



All Souls Church of Braintree

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

196 Elm St, Braintree

781.843.1388

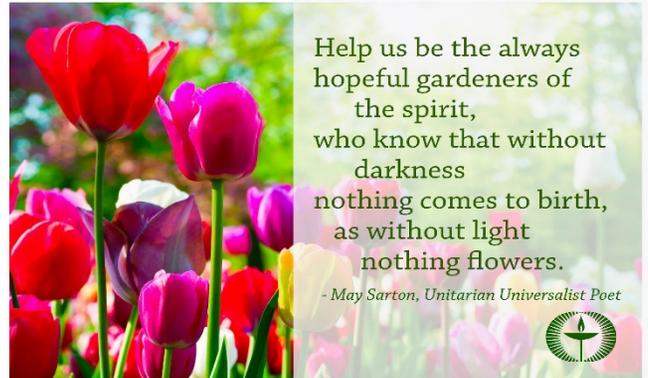
allsoulsbraintreechurch.org

The Chimes

May 2020

Monthly Newsletter

All are Welcome to our Online Service, a Spiritual Celebration. Use this link on Sunday morning at 10:30 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 On May 3, we will join another church for their service, please see login information below.



design by Jessica Ferguson

From the Minister

Beloveds,

How are you doing?

I have been really enjoying sharing online services with you on Sundays — I like the way we connect across distance, peek into each other's homes, meet each other's pets and family, and summon the sacred in the midst of the ordinary. But I'm surprised at what I find myself missing the most: the receiving line.

After the prelude ends, I open up the sanctuary doors and stand nearby to greet each one of you as you go by. I miss our handshakes and hugs, I miss looking into your eyes and seeing how you are, I miss hearing what insights the service brought up for you or what's new in your life. Whenever we are gathered on Zoom, I put you all on gallery view and look at your faces, one by one. You don't know it, but I pray for each one of you as I look at your face or your name or your phone number. In my heart, I sing this song by Ana Hernandez: ["I am sending you light to heal you, to hold you; I am sending you light to hold you in love."](#)

I invite you to join me in this practice. Whether it's on a video call, whether you're sitting quietly and picturing faces that are dear to you, or looking out your window. Take some deep breaths, and send your prayers or your best wishes. Whether or not you think some being or force in the universe is personally listening — send your love out to meet another.

To keep each other and our community safe, we will continue to gather online at least throughout the end of the church year in June. I miss seeing you in person, and also: we keep this distance so that whenever we are back together, no one is missing.

I'm here for you. Please let me know how you and your loved ones are doing, if you need anything, and to share what's been helping you get through.

Sending you love,
Rev. Jo

Sunday Services

May 3: "Rest and Joy," a service exchange with First Church in Jamaica Plain

Rev. Elizabeth Bukey, Minister of First Church in JP

- All Souls Social (Half-)Hour: 10:30 - 11 here: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/9131419079>
- First Church service at 11 AM here: www.uuma.zoom.us/j/190035147

This week, we join our neighbors at First Church in Jamaica Plain for their Sunday service on Rest and Joy. adrienne maree brown writes, "What is easy is sustainable. Birds coast when they can." On this Sunday, we remember that even God rested. Bring your favorite idea for finding moments of Sabbath rest and joy even amidst struggle.

May 10: "Take Care"

Rev. Kimberly Debus, Guest Preacher

Rev. Kimberley Debus works as a community minister based in upstate New York, inspiring an artful and art-filled faith. She consults with congregations and religious professionals and provides sabbatical ministry support throughout the denomination. She has previously served at the Church of the Larger Fellowship as well as congregations on Long Island and Key West.

May 17: Life Thresholds: Exploring Times of Change

Rev. Joanna Lubkin

This month, we explore the question, "What does it mean to be a people of thresholds?" With so much changing day-to-day, we'll slow down a bit together and reflect on times of transitions, new beginnings, and next chapters in our lives. In lieu of a sermon, we'll have a chance to reflect together on our own experiences.

May 24: Remembering Well

Rev. Joanna Lubkin

Each person we've loved has left a handprint on our heart; that handprint stays with us even after they're gone. In honor of Memorial Day, we'll reflect on how we remember those we've lost and carry their legacies forward.

May 31: Prayer for Atheists

Rev. Joanna Lubkin

There's some sort of joke out there that instead of beginning our prayers with, "Dear God," Unitarian Universalists begin their prayers, "To Whom It May Concern." Together, we'll explore the potential for prayer in our lives, and we may even explore the G-word. (God.)

Summer Services / Gatherings

Spring is working her magic and, despite the strange way time is flowing right now, summer is coming. We'd like to carry on the tradition of having lay-led gatherings over the summer, even if we are still not able to meet in person. We want to make it as easy as possible for folks to lead and participate given an online format — rather than a full service, would you like to lead a check in and discussion? A poetry swap? Read a short story or a few paragraphs of a spiritual book and talk about it together? A social gathering?

Rev. Jo will help teach interested congregants the basics of how to lead a gathering over Zoom — you really can get far with just a little familiarity.

If you're interested in hosting a Sunday Zoom gathering this summer, please email Rev. Jo by May 20 at minister.allsouls@gmail.com with your proposed topic or what kind of gathering you'd like to host and she'll coordinate with the Sunday Service and Music Committee.

Ways to stay connected while physically apart.

Time with Rev Joe Ministerial office hours

Tuesdays from 10-11 am, through May 5 at

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/845456209>

Stop by to chat, see some friendly faces, or talk through something with Rev. Jo. You can just drop in!

The Tuesday Lunch Bunch and Friday Coffee Hour require a password. We recommend you jot down the password or use the copy function just before clicking on the link so you can enter the room easily. [Email for help.](#)

Tuesday Lunch Bunch 12 noon Password Required

<https://zoom.us/j/975154727>

Meeting ID: 975 154 727 -

Password: 097873

One tap mobile : +19292056099,,377517618# US (New York)

Dial by your location - +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) - Meeting ID: 377 517 618

Bring your lunch, a snack, or just yourself to the room for some conversation and companionship.

ASC Friday Coffee Hour 10 am Password Required

zoom.us/j/285423304

Meeting ID: 285 423 304 -

Password: 097459

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,285423304# US (New York)

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) - Meeting ID: 285 423 304

Market2day and All Souls Church

All Souls Church has agreed to partner with Market 2day and the Braintree Farmers Market on Saturday, May 2. They will use our Parish Hall to assemble orders placed with the regular vendors of the Farmers Market. These orders will then be delivered to people's doorsteps. Market 2day is a phone app through which you can place your order. Find more information as it becomes available on the Braintree Farmer's Market Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pg/braintreefarmersmarket/events/>. Your order will generate revenue for All Souls Church, so take advantage of the opportunity to get some delicious, home-made and home-grown food to brighten your home-cooked meals!

To participate, you must download the **Market2Day** app on your phone. Check out their website www.market2dayapp.com Order April 26-30 for May 2 delivery.

Mary M

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. They are posted on the [home page](#) of our website as well as on our YouTube channel. Judy plans to record a new interlude each week.

Link to [All Souls YouTube channel](#)



From the Board of Trustees

I hope this newsletter finds you well and safely practicing physical distancing while remaining engaged.

During this challenging time, the Board of Trustees met remotely via Zoom on Monday April 20. As you can imagine, considerable time was spent discussing the church's financial situation. There had been only one small group meeting in the church. We have just been informed that the Monday AA group will not be meeting again until the church is open again for onsite services and meetings. All other renters and users of our space are on hiatus. It appears that this situation will most likely continue throughout the rest of this church year.

It is gratifying to see that numerous members and friends have returned pledge information for next year already! Pledge and other donations can be sent directly to Mary Mitchell, our Treasurer. While we are not meeting in person, the work and expenses of the church continue. Your offerings are needed and will be gratefully received to help our cash flow.

The Committee on the Ministry reported on the survey results which indicated broad support for offering a contract renewal to Rev Joanna. She has indicated that she is interested; so we will be entering into discussions with her.

Linda Cozzens reported on some research she has done into assessing security measures at the church and made some recommendations for when we resume onsite services and meetings. One recommendation is to seek a review of our measures with the Braintree Police Dept. A suggestion to lock all doors but one when service begins has been proposed and is under consideration.

We did set a date for the Annual Budget hearing for Sunday, May 17 at noon. Also, a reminder that the Annual Meeting is on Sunday, June 14 at noon. Please put these dates on your calendars. It appears that these meetings will most likely be conducted remotely.

Hoping to "see" you at services or coffee hour. Please stay safe.

Yours in fellowship,

Lin Steiner and Joe Maloney

Committee on Ministry

Survey of All Souls Members and Friends

I am happy to report that the survey of All Souls Members and Friends is complete. The 19 responses received indicated overall satisfaction with the church and our minister. 84% of the responses "Strongly agreed" that they would want Rev. Jo to continue as our minister next year. The remaining 16% "agreed" with that sentiment.

Many thanks to those that took the time to complete the survey. It was very helpful to have some tangible data on which to base our recommendations for the coming year. The results were shared with the Board of Trustees at its April meeting. Please be in touch with me if you would like to receive a copy of the survey results.

Mary Mitchell, Chair of the Committee on Ministry
Members: Joyce Albrecht, John Cobble, Rev. Joanna

Treasurer's Report

It should come as no surprise that the Coronavirus Pandemic is seriously affecting the financial health of our church. Rental income from those who use our building has plummeted due to mandatory school closings and social distancing. Our building use income will experience a budget shortfall of \$5,100 for the combined months of April and May; and June's shortfall alone could be as much as \$4,700. Magic Years paid half of their monthly fee for April and May but it is unclear if they will be able to continue to do this in June. Although revenue from our new user of space, Amy's Dance Dynamics, had not been included in this year's budget, its inability to continue classes will result in unrealized revenue for All Souls of \$3,200 from March through June.

In addition, the spring fundraisers that are postponed indefinitely could have generated a combined income of \$3,000. All together, we can expect a likely reduction in expected income of approximately \$16,000 through June 30.

We have applied for funds through the Federal Paycheck Protection Program, which, if awarded, would help us meet two months of our payroll costs (about \$13,000). If awarded, this will help us meet our obligations, but an award is far from guaranteed. The Board of Trustees intends to retain our staff at their current levels if at all possible but, by June 30, our cash reserves will very nearly be depleted. You can help us maintain a healthy cash flow now and into the summer in the following ways:

- Pay the entire remaining balance of this year's pledge before the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2020 or pay the balance even earlier if you can.
- Pay your 2019-20 UUA Annual Program Fund pledges as soon as possible if you are able.
- Make an additional gift to the church if you are in a position to do so.
- Submit your Estimate of Giving for the 2020-21 church year. At this writing, nearly half of the pledge units that were active last year have made a commitment and I extend thanks to you. I am grateful for the 40% of those who have renewed their pledge with an increased amount. If you have not yet submitted your Estimate of Giving, please e-mail or snail mail it to me as soon as possible. Your estimate is an important element in our development of the budget for FY 2020-21 which begins on July 1, 2020.
- Make a payment on your 2020-21 pledge before it's due, and/or pre-pay a few months ahead.

I ask that you mail your checks and Estimate of Giving forms directly to my home address:

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

Or e-mail them to me at: Maryalthea52@gmail.com

You can also give to the church using the donate button on our website:

<https://www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org/donate.html> Please be aware that the church is charged a transaction fee that will reduce the amount of your gift by a small percentage.

Getting through the end of the fiscal year is only the first challenge. The second challenge is to figure out how to negotiate the unknown obstacles that lie ahead beyond June 30. Please plan to participate in the Budget Hearing planned for noon on Sunday, May 17. We need as many of us as possible to understand the difficulties we may be facing. As always, we must rely on our collective creativity to help us make our way through!

Yours in hope,
Mary Mitchell, Treasurer

Book Discussion Group

ASC Book Discussion Group - First Tuesday of the month at 7 pm

zoom.us/j/377517618

Meeting ID: 377 517 618

Password: 216863

One tap mobile : +19292056099,,377517618# US (New York)

Dial by your location - +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) - Meeting ID: 377 517 618

The book discussion group is hosting monthly meetings via ZOOM on the first Tuesday of the month. The May meeting is scheduled for May 5 (Cinco de Mayo Day). All are invited to join in the discussion.

Our book for **May 5** is *Station Eleven* by Emily St John Mandel. Here is a synopsis to whet your appetite

From Amazon reviews:

“An audacious, darkly glittering novel set in the eerie days of civilization's collapse, **Station Eleven** tells the spellbinding story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity.

Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander, the famous Hollywood actor, had a heart attack on stage during a production of *King Lear*. That was the night when a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end.

Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. They call themselves The Traveling Symphony, and they have dedicated themselves to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive. But when they arrive in St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who will threaten the tiny band's existence. And as the story takes off, moving back and forth in time, and vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all will be revealed.”

For the June meeting on **June 2**, we will be reading *84 Charing Cross Station* by Helene Hanff.

From Goodreads review

This charming classic, first published in 1970, brings together twenty years of correspondence between Helene Hanff, a freelance writer living in New York City, and a used-book dealer in London. Through the years, though never meeting and separated both geographically and culturally, they share a winsome, sentimental friendship based on their common love for books. Their relationship, captured so acutely in these letters, is one that will grab your heart and not let go.

Please join us for discussion and camaraderie even if you have not read or completed the book. The link is being sent via weekly emails or you can contact me for it.

Linda Steiner for the Book Group

Writing Group

ASC Spiritual Writing Group - Last Wednesday of the month at 4 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/280081190>

Meeting ID: 280 081 190 -

Password: 294363

One tap mobile - +19292056099,,280081190# US (New York)

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) - Meeting ID: 280 081 190

Liberation is the **April theme** of the All Souls Writing group. We will share our writings on Wednesday, April 29 at 4 pm. By definition, liberation is the act of setting someone free from imprisonment, slavery, or oppression. The idea of Liberation converges with the objectives of religion, philosophy, ideology, and human freedom. Liberation and freedom are not interchangeable concepts. The idea of liberation as personal freedom must include freedom from discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, age, and gender. The list goes on; there is birthright, social class, education, and ultimately, money. All are welcome to join us for a thought-provoking discussion as we share our wellspring of ideas.

The **May theme** is **Thresholds**; and we will meet **Wednesday, May 27 at 4 pm**.

Diane Doucette for All Souls Writing Group

Development Committee

The Development Committee is postponing planning events until we are able to come together in person as a committee. Any events that we plan require a safe gathering space for all. Normally, we would be writing about what a wonderful Spring Tea we just held and looking forward to planning the Yard Sale. We will be as patient as we need to be and, when the time is right, we will all be together again.

"Patience doesn't mean passivity or resignation, but power. It's an emotionally freeing practice of waiting, watching, and knowing when to act." Judith Orloff, MD

Sandra Lingley for the Development Committee



All Souls Church of Braintree
 Unitarian Universalist
 P.O. Box 850219
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The Chimes – May 2020



The Reverend Joanna Lubkin, Minister
 Jacob Clapper, Music Director

The Reverend Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita
 Cheri Krueger, Administrative Assistant

Office 781-843-1388 allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com
 Maggy Evans, Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator
 Newsletters, Events and Publicity: ascbraintree@gmail.com

Sunday's at 10:30 am	Online Service – no password needed
https://uuma.zoom.us/j/9131419079 or call in by phone 646-876-9923 and enter Meeting ID 913 141 9079	
Tuesday's 10 - 11 am	Rev Joanna Lubkin's office time online https://uuma.zoom.us/j/845456209

Logins and Passwords for Zoom meetings are INSIDE this newsletter

Tuesday's at 12 noon	Online Lunch Bunch
Tuesday May 5 at 7 pm	Online Book Group
Friday's at 10 am	Online Coffee Hour
Wednesday May 27 at 4 pm	Online Writing Group

