



The Chimes

November Newsletter 2020

Rev. Joanna Lubkin, Minister
 Rev. Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita
 Jacob Clapper, Music Director
 Cheri Krueger, Office Administrator allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com
 Maggy Evans, Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator ascbraintree@gmail.com
www.allsoulsbraintree.org 781-843-1388

**Reminder: Turn your clocks back and check smoke detectors
 on Sunday November 1 at 2 am**



November Sunday Services – the Theme is Healing

November 1, 2020: Grounding in Anxious Times

Rev. Joanna Lubkin

This Sunday before the election, we explore spiritual practices to help us through anxious times.

November 8, 2020: Keeping Hope

Rev. Joanna Lubkin

In what do we place our hope? Whether we arrive at this Sunday feeling relieved, scared, or still on pins and needles about the state of the world, we take this time to find hope in each other.

November 15, 2020: Now What?

Rev. KC Slack, Guest Minister

In the wake of an important election, we gather to center ourselves in values and ask a vital question: what's next?

Rev. KC Slack is a Unitarian Universalist minister working at the horizons of art, gender, justice, and pastoral care. Their work is infused with beauty and boldness, with a focus on growing resilient communities with honesty and inclusion. They are the universe perpending itself in the mode of causal efficacy, they are glitter incarnate. Currently they wear several hats, serving as the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills, a facilitator and educator with the non-profit organization More Than Sex-Ed, and guest preaching wherever and whenever possible.

November 22, 2020: Receiving Our Blessings

Rev. Joanna Lubkin

This Thanksgiving week -- which may look strange to us this year -- is an excellent time to turn our hearts toward gratitude. We will take some time this Sunday to both acknowledge the things that are hard and strange, as well as to receive the blessings surrounding us.

November 29, 2020: Community Sunday

Led by the Sunday Service & Music Committee

This lay-led, interactive service will invite us to reflect together and connect across distance.

Sunday Services and all meetings are being held on Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/96571006038>

If the technology is a barrier, you can call in **by phone at 646-876-9923**
and enter **Meeting ID: 965 7100 6038**

A Message from the Minister

Dear ones,

It's hard to go a day without the election on my mind -- you too? I know I've been feeling a swirling mix of hope, fear, anxiety, invigoration, disbelief, and resolve. How will voting go? When will we know the results? What will happen on the streets? Will there be a peaceful transition of power? So many questions I never imagined myself seriously considering in our democracy. And yet.

By far, the most helpful thing we can do to combat election anxiety is to take action, however small, toward building the world we want to see. In October, every time I felt a surge of election dread or fear, I logged into a text-banking website or pulled out another Get Out The Vote postcard and hand-wrote it with care. The most hopeful I've felt was when my housemate and I attended online training with [Election Defenders](#) to volunteer at the polls, making sure everyone has access to safe and reliable voting, and learning de-escalation techniques in case things get heated. I'm still nervous about how it will all go, but knowing I have roles to play helps.

There are so many amazing organizations out there working to protect our democracy and provide support around the elections. I want to share just a few from our little UU universe (UUuniverse?) that can offer both ways to get involved as well as spiritual grounding during that anxious election week.

- uuthevote.org/defend-our-elections has a great list of resources for getting out the vote, protecting the elections, and responding to what may come after
- [10 Things You Need to Know to Stop a Coup](#) from Waging Nonviolence (Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie [preached a whole sermon about this](#) at Arlington Street Church on 10/18)
- Tuesday, November 3 from 10 AM - 10 PM, drop in to [Spiritual Grounding for Election Day](#) for some comfort and companionship
- Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30 PM - I'll be co-leading a service with Matt Meyer at [The Sanctuary Boston](#), which will offer some space to process and re-orient. (You may hear some of the readings or songs again at All Souls on Sunday, 11/8)
- Thursday, November 5 at 8 PM, the UUA is hosting a [Post-Election Vigil and Community Gathering](#)

Beloveds, take care of your spirits, too. Here are two songs I offer with love to tend your hearts: ["Breathe and Push" by Zo Tobi](#) and ["Keep Going" by the](#)

[Bengsons](#), danced by Sarah Goeke and Travis Staton Marrero. Reach out to me any time and let me know how you're doing.

Yours in hope and in democracy,
Rev. Jo

Anti-Racism Connection Circles with Rev. Jo

Two drop-in connection circles in November and December will offer a chance to reflect on racial justice -- come to either or both sessions. Starting in January, Rev. Jo will facilitate a small group that will meet over six sessions to go deeper into our anti-racism understandings and actions. Stay tuned for more info!

Nov 12, 6:30-8 PM - Anti-Racism Connection Circle: Drop-in Session #1

"How to Overcome Our Biases? Walk Boldly Toward Them" by Vernā Myers

We'll watch, discuss, and reflect on this TED Talk by Vernā Myers: "Our biases can be dangerous, even deadly — as we've seen in the cases of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner, in Staten Island, New York. Diversity advocate Vernā Myers looks closely at some of the subconscious attitudes we hold toward out-groups. She makes a plea to all people: Acknowledge your biases. Then move toward, not away from, the groups that make you uncomfortable. In a funny, impassioned, important talk, she shows us how."

Dec 10, 6:30-8 PM - Anti-Racism Connection Circle: Drop-in Session #2

Dickens Festival Update



As you know, we are not able to hold our traditional Dickens Festival Holiday Craft Fair (our most important fundraiser of the year) at the church this year due to Covid-19. Reluctant to relinquish the opportunity to spread good will and good cheer, we have taken as many of the components of the Dickens Festival as we can and brought them online.

Visit our [Dickens Festival Online Holiday Fair](#) website to see what we have planned! You can order wreaths and holiday greens shipped direct to your door and some of our Artisans are promoting their items on our website. Our apple pies, homemade cookies and fudge will be available for delivery in the Braintree area (*see list of towns below) and we have some great raffle prizes available. One \$20 chance enters you in the drawings for each of these prizes including a watercolor print and a driftwood-framed mirror created by Michael Domina, Mass. Lottery scratch tickets with a face value of \$50, ceramics, and gift cards.

On Saturday, November 21, we have some live online activities planned 11-2. Father Christmas will join us from the North Pole to hear your holiday wishes. We will have music from Jacob Clapper and Peter Freisinger's orchestra, Sarah Ellstrom will share a cooking video, and Rev Joanna will be singing Christmas Carols. We will hear *A Christmas Carol* and *The Night Before Christmas*



WATERCOLOR PRINT "Awaiting Amadeus", 16x20, BY MICHAEL DOMINA VALUED AT \$150
DRIFTWOOD MIRROR 19x19, BY MICHAEL DOMINA VALUED AT \$125

How you can help:

We need volunteers and monetary donations for Dickens pies. We will gather in the parish hall and kitchen at 2:00 pm on Friday, November 20, to peel apples and assemble 50 pies. We already have seven (7) volunteers; we need three or four more. SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE PARAMOUNT and is well planned for. We will work into the evening until we are done, hopefully by 9-10 pm. To volunteer, please email Diana Althouse (dianar9@comcast.net) or Ross Edwards (ross.b.edwards76@gmail.com).

In order to make it easier to get pie-making ingredients this year, we are asking for \$30.00 donations from 15 people to cover expenses, then our shopping team will buy the groceries. Please email [Diana](#), [Ross](#) or [Mary](#) to contribute.

Pies will be ordered through the Braintree Farmer's Market November 14-19 and will be delivered Saturday morning, November 21, by [Market2Day](#) from the Parish Hall. Look for Braintree Farmers Market in the app. Limited Delivery Area. *If you live in Braintree, Milton, Weymouth, Randolph, Hingham, Holbrook, or Quincy, PLEASE ORDER A PIE! It will be delivered right to your door. Pies can only be ordered using the [Market2Day](#) app. There is a \$35 minimum order that can be a combination of any of the offerings in this special holiday market, plus a delivery fee.

Here is a list of help we need:

1. 8-10 people to help make the pies (we will set up for social distancing) peel apples, make fillings, put on crusts, bake and box the pies on Friday, November 20th from 2pm until done
2. People to bake cookies at home and bring to church on Friday, November 20th AFTER 2 pm. We will provide cookie bags.
3. Donations of raffle items with a value of \$25.00 or more which must be brought to church on November 15th. (We need to know about any raffle donations and have pictures/descriptions by November 6).
4. 1 or 2 people to accept raffle donations on the 15th, to accept cookies and fudge on the 20th and to help Market2Day as they assemble orders on the 21st.
5. People to make fudge at home and bring to church on Friday, November 20th AFTER 2 pm.
6. Monetary donations.

We can only offer cookies for sale on the Market2Day app if we have several dozen of each kind of cookie (Chocolate chip preferred), and if we have enough fudge to offer. While we love selling a few dozen of many varieties of your delicious cookies, everything is different when it's not an in-person bake sale. So, we are asking that only one or two kinds of cookies are made. Please sign up and we will evaluate the situation as we near the ordering window.
SIGN UP ONLINE

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9AC29A7F8C07-dickens>

Treasurer's Report

I am glad to report that Church finances are stable at the moment. Cash flow has not been a problem to begin the year. Building use revenue is steady from Magic Years, Amy's Dance Dynamics and Market 2Day. The latter will continue to utilize our parish hall to prepare Braintree Farmers Market orders throughout the winter season!

Because of the challenges of doing so safely, we have not opened our church to evening self-help groups and the Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution that we will not open the building for celebrations of milestone events from outside the immediate church community.

I expect that church finances will become more challenging in 2021, when we will feel the pinch of reduced revenue from the Dickens Festival and building use. Thanks to those who are working to generate what revenue we can through our virtual Dickens Festival. Additionally, thanks to the many of you who have continued to send your pledge payments through the mail, and to those who have made additional gifts to the church over and above your pledges. You know who you are!

Our church community relies on everyone's contributions and there are several ways you can donate:

1. **Mail your check** payable to "All Souls Church" to my home address or to the church Post Office Box. Mailing it to my home is likely to get your check deposited in the bank more quickly, but either address will work.

Mary Mitchell
418 John Mahar Hwy, Unit 104
Braintree, MA 02184

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

2. **Set up a one-time or recurring payment through your bank account.**

Disbursements can be made via a check mailed to the church PO Box, or via a direct deposit to the church checking account. I can give you the church account number if you want to manage it that way. There is no fee for this method of payment.

3. **Donate on a one-time or recurring basis through PayPal.** You can access the donate button on the church website home page.

<https://www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org/> You have the option to make a payment through your PayPal account or your credit card. All Souls will be charged a fee for each transaction (2.9% + \$ 0.30). If you would like to use this payment method, please consider increasing the amount of your pledge so

that the church receives the full value of your pledge. You can also donate directly through your PayPal account to the church PayPal account at allsoulschurchbraintree@gmail.com.

4. **Donate with your credit card through Square.** At your request, I would send you an invoice which you would complete with your credit card info and amount and submit directly to Square. The fee for Square is 3.5% plus \$ 0.15. Again, if you choose this payment method, please consider increasing the amount of your pledge so that the church receives the full value of your pledge.

Please contact me if you have questions, suggestions, or need assistance putting any of these options into play. Thank you for supporting our community financially in these challenging times!

Mary Mitchell, Treasurer Maryalthea52-at-gmail-dot-com

Board of Trustees

Happy November! As we enter the holiday season, albeit different this time around, our church still continues to move forward. The Board of Trustees will be continuing their discussion about covenants; and the status of Sunday worship services in the new year will be taking place this month at the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting in conjunction with the Sunday Service and Music Committee.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on Monday, the 16th at 6:30 pm. All are welcomed to attend and please contact Ross Edwards or Joseph Maloney with any questions.

We wish you a safe and Happy Thanksgiving !

Respectfully yours,
Joseph Maloney, Chairperson of the Board
Ross Edwards, Vice Chairperson of the Board

Book Discussion Group

The November book is: *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende.
We will be discussing this book on Nov 3 at 7 pm.

If there is a region which understands the current anxiety in the United States over populist authoritarian regimes, manufactured coup d'états, the hope of resilience and the resilience of love, it is Latin America. Specifically, Chile.

And if there's a writer whose gifted stories are the mortar of tenacity linking our two continents, she is Isabel Allende. Her new book, *A Long Petal of the Sea* — translated by Nick Caistor and Amanda Hopkinson — is another gift of epic storytelling. Only this time, that gift isn't just a beautiful story well told. Now, it's the solace of wisdom when we need it most, wrapped in a love story which reminds us, as abiding love always does, that grace takes many forms — yet its core is not faith, but truth.

This story begins during the Spanish Civil War, and spans oceans and continents' worth of political upheaval. When Franco's fascists defeat the Republican army, an exodus of thousands escapes into France. One refugee is Roser, a young pianist, widowed and pregnant with her first child. The chances for her survival become complicated when her dead husband's brother Victor offers her an "opportunity:" Get married – though neither of them wants to – because it will improve their chances at survival.

December's book group will meet on Tuesday, December 1st at 7 pm on Zoom. In keeping with the holiday season, we will discuss Charles Dickens' 1859 novella, *A Christmas Carol*. Time.com reports that "Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* was an instant bestseller, followed by countless print, stage and screen productions. Victorians called it "a new gospel," and reading or watching it became a sacred ritual for many, without which the Christmas season cannot materialize." More interesting background info can be found at this link: <https://time.com/4597964/history-charles-dickens-christmas-carol/>

Writing Group

All Souls Writing Group will meet Wednesday, November 25 at 4 pm on Zoom. Our subject will be names and naming. All are welcome to join us for an interesting discussion on what's in a name.

Diane Doucette



Celebrate

the holiday season!

Dickens Festival Online Holiday Fair

<https://dickensfestival.weebly.com>

**SHOP ONLINE FOR WREATHS, HANDMADE ITEMS
AND ENTER OUR RAFFLE now to November 21**

**ORDER PIES, COOKIES & FUDGE FOR DELIVERY IN
BRAINTREE AREA with the market2Day app Nov
14-19 Delivery will be Saturday, November 21**

LIVE ONLINE EVENTS NOVEMBER 21 ON ZOOM

Father Christmas will join us from the North Pole to hear your holiday wishes. We will have music from Jason Clapper and Peter Freisinger's orchestra, Sarah Ellstrom will share a cooking video, and Rev Joanna will be singing Christmas Carols. 11 am to 2 pm



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

All Souls Church of Braintree – November 2020



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

Calendar Highlights – All on Zoom except for Dickens Festival prep

Sunday Service online at 10:30 am on Zoom
 Mid-week Meetup online Tuesdays at 3:30 pm – please note new time beginning in November
 Coffee Hour online Fridays at 10 am
 Dickens Planning Meeting after service online Sunday November 1
 Book Group online Tuesday November 3 at 7 pm
 Anti-racism Connection Circle online Thursday November 12 at 6:30 pm
 Board of Trustees online Monday November 16 at 6:30 pm
 Sunday Service and Music Committee online Thursday, November 19 at 5:30 pm
 Dickens Festival Prep is the week of November 15-20 please see inside for details
 Dickens Festival Online is ongoing with live events on November 21 11 to 2
 Writing Group online Wednesday November 25 at 4 pm
 December Chimes Deadline is Friday November 27