



All Souls Church of Braintree

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

196 Elm St, Braintree

781.843.1388

allsoulsbraintreechurch.org

The Reverend Joanna Lubkin



The Chimes

September 2020

Monthly Newsletter

Reverend Joanna Lubkin, Minister
 Reverend Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita
 Jacob Clapper, Music Director
 Cheri Krueger, Administrative Assistant
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A Message from the Minister

Dear ones,

I write to you on my first day back after some summer respite of study leave and vacation, and I'm looking forward to being back with you for our Water Ceremony on September 13 (stay

tuned for more info on how we'll be doing this ritual while keeping each other safe during the pandemic). Abundant thanks to every one of you who led a Summer Sunday or social hour, attended a church event on Zoom, or reached out to one another over the summer — these connections are the threads that weave our community together.

I've spent my summer leave delving into learning about anti-racism, creative rituals, technology for online services, leadership in liminal times, and beginning training as a certified coach for other clergy and religious professionals. As much as it is a scary, distressing time, it's also a time for exciting possibilities to emerge.

Over the summer, the Board and I have been working carefully and closely to plan for the fall. After much reflection, research, and listening, we've crafted the following plan for the fall at All Souls:

- That All Souls' Sunday morning services remain **online-only through December 2020**. We want to make sure no one is pressured to jeopardize their health to participate in Sunday services, or misses out.
- That we **help members and friends who want to meet in person gather as safely as possible** while continuing our small groups meeting by Zoom and phone
 - Our various small groups are all ways of staying connected with each other, so why not name them as such? **Connection Circles** are our small group offerings: Tuesday's mid-day meetup, Friday's coffee hour, the spiritual writing group, the book group, plus a new anti-racism group I'll be facilitating later this fall. All are ways to stay connected with each other.
 - We'll be launching **one in-person connection circle**. We'll be sending out an interest form, and individuals who wish may self-organize, choosing whether the group will be social and unstructured or have a focus. When meeting in person, this group may meet in the parish hall (with some guidelines), in public spaces like parks, or at people's homes.
 - We will organize at least **one experimental outdoor service/gathering** in September or October, for a time other than Sunday morning. We'll learn from that and see if there's energy to have additional outdoor/distanced programming.

That the Board checks in at its monthly meetings to **reassess as we go** and as the situation(s) change. We'd allow some lead time to prep our plans and the physical space once we decide to resume in person services.

We hope this will help us maintain and strengthen our connections to one another, as well as keeping us and our neighbors safe. Please let me know how this lands for you, and what you

and your heart need. Email me any time at minister.allsouls@gmail.com, call me at 781-428-4606, or schedule a meeting with me at <https://calendly.com/joannalubkin>.

Sending love and care to you all,
Rev. Jo

Sunday Service through September 6 is 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

Sept 6 is the last of our Summer Services and will take place at 9:30 am
Led by Maureen Crimmins & Kate Whooley, the topic is Labor Day and the Labor Movement.

September 13 at 10:30 am "Life is a River: Our Annual Water Ceremony" with Rev. Joanna Lubkin (please note that we return to a 10:30 am start time)
Stay tuned for details about our water ceremony, including options to bring water to church on September 12 or to have a volunteer come by your house.

September 20 at 10:30 am "Spiritual Accounting: Honoring the Jewish High Holidays," with Rev. Joanna Lubkin

September 27 at 10:30 am Guest Preacher (to be announced)

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. The latest interlude is posted on the home page of our website and the series is on our YouTube channel. Link to [All Souls YouTube](#) channel [Latest video](#)

From the Sunday Service and Music Committee

Committee members want to thank everyone who Zoomed with us on Sunday mornings this Summer. It was heartening to see as many as thirty smiling faces on our computer screens on any given Sunday! We are also grateful for those who bravely and ably presented the topic for the morning in this new virtual medium. All Souls Summer Services were truly a community effort that helped strengthen our connections with each other throughout the summer. Your presence online enriched the experience for everyone. Thank you all for your participation.

Don Swanson, Committee Chair
Rev. Joanna Lubkin, Minister
Jacob Clapper, Music Director
Joe Maloney, Committee Member
Judy Cobble, Committee Member
Mary Mitchell, Committee Member

Online Connection Circles

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

Or call in by phone at 646-876-9923
and enter Meeting ID: 965 7100 6038

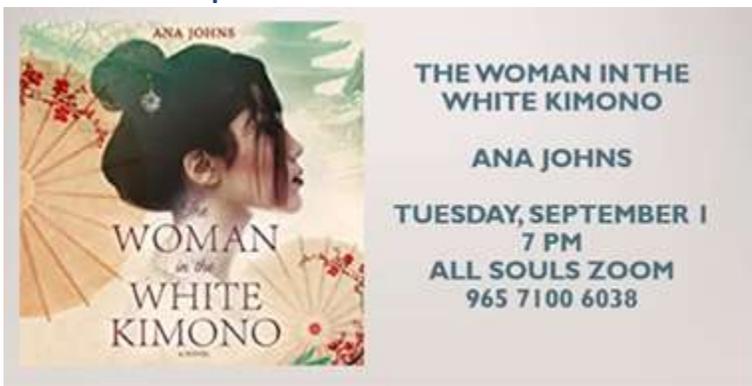


Our online groups will continue for the foreseeable future. The Zoom login is the same for all groups in All Souls' Special Interest Meeting Room including the Book Group, the Writing Group, the Tuesday Mid-day Meetup and the Friday Coffee Hour.

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. 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.

For our October meeting on Tuesday, October 6, we will be reading and discussing *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate.

Lisa Wingate takes an almost unthinkable chapter in our nation's history and weaves a tale of enduring power. That Georgia Tann and her Memphis Tennessee Children's Home Society could actually exist, unraveling the lives of countless children, stealing their pasts and changing their futures, will give you chills. But the real feat of this stirring novel is how deeply Wingate

plunges us into the heart and mind of twelve-year-old river gypsy Rill Foss. Rill’s utterly singular voice will stay with you long after the last page is turned, as will Wingate’s courage to follow her anywhere. . . . Vivid and affecting.”—Paula McLain, New York Times

Spiritual Writing Group



All Souls’ Spiritual Writing Group will meet on Zoom, Wednesday, September 30, at 4 pm. Equality will be the theme of our first meeting of the writing year. We will put our inspiration into stories, essays and poetry and address the many ways equality is defined.

For example:

What is the difference between equality and fairness, is there any difference?
Is justice part of the equation?
How do we measure equality?
What examples can we find that may approximate equality?

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

Diane Doucette – for ASC Writing Group

From the Treasurer

All Souls needs all of us to pull together to meet the many challenges presented by COVID-19. In response to our financial challenges, thank you to all who have continued to make your pledge payments throughout the summer. The church community relies on everyone’s continued contributions even though we aren’t passing the plate every Sunday morning. There are several ways you can relay your contributions to All Souls:

1. Mail your check, payable to "All Souls Church", to my home address or to the church Post Office Box. Mailing it to my home is likely to get your check deposited in the bank more quickly, but either address will work.

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

All Souls Church of Braintree
P.O. Box 850219
Braintree, MA 02185-0219

2. Set up a one-time or recurring payment through your bank account. Disbursements can be made via a check mailed to the church PO Box, or via a direct deposit to the church checking account. I can give you the church account number if you want to manage it that way. We currently have two donors who manage their donations in each of these two ways. There is no fee for this method of payment.

3. Donate on a one-time or recurring basis through the PayPal donate button on the church website home page. <https://www.allsoulsbraintreechurch.org/> Look for the bright green box near the bottom of the page. That offers you the option to set up a payment through your PayPal account or your credit card. All Souls will be charged a fee for each transaction (2.9% + \$ 0.30). If you would like to use this payment method, please consider increasing the amount of your pledge so that the church receives the full value of your pledge.

4. Donate with your credit card through Square. At your request, I would send you an invoice which you would complete with your credit card info and amount and submit directly to Square. The fee for Square is 3.5% plus \$ 0.15. Again, if you choose this payment method, please consider increasing the amount of your pledge so that the church receives the full value of your pledge.

Please contact me if you have questions, suggestions, or need assistance putting any of these options into play. Thank you for supporting our community financially in these changing times.

Mary Mitchell, Treasurer
Maryalthea52-at-gmail-dot-com
781-864-7743

From the Board of Trustees

We hope that you are having a good summer.

I welcome Ross Edwards to the Board of Trustees as the new Vice Chairperson and thank you to our returning and continuing members for the 2020-2021 fiscal year : Mary Mitchell as Treasurer, Diana Althouse as Clerk, Maureen Crimmins as Trustee-at-Large, Daniela Osborne as Trustee-at-Large and Linda Cozzens as Trustee-at-Large. Our minister Reverend Joanna Lubkin is also continuing with us in ministry for the fiscal year.

The Board of Trustees met in both July and August to discuss a number of items, in particular, the status of our Sunday services and fundraising ideas due to the cancellation of our annual Dickens Festival held in November.

Members of the Board, Development Committee and Maggy Evans, our Social Media and Website Coordinator, have been in communication about trying a virtual Dickens Festival. Also, the Board of Trustees and Sunday Service & Music Committee have been in communication regarding the status of our Sunday services heading into September and the remainder of the calendar year.

On a separate note, a contract has been signed between the architectural firm of Spencer, Sullivan and Vogt who are coordinating the grant work on behalf of our church and myself as Chairperson of the Board for work to be done in three areas: the repair/rebuilding of the existing chimney, removing and restoring ten leaded glass windows and the restoration of deteriorated wood sashes in the existing tower.

We are grateful for the funds granted by the Braintree Community Preservation Committee (CPC funds: \$65,000) and the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF funds: \$50,000). We thank Linda Steiner for her willingness to continue to serve as the Local Project Coordinator, acting as our liaison to Spencer, Sullivan and Vogt as well as to our funders.

Please keep a lookout for further upcoming communication regarding the Dickens Festival, Sunday services and church grant; and you may contact the Board of Trustees with any questions or concerns. The next meeting is on Monday evening September 21.

We wish you a safe and healthy remainder of the calendar year!

Respectfully yours,
Joseph Maloney
Ross Edwards



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Unitarian Universalist
P.O. Box 850219
Braintree, MA 02185-0219

All Souls Braintree – September 2020

Sunday Service Online

September 6 at 9:30 am
September 13, 20 and 27 at 10:30 am

Board of Trustees Online

Monday, September 21 at 7 pm

Online Connection Circles

Tuesday, September 1 at 7 pm Book Group
Thursday, September 30 at 4 pm Writing Group
Tuesdays at 1 pm Mid-week Meetup
Fridays at 10 am Coffee Hour

Please note that Magic Years Nursery and Amy's Dance are resuming some activity.

