



The Chimes

November Newsletter 2019

Rev. Joanna Lubkin, Minister
 Rev. Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita
 Jacob Clapper, Music Director
 Cheri Krueger, Administrative Assistant
 Maggy Evans, Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator
 allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com www.allsoulsbraintree.org 781-843-1388
 Office hours are usually Mondays 10-2; Saturday hours vary. If you need to stop
 by the office, please call ahead to be certain someone will be there to meet you.

All are Welcome to our Services, Events and Meetups.

Service is Sundays at 10:30 am, followed by food and fellowship at an informal coffee hour. Children join us for service and there are special areas for them in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall. We are a welcoming congregation and our building is handicap accessible. Assistive listening devices are available during service.

Please sign up to help with hospitality.

All who attend coffee hour are asked to bring a 'finger food' to share, if possible. Volunteers for setup and cleanup are needed; you do not have to do both on the same day. We ask that you choose a Sunday when you can help make our coffee hour run smoothly and sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall. Please speak to Joe Maloney if you have any questions.

**Reminder: Turn your clocks back and check smoke detectors
 on Sunday November 3 at 2 am**



November Sunday Services

November's Theme: What does it mean to be a people of attention?

Sunday, November 3: "Being Good Ancestors" with Rev. Joanna Lubkin

How do we honor those who have come before us? How can we live our own lives so we are becoming good ancestors? Through wisdom stories and a time of reflection, we explore both our personal calls and the legacies we are building as a congregation.

Sunday, November 10: "Singing the Living Tradition" with our lay worship leaders

To the tune of "My Favorite Things":

"We like Spirit of Life or We Gather Together,

Blue Boat Home or Love Will Guide Us,

Rounds or chants thrill and fill us with glee --

These are a few of our favorite hymns!"

Join us as some of our lay leaders reflect on their favorite hymns (or readings) in our hymnals, turning our attention to those words and songs that move us most.

Sunday, November 17: "29 Gifts" with Rev. Joanna Lubkin

Are we turning our attention to what we have to contribute or what we lack (or fear we'll lack)? We'll explore how giving, especially in our hardest, darkest, and scarce-ist times, may be just the practice to draw our energy back out into the world.

Sunday, November 24: "Forest Bathing" with guest preacher, Rabbi Yaakov 'Trek' Reef

We have so much for which to be grateful. But sometimes we have trouble 'seeing the forest for the trees'. Today, we'll explore the modern Japanese practice of 'shinrin-yoku' - literally, forest bathing - and how we might integrate some of these practices into our own lives as we learn to pay closer attention to what the forest is trying to teach us about gratitude.

A Message from the Minister

A Message from the Minister: A People of Attention

*"Miracles ... seem to me to rest not so much
upon ... healing power coming suddenly near us from afar
but upon our perceptions being made finer,
so that, for a moment, our eyes can see and our ears can hear
what is there around us always."*

-Willa Cather, Death Comes for the Archbishop

Where do you put your attention? On the crisp and glorious fall day, or stuck in traffic, or interacting with a loved one, or while sipping your morning coffee?

I love this month's theme: What does it mean to be a people of attention? It reminds me, like the quote above from the novelist Willa Cather, that we have a conscious choice in what we notice and appreciate. Our days are full of good things and bad things, beauty and despair, gratitude and exasperation. All of these are worthy of acknowledgement. But what we feed grows; where we place our attention is where we put our energy.

One way to turn up the volume on the positive in our own lives is a simple, end-of-the-day practice: Three Good Things. Before bed, each night for two weeks, ask yourself, "What were three things that went well today, or three things I'm grateful for from this day?" Write down your answers, taking a moment to reflect on each one. I've been impressed with how quickly this transforms the quality of my days; I fall asleep with more peace and am primed throughout the day to look for what is good, which changes how I interact with people around me, which changes how they interact back, which creates more good things ... It's a lovely cycle. I invite you to try the Three Good Things practice with me, and tell me how it goes for you.

Rev. Joanna Lubkin

Board of Trustees

The fall goes by so quickly and as the leaves turns bright colors, we are well into the Dickens Festival season planning mode. This fun event is contingent on everyone's help. We are asking you to find what aspect of the fair excites you and volunteer as you can. Please sign up on the sheets in the parish hall during coffee hour or let Joe Maloney know how you can help. It is very helpful (and less stressful for the organizers) to know who they can count on.

We met with the Braintree Community Preservation Committee on October 21 to present our grant application to help fund some needed exterior structure restoration and preservation of our building. After a fruitful discussion, we were asked to work with one of the commission's members to revise our application which would be taken up again in November. This is not an unusual or unexpected outcome. We will keep you apprised of the efforts of the task force to secure such funding.

At the Board of Trustees meeting on October 21, we heard a report from the task force of Mary Mitchell, Maureen Crimmins, and Joyce Albrecht regarding personnel polices/issues for our part time employees including our minister. They are still exploring some financial matters regarding retirement contributions responsibility. We also agreed to participate in and fund payments for the Paid Family and Medical Leave beginning in January 2020.

With warm regards

Linda Steiner and Joe Maloney

Membership

Sunday, November 3 at 11:45 AM in the Parish Hall - Coffee Hour Conversation on Welcome, Hospitality, and Inclusion



Join Rev. Jo and the membership team for an open, reflective, action-oriented conversation on how we experience welcome, hospitality, and inclusion in our community and how we might keep growing our welcome. We'd love perspectives from old-timers and newcomers alike!

We are very encouraged to see new faces and old friends join us for Sunday Services as we start our new journey with Reverend Joanna. As seekers and neighbors from nearby churches enjoy our community, we thank you all for extending yourself to be so inclusive and living our principles.

The next month's discussions will include how we can welcome newcomers who are members at other UU churches, and how we can facilitate a group of visitors into persons interested in becoming members.

If you have an interest in hosting gatherings in your home (Quincy did it this way), please let me know. I found this to be an intimate experience providing members additional comfortable and cozy opportunities to get to know each other better.

Do members ever wear their UU (chalice symbol) pin? I often wear mine, which serves as a nice icebreaker when people ask me about it.

Membership Chair, Lauren

Children's Program

The homeschool co-op kids have finished building a little free library for the church. I just need to weather stain the wood before it is installed. John Cobble will speak with the Board about the best location for it; and I will provide the parts and labor for the installation.



I have registered the library with littlefreelibrary.org and it should show up on their map by next week. Danielle is arranging a date for the library to be officially presented to the congregation.

Kevin McKenna

Book Group

The next All Souls Book Discussion Group meets Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 7 pm in the Elliott Room.

For our November gathering, we have chosen to read and discuss *The Wright Brothers*, by David McCullough, a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize. In this book, he tells the story behind the story about the courageous brothers who taught the world to fly – Wilbur and Orville Wright. Far more than bicycle mechanics, they were men of exceptional courage and determination, intellectual interests and ceaseless curiosity. McCullough draws on the Wright Papers, including diaries, notebooks, scrapbooks and correspondence, to show the human side of the men.

The December book selection is *Evening Class*, by Maeve Binchy. From the Amazon.com review – “Maeve Binchy can always be counted on to spin an involving tale about ordinary people that brings out the extraordinary in everyone. In *Evening Class* Binchy zooms in on the working-class of Dublin. Schoolteacher Aidan Dunne organizes an evening class in Italian with the help of Nora O’Donoghue, an Irishwoman returning home after 26 years in Sicily. When the somewhat squashed-by-life denizens of the surrounding neighborhood take the unexpected step of enrolling in the class, they find their lives transformed. Binchy tells her story from the viewpoints of eight different characters and rewards both them and her readers with happy endings after the requisite rocky road.”

All are welcome to join us for light snacks and conversation.
Jane Fogg for the Book Discussion Group.

Social Action/Environmental Committee

The Social Action and Environmental Committee will meet Tue., 11/12/19 at 7:15 PM in the Eliot Room. Our open meetings generally last about an hour. In this coming meeting, one thing we will be discussing is the organizing of several one-hour discussions of the Unitarian Universalist Statement of Conscience - Our Democracy Uncorrupted. We are hoping to hold discussions at different times, at All Souls and other churches, so that anyone interested will be able to attend one of them. Currently we see the first two weeks in November and first two weeks in December as times available to hold them.

Our intention is to make it possible for everyone interested to be able to read the Statement, available Sundays, and take part in a discussion of this serious document. In early January we are aiming to hold a discussion conference that we hope will include other churches and organizations, using discussion of what our society faces to make some proposals, for those interested and willing, as to what we need to be doing, putting our faith into one or two projects aimed at building democracy.

If you have questions, suggestions, or know of a church or organization that might take part, please contact me,

George Goss, Chair SAEC, 781 769 6574, Agdgs@aol.com.

The Social Action and Environmental Committee will again coordinate holiday gift giving. This year we will donate the items to Toys for Tots, a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for the holidays. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks. There is no sign up necessary. Simply bring an unwrapped toy or game to the church by Dec 8 as they need to be to the collection site by Dec 13.

Writing Group

The Writing Group will not meet in November due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
Happy Thanksgiving
Diane Doucette

Dickens Festival 25th Anniversary

We're here! Thank you very much to everyone who has attended the planning meetings and volunteered to help lead and support the various areas.

This is the biggest fundraiser in the church year and we still need more volunteers to make this historic event happen.

Please look for signup sheets in the Parish Hall and find below a list of activities and times to volunteer and donate.

Any questions can be directed to [Joseph Maloney](#), Dickens Festival Coordinator.

Sincerely, Joe

From the Kitchen

Please bring your donations of turkey breasts and other items for the kitchen by Sunday, November 17th.

Please bring your pie-making supplies (e.g. pie crusts and apples) to the church by Sunday, November 17th.

Pies will be assembled and baked on Thursday morning, November 21st.

The church will be open from 10 am to 5 pm on Wednesday, November 20th if you still need to drop off apples.

Please bring your donation of home-baked goods NO LATER THAN 7 PM FRIDAY, November 22nd.

Any frozen items (e.g. turkeys) can be brought in and placed in the freezer beginning now!

Please put your name on your donated item to help us keep track of donations.

~ Tom Bularzik

Great Expectations

Donations for the Great Expectations table can be brought in anytime starting now and left on the stage in the Parish Hall.

Dickens Festival Schedule

Sunday, November 3- Dickens Planning Meeting at 12:15 pm

Saturday, November 16- decorating the church for the festival beginning at 2 pm until finish. Snacks will be provided.

Pricing of donations for Great Expectations TBA

Wednesday, November 20- cooking of the turkeys beginning at 10 am

Thursday, November 21- making and baking of pies beginning at approximately 9 am

Friday, November 22- set up of Parish Hall in the evening-time TBA

drop off of bake table donations until 7 pm

cutting and carving of turkeys beginning at 12 noon and making stuffing

Artisan set up in sanctuary- 5 to 9 pm

Leadership for above schedule-

Kitchen: Tom Bularzik and/or Roger Hatch

Bake table: Kathy Pearce

Great Expectations: Joyce Albrecht & Kevin Driscoll

Artisan setup in sanctuary: Mary Mitchell

Pie making and baking: Ross Edwards

Church decorating: Joe Maloney

All Souls Church of Braintree
Unitarian Universalist
 196 Elm Street
 P.O. Box 850219
 Braintree, MA 02185-0219

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196 Elm Street Braintree, MA
 781 843-1388 www.allsoulsbraintree.org

Calendar Highlights

Coffee Hour Conversation on welcome, hospitality, and inclusion
 Dickens Planning Meeting, Sunday November 3 at 12:15 pm
 Drumming, Sunday November 3 at 7 pm
 Book Group, Tuesday November 5 at 7 pm
 Home School Co-op, Thursday 9:30 to 11:30 am November 7, 14
 Gay Men's Discussion Group, Thursday November 7, 21 at 7:30 pm
 South Shore Singing Meditation, Monday November 11 at 7 pm
 Social Action/Environmental Committee, Tuesday November 12 at 7:15 pm
 Church Decorating, Saturday November 16 beginning at 2 pm
 Board of Trustees, Monday November 18 at 7 pm
 Dickens Festival Prep is November 18 through November 22
 Dickens Festival, November 23 10 am to 3 pm