



# All Souls Church of Braintree

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST



781-843-13888

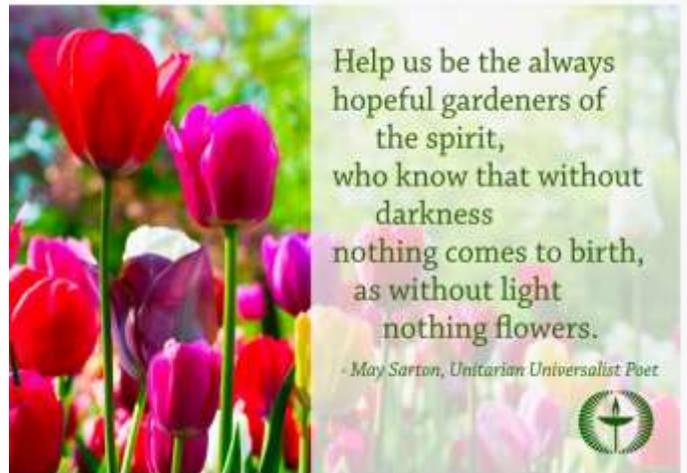
[www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org](http://www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org)

[allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com)

The Reverend Joanna Lubkin, Minister  
The Reverend Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita  
Jacob Clapper, Musical Director  
Cheri Krueger, Office Administrator  
Maggy Evans, Social Media Coordinator, Webmaster

## *The Chimes* May 2021 Newsletter

Service takes place Sunday morning live **online on Zoom** at 10:30 am followed by fellowship at an informal online coffee hour. Service can also be accessed by phone. Instructions are given below. Our weekly order of service is shown on screen at the beginning of each service and posted on our website and Facebook a few days beforehand. Sunday services are recorded and posted on our YouTube channel for viewing any time.



Join us for Sunday Service live online at 10:30 am. We continue to use the Zoom online platform due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and recommendations for in-person gatherings. Everyone is welcome. <https://zoom.us/j/96571006038>

To attend a Sunday Service, meeting, or connection circle, we use the same link to connect on [Zoom](https://zoom.us/j/96571006038). By using Zoom, we can see one another's faces and hear each other's voices (you can choose to participate off-camera if you wish).  
<https://zoom.us/j/96571006038>

If the technology is a barrier, you can call in by phone instead of connecting by computer or tablet by calling 646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID : 965 7100 6038

If you have any difficulty joining Sunday service, please contact the office and someone will help you. Recorded services may be viewed on our YouTube channel any time at <https://tinyurl.com/AllSoulsServices>

## Service Themes

Service theme for the month of May: *What does it mean to be a people of Story?*

### **May 2: "Springtime of Life" Lay-Led Service**

This lay-led service honors May Day and Beltane, celebrating the arrival of spring. We will be reflecting on the times that have felt like "the springtime of our life"- encouraging us to recapture those feelings.

Please think on an intention or wish that you may have for yourself for the next several months to share in chat or in silent thought. Thanks to Alicia Jaromin for crafting this service!



### **May 9: Virtual Field Trip to First Church in Jamaica Plain Rev. Elizabeth Bukey preaches**

We start in our own Zoom room at 10:30 for a time of check-ins, then head over to First Church in Jamaica Plain's service at 11. After their visit to our service in March, this is a lovely chance to experience their service as well as to continue building connections with our Greater Boston UU neighbors. The First Church JP service will happen at 11am here: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/190035147>

### **May 16: The Stories Which Live In Us Rev. Joanna Lubkin preaches**

The stories we read and re-read (or watch and re-watch) help shape who we are and how we understand the world. What are the fictional universes that you have spent time in, that continue to live on in you?

### **May 23: I Am From... Rev. Joanna Lubkin preaches**

Bring paper and a pen to this interactive service, in which Reverend Jo helps us reflect on all of the particulars and peculiarities of the cultures we were raised in, including its sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and lingo.

## May 30: "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story"

Rev. Joanna Lubkin preaches

This Memorial Day weekend is also the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre, sometimes known as the Tulsa Race Riots. Together, we will explore whose stories get told (as the Hamilton quote in the sermon title highlights) when we learn about history, and how that helps or hinders our work toward building a more just and equitable world.

### Message from the Minister

With the amazing milestone this past month of vaccine eligibility opening up to everyone living in Massachusetts, our towns and our organizations are all trying to figure out what our daily lives can look like safely. Our Unitarian Universalist congregations hope to create pathways to reopening our church buildings that are safe, equitable, accessible, and follow the lead of science -- while also keeping us closely connected. No small feat!



Our All Souls Church Board of Trustees and the Sunday Service and Music Committee have already begun brainstorming and learning about practices for post-pandemic church life. What I can say definitively so far is that we miss each other and our church building, and we are also committed to protecting each other's safety and well-being. As we continue to develop our plans, church activities will continue to be on Zoom for the time being. We are also exploring an outdoor, in person gathering sometime in June -- stay tuned for details on that.

We have been so grateful that Zoom has allowed us to connect with people across distance, and we want to make sure that when we gather again in person, we continue to have an online option for participation in church activities. You may hear this referred to as hybrid worship or multiplatform worship -- basically, the idea is that people can still participate through Zoom or another website in church services and activities alongside those gathered in person. This is something hundreds of congregations are all figuring out, and several church leaders and I are attending workshops on best practices, technological options, and creative ideas to make this work easily.

There are two great ways to get involved in helping us plan for being back in or outside of our church building. First, if you have some technical skills, a few of us will be starting on the project of making sure we have the internet capabilities and equipment we need in the building to do multiplatform services. Please let me know if you are willing to work with me on that project, likely starting in late May. Second, the Board and I discussed forming a reopening task force, a small group of folks willing to devote some energy to researching and articulating a plan for the church to regather safely. If you have the time and interest to help think through what it will take to bring us safely together again, you can [contact me](#) or [Joe Maloney](#).

Finally, I would be happy to hear from each one of you. What are your thoughts on being back in our church building? What are your worries and hopes? What would it take for you

to feel comfortable? Do you imagine yourself connecting through the internet options once we have multiplatform capabilities set up?

With joy at the prospect of connecting in new ways, appreciation for our commitment to keeping each other safe, and great love for all of you,

Rev. Jo | [Minister.AllSouls@gmail.com](mailto:Minister.AllSouls@gmail.com) or 781-428-4606

### **Community Conversation #3: Skills for Community Care Saturday, May 8 from 2-4 pm with Devin Shmueli**

Guest facilitator Devin Shmueli (who preached at All Souls in December about mental health) joins us to help us grow our skills in supporting one another through particularly hard times. We plan to cover basics about mental health topics such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and experiences like grief and loss. This will be part Devin teaching, part congregants sharing their own wisdom and lived experiences. Please join us for this important workshop and conversation, even if you weren't at the previous two community conversations.

## **Development**

On Saturday night, March 20, 2021, the All Souls Church Development Committee held a Game & Trivia Night virtually from 7 to 9 pm. Alicia Jaromin organized and hosted all of the games and trivia. Everyone who joined the family friendly activity seemed to have fun. Thank you to Alicia for sharing her joy, enthusiasm and always her technical skills. We truly appreciate all of the time and energy she put towards making this such an enjoyable event.



**We hope to have a virtual Talent Night on Saturday, May 22 at 7 pm if enough people are interested in participating. What is your hidden or known talent?**

Music, storytelling, poetry, dancing, comedy, trivia, cooking demo, quick craft demo, etc. It can be live or pre-recorded - and needs to be family friendly.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please [contact Sandra Lingley](#) or 857-231-0495

If you have any technical questions, please [contact Alicia Jaromin](#)

The **Development Committee will meet next on Wednesday, May 5 at 7 pm.** If you are interested in this event, have ideas for another event, or would just like to find out more about the Development Committee, please join us!

## From the Board of Trustees



<https://wallsdesk.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/happy-mothers-day-image.jpg>

Save the date: Sunday, June 6 is our Annual Meeting beginning at 11:45. The meeting is being held virtually and requires at least 20 active members to attend to meet our bylaws.

A note on General Assembly: this year's gathering is being conducted 100 % virtually online beginning Wednesday, June 23 to Sunday, June 27. If any member would like to be a delegate, please [contact Joseph Maloney](#) for how to receive credentials in order to vote on General Assembly business agenda items or motions during General Sessions.

Registration is required for all participants and more information can be found at <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

For more information on the schedule and events taking place, please visit <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/schedule>.

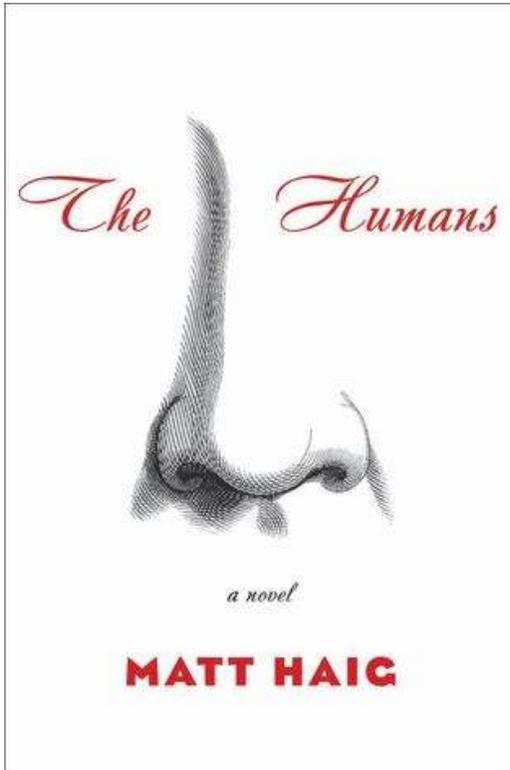
Now for an update on our Preservation Project: things are moving along at a rapid pace. The window repairs are almost done and, within a couple of weeks, should be put back in place. The chimney has been taken down and will take approximately two to four more weeks to be reconstructed.

Thank you very much to the All Souls Church Team for their continued support with this project.

The next **Board of Trustees meeting is Monday, May 17 at 6:30 pm** online. If you have any questions, please feel free to [contact Joseph Maloney](#), Chairperson, or [Ross Edwards](#), Vice Chairperson.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Maloney, Chairperson of the Board  
Ross Edwards, Vice Chairperson of the Board

## Book Group



On **Tuesday, May 4 at 7 pm** on Zoom, we will discuss *The Humans*, by Matt Haig, published in 2014. Plot summary: “Regarding humans unfavorably upon arriving on Earth, a reluctant extraterrestrial assumes the identity of a Cambridge mathematician before realizing that there’s more to the human race than he suspected.” “The ever-imaginative Haig has created an extraordinary alien sensibility and, though writing with a serious purpose (the future is at stake), has great good fun with the being’s various eyebrow-raising blunders as he struggles to emulate human behavior. Haig strikes exactly the right tone of bemusement, discovery, and wonder in creating what is ultimately a sweet-spirited celebration of humanity and the trials and triumphs

of being human. The result is a thought-provoking, compulsively readable delight.” Booklist quoted by Amazon.com This book is available in several formats, including paperback.

The Book Discussion Group’s June selection is *The Rose Code*, by Kate Quinn. Goodreads writes, “The New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of *The Huntress* and the *Alice Network* returns with another heart-stopping World War II story of three female code breakers at Bletchley Park and the spy they must root out after the war is over.” Bletchley Park was a British government cryptological establishment in operation during World War II where Alan Turing and other agents decoded the enemy’s secret messages. Britannica.com This book is a 2021 release and is available in several formats, including paperback.

Join the Zoom conversation about **The Humans on Tuesday, May 4 at 7 pm.**  
Join the Zoom conversation about **The Rose Code on Tuesday, June 1 at 7 pm.**



## Connection Circles

Every week there are two opportunities for you to connect with other people on Zoom for conversation and community. Our meetings last for one hour and are confidential and very supportive. We always begin with time for each person to “check in” with how they are doing, or what’s on their mind, but doing so is always optional.

**Mid-Day Meet-up: Every Monday afternoon at 3:30 pm**, the conversation usually evolves informally. Like many conversations, we never quite know what topic will pop up. We might wander from sharing suggestions for books, movies and TV shows, to cleaning tips for your microwave! Sometimes a serious or personal topic springs from our initial check-ins, and group members become compassionate listeners.

**Friday Coffee Hour: Every Friday morning at 10:00 am**, we build more structure into our conversation. After brief check-ins, volunteers from the group present something to focus the direction of the discussion that they have prepared in advance. In April we got some laughs from Deb's trivia offering in which we guessed the purpose of a variety of unfamiliar objects. Her second effort for us, Deb has a real knack for creating engaging and entertaining trivia activities. In honor of National Poetry Month, we devoted the next two weeks to sharing poems that move us. We try to set the topic at least a week in advance, so check your Monday e-mail blast to see what Friday's theme will be.

Those who attend these groups have frequently said that the Connection Circles help them feel less isolated. Please come as you are able as we grow our community and stay connected!

Mary Mitchell, Mid-week Connection Circle Coordinator

## Social Action

The All Souls Social Action and Environment Committee (SAEC) will be **meeting Tuesday, May 11 at 7 pm** to review its work for the past year, or so, and look to the work ahead. The meeting will be on the All Souls zoom and everyone interested in the work of our community in our wider community is welcome to participate.

George Goss, 781 690 7268, Agdgs@aol.com.



## Spiritual Writing Group

All Souls Writing Group will **meet Wednesday, May 26, at 4 pm** to discuss a new approach to how the writing group will function. As of the end of May, I will no longer lead the writing group.

I am honored to have served as leader these past three years; I looked forward to every meeting. I have been inspired by the writing efforts and the in-depth ideas put forth in our discussions.

During the May meeting, changes will be discussed and approved by the members, and will include a review of options regarding leadership. I send a heartfelt thank you to the members of the Writing Group for their friendship and support.

Warm regards,  
Diane Doucette



## From the Treasurer

The theme of this year's Stewardship Season at All Souls Church is "Loved Into Being". The Board of Trustees invites us to celebrate the heart of our church, honoring the ways that the strength of our community lies in the love we create now and in the future, building on the love of those that have come before us. Four video testimonials contributed by our members and friends on Easter Sunday attested to the powerful, positive impact our church has had the lives of many of us.

Stewardship Season Update: As of this writing, 20 pledge units have committed to contribute a total of \$43,788 to next year's church year. The good news is that those pledge units have increased the aggregate amount of their pledges from last year by \$2,200. The bad news is that we are still \$6,200 shy of the \$50,000 we are hoping to raise.

Last year our pledges amounted to a high (in my tenure as Treasurer) of \$51,880 from 30 pledge units. If you are a regular pledger, or a "wanna-be" pledger who has not yet submitted an "Estimate of Giving" form, please make it a priority to do so today! Every gift is important!

When you go on record with your "Estimate of Giving," our leadership will be able to generate a realistic plan and budget for the coming year. A first draft of the budget has been provided to the Board of Trustees for their review in the near future. Unfortunately, our best estimates of next year's revenue and expenses project a shortfall in the vicinity of at least \$16,000.

This community relies upon your steadfast generosity so that we can fairly compensate our wonderful staff and insure, maintain and preserve our stately, historic building. The unforeseen challenges before us make your continued contributions an important and appreciated element of our community's financial health. Thank you for being as generous as you can be to help sustain and develop this beloved community.

A virtual Budget Hearing has been scheduled on Sunday, May 16 at 11:45 am, directly after the Sunday service. Please plan to attend this virtual meeting to expand our collective understanding of our financial health, which contributes to the vitality of our church. [Downloadable Estimate of Giving Form](#)

## June Chimes Deadline

Deadline for submissions to the June Chimes is **Friday, May 28**. Please note that the monthly deadline is the fourth Friday of the month. Email submissions to [Maggy](#). Weekly email news is sent out each Monday morning and the deadline for submissions is mid-day on Sunday. If submitting a word file, please use Century Gothic font size 12. If you have images to share, please also attach as separate files in jpeg or png format if possible. I check my email several times a day and you can reach out to me by text if need be. The number is in our member directory. Thank you.

Maggy

## Notice of Annual Meeting

ALL SOULS CHURCH OF BRAINTREE  
Unitarian Universalist  
Elm and Church Streets  
P.O. Box 850219  
Braintree, MA 02185-0219  
(781) 843-1388



### **Annual Meeting Warrant**

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church  
Braintree, MA  
May 1, 2021

You are hereby informed that the Annual Meeting of All Souls Church of Braintree, Massachusetts, will be held electronically via ZOOM on Sunday, June 6, 2021, at 11:45 am to act upon the following articles:

Article I Presentation of Annual Reports of Officers, Committees, Organizations, the Minister and action thereon.

Article II Adoption of a budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022

Article III Election of Officers and Committee Chairs

Article IV Any other business that legally may come before the meeting.

Diana Althouse, Clerk

*Diana Althouse*

All Souls Church



All Souls Church  
P.O. Box 850219  
Braintree, MA 02185-0219

## *The Chimes May 2021 Newsletter* *All Souls Church of Braintree*

**Calendar Highlights – read this newsletter for all the details**

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

Sunday Service: Sundays at 10:30 am  
Annual Report Submission Deadline: Saturday, May 1  
Book Group: Tuesday, May 4 at 7 pm  
Development Committee: Wednesday, May 5 at 7 pm  
Community Conversation: Saturday, May 8 from 2 to 4 pm  
Social Action Committee: Tuesday, May 11 at 7 pm  
Board of Trustees: Monday, May 17 at 6:30 pm  
Sunday Service and Music Committee: Thursday, May 20 at 5:30 pm  
Talent Night: Saturday, May 22 at 7 pm  
Writing Group: Wednesday, May 26 at 4 pm  
May Chimes Monthly Newsletter Deadline: Friday, May 28  
Connection Circle Open Chat: Mondays at 3:30 pm  
Connection Circle Directed Conversation: Fridays at 10 am







