



All Souls Church of Braintree

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

196 Elm St, Braintree

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allsoulsbraintreechurch.org



The Chimes

September 2022

Monthly Newsletter

The Reverend Beau Rivers, Minister: minister.allsouls@gmail.com
 The Reverend Meredith Anderson, Minister Emerita
 Jacob Clapper, Music Director
 Cheri Krueger, Office Administrator
 Office Email: allsoulsbraintree@gmail.com
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A Message from the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of All Souls,

Welcome to the start of the new church year at All Souls Church of Braintree! As I reflect on my summer, I am grateful for the opportunity to work on my house in Maine, reunite with family and friends, and spend lots of time playing with children. It was good to gather with loved ones without wearing masks and to hug each other with less fear of transmitting COVID. Let us hope this trend continues into the fall!

In preparation for our first service, we have purchased and installed a new remote-controlled camera in the sanctuary along with a new laptop capable of recording and editing our services.

We also purchased 8 new microphones and stands for our choir to perform safely in the sanctuary. We hope this new technology will improve the quality and production of our multi-platform services. We could not have achieved this major milestone without the many generous donations we received for this purpose in memory of Sal Vento. We thank you for bringing All Souls Church, a liberal presence in Braintree, Massachusetts since 1833, into the twenty first century!

As we enter the new church year, I want to applaud our newly elected Board Members for their enthusiasm in adopting a new model of shared leadership. Shared leadership is commonly practiced in feminist circles, and I am excited to see it being adopted at All Souls!

We also plan to engage in *Creative Conversations* this year as we explore how to secure a vibrant future for All Souls. At a summer gathering of lay leaders, the idea of combining our resources with another congregation came up. It was followed by a suggestion that we might benefit from a conversation with someone on the South Shore who has already done this work. We were then introduced to the achievements of David Ehrmann of EHRMANN Associates *Providing Coaching Solutions for Changing Organizations*. This information was so well received by members of the Board and lay leaders that we have reached out to David to schedule a meeting with him this fall. Stay tuned for more information!

Many Blessings on the Journey,

Rev. Beau

Sunday Services



Photo Credit: Jimmy Chang

INGATHERING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Rev. Beau Rivers

Join us for our annual ingathering service!
On September 11th we will reflect on summer blessings
and welcome the start of the new church year with our traditional
Water Ceremony. Everyone is invited to bring a sample of water
from a place that nurtured your spirit this summer to
pour into our Common Bowl.

A pitcher of church water will also be
available for our virtual participants and anyone
who did not collect or forgot to bring a water sample
to church, so all may participate.



Photo Credit: Oliver Peters

BELONGING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Rev. Beau Rivers

What is at the heart of belonging? Is it the same as fitting in?
Join us as we explore what it means to belong in spiritual community.



ROSH HASHANAH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
Rev. Joshua Lewis Berg

Sunday Service will be at 10:30 in the Sanctuary beginning September 11, masks encouraged – and will also be on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/96571006038> as well as live-streamed on our facebook page.

If the technology is a barrier, you can call in by phone at 646-876-9923 and enter Meeting ID: 965 7100 6038

If you arrive at church after 10:30, doors will be locked when service starts, so please ring the bell at the ramp door. An usher will be waiting to welcome you..

Free Covid-19 Tests are Available at All Souls Church

Free COVID-19 Test Kits are available now at All Souls Church, provided by the Braintree Health Department. These are self-tests that give results in 15 minutes. Please consider testing before attending social gatherings.



The Gift of Hospitality

On those Sundays that we are in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, we need volunteers to keep the hospitality ministry of coffee hour alive.

Volunteer opportunities for Hospitality will resume September 11.

If you would like to help, Sign up is online at this link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49AEAB23A2FBC25-coffee2>

Thank you.



Development and Engagement Committee

The church community decided to slow down this summer, having only two lay-led services instead of our regular practice of doing one every Sunday.

But somehow, we managed to have three big events that brought many of us together for remembering, socializing, and fundraising.

On June 18th, we gathered to honor and remember longtime and beloved member Sal Vento. It took one's breath away to see the sanctuary filled like most of us could not remember when. The speakers and slides were moving. And Sal would have enjoyed the Italian food Mike had arranged for us all to feast upon.

On August 14th we gathered outside for a potluck coffee hour to honor and remember another longtime and beloved member, Rick Anderson. As the unofficial maker of Sunday coffee for years, Rick had requested a coffee hour instead of a memorial service. The afternoon turned into a members' reunion additionally made special with the many scrapbooks Don provided.

On August 21st, we had enough energy to pull off a successful community yard sale. We met our financial goals (helped by payments from 30 vendors) and got in some welcomed visits. A big thanks to all who participated.

With the summer ending, it's time to turn our attention to Dickens 2022 possibilities. Board members Ross and Diana met with the co-chairs of the development/engagement committee to have a preliminary discussion on how to have a modified in person event. The consensus leans toward a pared down festival to accommodate safety and the probability of less volunteers. Another meeting with more participants is scheduled to occur between the writing of this article and the publishing of the Chimes.

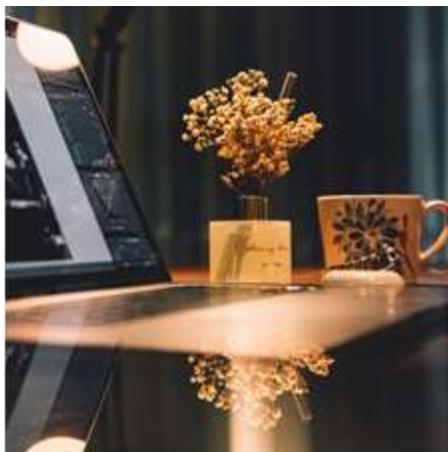
Anyone who would like to know the latest on plans for Dickens, or wants to get involved early on, should attend an after service meeting on Sunday September 11th (which is the first service of the new church year). If there is time, potlucks will also be discussed that day.

Co-chairs Tom and Roger

Zoom Access for Online Meetings

The Zoom login is the same for all groups in All Souls' Special Interest Meeting Room including the Book Group, the Writing Group, and Connection Circles
<https://zoom.us/j/96571006038>

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



Online Connection Circles

Connection Circles organically sprang to life in March 2020 in response to the social isolation created by the pandemic, meeting twice a week for over two years. As the world has begun to open up, we have re-imagined the format and frequency of these circles. It is good to have a time to check in with old friends and we are happy to welcome new friends in conversation.

Summer 2022 – We will meet at 3:30 PM ET on Thursday, September 8 for a one-hour open conversation.

Church Year – Meetings will be held weekly at 3:30 PM ET for 1 ½ hours on Thursday afternoons on September 15, 22 and 29. Each meeting will incorporate time for both open conversation and a specific topic and discussion. Your ideas for circle topics and/or your interest in presenting and leading a circle theme are welcome. The following topics have been chosen for September:

September 15 – *Vacation Mishap Invitational* - You are Invited to share your personal story about a vacation that didn't quite work out the way you expected it would. Led by Tom B.

September 22 – *Humor Invitational* – You are invited to share something that makes you laugh (a joke, a story, a cartoon, a meme, a video, etc.) led by Mary M.

September 29 - *Meaningful Folk Music* - Music videos led by Mary M.

You are invited to attend, as you are able, to share your wit, wisdom, and willingness to connect with others.

Mary Mitchell, Connection Circle Coordinator

Book Group

It would be lovely to welcome new participants to the Book Discussion Group! Plan to attend our Zoom gathering at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 6. If you have been reading over the summer months, we invite you to share something about your favorite reads with the group. With your recommendation, we can add them to a list of titles to consider for future group reads, or for independent reading by interested individuals.

We generally collaboratively select the titles we read two months ahead of the month in which we will discuss it, and we welcome your recommendations for books to read. In the past, it has been our practice that the person who recommends a title will also lead the discussion about that book when the time comes.

You can see by the titles we read last year (listed below) that we try to strike a balance between fiction and non-fiction, sprinkling serious topics among lighter fare. We also try to select titles that are easily obtained at no cost or low cost, and often in paperback.

All Creatures Great and Small, James Herriot

Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave, Erica Armstrong Dunbar

This is How it Always Is, Laurie Frankel

The Secret Life of Groceries, The Dark Miracle of the American Supermarket, Benjamin Lorr

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration, Isabel Wilkerson

The Blessing Way, Tony Hillerman

The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot, Robert Macfarlane

State of Terror, Hillary Rodham Clinton & Louise Penny

The group has not yet selected a title for our October gathering, but we hope to do so at our meeting on September 6. Plan to attend on Zoom on September 6 and again at 7 pm on Tuesday, October 4.

We look forward to a year of interesting reading and conversation!

For the Book Discussion Group,

Mary Mitchell



Spiritual Writing Group

The Writing Group meets monthly, usually on the last Wednesday of the month, at 4 pm on Zoom.

September 28 - Three characters, the Knight, the Dragon, and the Damsel. The old story is when a dragon captures the damsel and the knight saves her and kills the dragon... change it up, tell it a new way. From any perspective

Pot Luck Suppers!



Good Food, Good Friends, Good Fun!

Please join us for Potluck Supper. Bring something to eat with more to share. An ingredient list would be helpful in case of allergies. Dinners will be held on 9/24, 10/29, 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/28, and 5/27 at 6. June's potluck will be 6/17.

From the Treasurer

We congratulate Magic Years for a long and successful forty years in our building. Deborah Culkin, the school's director, has generously cared for and invested in the space she uses. Her stewardship has greatly contributed to All Souls' long-term viability. It's hard to believe that her first students are now well into their forties! My son Ted, now 32 years old, had a wonderful experience when he attended Magic Years. A new three-year agreement with Magic

Years, negotiated last month, includes annual increases of 2%, 2.5%, and 3%, respectively, plus an annual contribution toward our monthly trash removal fee.

The summer months have brought some additional positive financial news, even as we position ourselves for another year with a projected \$10,000 shortfall.

I am happy to report that we wrapped up FY 2021-22 with a shortfall under \$300, which we had projected to be closer to \$10,000. Because of timing, a portion of our projected shortfall (around \$2,000) has been pushed off into the new fiscal year (FY 2022-23), and could increase this year's shortfall.

We have taken steps to reduce the cost of our property insurance by about \$2,000 and have decided not to renew the lease on our little-used photocopier as a cost-saving measure (saving \$720 per year).

Committed Pledges topped \$50,000 for the second year in a row; and the yard sale met its budgeted target of \$1,500.

A new camera and laptop have been purchased with donations in memory of Sal Vento and several other gifts from members, and individual microphones have been purchased to enable choir members to safely sing together. These developments mean that multi-platform Sunday services will be much easier for the tech team to produce.

The continued financial support of our members and friends has been a crucial factor for our survival. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you for the steadfast generosity that sustains this beloved community, enables us to fairly compensate our wonderful staff and to insure, maintain and preserve our stately, historic building.

With gratitude, Mary Mitchell, Treasurer



From the Board of Trustees

Hi from the Board,

Welcome back to a new church year! The 2022 Board of Trustees is approaching our first service of the season with optimism, September 11 at 10:30.

Your Board has a new wrinkle this year; **we have a “chairperson of the whole!”** Instead of a single chairperson, the entire six Board members are sharing the job. Each of us will chair two consecutive meetings over the year. Ross chaired his second meeting on August 10, and Mary will lead the next two. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm; meetings are open to all members. If you have issues you want presented to the Board, please contact any of us (see below). We are a lively enthusiastic group, and we look forward to a productive, if somewhat unpredictable, year.

The Board, and the Congregation, face some challenging decisions. The constantly shifting COVID situation keeps us reviewing and updating our recommended precautions for in-person Sunday services and social gatherings. A helpful addition is the availability of **free home rapid test kits provided by the Braintree Health Department**. Please feel free to take kits from the basket in the foyer and to give them to family and friends; we encourage testing if you think you might have been exposed or have COVID symptoms.

Our design of a banner declaring our social values is almost finalized. This has been a long-term goal, in part to attract more members. With Rev Beau's input,

the Board is currently discussing content, design and placement. We will present our result to the Congregation when finished.

All Souls Church now has a Braintree Food Bank donation box for nonperishables located in the Parish Hall. Thanks to Kevin Driscoll for conceiving and executing this. We have joined with the First Congregational Church at 12 Elm Street. They accept donations the first Wednesday of each month that then go to help Braintree residents through the Marge Crispin Center Food Pantry.

We wish to thank Rev. Beau for her well-informed and thoughtful leadership as a participant in our meetings. She has contributed greatly to our efforts to organize, to develop policy, and to make our various decisions.

Happy Fall!

The Board: Diana Althouse, Ross Edwards (Vice-Chair), Sandra Lingley, Lauren McGrath, Mary Mitchell (Treasurer), Lin Steiner (Clerk)

Outside Community

Open Studios weekend is September 17 and 18, open to the public 10 am – 4 pm, family-friendly, and free. We look forward to you exploring Hull and our phenomenal artists.

HA's Open Studios gives you a chance to visit the homes and studios of some of the best artists living on the South Shore. In 2022 we have 27 artists in 17 locations, throughout Hull's peninsula and bordering communities, plus Gallery Nantasket (#12 on the map) our retail gallery with fine art and craft from 25 artists. At the Gallery, you can speak with an artist familiar with Open Studios and get information and advice on the studios, restaurants, and more.

On this website, you can view and download a list of artists and their mediums, as well as an interactive map that shows the location of each studio.

<https://hullartists.com/openstudios/> Along the way, you'll discover the work of welcoming artists using diverse mediums including oils, acrylics, watercolors, photography, sculpture, basketry, fiber arts, paper, ceramics, glass, jewelry, and mixed media.

We encourage visitors to enjoy themselves while exploring Hull's neighborhoods, scenic beauty, and meeting our artists. Whether this is your first visit, or you're a seasoned traveler to Hull, you're sure to be impressed by the amazing quality

and incredible range of creative work being produced in this amazing seaside area.





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

All Souls Braintree – Calendar Highlights September 2022

Sunday Service is in person at the Church and Live Streamed Online on Zoom and Facebook at 10:30 am on September 11 and 18, we will let you know if someone will be at the church on September 25 when a guest minister will be leading the service

Service and Music Committee, Monday, September 5 at 6:30 pm

Book Group Tuesday, September 6 at 7 pm

Connection Circles We will meet at 3:30 pm ET on Thursday, September 8 for a one-hour open conversation. Church Year – Meetings will be held weekly at 3:30 pm ET for 1 ½ hours on September 15, 22 and 29.

Dickens Planning Meeting Sunday, September 11 at 11:45 am

Social Action and Environment Tuesday, September 13 at 7:15 pm

Board of Trustees Wednesday, September 14 at 7 pm

October Chimes Deadline: Friday, September 23 at 6 pm

Pot Luck Supper: Saturday, September 24 at 6 pm

Writing Group, Wednesday September 28 at 4 pm

Our calendar can be viewed any time ... visit our website and go to calendar/events, use the dropdown menu to select calendar

