

The Chimes *March 2020 Newsletter*



All Souls Church
of Braintree
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

The Reverend Joanna Lubkin, Minister
Jacob Clapper, Music Director

The Reverend Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita
Cheri Krueger, Administrative Assistant
Office: Mondays 10 am to 2 pm, Saturday hours vary

Maggy Evans, Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator
Office Email: allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com

Newsletters, Events and Publicity: ascbraintree@gmail.com

Sunday Services – Our Spiritual Celebrations

Service takes place Sunday mornings at 10:30 am followed by food and fellowship at an informal coffee hour. We begin our weekly celebration with drumming, followed by music, readings, a time for meditation and reflection, and a service topic. There is a children's corner in the Sanctuary or families may bring quiet toys to their pew. Once a month we hold a lay-led service 'in the round' in our Parish Hall. Make yourself at home! We are a welcoming congregation and our building is handicap accessible. Assistive listening devices are available during service.



Service theme for the month of March is: What does it mean to be a people of wisdom?

March 1: Prophetic Imagination

Rev Joanna Lubkin

Speculative fiction and the Kingdom of God: this unlikely pairing will help us envision the worlds we might create together.

March 8: For the Love of This World

Rev. Mark Glovin

This Sunday's worship will be an homage to the late, great Mary Oliver. The service will be centered around her poetry and her summons to live our lives and to engage with the beauty all around us.

March 15: Celtic Wisdom**Rev Joanna Lubkin**

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we'll seek wisdom from the Celtic world and the poetry of the beloved Irish mystic, John O'Donohue.

March 22: Community Sunday: Wisdom & Money

We'll gather in the round in the Parish Hall for a lay-led, interactive service as we reflect on how we use our money wisely, both individually and collectively.

March 29: Stewardship Sunday: Making Change**Rev Joanna Lubkin**

As we kick off pledge season, we reflect on how we use our gifts of time and money to make change in the world.

From the Minister's Corner

Sell your cleverness and buy bewilderment." -Rumi

As the church enters March focusing on the theme, "What does it mean to be a people of wisdom?" I've been thinking about that word, 'wise.' I can't help but chuckle, thinking about how I don't remember being called wise often as a kid. Wise guy (well, wise-something else) and smart-aleck, yes! There is something so deviously satisfying in being correct and being clever about it at the same time. I'd sometimes find myself looking for mistakes to point out or for jokes to make, just so I could be ready with a clever/obnoxious remark.

Turns out, it's not a great way to make and keep friends. Cleverness for puns, jokes, and riddles, yes. Cleverness at others' expense, no.

Life continually invites us to 'sell our cleverness and buy bewilderment,' as the Sufi mystic Rumi put it. For those times when we catch ourselves striving for cleverness, what if instead we strove for wisdom? In any moment, how would it feel to trade being right for being curious?

In Buddhism, this concept is called 'beginner's mind,' and it invites us to a place of openness, of wondering, and a willingness to grow. And it's true, the people I look up to as wise are less interested in being right and more interested in learning from all people.

As we enter this month of exploring wisdom, may we do so with open hearts, open minds, and open hands.

Rev. Joanna Lubkin

A Message from the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees Annual Retreat on Saturday February 8 was attended by the Board and approximately eight other church members. After an introduction to the present state of church finances and the role of fundraising and other sources of income, we had a good brainstorming session and discussion on possible future approaches to income generation. The Board will be considering these over the next few months. We welcome any and all further input.

At the business meeting part of the retreat, the BOT took several votes necessary for our application for a Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund grant. We voted to

1. Authorize executing a Preservation Deed Restriction in perpetuity with the Mass Historical Commission (assuming awarding of the grant)
2. Authorize Linda Steiner (as BOT Chairperson) to enter into a contract with the Mass Historical Commission (assuming awarding of the grant)
3. Authorize expenditures of up to \$15,000 as a source of Cash Flow for the project

The UUA General Assembly will be in Providence, RI from June 24-June 28, 2020. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with UUs from all over the country and to attend interesting and timely workshops and worship services. Early bird registration ends on March 15. Housing, if you wish to stay in Providence, opens on March 2 for those who are registered. There are some financial scholarships as well as volunteer opportunities that would decrease the cost of registration. More information can be found at <https://www.uua.org/ga>

Yours in fellowship
Lin Steiner and Joe Maloney

From the Treasurer

The annual Stewardship Campaign will officially kick off on the last Sunday in March and run through the month of April. Merriam-Webster tells us that "stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." As members and friends, we are all stewards of our church community. Thank you for the financial commitments you have made in the past. Your generous gifts make it possible for our church to employ the staff that plays such an important part in the programs that are central to our community life. Your donations enable us to be responsible stewards of our building by insuring it and maintaining it both for ourselves, for other groups that use our building, and for those who will carry on after us. Our operating costs continue to increase over time, and adequate finances are necessary if we are to continue to support this community.

As we enter this Stewardship season, we ask you to consider the value of this community in your life. Do you feel at home and welcome here? Do you find outlets for your creativity here? Does participating in church activities help you find meaning in your life? Or maybe it's just a fun place to be! However you answer these questions, I hope you will demonstrate your support with a generous financial contribution.

You will be given a Stewardship Form that will ask you to estimate your financial contribution in the coming fiscal year, beginning on July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Receiving this information in advance from you will be a crucial ingredient in creating next year's church budget.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have questions about church finances or the Stewardship Campaign.

With gratitude,
Mary Mitchell, Treasurer

Book Group

The next All Souls Book Discussion Group meets Tuesday, March 3, at 7 pm in the Elliott Room.

For our March gathering, we have chosen to read and discuss *The Rascal King: The Life and Times of James Michael Curley (1874-1958)* by Jack Beatty. Google Books review: "Twice jailed scoundrel and the people's champion, builder of hospitals and schools and shameless grafter, compelling orator and master of political farce As mayor of Boston, as congressman, as governor of Massachusetts, Curley rose from the Irish slums to a career extending from the Progressive Era of Teddy Roosevelt to the ascendancy of JFK."

The April book selection is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. New York Times book review (74 weeks on its bestseller list): "A painfully beautiful first novel that is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative and a celebration of nature. Owens here surveys the desolate marshlands of the North Carolina coast through the eyes of an abandoned child. And in her isolation that child makes us open our own eyes to the secret wonders – and dangers – of her private world."

All are welcome to join us for light snacks and conversation.

Jane Fogg for the Book Discussion Group.

Writing Group

All Souls Writing Group will meet Wednesday, March 25 at 4 pm in the Elliott Room. Our topic will be Wisdom. Visitors and potential members are always welcome to join us for enjoyable discussion in a relaxed atmosphere.

Much has been written in every culture throughout the ages on Wisdom. It is associated with timelessness. It is defined as knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight. Wisdom carries the attributes of unbiased judgment, compassion, self-knowledge, and virtues such as ethics.

Wisdom defies narrow definition, and has been applied to philosophical and religious perspectives; the secular and the divine.

We will add our thoughts and writing to the wealth of efforts that expand our understanding of wisdom. Likewise, wisdom is the subject of numerous quotes and poetry.

Diane Doucette – Sourced from Wikipedia

Social Action and Environment Committee

The Social Action and Environment Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 10, at 7:15 pm in the Elliott Room to discuss plans, for those interested, for the UU the Vote campaign, including plans for partnering with other congregations and organizations, as we develop work in the democratic movement.

All interested in the work are invited to come and take part in the discussion.

George Goss, chair Social Action and Environment Committee 7817696574 Agdgs@aol.com

Development

The Development Committee is getting ready for a busy spring starting with the Spring Tea on Saturday, April 18, at 3 pm. We will be planning the tea at our next meeting on Sunday, March 1, at 12 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



AN ENGLISH TEA

ALL SOULS CHURCH OF BRAINTREE

Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 3 pm

ALL SOULS PARISH HALL

196 ELM STREET, BRAINTREE, MA 781.843.1388

Save the Date! Welcome Spring at a Traditional English Tea on Saturday, April 18 at 3 pm \$20 per person in advance –

Reservations required - purchase tickets from our website.

A reminder to help our Great Expectations for Dickens this fall!

There is a donation storage bin (blue) on the Parish Hall stage waiting for your new and gently used items for us to sell at the Great Expectations table. Do you have Christmas decorations you are no longer using (but they still look nice!), presents* you received but don't want, something you got in the Yankee swap that someone else might want - bring it in and we'll store it away for the Dickens Day!

*Christmas, Hanukkah, Birthday, Valentines, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Sweetest Day, Anniversaries, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, whatever gift you got that you don't want - bring it in. If it isn't right for our sale, there's always the yard sale!

Thank you,
Joyce Albrecht & Kevin Driscoll

Survey of All Souls Members and Friends to be Released in March

The Committee on Ministry is tasked with assessing the quality of the ministry of the church as a whole as well as the effectiveness of the individual serving as our minister. Now that we are more than halfway through this church year and Rev. Joanna's ministry, we need to determine if the Board of Trustees should consider renewing the one-year agreement under which she is serving our congregation. To that end, we have put together a brief survey to gather information about how participants in our community feel about Rev. Joanna's ministry and their overall experience within the church. Please watch for more information about this survey and share your thoughts and feelings by completing the survey. Our plan is to release it during the month of March in both hard copy and online formats.

Please be in touch with any of us if you have questions about the survey.

The Committee on Ministry is comprised of the minister and the three people who were involved in last year's search for a new minister which resulted in a contract with Rev. Joanna Lubkin. Committee members are John Cobble, Joyce Albrecht, Mary Mitchell & Rev. Joanna. Thank you for your interest and participation!

Highlights This Month

BRAINTREE FOLK

Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 7:30 pm

Doors open at 7 pm



“Vocal virtuosity such as you rarely see
on any folk stage” Watford Folk



Opening: Casey LJ

“Comfort food for your ears”

Thanks to
Braintree Folk
Sustaining Supporter:



Where: All Souls Church of Braintree, 196 Elm Street, Braintree

Tickets at Brown Paper Tickets - event 4474534

\$15 in advance \$20 at door if still available

More info at 781-864-7743 www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org/braintree-folk.html

South Shore LGBT Seniors and Friends Brunch Saturday, March 28 at 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.

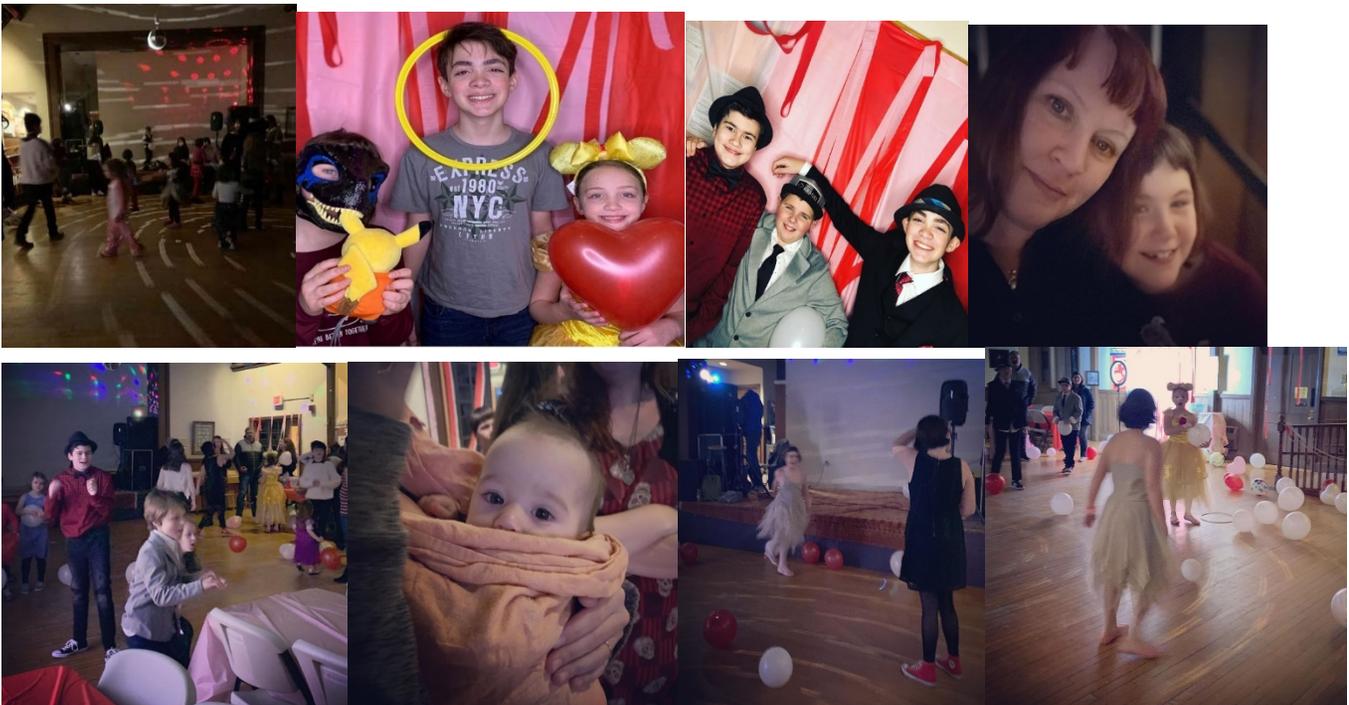
Brunch is free to those 60+, with donation of \$2 suggested. Under 60? \$5 fee to eat with us. To learn about additional community programs for LGBT older adults, Call 781.848.3910 x415 South Shore Elder Services or visit https://fenwayhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/TFIAP-47_Fall2018_LGBT ElderMealsCalendar.pdf

Community Social Pot Luck Supper Saturday, March 28 at 6 pm

Our next Community Social Pot Luck Supper will be Saturday, March 28 beginning at 6 pm. Stay tuned for an update about possible activity. Please bring something to eat with some to share for the Potluck. An ingredient list is helpful in case of allergies.

Outside Community

The Valentines Dance was a huge success and the kids had a wonderful time! There were about 45 very well-dressed homeschool kids in attendance, sugared up on cupcakes and ready to dance. The event wrapped up at about 7:30, just in time for cleanup and bedtime. Enjoy the photos! (Used by permission) ~ Danielle McKenna



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

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All Souls Church

Calendar Highlights – please read this newsletter for all the details

Development Committee Sunday March 1 at noon
Drumming Sunday March 1 at 7 pm
Book Discussion Group Tuesday March 3 at 7 pm
Gay Men's Discussion Group Thursday March 5 and 19 at 7:30 pm
South Shore Singing Meditation Monday March 9 at 7 pm
Social Action/Environmental Committee Tuesday March 10 at 7:15 pm
Set up for Braintree Folk Friday March 13 from 6 to 9 pm
Braintree Folk Saturday March 14 at 7:30 pm
Board of Trustees Monday March 16 at 7 pm
Chimes Submission Deadline Tuesday March 24
Writing Group Wednesday March 25 at 4 pm
LGBT Senior Brunch Saturday March 28 at 10 am
Pot Luck Supper Saturday March 28 at 6 pm
Sunday Service & Music Committee Sunday March 29 at noon

Hall Use

Braintree Home School Co-op meets Thursdays 9:30 to 11:30 am
Amy's Dance Class Tuesdays 5:45 pm, Wednesdays 4:45 pm, Thursdays 4:15 pm and most Saturday mornings 8:45 am

Self Help

GA meets Sundays at 7 pm
Quincy Bay meets Mondays at 7 pm
AA meets Tuesdays at 8 pm
Women's AWOL meets Wednesdays at 6:45 pm
AA (small group) meets Thursdays at 8 pm in Elliott Room