



# *The Chimes*

## *February 2023 Newsletter*



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

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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. We are a welcoming congregation. 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.

Services are also streamed online on Zoom and Facebook. 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://www.facebook.com/AllSoulsBraintree> Services are recorded on Facebook. Meetings and Connection Circles are online on Zoom.

We need volunteers to keep the ministry of coffee hour alive. If you would like to help, signup is online at this link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/g...>

## February Sunday Services – Our Spiritual Celebrations



February 5  
Imbolc, Rev. Lora Powell Haney



February 12  
For the Love of Earth, Rev. Beau  
The UUA's 30 Days of Love Campaign began on  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day and ends on  
Valentine's Day.

We will explore this week's theme on Resilience and Climate Justice.



February 19  
Food for the Soul Pot Luck Brunch  
Sunday, February 19, at 10:30 am is our Food For  
the Soul Potluck Brunch, 10:30 am to noon, in the  
Parish Hall at All Souls Church of Braintree. This is in  
place of Sunday Service. Please bring a food to  
share. All are welcome.

Brought to you by the Sunday Service and Music Committee and the Board of Trustees. Please note: there is no live stream during the brunch.



February 26  
The Black Resistance, Rev. Beau  
As we celebrate Black History month, we will reflect  
on the success of The Black Resistance in the  
United States and draw on some of the insights in  
Ibram X. Kendi's book, How to Be an Anti-Racist.

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

## From the Minister's Corner

The Clearing  
Martha Postlethwaite

Do not try to save  
the whole world or  
do anything grandiose.

Instead, create a clearing  
in the dense forest of your life  
and wait there patiently,  
until the song that is your life  
falls into your own cupped hands  
and you recognize and greet it.

Only then will you know how  
to give yourself to this world  
so worthy of rescue.

This poem reminds me of how exhausted many of us are as we emerge from the hustle and bustle of Fall activities, go headlong into holiday season, and collapse after celebrating the new year. Thankfully, Winter is a time of rest and regeneration. A time for reflection on what has been in the past and what we hope to manifest in the future.

The same is often true in the life of a congregation. Fall is a busy time for church fundraisers, new programs, and annual celebrations. As we take time for rest and renewal this Winter, we will reflect on the dense forest of the past, acknowledge who we are now, and listen for the song that calls us to who we are yet to be in 2023 and beyond.

In the Fall of 2022, the Board of Trustees made a commitment to explore more sustainable ways to fulfill our mission at All Souls. During the first half of the church year, we gathered information on a variety of church models and recently established a Steering Committee to help us navigate a way forward. Notes from our most recent consult with Jim Robinson, retired minister who helped found the Five Points Cluster may be found on the member page of our church website. [Member Page](#)

Our next step is to share this information with the congregation. The Board of Trustees, The Future Planning Steering Committee, and I invite you to attend a special congregational meeting Saturday, March 4, 2023 for this purpose. Our primary objective will be to:

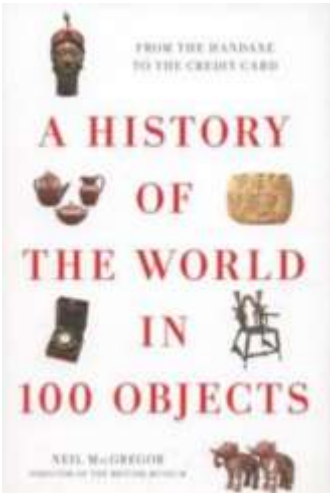
- o Identify and acknowledge our current circumstances,
- o Present information on viable strategies for small congregations,
- o Stimulate discussion that will lead us to consider a more viable future at All Souls.

The meeting will be multiplatform so as many people as possible may attend and will be recorded and posted on the member page of our church website for those who are unable to attend.

This is an exciting time at All Souls! I look forward to the future possibilities that await us!

Many Blessings,  
Rev. Beau

## Book Group



Tuesday, February 7, 7 pm: A History of the World in 100 Objects by Neil MacGregor

This book was published as a companion to a joint project of BBC Radio 4 and British Museum, which was broadcast over a 20-week period beginning on Jan 18, 2010. Comprised of 100 fifteen-minute presentations, the British Museum's director, Neil MacGregor, "used objects of ancient art, industry, technology and arms as an introduction to parts of human history". You can listen to some or all of the podcasts, buy or borrow the book, and/or access the material (including photographs, podcasts and transcripts) on the BBC website at the

following link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00nrff5>. Plan to peruse the photographs and descriptions at your leisure, and come to the book group ready to tell the group about 2 or 3 items that you found most interesting. Send the names of the items you've chosen to Mary by Sunday, February 5 so we can screen share the images during our gathering. (Led by Lin)

Tuesday, March 7, 7 pm The Thursday Murder Club: A Novel by Richard Osman

Published in 2020, this is the first in a series of four books by Richard Osman (the fourth will be released in September, 2023). The series, called A Thursday Murder Club Mystery, is set in a fictional retirement village in Great Britain. The book has been on the New York Times paperback bestseller list and has been described as "clever and warm"; "witty, endearing and greatly entertaining"; and a "laugh-out-loud whodunit."

All are welcome to join the conversation. Plan to attend on Zoom on Tuesday, February 7 and again at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 7.

For the Book Discussion Group,

Mary Mitchell



## Writing Group



All Souls Writing Group will meet on Wednesday, February 22, at 4pm.

The writing prompt will be, First Ladies or The Flotus of the United States. How have they made a difference in our worlds? How do they affect our everyday lives?

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 February meeting dates will be:

February 2 – How plants adapt to a desert environment. Presented by Arizona resident, Lucy

February 9 – Celebrating Black History Month with black vocalists. Videos chosen and background information shared by Judy

February 16 – What are UU-based social justice groups (like the UU College of Social Justice) doing? Researched by Rev. Med with assistance from Maureen

February 23 – What does the Five Points Cluster do? Learn more about this collaboration of six UU congregations in Eastern MA. Researched and presented by Tom

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

## Social Action Committee



Brief review of SAEC meeting -

George needs to finish draft of SAEC's work with Fair Share Initiative and our perspective on work to be taken up.

We are giving some thought to developing work to deal with some issues of homelessness as to what's involved, what work is already ongoing, who we might work with, how would we bring in the All Souls community in taking something around this up.

There is an All Souls event planned for Earth Day in April that a speaker from the Wampanoag people will speak on the value of their approach in caring for the earth. We may be expected to help this event be well received.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 14 at 7:15 pm  
George Goss, Chair SAEC

## A New Steering Committee



What will the future hold for our community of All Souls of Braintree? It is a topic that has come up at coffee hour and at meetings of the board of trustees. Some members of the church have chosen to be hopeful and others, worried. In response, the board has authorized a new steering committee to take an open-minded look at the possibilities the future might hold for us and

to examine these options in regards to effort, costs, time frame, interest, and feasibility.

The members of this steering committee are Linda Steiner, Tom Bularzik, Don Swanson, Kathy Pearce, George Goss, and Michael Domina. If anyone has thoughts they want us to consider or questions as we go along, please let any of us know.

We were all excited to have our first meeting last week and to begin our extensive research. We look forward to presenting our findings as we get further along in the process.

## Board of Trustees



Over this past month, the Board has been busy with multiple issues. Ongoing topics dealt with at our last meeting are completing the banner and working on repairing the Wayside pulpit which are in progress.

As part of the efforts to research and consider future directions, the Board was joined by Rev. Jim Robinson who was instrumental in the formation of the 5 Points cluster of UU churches on the South Shore. He explained the process of forming and some of the ongoing work of this collaboration of churches. In order to explore this further, several All Souls members attended the Cluster's most recent meeting on January 21.

A Future Planning Steering Committee has been formed to help consider and guide recommendations. Members are Tom Bularzik, Kathy Pearce, Don Swanson, George Goss, Michael Domina and Linda Steiner who will serve as a Board liaison. See below for more information.

A Spring Event has been set for April 16 at All Souls. It will consist of an afternoon lecture for the community by Faries Gray, sagamore (chief) of the Massachusetts Tribe of the Ponkapoag followed by a reception.

The Board also met on Friday, Jan 13 to consider 2 other issues. A request to rent the Parish Hall on a Sunday in March sparked a discussion on updating the



present rental agreement. It was decided that an increase in rental fees was warranted and approved. There was also discussion regarding policies about use of church equipment and a policy about alcohol use. It was decided that renters would need to bring their own audio equipment. Alcohol use remains at the discretion of the Board and, if approved, would require that a professional bartender be hired by the renter.

Also discussed was the state of parking lot access. It was decided that Magic Years would be approached about ensuring that flags and cones are removed by them after their sessions to allow full access to parking spaces for church events and renters.

Linda Steiner  
For the Board of Trustees

## Board Retreat & Congregational Gathering

**SAVE THE DATE** Saturday, March 4, 10:30 am to 2 pm



We're already anticipating the annual "Board Retreat", a mid-year gathering of our congregation to consider who we are as a church community and where we would like to go. The Board of Trustees will meet at 9 am for an abbreviated board meeting. At 10:30 am, members and friends are invited to join us for presentations and discussion. We'll take a lunch break in the parish hall around noon and invite you to bring a bag lunch. We'll reconvene for about an hour after lunch. The meeting will take place in the sanctuary so that we can include remote attendees via Zoom.

More specific plans for the day are still being developed, but we think it will be a wonderful opportunity to spend ample quality time together in a shared experience. We sincerely hope you will attend!

The Board of Trustees  
Ross Edwards, Lin Steiner, Mary Mitchell, Diana Althouse, Sandra Lingley

## From the Treasurer

FEBRUARY 2023

Most of you should have received a report of your contributions on record for the calendar year 2022 if you contributed \$100 or more in the aggregate last year or if you have made a stewardship commitment of any amount for FY 2022-2023. This report also indicates your remaining stewardship balance to be paid by June 30, 2023. The reports were sent primarily by snail mail. Please be in touch with me if you have not received your report.

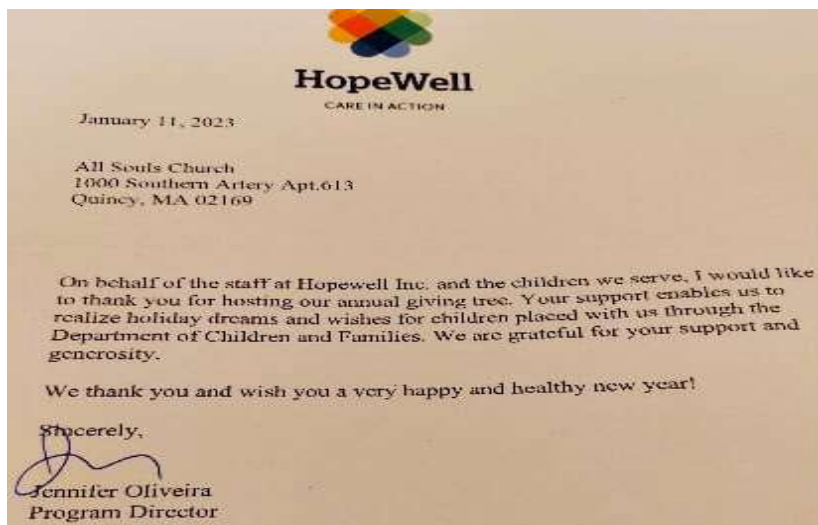
Thank you for your generous financial support enabling us to fairly compensate our dedicated staff and insure, maintain and preserve our lovely, historic building.

With gratitude,

Mary Mitchell, Treasurer Maryalthea52-at-gmail.com



## Notes from the office



We received a thank you note from HopeWell for participating in the holiday gift giving program.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

The Elemental Repertory Theater has adjusted its dates for staging its production of the musical, "Spitfire Grill". Shows are now scheduled for the evenings of Thursday, April 20, Friday, April 21, Saturday, April 22 and a Sunday matinee on April 23. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars to take in this moving and heart-inspiring live theater event at All Souls Church! The troupe will also be using our church building for its rehearsals in the months leading up to the show.

Did you miss the deadline for contributing to the crowdfunding campaign to get them started with their first production? Fear not! You can donate any time at [paypal.me/elementalrep](https://www.paypal.com/elementalrep). Any donations of 50 dollars or more before the end of February will get you two free tickets to the show (As long as your contact information is included in the donation)!

Deadline for the March Chimes is Wednesday, February 22.

The most recent Chimes Newsletter can always be found on our website.  
<https://www.allsoulsbraintreec...>

If you have an urgent need to communicate with our minister, please email Rev. Beau at .

In addition to our main number, the All Souls Church office now has a number you can TEXT. The number is 781-817-3952. I can usually text back very quickly. Use 781-843-1388 for calls, 781-817-3952 for texts.  
Thank you.

Stay warm!

Maggy Evans



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Braintree, MA 02185-0219

## The Chimes Monthly Newsletter February 2023



### *All Souls Church*

Calendar Highlights – read this newsletter for all the details

All our meetings, connection circles, and groups are gathering online at this time on Zoom. The link is <https://zoom.us/j/96571006038>

Sunday Service at 10:30 am

Service and Music Committee: Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 pm

Book Group: Tuesday, February 7 at 7 pm

Board of Trustees: Wednesday, February 8 at 7 pm

Social Action and Environment Committee: Tuesday, February 14 at 7:15 pm

Pot Luck Brunch: Sunday, February 19 at 10:30 am in place of Sunday Service

Writing Group: Wednesday, February 22 at 4 pm

March Chimes Monthly Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday, February 22 at 6 pm

Pot Luck Supper: Saturday, February 25 at 6 pm

Connection Circles: Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16 and 23, from 3:30 to 5 pm

SAVE THE DATE Board Retreat and Congregational Gathering: Saturday, March 4, from 10:30 am to 2 pm

Board meets at 9 am











