



All Souls Church of Braintree

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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



The Chimes

March 2023 Newsletter

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> and services are recorded there. Meetings and Connection Circles are online on Zoom.



Service Themes

March 5	Lay Led Service Using "UUA Sermon of the Month" resources	
March 12	Women's Service	Rev Beau Rivers
March 19	Ramadan	Sana Saeed
March 26	Stardust	Rev Beau Rivers

Food Donation Box at All Souls Braintree

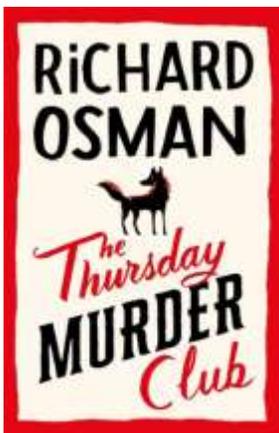


All Souls Church has a Braintree Food Bank donation box for nonperishables located in the Parish Hall. Thanks to Kevin Driscoll for conceiving and executing this. We have joined with the First Congregational Church at 12 Elm Street who accept donations the first Wednesday of each month that then go to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

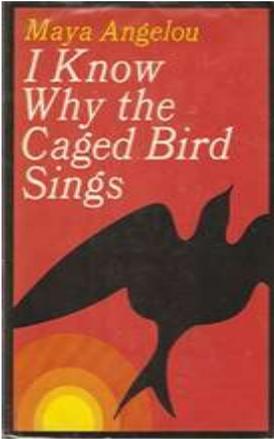
Thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting this effort.

Book Group

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."



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

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.

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

For the Book Discussion Group,

Mary Mitchell

Social Action and Environment Committee

The Social Action Environment Committee will meet Tues., March 14, 2023 at 7:15 on zoom. Everyone interested is invited to attend. We will be discussing three items:

~ Continuing the work on equality in education by contacting our respective state representatives and senators to ask that they inform us of their plans on funding equal education in the coming year.

~ Examining the issues of climate justice that UU Mass Action and Mass Power Forward see coming up in the legislature, as they get consolidated, to find one or two that we can encourage our community to study and advocate for.

~ Go over what we know of the coming Earth Day presentation featuring a speaker from the Massachusetts Ponkapoag people in order to discuss inviting those we think would be interested, such as groups of Mass Power Forward.

George Goss, chair SAEC

A Message from the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees held their monthly meeting on February 8, 2023.

In the Treasurer's report Mary Mitchell noted the following: the Amazon Smile program that gave a small percentage of sales to the church has ended. The ZOOM subscription has been renewed to help support our online services and meetings. Mary will be attending a UUA training session for Onboarding practices for any new employees.

John Cobble reported on three estimates to repair a leak in one of the basement classrooms. Best cost estimate is \$9590. The board unanimously approved the necessary expenditure from the account dedicated to building repairs/maintenance. (Subsequently Magic Years agreed to absorb about \$3,000 of the cost)

12:00-12:45 Brown Bag lunch (bring your own) (Parish Hall)

12:45-2:00 Program continued (Sanctuary)
Small group cases activity and discussion

Please be sure to enter via the side door, as there will be a renter using the Parish Hall in the morning. To access the congregational meeting on Zoom, visit <https://zoom.us/j/96571006038>

We hope to see you there.

Lin Steiner

A Message from the Treasurer

The month of February provides a chance for your Treasurer to take a breath. The regular, ongoing duties of the Treasurer include picking up mail, recording income received, paying bills and recording them, and producing monthly financial reports for the Board of Trustees. I thank Kaitlin for the patient and reliable assistance she has offered for over three years, posting much of our income and expenses on our bookkeeping software. She has also been a wonderful asset at the last two in-person Dickens Festivals. I look forward to our continued collaboration!

Special projects often pepper the Treasurer's landscape of duties. The month of January called for issuing reports of calendar year 2022 contributions. (Please be in touch with me if you donated and did not receive your report.) February offers a welcome lull before March arrives, when attention is directed to the annual stewardship drive. The annual drive usually extends into mid-April; the process of developing a budget for the next fiscal year extends from April into May, including a budget hearing for the congregation, and concluding with a presentation at the Annual meeting in June.

The process of budgeting for the next year includes the task of estimating what our expenses will be in this fiscal year. I submitted a preliminary projection for the February meeting of the Board of Trustees that showed that we will likely bring in about \$5,000 more than we budgeted for. Our expenses will likely be about the same or somewhat more than we had budgeted for, depending upon how high our heating and plowing/salting costs are. Therefore, at the close of our fiscal year on June 30, 2023, we will likely experience a shortfall of about \$5,000. This does not include the cost of the basement leakage remediation project (costing about \$7,000). (See the Chimes article from the Board of Trustees.) In 2010, the Board of Trustees set up a fund to be used for unanticipated building repair needs. This

“rainy day fund”, which currently has a balance of \$7,790, will bear the cost of the basement leakage project.

This month you can expect to receive a request for your “Estimate of Giving” for the next church year (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024). The commitments you make will help us develop a realistic budget that we will vote on at the Annual Meeting.

Thank you for your continuing contributions to All Souls. This community relies upon your steadfast generosity so that we can fairly compensate our wonderful staff and insure, maintain and preserve our lovely, historic building.

Mary Mitchell, Treasurer Maryalthea52-at-gmail.com

All Souls Writing Group

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

The next writing prompt for March 29 is

When I was younger, I thought the world was...

If you want your voice heard. If you want your stories to be written down and told by you in your own words, please join us in our small but intimate group.

Nikki Milne

All Souls Writing Group

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:

March 2 – *Life on a Mobius Strip* by Janna Levin, “The Greatest Moth Story Ever Told,” according to Maria Popova, amazing blogger, “The Marginalian”.

March 9 – Some highlights from *The Persuaders: At the Front Lines of the Fight for Hearts, Minds, and Democracy* by Anand Giridharadas

March 16 – We will read and discuss an article of interest chosen by Maureen

Topics for March 23 and March 30 will be determined later in the month. Please 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

Notes from the office



Sunday, March 12, remember to turn your clocks ahead at 2 am for Daylight Savings Time. It's also a good time to check batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

This week the office received a message asking for the password to the members and friends directory. The request addressed me by name and was supposedly from someone I know. The message was NOT from a member, friend, or staff It was a phishing attempt. I did not respond. I did not give out the password. I blocked the contact.

If anyone contacts you asking for the directory password, please forward the request to me to deal with so I can verify their identity. Please do this even if the request apparently comes from someone you know. Scammers are very good at faking who they are.

If you forget the password, please contact me directly via the office. I will be happy to help. Thank you!

Maggy

Musical Theatre at All Souls Braintree



Elemental Repertory Theater presents "The Spitfire Grill" at All Souls Church!

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-serve - so get your tickets today! To buy tickets and for more information on the company, go to www.elementalrep.com.



All Souls Church of Braintree
Unitarian Universalist
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All Souls Church of Braintree March 2023

Calendar Highlights – please read this newsletter for all the details

Sunday Service at 10:30 am

Board of Trustees: will meet during the retreat on March 4

Book Group: Tuesday, March 7 at 7 pm

Service and Music Committee: Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 pm

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

March Chimes Monthly Newsletter Deadline: Friday, March 24 at 6 pm

Pot Luck Supper: Saturday, March 25 at 6 pm

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

Writing Group: Wednesday, March 29 at 4 pm

SAVE THE DATE IN MARCH

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

Board meets at 9 am

SAVE THESE DATES IN APRIL

Sunday, April 16 Earth Day Event:

Following service, the day will include lunch, presentation and discussion.

April 20, 21 and 22 at 7:30 pm and the 23rd at 3 pm: Elemental Repertory Theater at All Souls