What does it mean to be a people of resilience?" And I think of this adage often in my daily life, usually with a chuckle and a shake of the

head. The lucky break, the absurd comedy of errors, the setbacks -- we may not be able to control any of it. Only surrender to what is, and try to do it with some humor and grace, and do the next thing that is ours to do.

As we explore the topic of resilience, I invite you to reflect for yourself. Is there a situation you've been struggling to control or to outsmart? What would it look like to accept it with a chuckle and keep on playing?

Rev. Joanna Lubkin

## Heads Up: A Scam Is Afoot!

Over the past year, [creative scammers have been sending out emails](#) designed to look like they're from a minister, asking their congregants for gift cards. Many UU congregations across the country have been targeted.

Please know that **Rev. Jo and the All Souls staff will never ask you to send us gift cards**. If you ever get such an email, please reach out to us through another channel (call the church or email Joanna directly at [minister.allsouls@gmail.com](mailto:minister.allsouls@gmail.com)) to let us know.

## From the Board of Trustees

Save the Date: The **Board of Trustees Annual Retreat will be on Saturday February 8, 2020** in the Parish Hall from 10 am to 2 pm. All are invited and highly encouraged to attend, as you are able. We will begin at 10 with a short Board meeting and progress to our program at around 10:45. Our focus this year will be on reconsidering and re-imagining fundraisers and church finances. All of your opinions and ideas are welcome. We will have a light lunch in the afternoon and coffee, etc. will be served in the morning starting at 9:45. Please come and make your voice heard.

An update on our grant applications: our request for a grant from the Community Preservation Act was unanimously approved by the Ways and Means Committee and also by the Full Braintree Town Council on Tuesday, January 21. Thank you to all who came to Town Hall to support this endeavor and to John Cobble and Mary Mitchell who have worked with me to shepherd this request along.

This trio has now begun the task of requesting a matching grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund of the MA Historical Commission. This would be awarded in June so we will have a while to wait to see if we will have the full funds to proceed with the work we are planning at this stage.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the church to increase its revenue and bring young families into our building by renting space in the Parish Hall to a local dance studio. Amy's Dance Dynamics is run by Amy Wallace-Valle who has taught dance lessons in the area for many years.

In 2014, she received the Braintree SEPAC's (Special Education Parents Advisory Council) Inclusion Award, recognizing her skillful teaching of children who are differently abled. Lyn McPhail described her as "one of those people who have infinite patience and can speak to children in a way that's always supportive and never critical."

This agreement will significantly ease the burden of the steady increase in the cost of church operations even as we experience a gradual decrease in membership pledges. It has the potential to assist us as we move forward on church preservation projects and would put our space to good use during a time that has been underutilized in the past.

We are on track for Amy to begin classes in February on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons/evenings and Saturday mornings. We are entering into this agreement with the understanding that she will need to accommodate special church and Magic Years events that take place throughout the year. Please welcome this new member of the All Souls Church family when you see her!

Lastly, we are mourning the loss of a long-time church member in Phyllis Dugan who passed away on January 21. She was memorialized by family and friends on Friday, January 24 at All Souls and will be missed from our community.

Yours in fellowship,  
Lin Steiner and Joe Maloney

## **Social Action and Environment Committee**

The Social Action and Environment Committee will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 11 in the Elliott Room at 7:15 pm. All are welcome

We remind you that

1. Deadline for registering to vote in the MA Presidential primary is February 12.
2. Early voting at Town/City Hall is February 24-28.
3. MA Presidential primary is March 3.

George Goss, Chair SAEC

## **Development Committee**

The Development Committee is getting ready for a busy Spring starting with the Spring Tea on Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 3 pm. We will be planning the tea at our next meeting on Sunday, March 1, at noon. We hope you can join us in the fun and excitement of getting ready for this event. The committee has also decided to move the Plant and Yard Sale back to June and will be discussing it more in the Spring.

Sandra Lingley  
Development Committee Chair

## Book Group

The Book Group will meet on Tuesday, February 3 at 7 pm to discuss Nathaniel Philbrick's book *Mayflower*

**MAYFLOWER** Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History  
**New York Times Book Review Top Ten books of the Year**

How did America begin? That simple question launches the acclaimed author of *In the Hurricane's Eye* and *Valiant Ambition* on an extraordinary journey to understand the truth behind our most sacred national myth: the voyage of the *Mayflower* and the settlement of Plymouth Colony. As Philbrick reveals in this electrifying history of the Pilgrims, the story of Plymouth Colony was a fifty-five year epic that began in peril and ended in war. New England erupted into a bloody conflict that nearly wiped out the English colonists and natives alike. These events shaped the existing communities and the country that would grow from them.

Lin Steiner for the Book Group

## Writing Group

The All Souls Writing Group will meet February 26, at 4 pm in the Elliott Room. Our February theme is Integrity. We will share our writings and hold a promising discussion. New members and visitors are always welcome to join our meetings, which are held the last Wednesday of the month.

Following are a few thought provoking ideas on Integrity that were accessed from the Web.

*"Having integrity means doing the right thing in a reliable way. It's a personality trait that we admire, since it means a person has a moral compass that doesn't waver. It literally means having wholeness of character."*

*"You can have honesty without integrity, but you can't have integrity without honesty. Honesty is truthfulness, sincerity, or frankness; freedom from deceit or fraud." On the other hand, "Integrity is adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character."*

*"Integrity is more from the personal point of view. It means remaining rock solid for your principles and not yielding under any pressure, more related to your conduct in personal life. You make yourself a witness when it comes to integrity. It is tested when you follow your principles when no one is watching you."*

Diane Doucette – Quoted ideas on integrity were accessed from web sites 1/14/2020.

## From Membership

In this month's update regarding membership, I would like to honor Maggy Evans, our dedicated Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator for her extraordinary knowledge and talents. She is a wonderful bridge between the old and the new.

Has anyone noticed her positive affirmation flyers on the bulletin board? I valued them in the past and requested she share them again. With our effective team email communications, Cheri was able to copy them in color. They might brighten your day.

Please make note of the new website Maggy has designed as we all are adjusting to changes. Our warm smiles, laughter, and friendly gestures can now be seen and heard via videos.

Rev Joanna has a very effective way of supporting and inviting us to grow as a caring community. How many "old timers" have taken her up on filling out a welcome card?

Her sensitivity and interest in inclusion (which hopefully leads to membership expansion) are evidenced by new "truth seekers" who have filled out the welcome card. A visitor expressed interest in the community social/ potlucks, which are evolving to attract a larger community. Even an old friend of mine says the website inviting and expressed interest in attending.

I always look forward to the fun we have, especially with our (often times) recycled gifts. And, lucky me, I often grab the recycled holiday wrapping paper.

Please make special note regarding submitting pictures and videos of our community events for publication.

(reminders include)

1. obtaining permission from persons photographed to be shared on church news
2. finalizing your flyers before submitting them to Maggy to save time with edits and emails (Maggy has agreed to make minor grammatical or spelling errors you might have missed.)

Maggy offers a depth of perspective which is invaluable with our new offerings and events: our lay person sermons, our community circles, and the weekly email blasts. It certainly makes it easier for me to keep up with our activities.

Let's continue to learn how our team email communications can keep us open to resolving issues, effectively moving past misunderstandings, receiving feedback and keep our community feeling like a "family". At All souls, we strive to be a loving place where everyone's voices / opinions / feelings matter and are respected.

Thanks for reading,  
Lauren

## From the Treasurer

The community at All Souls Church depends upon the generous donations of our members and friends. By now, all donors to All Souls Church should have received a report of their contributions on record for the calendar year 2019. This report also tells you how much of your 2019-2020 pledge you have paid as of December 31, 2019. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions or corrections or if you did not receive your report. Your monetary gifts are much needed and much appreciated!

Just as All Souls depends upon your donations, our denominational organizations (the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the New England Region (NER)) depend upon our financial contributions to continue their important work of supporting congregations such as ours, and promoting the values of Unitarian Universalism.

Our operating budget cannot absorb the calculated Annual Program Fund (APF) fee of \$6,309, so we ask for contributions from our members and friends. The calculated per member cost is \$105, but you can contribute any amount towards this payment. Please make your check payable to All Souls Church, write "APF" in the memo line and we will see that the amount of your gift is forwarded to the UUA and NER. Thank you for your generous support!

Mary Mitchell, Treasurer  
Maryalthea52-at-gmail.com

## Notes

**Found Items** Are you missing something? Please check the found bin located outside the office door. If you find something, this is a good place to put it. But, if it's an electronic item or something like keys, jewelry or a wallet, please pass it along to John Cobble, Cheri Krueger or someone in leadership for safe keeping at the office.

**Communication** If you have an urgent need to communicate with our minister, please call Reverend Joanna Lubkin directly **781-428-4606 (phone or text)** or email her at [minister.allsouls@gmail.com](mailto:minister.allsouls@gmail.com).

If your business is not urgent, please call the office 781-843-1388 or email [allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com) to reach Cheri, [ascbraintree@gmail.com](mailto:ascbraintree@gmail.com) to reach Maggy

**Website** I've been updating our [website](#) and ask that you [take a look HERE](#) and offer your feedback. As with so many things to do with computers and technology, it was necessary to update our website so that everything would continue to work properly. Can you find what you're looking for on the site? Are there features you would like to see that are not there? I welcome your suggestions.

**Kitchen** From Jane Fogg: If anyone has taken home tablecloths and towels to launder, please remember to return them. Thanks.

## Deadline for the March Chimes is Friday February 21



Maggy

**Calendar Highlights** Please see complete calendar online [HERE](#)

### Board of Trustees Retreat Saturday February 8 from 10 to 2

All are invited and highly encouraged to attend the Board Retreat to be held in the Parish Hall from 10 am to 2 pm. All are invited and highly encouraged to attend, as you are able. We will begin at 10 with a short Board meeting and progress to our program at around 10:45. Our focus this year will be on reconsidering and re-imagining fundraisers and church finances. All of your opinions and ideas are welcome. We will have a light lunch in the afternoon and coffee, etc. will be served in the morning starting at 9:45. Please come and make your voice heard.

### Kids Valentine Dance Saturday February 15 at 5 pm

The Braintree Homeschool Co-op will host their annual All ages Valentines Dance on Saturday February 15 from 5-8 pm. This Valentines extravaganza has been a well-attended and much anticipated semi-formal open to all homeschoolers on the South Shore. The event is free to all and they bring allergy free treats to share. Pictures of their hilarious shenanigans to follow.

### South Shore LGBT Seniors and Friends Brunch Saturday, February 29, 10 am

We are happy to host a monthly Saturday brunch program for LGBT older adults living south of Boston. Held in All Souls Church Parish Hall, this brunch offers networking and informational programs. It is the place to network and navigate the older LGBT community.

Brunch is free to those 60+, with donation of \$2 suggested. Under 60? \$5 fee to eat with us. To learn about additional community programs for LGBT older adults, Call 781.848.3910 x415 South Shore Elder Services or visit [https://fenwayhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/TFIAP-47\\_Fall2018\\_LGBT\\_ElderMealsCalendar.pdf](https://fenwayhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/TFIAP-47_Fall2018_LGBT_ElderMealsCalendar.pdf)

### Community Social Pot Luck Supper

Our next Community Social Pot Luck Supper will be **Saturday, February 29 at 6 pm**. The activity planned is '**Game Night**'. Please bring something to eat with some to share for the Potluck. An ingredient list is helpful in case of allergies.

## Braintree Folk

### SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

Fresh off a European tour, [Windborne](#), a four-member vocal band will astound you with their richly harmonized arrangements and eclectic repertoire. Tickets are available now at [Brown Paper Tickets](#). \$15 in advance; \$20 at door the night of the show if available. As always, the concert will be held in the All Souls Church Parish Hall. Doors open at 7 pm, show begins at 7:30 pm. Opening act to be announced. **Tickets: \$15.00 in advance \$20.00 at door on day of show if still available DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM**

You can see [Windborne Video on YouTube](#)





