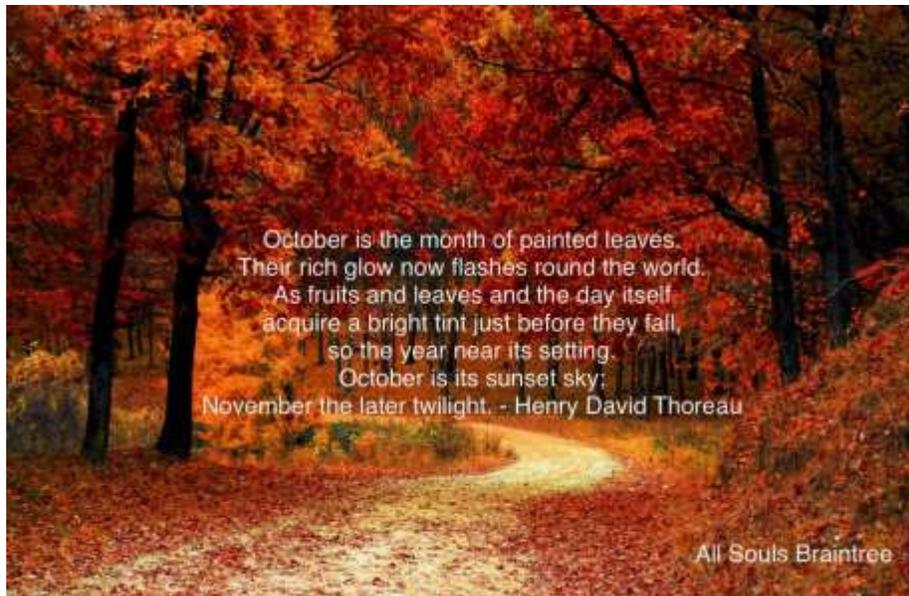




The Chimes

The Reverend Beau Rivers, Minister
The Reverend Meredith Anderson,
Minister Emerita
Jacob Clapper, Musical Director
Cheri Krueger, Office Administrator
allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com
Maggy Evans, Website and Social Media
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November 2022 Monthly Newsletter



October is the month of painted leaves.
Their rich glow now flashes round the world.
As fruits and leaves and the day itself
acquire a bright tint just before they fall,
so the year near its setting.
October is its sunset sky:
November the later twilight. - Henry David Thoreau

All Souls Braintree



November 6 at 2 am

Daylight Savings Time

Reminder: Turn your clocks back and check smoke detectors on Sunday November 6 at 2 am

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all persons as we engage in an ongoing search for truth and meaning. Whoever you are, whomever you love, however you inhabit your body, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome into the life of this beloved community at All Souls Braintree ...

Visitors are always welcome!

Service is Sundays at 10:30 am, followed by food and fellowship at an informal coffee hour. We are a welcoming congregation and our building is accessible. Assistive listening devices are available during service. 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. Sunday service is also live on Zoom and Facebook. The Zoom link for services is <https://zoom.us/j/96571006038>

If the technology is a barrier, you can call in by phone [646-558-8656](tel:646-558-8656) and enter Meeting ID: [965 7100 6038](https://zoom.us/j/96571006038)

Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/AllSo..>

Please sign up to help with hospitality.

Volunteers to bring refreshments, to make coffee, and for setup and cleanup are needed. We ask that you choose a Sunday when you can help make our coffee hour run smoothly and sign up below. <https://www.signupgenius.com/g...>

Sunday Services

NOVEMBER SERVICES 2022

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2022
River of Grass UU Church, Florida
Rev. Amy Carol Webb



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2022
Sweet Land of Liberty...
Rev. Beau Rivers

*How does the founding of our nation's history inform who we are today?
What are some of the myths that constitute American patriotism?
How do we begin telling the truth about our ancestors?*



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022
The Joy of Gratitude, Acknowledgment, and Reparation
Florence Caplow

As we, once again, approach Thanksgiving, we have an opportunity to look deeply at our relationship with Indigenous Peoples whose land we live upon.

And perhaps this is not only a responsibility, but a chance to connect with the joy of full acknowledgment, relationship, and reparation – to begin the healing repair of a wound that is not only “out there” in the world, but in our own hearts, subtle though it might be.

Rev. Florence Caplow is a Unitarian Universalist minister, a Zen priest and teacher, change coach, writer, and editor. She is a climate change activist who believes that engagement can help address our despair, and that the coming together of faith communities and indigenous communities could change the world.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022
Daring to Hope, Living Into the Dream
Rev. Beau Rivers

The journey of a lifetime begins with a single step.
A vision of hope guides our way until we are living the dream.
What do we wish for in our communal life at All Souls?
Who have we been? Who do we want to be?
How shall we set our intention?

Minister's Corner



Photo Credit: Glenna Barlow, Creative Commons, Flickr

November 2022

Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
Emily Brontë

Autumn is such a magical time when the
trees beckon me to come outside and play.
Inviting me to dance with the leaves
as they fall gracefully from the trees...

Breathing in the musk of Autumn soil
I fling my arms wide with face to the sky and
twirl amid the swirl of leaves about my feet.

Feasting my eyes upon their radiant colors,
Each tree blazes against the azure sky.
I pause to bask in their brilliance as they
rival the sun, even on the darkest of days.

Each leaf is like the last kiss of summer...
Creating a blanket of leaves to keep me
warm beneath the downy snow of winter.

Each season offers a different
kind of beauty for us to savor.
When all the leaves have fallen, we
enter a time of rest and regeneration

When we tell the stories of our ancestors
from seasons past and germinate
new ideas to emerge from the soil
of our communal lives in the spring.

This is our dreamtime...
by Rev. Beau Rivers

Our theme for this month is Change. There is no better reminder of change than Autumn. When I think of change within the context of our beloved community, I think of how we are presently exploring ways to preserve a future of All Souls Church on the South Shore. This month the Board and several lay leaders met with an organizational consultant to learn about what merger with another congregation might entail. We heard the story of how Temple Beth El of Quincy and Temple Shalom of Milton came together to form Temple Beth Shalom of Blue Hills. It was a privilege to bear witness to their story of transformation.

Since our meeting, I have come to realize, just like personal stories of transformation, no two stories of communal transformation are ever alike. In my experience, change is seldom ever tidy or predictable. There is no map or universal formulae for us to follow. We must follow our instincts, intuition, and hearts.

The story of All Souls Braintree will likely be different from the story of Temple Beth Shalom. Simply because one can never step in the same river twice (wisdom attributed to ancient Greek Philosopher, Heraclitus.). What we value from our history, what we envision for our future, and the opportunities that may present themselves to us will invariably be different.

To change who we are, personally or collectively, we must wrestle with who we have been and who we want to become. The process is difficult work that requires honesty, commitment, compassion, perseverance, and courage. There is truth in the story of Moses and the Israelites who wandered through the desert before they reached the promised land. There may be times when we might wish to turn back and remain the way we were. There is comfort in familiarity amid uncertainty. There may be times when we might doubt the outcome of the path we have chosen or when prospects don't turn out as we had hoped. There will also be moments of excitement, freedom, and new discoveries.

It is our covenant to love and support each other that will strengthen and renew our spirits as we imagine a new future for All Souls and explore a broad spectrum of ideas. We are only as limited as our collective imaginations. I am confident Love will guide us on this remarkable journey...

November is also a month filled with the joys and labors of our annual Dickens Festival at All Souls and I am very eager to experience it with you in-person this year!

Many Blessings On This Season of Thanksgiving,
Rev. Beau

Board of Trustees

As we move along through Autumn, your Board of Trustees has been working on numerous items and issues both short and long term. Prior to our regular monthly meeting, we met with a consultant who had assisted with the consolidation of two struggling congregations into one vibrant one. This was part of the Board's information gathering about potential future directions for All Souls. This process will be an ongoing one.

We reviewed the Covid protocol in light of multiple recent breakthrough

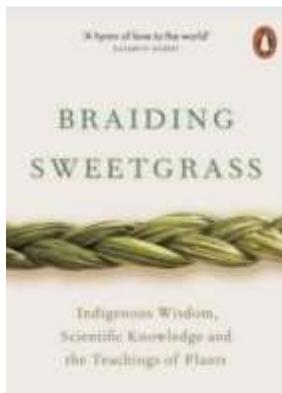
infections in our congregation. The stoplight protocol has been disseminated via email to members and we will continue to adhere to it. We did change the wording in the yellow protocol to “strongly encourage “use of masks when there have been positive members after an All Souls event.

We also discussed various signage around the church. Sandra and Lauren have selected and put up signage to encourage people to use hand sanitizer. The Wayside pulpit (which Linda and Mark Cozzens have tended to so well) is missing some letters and this limits what sayings can be displayed. An attempt will be made to obtain more but there are also some structural issues that will need to be addressed. We hope to have the signage with statements of our beliefs up soon.

Lin Steiner for the Board



Book Discussion Group



Plan to attend the Book Discussion Group Zoom gathering at 7 pm on Tuesday, November 1 for community and conversation.

Tuesday, November 1, 7 pm – Braiding Sweetgrass – by Robin Wall Kimmerer, botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. In keeping with honoring Indigenous People's Day, this is a collection of essays that the author describes as “an invitation to celebrate the gifts of the earth.” She also says “When we’re looking at things we cherish falling apart, when inequities and injustices are so apparent, people are looking for another way that we can be living. We need

interdependence rather than independence, and Indigenous knowledge has a message of valuing connection, especially to the humble." [Elisabeth Egan, NY Times, 2022/11/5]

This book's staying power is evidenced by the fact that it was first published in 2013, but first achieved the sales to earn the #14 spot on the NY Times Paper-back Nonfiction bestseller list on Feb 9, 2020. On this bestseller list for 131 weeks, it currently holds the #3 spot.

Tuesday, December 6, 7 pm. I Wrote this for You by Iain S Thomas. This unique book is divided into four parts: Sun, Moon, Stars, and Rain. It includes collections of photos, messages or poems that create a personal and powerful experience for many of its readers.

Plan to read it and then come share how the book affected you. If you are interested in the book, you are welcome to join in whether or not you have read it. Plan to attend on Zoom on Tuesday, November 8 and again at 7 pm on Tuesday, December 6.

For the Book Discussion Group,
Mary Mitchell



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. Your ideas for circle topics and/or your interest in presenting and leading a circle theme are welcome. The following topics have been chosen for November:

November 3 – An Article of Interest – We'll read and discuss together

November 10 – Post Election Day Confabulation – We'll share / reflect / mourn / rejoice to meet the needs of those assembled

November 17 - Book Series Recommendations – We'll continue with the second half of Donna's recommendations and welcome recommendations from participants

November 24 – THANKSGIVING DAY – NO CONNECTION CIRCLE

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

From the Treasurer

Thanks to all who continue to make their pledge payments, either by putting them in the mail, donating via direct deposit, PayPal, Square or by putting their payments in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Thanks also to those who have contributed to the Dickens Festival by writing an additional check, donating a raffle prize, or recruiting merchants and professionals to sponsor the event.

The continued financial support of our members and friends is a crucial factor for our survival. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you for the steadfast generosity that sustains this beloved community, enables us to fairly compensate our wonderful staff and to maintain, preserve and insure our stately, historic building.

With gratitude,

Mary Mitchell, Treasurer

Social Action

The next meeting of the Social Action and Environment Committee will be Tue., 11/08/22 at 7:15 pm.

Discussion will include:

Anything further on the collection and distribution of Christmas gifts for foster children.

Any reports on the work for the Fair Share amendment.

Beginning discussion of how the SAEC should direct its efforts in the coming year.

If you have any questions or suggestions on the work of the SAEC, please contact George Goss, chair.

Christmas Gift Giving

For the month of November and until December 11th, we will be collecting gifts for children in foster care with HopeWell in Taunton. Katie Weitbrecht (Diana Althouse's granddaughter) will be collecting gifts as part of her masters program in social work. A list will be sent out with the children's names, ages and what they would like. All donations should be brought to the church or dropped off at Diana's home by December 11th. The gifts should be unwrapped.



Thank you.

Membership and Engagement Committee

November is once again filled with excitement for the return of our beloved Dickens Festival. We have scheduled the following days of preparation where we are counting on as many members and friends as possible to help with the work and join in the fun of our largest annual fundraiser.

Friday Nov 4th Our 1st pie making day will go from 9 a.m. until finished.

Sunday Nov 13 We will decorate the church after the service.

Thursday Nov 17 Our 2nd pie making day will go from 9 a.m. until finished.

Friday Nov 18 In the afternoon, baked goods can be dropped off and the set-up of the parish hall will take place. Vendor check-in, and final bake table and raffle table set up will occur between 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday Nov 19 Vendor check-in resumes at 8 a.m.

Festival runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. including a 2:30 raffle drawing

We need help before, during, and after.

Saturdays Nov 26, Dec 3, Dec 10 early afternoon, ordered leftover baked goods pickup

Saturday Dec 17 A final baked goods pop up sale will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. followed by a special celebratory potluck 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

We ask everyone to consider doing what they can to be a part of our effort. Many of us enjoy baking and find this to be the easiest first step of participation. Home bakers can make their favorite cookies, brownies, tea breads, etc.

For those of us able to help the day of the festival, there are still openings for greeters, raffle table ticket sellers, parking, the choir, coffee and water set up, and end of day breakdown of our set up. Please contact Tom or Kathy.

Also if you are able to become a sponsor, please write our treasurer a check that will go towards pie expenses and the bottom line of this important fundraiser. We are not asking people to donate expensive items like frozen turkeys this year so maybe a few more local and out of town friends can write a check.

There is still time to schedule and get the latest Covid booster and a flu shot before November 19th when we gather in person for our Dickens celebration. A big thanks to everyone who does their part in keeping our community healthy to the best of their ability.

All artisan spaces for the Dickens Festival have been reserved. Those interested in being placed on a waiting list in case of a cancellation should email or call the office with crafter's name, craft and best phone number where they can be reached.

Writing Group

The All Souls Writing Group meets the last Wednesday of each month at 4 pm on Zoom except when holidays conflict with our dates.

We start with check ins -- everyone discusses their lives for a couple of minutes

We light a chalice to bring the group together

Quotes that are chosen for the writing topic are read to the group

Everyone reads their amazing written pieces to the group

Group gets to give their praise or constructive criticism about the written pieces that have been read

Close out together with a group writing exercise about prompts that are chosen for next month's writing topic

In November, the group will meet on November 30. The theme is:
Comfort foods & why? favorite recipes?



196 Elm Street
PO Box 850219
Braintree, MA 02185

November Highlights

All our meetings, connection circles, groups and services are accessible online on Zoom unless otherwise noted <https://zoom.us/j/96571006038>

Sunday Service is in person at the Church and Live Streamed Online on Zoom and Facebook 10:30 am
Please see the entire Dickens Preparation Schedule in the Newsletter
Book Group: Tuesday, November 1 at 7 pm
Service and Music Committee: Wednesday, November 2 at 6:30 pm
Connection Circle: Thursdays at 3:30 pm for 1 ½ hours –NO CIRCLE ON NOVEMBER 24 THANKSGIVING
First Pie Baking Day: Friday, November 4 from 9 am until finished
Social Action: Tuesday, November 8 at 7:15 pm
Board of Trustees: Wednesday, November 9 at 7 pm
Dickens Decorating: Sunday, November 13 after service
Second Pie Baking Day: Thursday, November 17 9 am until finished
Drop off baked goods, set up parish hall: Friday, November 18
Artisan check in and final bake table and raffle table set up: Friday, November 18 from 5 pm to 9 pm
Dickens Festival: Saturday, November 19 from 10 am to 3 pm
Chimes Submission Deadline: Friday, November 25 at 6 pm
Leftover baked goods pickup: Saturday, November 26 early afternoon
Writing Group: Wednesday, November 30 at 4 pm