



All Souls Church of Braintree

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

196 Elm St, Braintree

781.843.1388

allsoulsbraintreechurch.org



The Chimes

October 2021 Monthly Newsletter

The Reverend Beau Rivers, Minister

The Reverend Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita

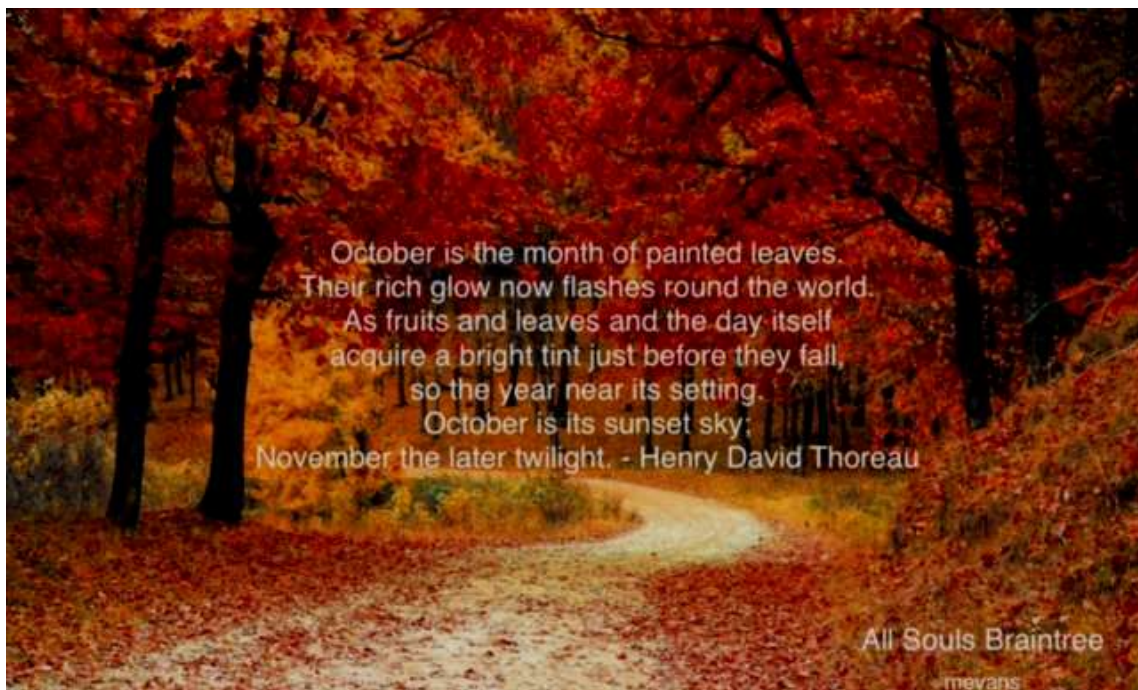
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A Message from the Minister

AUTUMN MUSINGS

Rev. Beau

There is something about the crisp morning air and the pungent smell of autumn leaves that makes me want to sit by a fire and bask in its warm glow. To sit by a fire is comforting in so many ways. The crackling sounds soothe me like a lullaby, the dancing flames enthrall my gaze, and the warmth releases all the tension in my body. Any attempt to read is seduced by the flames. A sense of safety, contentment, and peace washes over me. To lull in such a moment of complete and utter surrender is such a blessing...

During this Summer, it has been such a joy to reunite with loved ones we hadn't seen since the Spring of 2020 or longer. It also was such a treat to gather in-person for summer services at All Souls and experience each another in three dimensions! With the emergence of variants to the COVID virus, incidents of break-through infections among vaccinated people, and our inability to properly ventilate the sanctuary in cold weather, the Board of Trustees in collaboration with the Sunday Service Committee, has decided to resume virtual-only services starting October 1st.

This decision is different, however, from the lock-down we all experienced last March. There is less fear, trauma, and disorientation. We know how to take precautions, we've become accustomed to seeing and wearing masks, we've learned how to properly wash our hands, and many businesses now offer delivery services. In addition to these pre-cautions, we've also become electronically savvy. We now know how to use Zoom, PowerPoint, Google Drive, DropBox, YouTube, and Facetime to stay connect with loved ones on major holidays and special occasions.

So as the crisp Autumn air beckons you inside, brew yourself a cup of coffee, tea, or hot cocoa, and come sit by the warm, crackling fire of a virtual Sunday Service at All Souls. Let the familiar sounds of Members and Friends warm your heart like the embers of a fire. Let the flames of reflection dance in your mind. Let the music soothe your spirit and rest in the blessed assurance that you are not alone...

In Love,
Rev. Beau



Sunday Service

Join us at service Sunday mornings at 10:30 am 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

UPCOMING SERVICES

October 3rd *Lean on Me, Rev. Megan Lynes*

Rev. Denise Cawley reminds us that "staying in relationship" is more important than being right. But this is not so easy to do! The pandemic has required us to think and act in new ways to save lives. How are we changed because of this solidarity with loved ones, untrustworthy ones, and those we've never met?

Rev. Megan Lynes grew up as a Unitarian Universalist in the Boston area and was ordained in 2008 by her internship congregation in Canton MA. Megan served nine years as Parish Minister at First Parish in Bedford, MA, and two years as the Minister of Faith Formation at First Church in Sterling, MA. Since the start of the pandemic, Megan has stayed home to be with her two-year-old son full time. She is a single mom by choice and lives in Stow with her best friend, her son Jesse, two cats, and six chickens.

October 10th *Indigenous People's Day, Rev. Beau*

October 17th *Field Trip, TBA*

October 24th *What Does it Mean to Be a People of Faith? Rev. Beau*

October 31st *Remembering Our Ancestors, Rev. Beau*

Membership and Engagement Committee

This was not the best of years to run to be co-chairs of the newly designated Membership and Engagement Committee. With all of the pandemic restrictions on meeting in person, the normal goals of organizing standard and novel activities, attracting new people into our sphere, fundraising, and just hanging out and listening to each other have been challenging to say the least. Everyone we talk to says that they are weary of COVID and the last eighteen months. So we want to ask that each of you take a moment and do one small thing today to engage with another member or friend of All Souls. Make a phone call, send an email, write a note, arrange a visit, just something that gives you and that other person a continued feeling of a worthwhile community. In these times, this is part of the necessary work to keep us together.

We want to thank everyone who helped with the August 29th Yard Sale. We were able to raise some money and recreate some of our warm feelings of shared community and purpose.

There were a lot of challenges in holding our first public fundraising event in these pandemic times, but we met them by doing things a bit differently than before. We kept all of our vendors outside on the lawn, and spread out the church's sale items in the parish hall. Since we have a paying tenant in the parish hall on Saturday mornings, we moved the whole event to Sunday. To accommodate our Sunday morning Zoom audience, we had a music service on the stage. This was made possible by Mike Domina and his band Seascape and they were very good.

In order to keep the wider community and our own safe, we followed current CDC guidelines by requiring everyone to wear a mask indoors. A lot of the people who showed up brought their own mask with them. For those who did not, we offered them a free mask. No one made an issue of it and we ended up giving away a full box of masks.

Oh yes, one final act of flexibility in putting on the Yard Sale was the required postponement for a week when the weather forecast had us in line for a hurricane, but we didn't lose any vendors because of it.

We were hoping to be enjoying potlucks by now, but with the health guidelines for masks and distancing, we have pushed that into the future. We are monitoring the daily number of new cases of COVID in Braintree and hoping for a positive change.

The holding of a virtual Dickens festival last November was supposed to be a one-time thing, but going back to the event's normal welcomed shoulder-to-shoulder crowds is untenable this year. So a virtual Dickens it will be again with sponsors, raffles, and various baked goods.

A big change being discussed is multiple Saturdays' of food delivery. There are also plans being made for a Zoom celebration on the final Saturday of the event. Please stay tuned.

Roger Hatch Tom Bularzik

Online Connections

The link is <https://zoom.us/j/96571006038> for all services, meetings and groups
Or call in by phone at 646-876-9923 and enter Meeting ID: 965 7100 6038



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

Mid-Week Connection Circles on Zoom help us make connections across time and space.

Each week there are two opportunities to engage in conversation and community. Our meetings last for one hour, and are confidential and supportive. We begin with "check ins", an opportunity (always optional) for each person to share how they are doing, or what's on their mind.

Mid-Day Meet-up: Every **Monday afternoon at 3:30**, the conversation usually evolves informally. It's a chance to stay connected with church friends, through friendly, safe, free-flowing conversations. **Note that there will be no Monday Connection Circle on October 18th.**

Friday Coffee Hour: On **Friday mornings at 10:00** we build more structure into our conversation. After brief check-ins, a volunteer from the group usually presents a topic that they have prepared in advance to focus the discussion. We will follow the following schedule in October:

- October 1: Current Events (facilitated by Mary)
 October 8: The Sharing of A Story of Human Interest (selected & facilitated by Maureen)
 October 15: NO CONNECTION CIRCLE
 October 22: UU's and Political Action: Past and Present (facilitated by Med or another)
 October 29 : Just for Fun (facilitator to be determined)

Please come as you are able as we grow our community and stay connected!

Mary Mitchell, Mid-week Connection Circle Coordinator

Mondays at 3:30 pm Online Mid-day Meetup – open conversation

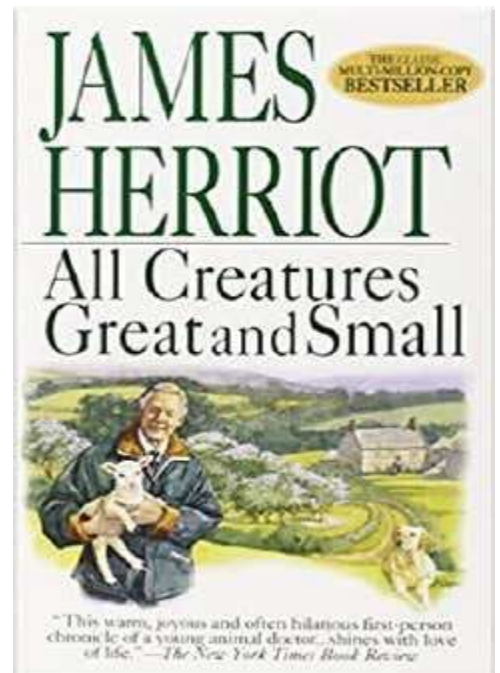
Fridays at 10 am Online Coffee Hour – guided conversation

Book Group

The Book Discussion Group will convene on **Tuesday, October 5 at 7 pm** to discuss James Herriot's delightful memoir, *All Creatures Great and Small*. We had planned to discuss it at our September gathering, but that meeting was postponed. The book is a delightful read, wise and wryly humorous in equal measure.

Goodreads writes: "For over forty years, generations of readers have thrilled to Herriot's marvelous tales, deep love of life, and extraordinary storytelling abilities. For decades, Herriot roamed the remote, beautiful Yorkshire Dales, treating every patient that came his way from smallest to largest, and observing animals and humans alike with his keen, loving eye."

Come with your suggestions for books to read for our subsequent gatherings, the next of which will take place on **Tuesday, November 2 at 7 pm**.



Social Action and Environment Committee

The Social Action and Environment Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, October 12**, on zoom, at **7:15 pm**. All are welcome to join the meeting. For further information please contact George Goss, 781 690 7268, agdgs@aol.com



All Souls Spiritual Writing Group



On **Wednesday, October 27**, Lauren McGrath will convene the All Souls Writing Group at **4:00 pm** on Zoom. This month's prompt is "How Well Do You Receive Compliments? Are some easier to accept than others?"

We welcome both familiar and new voices to our friendly gatherings. Everyone is free to actively participate or merely observe the proceedings. Access to this meeting is achieved via the church's website.

From the Board of Trustees

Happy Autumn ! On August 9, The Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to allocate \$1100 to purchase three Ring video doorbells for the three doors leading into our church. They also agreed to replace the existing locks into the sanctuary with deadbolts. We will be locking the doors when service begins and, if you are late for church, you can just ring the bell and an usher will let you in.

We believe this will help to insure our congregational security. Please feel free to contact any member of the Board if you have questions or concerns. Thank you.

We will be returning to online worship services starting with this month until further notice. Please visit the church website for how to access the online Zoom room for services (<https://www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org>).

The next Board of Trustees meeting is **Monday, October 25 at 6 pm** in the church Zoom room. All are welcome to attend !

Please contact a member of the Board of Trustees if you have any questions.

With appreciation,

Joseph Maloney, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

Ross Edwards, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

Closing Thoughts



Following the very moving memorial service for Judy Ranney on Sunday, September 26, this forsythia, gifted by Judy's family, was planted in the All Souls memorial garden. Forsythias were one of Judy's favorite plants and we will enjoy watching it grow.

Thank you to all who helped with the service. I was so grateful to be able to participate via Zoom. The recording may be viewed on our YouTube channel.

~ Maggy



All Souls Church of Braintree
 Unitarian Universalist
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 Braintree, MA 02185-0219

All Souls Braintree Calendar Highlights – October 2021

All services and meetings are being held online on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/96571006038>

Sunday Service Online at 10:30 am

Board of Trustees Online

Monday, October 25 at 6 pm

Online Connection Circles, Groups and Meetings

Monday, October 4 at 6:30 pm Online Sunday Service and Music Committee (SSMC)

Tuesday, October 5 at 7 pm Online Book Group

Tuesday, October 12 at 7:30 pm Online Social Action and Environment Committee

Thursday, October 27 at 4 pm Online Writing Group

Mondays at 3:30 pm Online Mid-day Meetup

Fridays at 10 am Online Coffee Hour

Please note that Magic Years Nursery, Market2Day, Amy's Dance and Tuesday night AA have resumed activity. Please check the online calendar for their schedules.

