



All Souls Church of Braintree

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

196 Elm St, Braintree

781.843.1388

allsoulsbraintreechurch.org

The Reverend Joanna Lubkin



The Chimes

Summer 2020

Monthly Newsletter

Reverend Joanna Lubkin, Minister
 Reverend Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita
 Jacob Clapper, Music Director
 Cheri Krueger, Administrative Assistant
 Office Email: allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com
 Maggy Evans, Webmaster and Social Media
 Website, Newsletters, Events and Publicity: ascbraintree@gmail.com

HOLD FAST TO SUMMER

By [Ben Soule](#)

Hold fast to summer. Enjoy with heightened appreciation these still-warm September days. Create more memories, take more pictures. Enjoy a bit of denial. Suck all the summer sweetness out of your sun-warmed garden tomatoes. Smile at someone. Squeeze a hand. Put up some jam or pickles. We store these things up as we approach the uncertain seasons. And our summer companions will be our winter support and sustenance. In celebration of the changing seasons, we gather together in community.

You see this piece speaks of squeezing a hand ... for many of us, like me, who live alone, we can't squeeze a hand during this time of social distancing. But I can take pictures, and enjoy tomatoes, and make some jam. I also continue to gather with you online in community ... a lifeline for me as it is for many. Squeezing a hand will be all the sweeter when I can.

Hugs. ~ Maggy



Summer Services

Know you are one with community as you join us for online service. Summer Service is Sunday at 9:30 am and lasts about 30 minutes online via Zoom, an easy-to-use video conferencing site. Join us for a variety of topics, led by different members and friends of All Souls. People of all ages are welcome and invited. Use this link on Sunday morning at 9:30 to join us – **no password required** <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/9131419079>. If the technology is a barrier, you can call in by phone at 646-876-9923 and enter Meeting ID 913 141 9079

Summer Service Themes

The schedule may change, but here is a rough outline of what is being planned:

| | | |
|---------|--|----------------------------------|
| July 5 | Don Swanson | What is fun during the pandemic? |
| July 12 | Reverend Steven Wilson | TBD |
| July 19 | Writing Group: Diane Doucette, Maureen Crimmins, Alicia Jaromin, Nikki Milne, Mary Mitchell, Marge Kearns, Andrew Pearce, George Goss Spiritual Writing | |

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| July 26 | Reverend Steven Wilson | TBD |
| August 2 | Andrew Pearce | What do you daydream about? |
| August 9 | Mary Mitchell | The tao of the turtle - animal symbolism |
| August 16 | Alicia Jaromin | Positivity |
| August 23 | ASC Book Group: Jane Fogg, Diane Doucette | Sharing something about one or more books that were read by the book group this year |
| August 30 | Michael Domina | |
| Sept 6 | Maureen C. & Kate W. | Labor Day/The labor movement |

Minister News

On Thursday night of General Assembly (GA), our own Rev. Joanna was recognized along with fifty of her colleagues for their achievement of Full Fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association. This is an important milestone in the career of a UU minister and we congratulate Rev. Jo with pride in our hearts!



Rev. Joanna will be away for much of the summer on vacation and "study leave."* She will be checking email sporadically and is reachable by phone and text only in real emergencies.

That being said, if anyone from our congregation is ill from COVID-19, please let us know. Also, for any ministerial emergencies, the best way to reach us is to email Cheri in the church office at allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com , Maggy at ascbraintree@gmail.com and please CC Rev. Jo at minister.allsouls@gmail.com Office phone is 781.843.1388

Rev. Jo's full summer schedule:

Vacation: June 29-July 5

Study Leave: July 6-31

Vacation: August 1-21

Back fully August 24

*"Study Leave" is, well, just what it sounds like: time away from the demands of daily congregational life to deepen and expand the calling and practice of ministry. She plans to be reading about anti-racism and planning for the next church year.

Welcome New Members!

Bill and Dot Morrell first visited us a few years ago and have continued to attend services and activities. They decided to make their church status official by entering into membership and were voted in as members during the June Board of Trustees meeting. They were acknowledged at the Flower Communion service on Sunday, June 14.

When it is safe to do so (or when the pandemic situation improves), we will hold a formal signing of the Membership Book and an official welcome for them.

Welcome Bill and Dot!!

A Report from General Assembly

I volunteered to be All Souls Church's delegate to the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA's) 2020 General Assembly (GA) – a five day marathon of speakers, workshops, business meetings and services. For the last 3 days Tom and I have been intermittently parked in front of our computer screens. As of today, 4,900 UU's have registered and 1,500 delegates voted at the business meeting this afternoon.

GA was originally planned for Providence, RI, not too far from where the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth in 1620. The opening service highlighted the 400th year anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower and reminded us that European settlers engaged in illegal taking of land and genocide of the indigenous people that originally inhabited this continent. Land taking is still an issue for today's Mashpee.

The week's presentations have made it clear that the UUA is committed to the work of creating a more just and loving world, both within its own organizational structures and in the wider world. It has invested heavily in addressing the inequities experienced by all marginalized people, and is calling for its member congregations to join in the work of caring for all members of humanity, helping to build a truly beloved community in the world. Its report on institutional change can be found at this link:

https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/widening_the_circle-text_with_covers.pdf

There is much to learn, and there are lots of resources to explore. Some recordings of GA presentations will be accessible on the [uua.org/ga/2020](https://www.uua.org/ga/2020) website. In addition, I invite you to dig into some of the following illuminating materials! (Credit to Wikipedia as a source)

-- Mary Mitchell

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz: Historian, activist, author:

An Indigenous People's History of the United States (2014, Beacon Press). This is the third of a series of five ReVisioning books which reconstruct and reinterpret U.S. history from marginalized peoples' perspectives. In 2019, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People* was released, an adaptation by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese. *Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment* (2018, City Lights Books) takes a close and unexpected look at the historical origins of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. Despite being no fan of guns, Dunbar approaches the subject from neither the liberal nor the conservative side of the usual debate, instead digging deeply into the subject as a historian to unearth surprising facts.

Howard Bryant: American author, sports journalist, radio and television personality:

The Heritage: Black Athletes, a Divided America, and the Politics of Patriotism (2018)

Full Dissidence: Notes from an Uneven Playing Field (2020)

UU Religious Innovators Network <https://UUinnovators.org>

A collegial hub where religious innovators find help and provide practical and spiritual support to one another.

Allies for Racial Equity (ARE) <https://www.uuare.org/>

Building an antiracist movement of white Unitarian Universalists working to:

- Understand whiteness and privilege
- Unlearn and challenge white supremacy
- Confront racism in ways that are accountable to communities of color

Musical Interludes

Long-time member of All Souls Church and life-long pianist, Judy Cobble has shared musical interludes with us for your listening pleasure. Maggy has created brief videos to accompany the music. One is posted on the home page of our website and the series is on our YouTube channel. We will take a break from creating new videos over the summer; but you can always see them on YouTube.

Link to [All Souls YouTube](#) channel

Latest video <https://youtu.be/OFLqmJR-ljc>



Market 2Day



All Souls Church will continue to partner with Market 2Day and the Braintree Farmers Market on Saturdays this summer. Dates are on our [calendar](#). They will use our Parish Hall to assemble orders placed with the regular vendors of the Farmers Market. These orders will then be delivered right to people's doorsteps. Market 2Day is a phone app through which you can place your order.

This will generate much needed revenue for All Souls Church, so take advantage of the opportunity to get some delicious, home-made and home-grown food delivered to your door to brighten your home-cooked meals!

To participate, you must download the **Market2Day** app on your phone. Check out their website www.market2dayapp.com.

Little Free Library

Take a book or leave a book. With a little help from Max McKenna, the Little Free Library built by the Home School Co-op Kids is now ready for readers of all ages. Please drop off or pick up family friendly books. Enjoy!



Online Gatherings

Our online groups will continue through the summer. The Zoom login and password is the same for all groups in All Souls' Special Interest Meeting Room including the Book Group, the Writing Group, the Tuesday Lunch Bunch and the Friday Coffee Hour.

Tuesday's at 12 noon

Online Lunch Bunch

Friday's at 10 am

Online Coffee Hour

The group login for any of these meetings is as follows:

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

Meeting ID: 965 7100 6038

Password: ASC196

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,96571006038#,,1#,442053# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,96571006038#,,1#,442053# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 965 7100 6038

Password: 442053

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/96571006038>

Book Group

The All Souls Church book discussion group hosts monthly meetings via ZOOM on the first Tuesday of the month. We do not meet in July and August.

Our book for **September 1** is **The Woman in the White Kimono** by Ana Johns

The Woman in the White Kimono is told in two timelines. The first is Japan in the 1950s. Naoko Nakamura's arranged marriage to the son of a friend of her father is important to reinforce the status of her family in the community; however, Naoko loves another. She's in love with a gaijin, an American sailor. The second timeline takes place in present day US. Tori Kovac's father is terminally ill, and she is his caretaker. She finds a letter with a shocking secret, which motivates her to travel to Japan to discover the truth.

Please join us for discussion and camaraderie even if you have not read or completed the book.

Nancy Edwards for the Book Group

Spiritual Writing Group

We will meet next on **September 30 at 4 pm**. Meeting details will follow in the September Chimes

Diane Doucette

From the Board of Trustees

We hope this newsletter continues to find you well as we end one church year and begin the next.

On Sunday June 14, the All Souls Church Annual Meeting was conducted via ZOOM with 22 members attending. Annual reports were summarized, the proposed budget was presented and explained, and the candidates for offices and committee chairs were named on the ballot.

Maureen Ellstrom was nominated from the floor as a member for the Nominating Committee. Voting for the candidates on the ballot and for approval of the budget was conducted via Electionbuddy online and via paper ballots mailed to those without internet access. Voting continued until Saturday, June 21 to allow as many to vote as possible.

In total, we received 30 ballots by the deadline (23 via Electionbuddy and 7 via mail) - a little over 50% response. The results of the election are as follows :

Chair of Board of Trustees – Joe Maloney, Vice-Chair of the Board – Ross Edwards, Trustees at Large - Linda Cozzens and Daniela Osborne, Buildings and Grounds Chair – John Cobble, Sunday Service and Music Committee Chair – Don Swanson, Membership Chair – Lauren McGrath, Auditor – Jane Fogg, Nominating Committee Member - Maureen Ellstrom.

There were write in candidates for the Nominating Committee, but none received enough votes to be elected - Marge Kearns received 2 votes, Andy Pearce received 1 vote and Lauren McGrath received 1 vote.

The budget was unanimously approved. Thank you to all who have voted and especially to those who have agreed to run for offices.

On a happy note, All Souls has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. This grant is in addition to the \$65,000 grant from the Braintree Community Preservation Projects Fund. Together, these monies will allow us to pursue some much-needed building work. The firm of Spencer, Sullivan, and Vogt will be the architects/preservationists working with us on this project.

The Board of Trustees continues to meet remotely via Zoom. At our meeting on Monday June 15, the Board in conjunction with Rev. Lubkin, agreed that we would continue online

services through September. We made this decision out of an abundance of caution for our many members who fall into higher risk categories.

There are a few renters using the Parish Hall at this time but, as of this writing, only groups of less than 10 may meet.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday July 20, 2020 via ZOOM.

I do want to say how privileged I have been to serve as the Board Chairperson over the last few years. While I am leaving the Board, I will continue to serve the congregation as the Local Project Coordinator for the Grants Project assisted by John Cobble and Mary Mitchell.

Yours in fellowship,

Lin Steiner and Joe Maloney

All Souls Braintree – Summer 2020

Summer Sunday Service Online at 9:30 am

Tuesdays at 12 noon Online Lunch Bunch

Fridays at 10 am Online Coffee Hour

Saturdays Market2Day uses the Parish Hall from 8 am to 5 pm

