



Unitarian Church of Barnstable

# Chalice

VOLUME 34 ISSUE I

February 2024

*A newsletter of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable dedicated to educating, informing, and inspiring our community.*

## Mission Statement of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable

*Welcoming congregation of and  
for all ages.*

*Working for justice and  
compassion in our world.*

*Encouraging spiritual journeys  
and thoughtful dialogue.*

### Minister

The Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper

### Office Administrator

Chandra Bibeault

**Church Office** 508-362-6381

**Open:** Tues—Fri 9 am to 1 pm

**E-mail:** [ucb@barnstableuu.org](mailto:ucb@barnstableuu.org)

**Website:** [barnstableuu.org](http://barnstableuu.org)

### Minister's Contact Information

[minister@barnstableuu.org](mailto:minister@barnstableuu.org)

Monday—day off

### Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
9 am to 1 pm

Contact the office for  
appointments outside regular  
hours.

Email: [KLHarperUU@aol.com](mailto:KLHarperUU@aol.com)

### Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Dawn MacKechnie

[DCYM@barnstableuu.org](mailto:DCYM@barnstableuu.org)

## Join Us in Warren Hall for an Energy Café Sunday, February 25, 12:00-1:15 pm

Sponsored by UCB's Green Sanctuary and hosted by the  
**Faith Communities Environmental Network**

Refreshments and a light lunch will be served

- Learn from Cape Light Compact about energy savings programs for renters, homeowners, and landlords
- Learn how to access the new 2024 state and federal incentives and rebates
- Share your best practices to cut energy use
- Schedule a Home Energy Audit (suggested every 2-3 years)



Come and support other UCB members to learn from you; Bring family & friends!

With winter upon us and energy costs high our Green Sanctuary is delighted to host an energy-themed program from the Faith Communities Environmental Network (FCEN) entitled "Energy Café: An Environmental Justice Initiative." The one-hour event will be on Sunday, February 25 immediately following our coffee hour.

Over coffee and sandwiches, FCEN's volunteer "Energy Ambassadors" will share information and personal stories on how a no-cost energy assessment and other incentives and services from MassSave sponsors Cape Light Compact and National Grid can make your home more comfortable and help offset rising energy bills. The volunteers will also be on hand to help access discounts and fuel assistance for income-eligible households. Whether you rent or own your home, these services are available to all.



**Published Monthly**  
**Unitarian Church of Barnstable**  
**3330 Main Street**  
**PO Box 285**  
**Barnstable, MA 02630**

### **Newsletter Editors**

Carolyn Barnes  
 Patricia Steacy

### **Submitting Material**

We welcome your comments for the *Chalice*. Please email submissions to:

barnscapecod@gmail.com  
 patsteacy@gmail.com

**If you do not have access to email, please give your submission to the office**

Deadline for the March Chalice is February 22.

### **A reminder**

All who have indicated that they wish to receive the Chalice by email are sent a link to it each month. Please call the office to request changes.

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.barnstableuu.org](http://www.barnstableuu.org)**



Visit us on Facebook  
 @UCBarnstableinAction



*Chalice* photographs by:

Dawn MacKechnie

Lucy West

Connie Hinds

## **Religious Services**

### **Sundays, 10:30 a.m.**

February 4	<i>Waiting for the Other Shoe to Drop</i>	Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper
February 11	<i>Multi Generational Service of Love</i>	Children and Youth Center
February 18	<i>A Spiritual Journey</i>	EJ Mills Brennan*
February 25	<i>Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?</i>	Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

\*Our Guest Speaker on Sunday, February 18th will be EJ Mills Brennan, offering her thoughts on her spiritual journey and performing her latest piece, "Finding the Way." EJ is a multi-media Mashpee Wampanoag Artist, Musician and Educator with a firm belief in the healing power of the Arts. Amongst many projects, she has produced two independent CD Releases: *Breath of Prayers II - A collection of Solo Native American Flute* (1998); and *Breath of Prayers III - Original Compositions for Piano, Flutes and Vocal* (2003).

Published independently, she performs all instrumentation and continues to promote her projects. One is meditative, solo Cedar Flute; and the other (more contemporary) addresses environmental issues which remain quite relevant to this day.

As an Artist she continues to develop her creativity with favorite mediums being gouache weaving, multiple-block printing and wet-felted Shetland fleece.

## **Membership Committee**

It's time for another round of **LETS EAT TOGETHER SOCIALS (LETS)!** LETS, an updated version of Dinners for 6, is a great way to get to know more people in the church by sharing a series of 3 meals together. As the name suggests, the meals can occur at any time of day, whenever the participants choose. All church members and friends are welcome, as individuals or couples. Meals are generally shared by 6 people, and one pair is chosen as the first hosts. The hosts will contact the other members to arrange a convenient time for the first meal and to determine what each guest will bring. Generally, the hosts provide the entrée and beverages, and others bring the remainder of the meal. At the first meal, the participants will set the times and dates of the other 2 meals.

Sign up for the spring session (March, April, May) will take place on February 4, 11, and 18 during coffee hour in Warren Hall. You may also sign up by calling or emailing Gayle Leaversuch (508-744-7359 [leavers5@aol.com](mailto:leavers5@aol.com)) or Nancy Risio (508-771-6412 [n.risio@comcast.net](mailto:n.risio@comcast.net)).

## Kristen's Corner

After my sermon celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, a number of people mentioned to me that they hadn't known before about the three different types of love King mentions in a few of his sermons. As Valentine's day is coming up soon, I thought I would explain again part of the Greek understandings of love.

There are three main words in the Greek Language for love. The first is eros—Romantic Love/Sexual Love. This is the love you have for your partner, your husband, your wife. It is passionate love. It is the love you experience in those first blushes of meeting and we all want to last a life time. This is the love we most celebrate on Valentine's Day. Most of us have experienced this type of love or, as King said, "we [have] read about it in the beauties of literature."

The second type of love the Greeks talk about is Philia. Philia is a love at another level—it is an intimate affection between friends. On this level we love because we are loved. We love people that we like. Philia is how you feel for your closest friends, the friends you would do anything for, the friends you can count on, the friends you can be honest with and who accept your differences. Although Philia is usually reserved for friends it can also be extended to family, colleagues and peers with whom you have more intimate relationships.

Agape is the third understanding of the word love in Greek. Agape does not need romance or friendship. It does not have to do with affection. King described Agape as understanding, creative good will for all. "It is an overflowing love which sweeps nothing in return. Theologians would say it is the love of God operating in the human heart." Agape moves us to hate not a person for their actions but the system in which the person is caught up in. "One loves the person," King explained, "and hates the evil deed."

Dr. King felt that this is what Jesus meant when he said love your enemies. "I am happy that he didn't say like your enemies because it's pretty difficult to like some people. It's difficult to like people bombing your homes and threatening your children and kicking you about but Jesus says love them and love is greater than like. Love is understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill for all..."

I see Agape as also having compassion for people who are caught up in systems that teach them to behave in ways that are destructive—having compassion for people's fear and hatred that leads them to harm others. Agape is not a weak love. It is the type of love that will not let us go, will not let us down, will not let us off the hook. It sees the woundedness in people and has compassion for that woundedness.

As we watch in horror at what Hamas has wrought and the genocide Israel is committing we love instead of hate; we recognize the desire for a home land, the colonialism, the instinct to war; and pour our creative goodwill and belief in redemption for all out of our hearts. We are Universalist who believe grace, salvation and redemption is for everyone—not just people who do what we think is right.

Agape is not an excuse for bad behavior or evil deeds. It is a call to love people into healing, to forgiveness, to compassion. It is a call to stick with love and not let bitterness and hate overwhelm the better angels of our nature. Hate must not win! We must answer it with love.

See you in Church!

Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper

*U to U*  
~~~~~



# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BARNSTABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM

In the month of January the children and youth program explored the amazing life of rocks through wonderful activities and conversations thanks to Ryan Smee and his wonderful ideas! Here is some of what we explored:



**The Life of a Rock** — using chocolate to learn how — although they aren't alive in the same way cats, people, and trees are alive — rocks can be thought of as having life: They grow, change, move, and take on new characteristics over time.

**The Birth of our Cape** — Using sand and ice cubes to recreate (in extreme miniature!) how glaciers sculpted Cape Cod at the end of the ice age. Discussed how part of the reason we don't think about rocks as "living," is because the timescale of rocks' lives is SO long compared to ours. We learned about how our duty to care for the sand, soil, and rocks is just as important as caring for plants and animals.

**Our Earth is Alive** — Using fruit to talk about how the earth itself is alive within, teeming with energy and rocks growing, changing, evolving everywhere beneath our feet.

**Sacred Life is Everywhere** — The universe is full of worlds thriving with energy and the life of rocks . . . volcanoes; glaciers; oceans; quakes, just like our planet, which means wherever we look when we gaze up, there's somewhere a rocky world just as alive as ours. If we, as Unitarians, care about the interdependent web of life, and rocks can be thought of as alive, then we live ON a sacred, living planet; and within a universe thronged with sacred, living spheres.

Let me know if you have a good idea for programming and wish to volunteer to help with leading it. I would love to explore it with you!

**Dawn MacKechnie,**  
*Director of Children and Youth Ministries*  
[DCYM@barnstableuu.org](mailto:DCYM@barnstableuu.org)

## THANK YOU!

We had an amazing time at the  
Multi-generational Bingo Game  
Night held on January 26th.

A **BIG** thank you to everyone  
who brought such amazing food  
and prizes along with the hard  
work of our volunteers!



You won't want to miss our next  
Multi-generational Service on  
February 11th!

## When Our Heart is in a Holy Place

The children and youth will help lead us in worship.





## The Power of Words

By [Aaron Stockwell Wisman](#)

“Let’s face it: some people have a way with words, and other people...uh, not have way.”

—Steve Martin

The window seat in the last row is objectively the worst seat on any airplane. It would probably make any kind, saintly person cranky. But that’s where my wife and I were one Friday, on our way to Texas: I in the middle seat, Lizzie in the aisle seat, and some other guy in the window seat.

As I was trying to accommodate my seatmate’s “manspreading” early on in the flight, I glanced down at the phone he was holding and saw his response to a family member who had texted, “Who is sitting next to you?” His response was, “Some overweight guy...He is continuously sighing.” I felt so small when I read that. Even though I’ve read all about Fat liberation theology and how diet culture is b\*s\* and all bodies are good and amazing bodies, it took one little comment that I wasn’t even supposed to see to wreck my mood for a bit. My weight and my breathing patterns are the least interesting thing about me.

It can be tough to get out of that negative space, especially when those words were said about me, in cramped confines, by someone I didn’t know. Words that I wasn’t supposed to even see.

Two days later—Sunday morning—I wanted to worship at my colleague Dan’s church. He’s a UCC minister; one of the best interfaith clergy colleagues I’ve had. I was visiting for the building dedication of the congregation I once served and didn’t know when I’d be able to visit again. At one point in worship he said, “I don’t want to put you on the spot, but I just want to introduce my friend Rev. Aaron. He served the UU church here for a while and now he’s visiting from Massachusetts. Thanks for being here, buddy. A beautiful child of God.”

To hear these words, spoken in sacred space by a dear friend, and shared with the rest of the congregation present was so powerful. I felt like my soul and heart were so big.

Flying home that afternoon, I wondered to myself what voice I try to be in the world. It’s amazing the power our words can have.

This article appeared in the February edition of the UUA Newsletter

Rev. Aaron Stockwell Wisman (he/him/his) has been the senior minister at First Parish in Framingham, MA since 2020



## Caring Connections

As some of you know, we have started a care team, Caring Connections. Our focus is to facilitate outreach to members of UCB to demonstrate our care for one another. Through cards, telephone, and visits, we will enhance our connections within our caring community.

We have set up a table in Warren Hall that has cards for everyone’s use so that we can all connect with members who might appreciate a note. Along with a suggestion box where you could add a member’s name or an idea you may have, or anything else that you would like the team to follow up on.

Our team: Meredith Censullo, Connie Hinds, Susie Littlefield, Claudia Sussdorf & Carol Wall. Please feel free to reach out to anyone of us. Thank you

Carol: wallcarol@comcast.net

Claudia: claudiasussdorf@gmail.com

Connie: cahrock@aol.com

Meredith: meredithcensullo@gmail.com

Susie: sshlittlefield@gmail.com

## New Member - Angela Patrick

Angela Patrick came from her native England to the Boston area at age 21 as a nanny and never went back except for family visits. "I love living here," she said, though added, "I truly yearn for England." She described how people have a special connection to their roots that lasts.

She still keeps in touch with six friends in England and her sister and her family as well as friends everywhere she has lived. Friends and family are very important to her. She spent a long visit to Florida over the holidays with her daughter Carole and her two teenage grandchildren, whom she adores.

Angela became very connected to her new country quickly, especially after taking a short trip to Washington, D.C., in 1963, and was very impressed with a tour of the White House. It was one week before President Kennedy was assassinated. That left an indelible memory.

Angela says she has always been a caregiver. She has worked with people with Alzheimer's disease and those who are differently disabled. She is currently overseeing the home of one of her former clients.

Early on, she was a waitress for 15 years while raising two children as a single mom. "I loved it," she said, even though she admitted, "It is not an easy job." She felt she succeeded because she loves people and could handle demanding customers. She especially enjoyed working at the former Liam's Irish Tavern in Framingham for 10 years where she had a generous boss who was good to his employees. While there, she saved up her tips for a year to pay for a trip back to England for her and her daughters.

Angela and her children spent most summers on the Cape while they were growing up and she moved here 23 years ago, first to Dennis, and now lives in South Dennis. She was a member of the First Parish Brewster before joining UCB in November, although she hadn't been a Unitarian Universalist before. Her friend Carol Wall convinced her to visit UCB. Angela was raised in the Church of England, but said she never felt strong connections to it.

However, Angela said she likes "learning about differences," and loves to travel. She has been to about 13 other countries in Europe and Korea. One of her first adventurous trips as a newcomer to the United States was on a Greyhound bus from Boston to Los Angeles to visit friends, taking the northern route one way and the southern route the other, allowing her to see 19 states.

Angela's other interests are gardening and reading historical novels and biographies. She has joined the knitting group at UCB and loves to watch British TV. She also volunteers at the Dennis Senior Center.

Angela says she loves UCB and Kristen's sermon and has felt very welcomed by members.



## Church Life



Edible Christmas decorations hanging on a tree outside church, made by UCB children and



Unveiling of the painting of Margaret Moseley and Martin Luther King, Jr., painted by Mary Hukalowicz.

### Community Outreach Team

We will be partnering with The Cape Cod Foster Closet for the month of February to collect donations of new children's clothing. These items are what's currently needed.

#### Girls clothing

sleepers-size 9 months  
 "onesies" size 24 months  
 long sleeve tops sizes 2T,3T,7,8,12 and 14.  
 leggings or sweatpants sizes 3T,5,and 12  
 underwear size 4

#### Boys clothing

long sleeve tops sizes 3T,6,7,12,and 14  
 sweatpants sizes 3T,4T,5,6,7,10,12  
 underwear sizes 4,10 and 12



The Cape Cod Foster Closet provides critically needed clothing and supplies, community connections and a listening ear to anyone on the Cape & Islands who is raising someone else's biological child. This includes foster, adoptive and kinship families, including the thousands of grandparents in the area who are raising their grandchildren. They're always looking for volunteers to help in their Orleans storefront boutique, and for financial and in-kind support.

For more information, please call 508-514-7125 or speak with our fellow UCB congregant Carla Koehl who is their Community Outreach Director.

[ckoehl@capecodfostercloset.org](mailto:ckoehl@capecodfostercloset.org)



Yarmouth Port Library  
*Presents*

## ***The History and Future of Land Conservation on Cape Cod***



*By Mark Robinson and Christine Marzigliano*

### **Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2 PM**

Long-time Cape Cod Land Conservation experts, Mark Robinson and Christine Marzigliano, will provide an overview of themes driving efforts to preserve the Cape, early philanthropic gifts, civic efforts, and the rise of land trusts and municipal programs. Learn about projects in our Town of Yarmouth.

Please call **508.362.3717** to reserve your space.

**Yarmouth Port Library, 297 Main Street, Yarmouth Port MA 02675**

### **Community Outreach Team**

This month we will continue to partner with **Cape Kids Meals** to pack weekend food bags for children on Cape Cod. In February we will help out on **Thursday, February 8 at 9 AM at 1336 Main Street in Osterville**. Please sign up in Warren Hall so that we know how many packers to expect. Questions? Contact Gayle Leaversuch, Helen Matusow-Ayres, or Sally Tarbell.

Thanks to all!



## Church Officers and Committees

### GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Kenyon, Chair  
 Martha Swindler, Co-Chair  
 Clerk - Kim Hanggi  
 Treasurer – Dan Ewing, ex-officio voting member  
 Mary Jane Beach  
 Mark Nichols  
 Nancy Risio

### CHURCH OFFICERS

Governing Board Chair –Patty Kenyon  
 Governing Board Co-Chair - Martha Swindler  
 Moderator - Kathy Bryan  
 Assistant Moderator - George Cavanaugh  
 Clerk - Kim Hanggi  
 Assistant Clerk - Carol Ewing  
 Treasurer – Dan Ewing  
 Assistant Treasurers) - Christine Marzigliano, Richard Negus, Chris Hammond, Sharon Marotti

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Capital Projects and Investments  
 Long-Range Planning Committee  
 Nominating Committee  
 Personnel Committee  
 Building and Operations Committee

**MINISTER:** Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

### PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE, GROUP, AND TEAM LEADERS

Parish Council:  
 Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper  
 Jo Anne Miller Buntich, chair  
 Elaine Brennan  
 Betsy Johnson  
 Helen Matusow-Ayres  
 Sheila Place  
 Dawn MacKechnie, Director of Children and Youth Ministries  
 Nancy Risio, Governing Board liaison  
 Communications:  
 Website - Chris Hammond;  
 Chalice - Carolyn Barnes, Pat Steacy;  
 Facebook - Jo Anne Miller Buntich, Susan Starkey  
 Flowers: Betsy Johnson

Green Sanctuary: Sheila Place

Hospitality: Jo Anne Miller Buntich and Patty Kenyon

Justice for All: Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper.

Library: Carolyn Barnes

Membership: Nancy Risio

Music: Lucy West

Social Outreach:

Outreach - Gayle Leaversuch

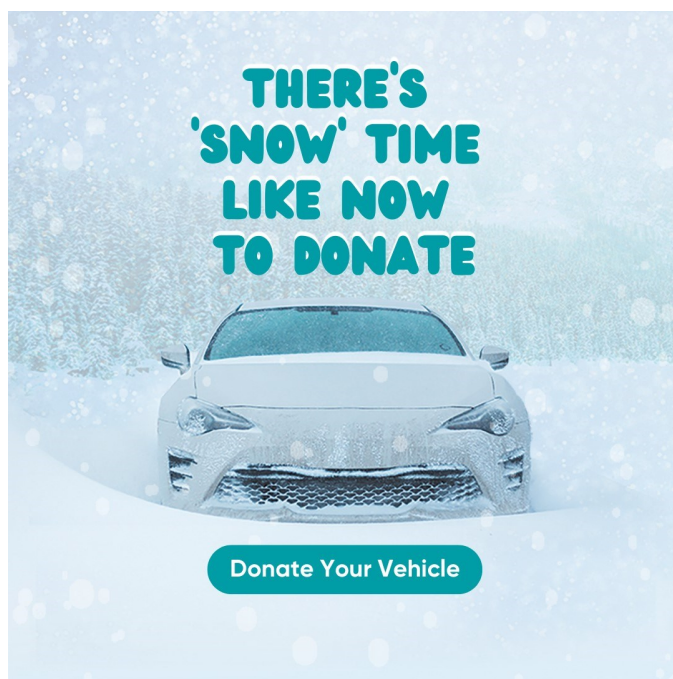
St. Joseph's House - Ruth Owen

Barnstable Interfaith Council - Janet

Abbott, Carol Cahoon

WomanSpirit: Karen Birely

Worship: Vicki Goldsmith



UUA Proposal for a new covenant

**Please inform the office administrator if your address or email has changed.**

**If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, write REFUSED on this mail piece and drop it in a mail box.**

---

**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
BARNSTABLE**

**PO BOX 285**

**Barnstable MA 02630-0285**