



# All Souls Church of Braintree

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

196 Elm St, Braintree

781.843.1388

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

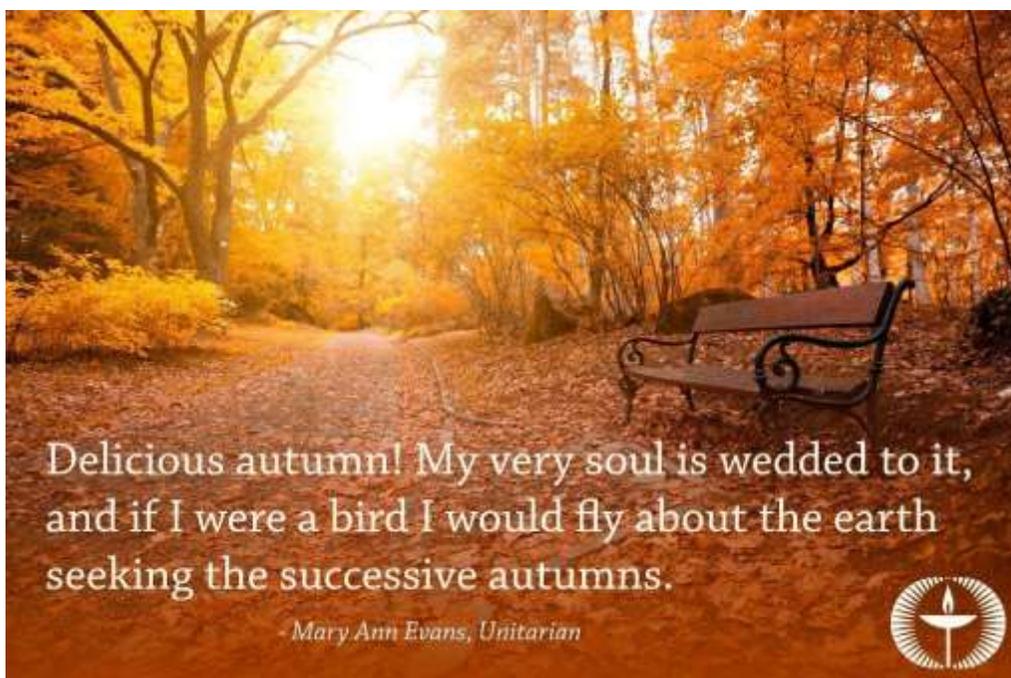


## The Chimes

October 2020

Monthly Newsletter

Reverend Joanna Lubkin, Minister  
 Reverend Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita  
 Jacob Clapper, Music Director  
 Cheri Krueger, Office Administrator  
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## A Message from the Minister

Dear ones,

My heart has been heavy this past little while. The loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg (may her memory be a blessing), the weightiness of the upcoming election and all our work towards it, and I also mourn the sudden passing of Elandria Williams. Elandria was a UU luminary, dedicated community organizer, and served with fierce love and clarity as one of the co-moderators of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

I didn't know Elandria too well, but E's powerful vision for what Unitarian Universalism can and should be propels me forward toward continuing the work. While Elandria spoke strongly and without reservation, E always made sure that care for people -- for the community and for the person right in front of you -- was at the core of our faith and our work.

With that in my heart, I'm seeing clearly my main goals for our shared ministry this year. These are inspired by Rev. Jaimie Dingus, who is the new minister in our congregation in Huntsville, Alabama:

1. Make sure that this church survives as a community that cares about each other.
2. No one gets sick or dies from COVID-19 because of a church function.
3. We engage in antiracism work individually and as a community.

Remembering these goals fills me with resolve, and centers my love for you and our love for each other. Together, we'll get through this. You give me hope.

May our All Souls community keep on caring for one another, reaching out and being connected. May we take good care of ourselves and our neighbors. May we join in this rising tide for justice, and together, repair the world.

Take care, and my metaphorical door is open if you ever want to talk. You can schedule a call with me at [www.calendly.com/joannalubkin](http://www.calendly.com/joannalubkin).

With love, Rev. Jo

## Sunday Service

Online on Zoom at <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

### **Service Themes for the month of October - Deep Listening**

#### **October 4**

#### **Collaboration with UU the Vote**

#### **Vote Love Defeat Hate: Organizing for the Long Haul**

UU the Vote is engaging UU's across the country in actions to encourage people in key states to register to vote if they aren't already, and to vote in the November 3rd election. On Sunday, October 4, the service elements of our service will primarily be provided by UU the Vote, focusing on the importance of this work leading up to the November election. In this inspiring program, key UU the Vote organizers fill us in on their initiatives and UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray delivers a stirring homily.

Whatever is donated to All Souls Church during the offering (except for pledge payments) on October 4 will be shared equally with UU the Vote. Instructions for donating directly to UU the Vote will also be provided at that time, or you can go to <https://giving.uua.org/votelove> to donate.

Thank you for supporting this remarkable effort in support of democracy.

#### **October 11**

#### **Rev. Joanna preaches**

#### **Do You Have a Flag? On Symbolism, Stories, and Indigenous People's Day**

We commemorate Indigenous People's Day, exploring the symbols we uplift and the stories we get told about Native communities. As we observe the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's landing and the State House considers changing the (racist) Massachusetts state flag, it is an especially poignant time to lift up and honor Native voices.

### **Honoring Autumn: An Outdoor Service**

**Saturday, October 17 from 2-3 pm**

#### **The All Souls front lawn**

This special service honoring autumn will be our first experiment with holding an in-person, outdoor service during the pandemic. We'll set out folding chairs spread apart on the front lawn of the church, including some on the paved surfaces of the sidewalk for folks with balance or mobility challenges. Masks will be worn at all times (including over the nose) to keep each other safe. Please RSVP by Friday, October 16 to Rev. Jo at [minister.allsouls@gmail.com](mailto:minister.allsouls@gmail.com) or call 781.843.1388 with how many people will be attending from your household (so we can put your chairs together). It will be so good to see each other as we honor the changing of the seasons.

#### **October 18**

#### **Rev. Joanna preaches**

#### **Listening Across the Divide**

While the Unitarian Francis David is quoted as saying, "We need not think alike to love alike," it can be really difficult to talk with people we vehemently disagree with. It turns out to have a lot less to do with reasoned arguments and more to do with listening. Join Rev. Jo for a service on the spiritual practices of empathy and story across great divides.

**October 25**

**Led by the Sunday Service & Music Committee**

**Community Sunday: Deep Listening**

This lay-led, interactive service will invite us to reflect on themes of deep listening.



**Great news! We are going to be holding a virtual Dickens Fair this year.**

Our church community has not gathered in our beautiful, historic building since mid-March, and plans to continue to meet on a Zoom platform at least through December. We realized early on that we could not safely hold a Dickens Festival in which hundreds of shoppers flood the Artisans Marketplace and people jostle for a vantage point from which to choose their favorite raffle prizes. Reluctant to relinquish the opportunity to spread good will and holiday cheer, All Souls Church is taking the Dickens Festival virtual!

We are taking as many of the elements of our beloved festival to an online platform as we can. Our signature apple Pies by Guys will be offered for sale from November 15 through 19, with delivery on November 21, as will a selection of home-baked cookies and fudge. We are working with artisans who may be interested in showcasing their crafts for online ordering. On Saturday, November 21, (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) children will be able to visit with Father Christmas on a virtual platform, music will be performed, and we have other fun things planned.

In order to make this a success, we are asking members and friends to help with baking, with donations of raffle items, with time and/or donations towards expenses.

**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, and box the baked pies on Friday, November 20th from 2pm until done
2. Two People to bake cookies at church on Thursday, November 19th (we will set up for social distancing on this day as well) or to bake at home and bring to church on Friday, November 20th AFTER 2 pm. We will provide cookie scoops and cookie bags. We would like to have 6 different kinds to offer.
3. Donations of raffle items with a value of \$25.00 or more which must be brought to church on November 15th.
4. 1 or 2 people to accept raffle donations on the 15th, to accept baked goods on

the 20th and to help assemble orders on the 21st.

5. People to make fudge ... possibly on November 15.

6. People to shop for baking supplies with donated funds.

We are going to be working with market2day who will deliver the orders on November 21st. They charge a 10% delivery fee and have a minimum order of \$35.00.

Doorstep delivery is available to Braintree, Milton, Weymouth, Randolph, Hingham, Holbrook, Quincy and Holbrook.

### **What We Have Planned So Far**

Gene Ward has agreed to bring Father Christmas live to Zoom on Saturday, November 21.

Jacob Clapper and Rev Joanna are providing music, Peter Freisinger's orchestra is sharing one of their videos, Sarah Ellstrom will do a cooking demonstration and Maggy is setting up a special website for the fair.

We will also be conducting a farm-to-you online wreath sale and will be announcing raffle winners on Zoom.

If you would like to do a video of some kind, please be in touch. Perhaps you (and a few friends) would like to do an in-costume reading of *A Christmas Carol* or record a video tour of the church? We welcome your ideas!

Please help us make this a great success. Anyone who wants to help or has a question or suggestion should email me at [dianar9@comcast.net](mailto:dianar9@comcast.net).

Thank you

Diana Althouse, Dickens Chair

October 31

## Halloween Hijinks

Happy Halloween!

A bubbling cauldron will signal the start of our (virtual) Halloween party from 7-8 pm on Saturday, October 31st.

Your hosts, Mary and Maureen, are casting their net for a few revelers to assist in planning the festivities. For inspiration, check out this cheerful resource:

<https://teambuilding.com/blog/virtual-halloween-party>

Share your haunting ideas with Maureen @ [\(617\) 472-9374](tel:6174729374). Let the good times roll...



## EMAIL SCAM ALERT

Dear All Souls Church Community,

I am sorry to tell you that the email scam is back! Someone has set up a new email account using my name, and is emailing congregants, pretending to be me, asking for a quick reply/favor, and then asking for gift cards or money.

This is a scam that has hit hundreds of congregations over the last several months. Please ignore and delete the emails, or report them as "phishing" if you can.

This is not a "hack" per se, because they have not broken in to any real emails, so it is not a security problem, just a very annoying and frustrating scam.

If you have any questions about whether or not an email is real, please start a brand new email to me at "[minister.allsouls@gmail.com](mailto:minister.allsouls@gmail.com)."

**Please know that I will never email you asking for gift cards, period. No one from the church will ask that you do this. Even if the email address appears to be from someone at church you know, we will never do this.**

Be well and let's all stay connected to one another.

With gratitude and love,

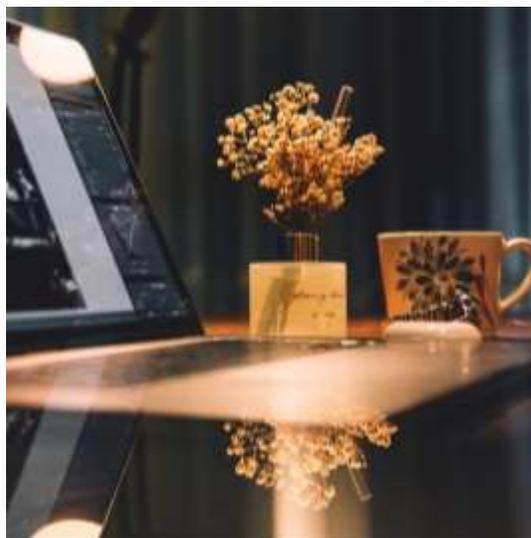
Rev. Jo

### **Online Connection Circles**

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

Or call in by phone at 646-876-9923

and enter Meeting ID: 965 7100 6038



Our online groups will continue for the foreseeable future. The Zoom login is the same for all groups in All Souls' Special Interest Meeting Room including the Book Group, the Writing Group, the Tuesday Mid-day Meetup and the Friday Coffee Hour.

Tuesday's at 1 pm

Online Mid-day Meetup

Friday's at 10 am

Online Coffee Hour

## Book Group

The All Souls Church book discussion group hosts monthly meetings via Zoom on the first Tuesday of the month. All are invited to join in the discussion. For our meeting on October 6, we will be reading and discussing *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek: A Novel* by Kim Michelle Richardson

The New York Times and USA Today bestseller!

"...a hauntingly atmospheric love letter to the first mobile library in Kentucky and the fierce, brave packhorse librarians who wove their way from shack to shack dispensing literacy, hope, and — just as importantly — a compassionate human connection."—Sara Gruen, author of *Water for Elephants*

The hardscrabble folks of Troublesome Creek have to scarp for everything— everything except books, that is. Thanks to Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, Troublesome's got its very own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter.

Cussy's not only a book woman, however, she's also the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble. If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she's going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachias and suspicion as deep as the holler.

Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home."

**October 11 from 2-3 pm [on Zoom](#)**

## Service Assistants Training with Rev. Jo

Are you interested in helping out with our Sunday services, offering readings and extending a warm welcome? Have you been a service assistant in the past but haven't done it on Zoom yet? Always been curious about being a part of the service and ready to learn more? This is for you! Rev. Jo will cover the basics of

helping to lead worship, as well as some tips and tricks for how to communicate warmly and clearly over Zoom. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Rev. Jo at [minister.allsouls@gmail.com](mailto:minister.allsouls@gmail.com), including any specific requests or questions you may have for the training.

## All Souls Spiritual Writing Group

The Writing Group will meet on Zoom, Wednesday, October 28 at 4 pm. Our writing topic for October is the United States Election of November 4, 2020.

We will take this opportunity to express our thoughts, objections, praises, or write about what influences determine our political decisions. It is not necessary to inform others about whom you will vote for.

Consider what results are important to you. What would be a favorable outcome for you personally, as well as how it would impact the rest of the United States. Expand your ideas to include the world stage.

This is a sensitive topic. We will not all agree on how to achieve stability or unity. As always, we welcome new members who wish to share their ideas in our supportive gathering of minds.

Some quotes on government:

“[T]he only title in our democracy superior to that of President [is] the title of citizen.”

—Louis Brandeis, 1937

“In contrast to totalitarianism, a democracy can face and live with the truth about itself.”

—Sidney Hook

“Anything that keeps a politician humble is healthy for democracy.”

—Irish blessing

“No freeman shall be taken, or imprisoned, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any way harmed ... except by the legal judgment of his peers or by the law of the land.”

—Magna Carta, 1215

“The freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic government.”

—George Mason

“It’s not the voting that’s democracy, it’s the counting.”

—Tom Stoppard

We encourage all who are interested to join us for an interesting discussion of our writings.

Diane Doucette – for ASC Writing Group

## **From the Board of Trustees**

Welcome Autumn ! As we enter into a change of season, our Board of Trustees will be working on something new - a covenant !

At the Board of Trustees meeting last month, with the guidance of our minister Reverend Joanna, we started the process of creating a covenant amongst ourselves first as Board members and then, secondly, revisiting the previous conversation of creating a covenant for our congregation. The process for both covenants will be ongoing and communicated as we move along.

We hope that you have a safe and healthy Autumn !

Respectfully yours,

Joseph Maloney, Chairman of the Board

Ross Edwards, Vice Chairman of the Board



All Souls Church of Braintree  
 Unitarian Universalist  
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## All Souls Braintree Calendar Highlights – October 2020

### **Sunday Service Online**

October 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 10:30 am

**Saturday, October 17 from 2 to 3 pm Honoring Autumn: An Outdoor Service** on the church lawn – please RSVP so we can plan – see inside for information

### **Board of Trustees Online**

Monday, October 19 at 6:30 pm

### **Online Connection Circles, Groups and Meetings**

Tuesday, October 6 at 7 pm Online Book Group

Sunday, October 11 from 2-3 pm Online Service Assistants Training with Rev. Jo

Thursday, October 15 at 5:30 pm, Online Sunday Service and Music Committee (SSMC)

Thursday, October 28 at 4 pm Online Writing Group

Saturday, Oct 31 from 7 to 8 pm Zoom "Halloween Hijinks" event

Tuesdays at 1 pm Online Mid-day Meetup

Fridays at 10 am Online Coffee Hour

**Please note** that Magic Years Nursery and Amy's Dance have resumed activity. We cannot hold meetings in the building while they are in session. Please check the online calendar for their schedule.

