

# CHALICE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BARNSTABLE DEDICATED  
TO EDUCATING, INFORMING, AND INSPIRING OUR COMMUNITY.

Volume 36 Issue 4 | April 2026

## Mission Statement of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable

A 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: Tuesday - Friday 9AM to 1PM

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

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

Minister's Contact Information [minister@barnstableuu.org](mailto:minister@barnstableuu.org)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9AM to 1PM | Monday - Day Off

Contact the office for appointments outside regular hours.

Director of Children & Youth Ministry Dawn MacKechnie | [DCYM@barnstableuu.org](mailto:DCYM@barnstableuu.org)



## Religious Services | Sundays 10:30AM

April 5<sup>th</sup> "I Wish I Could Be A Christian "  
Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

April 12<sup>th</sup> "Heaven and Hell Are States of Being"  
Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

April 19<sup>th</sup> "Yom HaShoah and the Pink Triangle"  
Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

April 26<sup>th</sup> "Blues, Jazz, Justice and the Holy Power of the Creative Spirit"  
Tom Stites

*U.S. highway Route 66 is largely legendary, having been supplanted by an interstate. But its legend is an ineradicable part of our culture, largely because of a song that was recorded 80 years ago, shortly after World War II ended and our country exploded with hope and energy. The song also provides a lens for viewing a deeper part of our nation's history, the pursuit of racial justice.*



I love the story of the “Stone Soup”, so I was delighted to find a parallel story called the “The Chalice Soup.” Although I adapted it slightly to speak to our particular situation, in essence it is the same wise story I love.

“There once was a little bayside community called Barnstable. People of many races, cultures, beliefs, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities and classes lived together in relative harmony. They loved each other’s company and they graciously helped each other out. Their children played together in the hallow; they fixed each other’s bicycles, and gathered regularly at Nirvana to share stories of their lives. In those times the community of Barnstable was lucky enough to have access to all different kinds of fruits and vegetables growing in the farms nearby.

Then one year, the community of Barnstable was hit by a terrible Pandemic. The Pandemic continued into the next year and the next year and some food became scarce and the people became anxious and afraid. They wanted to carefully guard everything they had, so they shut their doors, closed their windows, and spent all day long looking at their bank statements online. They hoarded the food they had and hid themselves from their friends and neighbors behind masks and walls.

One day a traveler passed through the town. The wind was blowing so hard and the rain was coming down so fast it made it so difficult to see that she had to park her Toyota hybrid at the Unitarian Church of Barnstable for the night. The traveler was very hungry and tired. She got a list of names of members of the church and she asked them about finding a place to eat and sleep for the night. “There’s not a bite to eat in the whole Cape and people won’t be keen to let you into their homes,” they told her. “You’d be better off going to New Hampshire.

The traveler said, “Oh, I have everything I need. In fact I would like to make some chalice soup to share with all of you and I’ll make it out here on your front lawn. She went back to her wagon and pulled out a big cooking pot. She filled it with water and built a fire under it. Then, she reached slowly into her backpack and, while several members of the congregation watched, she pulled out a ceramic chalice and dropped it into the water. Hearing about the magic chalice, most of the congregation surrounded the traveler and her cooking pots with their doubts. As she sniffed the chalice soup and licked her lips, the congregation began to overcome their lack of trust and their curiosity go the best of them.

“Ahh,” the traveler said aloud to herself, “I do like a tasty chalice soup. Of course, Chalice soup with cabbage is even better. A member of the congregation shared, “I have cabbage from my garden,” and held it out for the traveler. “Fantastic!” cried the traveler and she cut up the cabbage and added it to the pot. “You know, I once had chalice soup with cabbage and some beans, and it was delicious. With that, a young parent approached the traveler with a large can of beans. “Here,” she said, opening the can and placing the beans into the pot.

And so it went—through potatoes, onions, carrots, mushrooms, peppers, butternut squash, turnips, tofu, lentils, and so on—until all of the members and friends of the church had given something to the chalice soup. The rain stopped and all were gathered around the pot. Some people brought homemade bread, others brought juice.

When the chalice soup was ready, there was enough delicious food for everyone there as well as all of the townsfolk. The people of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable and their surrounding community gathered close to one another and began to talk. They were soon chatting and laughing as they had in earlier times. “What a miracle!” said the people as they ate and drank their fill. “To think that such delicious soup could be made from a simple chalice!”

We are in the middle of our annual stewardship drive and each of us has a different gift to share with one another. All we ask is that you contribute what you can to the soup which keeps our chalice burning.

See you in Church!

Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper



# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BARNSTABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM

## Highlights from March programming



### Youth Group Youth StreetReach

We had a fantastic experience at Youth StreetReach! Eight of our youth played an active role in serving a warm breakfast to members of our unhoused community and helped hand out many essential items. They also shared flowers, which brought unexpected smiles and brightened the morning for many.

Experiences like this remind us that service is not only about meeting physical needs, but also about connection, dignity, and kindness. Our youth showed great compassion as they welcomed each person with warmth and care. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed through

- money to help buy essential items: \$488
- donated items
- food for the breakfast
- hands-on support.

Your generosity helped make this meaningful experience possible for our youth and for the community we served.

### The Peeps Pilgrimage

Over the month of March, our children and youth took part in a creative makerspace project called **The Peeps Pilgrimage: A Journey Shaped by Our Values**. Each child received a Peep traveler and created a personal "journey board," adding a new part each week as their Peep's pilgrimage unfolded. The children began by naming and decorating their Peeps and creating the place where their journey started. Over the following weeks, their travelers faced a river crossing that invited conversations about justice and equity, created places of generosity and welcome, and finally discovered how journeys can change us through transformation. The finished displays beautifully reflected our year theme of "trust in the unfolding journey," reminding us that every path is unique, and we do not travel alone.



### April 26<sup>th</sup> GAME EVENT

(during coffee hour)

We hope you'll stay after the service for a fun game event! Enjoy some pizza and take time to play a game with one another.

### May 17<sup>th</sup> ART SHOW

(during coffee hour)

Check out all the amazing programming done this year with this showcase on the stage in Warren Hall.

### May 25<sup>th</sup> No programming or Nursery

Enjoy the holiday weekend!

\*\*\*\* May 31<sup>st</sup> \*\*\*\*

### FAMILY Field Trip to Taylor-Bray Farm for an end-of-year CELEBRATION!

- Nursery will be available for those not attending the field trip

□

### June 7<sup>th</sup> Multigenerational Flower Communion Ceremony

Join us as we celebrate the last Sunday of the church school year before breaking for the summer.

The nursery will be open and available until the end of June



# **We need each other...**

**Being human, we are imperfect. That's why we need each other. To catch each other when we falter. To encourage each other when we lose heart. Some may lead; others may follow; but none of us can go it alone. -Hillary Clinton**

**If you are reading this, you have found a wonderful community where you do not need to go it alone. But to sustain this community involves a good amount of work and unfortunately money. We have started our 2026/2027 Stewardship campaign giving us an opportunity to continue with our wonderful Minister, staff, programs, and building.**

**At the time of this publication we have received 57 pledges, meaning only 42% of our members and totaling \$174,750 or 69% of our monetary goal.**

**If our goal was split evenly, a suggested amount would be \$1600 per member. We realize this is impossible for some so what you can capably give is just as important.**

**We only ask for a pledged amount at this time so the Operating Budget can be approved at our June Annual Meeting. As an added bonus, each Sunday after service on 4/12, 4/19 and 4/26 we will be drawing for a gift card to the Old Yarmouth Inn in Yarmouth Port! To be included in these drawings, we must have received a pledge by 4/26 at the latest.**

**Please pledge today by sending an email to our Treasurer, Dan Ewing and let him know the amount of your pledge; Dan's email is [dewing3@gmail.com](mailto:dewing3@gmail.com). Or if you prefer, you may call him at 781-801-2311 to request a pledge card that you can mail to UCB or put in the plate at Sunday service.**

**In gratitude, the Stewardship Committee**

# Talent Show

THANK YOU TO  
EVERYONE THAT TOOK  
PART IN THE TALENT  
SHOW!





(Scan to comment directly to DHS!)

## UU Solidarity Initiative



Take 3 minutes to comment on a rule proposed by the Trump Administration  
Sunday, April 12 after service in Warren Hall

The UU Solidarity Initiative invites UCB to join a national comment campaign to ensure that asylum seekers can work while their asylum applications are processed. An example is Afghani war refugees, especially women, who fled Afghanistan in fear - and hope. They are using work permits to start a new life. The Trump administration proposed a new rule that would radically undermine the ability of future asylum-seekers to receive work permits in the US.

People who fear persecution in their home countries are eligible for asylum. Under current regulations, people applying for asylum can receive permission to work and support themselves. The administration's intention is to stop that process. By trying to deny a work option, the administration is cruelly compounding the hardships of asylum-seekers and hurting the local economies that rely on these workers to fill open jobs.

But we have a chance to stop this rule from ever taking effect.

Federal agencies are legally required to read and respond to every unique and substantive comment before finalizing a rule.

Read more about the [Campaign Strategy at the UU Solidarity Initiative](#).

We'll provide fact sheets and log you in to the [Federal Register](#). It takes about 3 minutes. Here's an example of a comment: I have helped welcome refugees to the United States, and I know how eager most are to work and support their families, to start a new life in our country while they are seeking asylum. Our communities need such workers, especially in caregiving, where there is a critical shortage of caregivers to provide care and support for elders and Americans with disabilities, so they can live independently and with dignity in our communities. Denial or delays in work authorization for people seeking asylum also impact workforce availability. Please do not change the current work authorization rules for people seeking asylum. Thank you. (Suzanne Wall)

Submitted at: (you can read the whole rulemaking process here)

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/02/23/2026-03595/employment-authorization-reform-for-asylum-applicants#open-comment>The QR Code above goes to the same Federal Register rule comment site. The deadline for comments is 4/28/26.

**Sunday April 19**  
**1:30 pm**

**Boston Common**  
**at the Embrace**

Guest Speaker  
Bill McKibben



One  
Sun

One  
Earth

One  
People



**A Sacred Celebration**

RSVP



[bica.earth](http://bica.earth)

Boston Interfaith Climate Allies invites you to gather at the Embrace Memorial on Boston Common and process to the Cathedral Church of St Paul for a celebration of solidarity with our Earth



# ALL CHURCH BOOK READ:

## Emergent Strategy by adrienne maree brown

Justice For All invites you to the next All-Church read! adrienne maree brown's "Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds"

Discussions in Warren Hall

Let's Explore Our Interconnections

This is a book read focused on how we as a community work on all the interconnected Justice Issues. At a national level, we're all concerned with how to bring a sense of empowerment back into our view of our role. This way of thinking can impact your personal and spiritual life in addition to your justice and democracy work.



When:

Saturday, April 11, from 1-2:30pm. Come having read the Intro and Chapter 1 and 2. After discussing these readings, we'll each select a Chapter to read for the next section.

Saturday, May 2, from 1-2:30 pm. Come prepared to share with us your Key Moments from the Chapter you read.

Sign Up: let Chandra know that you plan to attend the April 11th session

If love were the central practice of a new generation of organizers and spiritual leaders, it would have a massive impact on what was considered organizing.

# UCB at



# NO KINGS





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

## April Community Outreach Donation Request Cape Cod Disaster Animal Response Team

Each month donations for pets in need are distributed by CCDART at the Salvation Army in Hyannis. If you would like further information about this organization their website is [www.ccdart.org](http://www.ccdart.org).

Red's PUP UP Pet Food Pantry is in need of the following;

- Canned cat food
- SMALL bags of dry cat food
- SMALL bags of kitty litter
- Cat treats

Please leave your donations in The Community Outreach Bin in Warren Hall. If you have any questions please contact Sally Tarbell, Tina Payeur or Gayle Leaversuch.

Thank you!





## Cobb's Hill 2026 Concert Series

The Unitarian Church of Barnstable  
3330 Main Street  
Barnstable, Massachusetts 02630

will offer 6 classical music concerts from June to November

Please join us at 5 p.m.  
on

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| June 13 <sup>th</sup>      | The 2025 Van Cliburn International Competition Finalist Carter Johnson on piano.  |
| July 11 <sup>th</sup>      | Celine Ferro and the inventive Kalliope Reed Trio   |
| August 8 <sup>th</sup>     | Internationally acclaimed Eldred Marshall on piano.   |
| September 19 <sup>th</sup> | Timothy Paek on cello and James Rosenblum on piano playing Rachmaninoff cello sonata.   |
| October 10 <sup>th</sup>   | James Rosenblum on piano, his family members and guest pianist, Jodie DeSalvo on piano, "Family and Friends Concert", playing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and more. |
| November 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Boston Symphony Orchestra violinist Rachel Orth and pianist Kyle Orth   |

\$150 for the series; \$30 per single concert, 7-12 students \$10  
at the door or online at [Barnstableuu.org](http://Barnstableuu.org)

# Church Officers and Committees

## GOVERNING BOARD

Dan Ewing, Treasurer ex-officio voting member  
Owen Fletcher  
Kim Hanggi, Clerk  
Rob MacNamee  
Ralph Marotti  
Michael Medeiros, Co-Chair  
Nancy Risio, Co-Chair

## Schoolhouse Steering Committee

Janet Abbot, UCB FOSH Liaison  
John Beach  
Polly Brazelton  
Crystal Gips, Chair  
Scott Kenyon  
Mark Nichols  
Nancy Risio, Governing Board Rep  
Lisa Standish

## STANDING COMMITTEES

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

## Submitting Material

Please email submissions to:

[chalice\\_ed@barnstableuu.org](mailto:chalice_ed@barnstableuu.org)

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

**MINISTER** Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

Small Group Ministry: Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper  
Committee on Ministry: Allyson Bizer Knox

## PARISH COUNCIL

Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper  
Dawn MacKechnie, Dir. Children & Youth Ministries  
Elaine Brennan  
Jo Anne Miller Buntich, Coordinator  
Carol Ewing  
Betsy Johnson  
Helen Matusow-Ayres  
Nancy Risio, Governing Board Liaison

## PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES, GROUPS, & TEAMS

**Barnstable Interfaith Council:** Janet Abbott

**Communications:**

Website & YouTube: Chris Hammond

Chalice: Sarah Beal-Fletcher

Facebook: Jo Anne Miller Buntich, Susan Starkey, Sarah Beal-Fletcher

**Flowers:** Kathy Bryan

**Hospitality:** Patty Kenyon

**Justice for All:** Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

**Library:** Carolyn Barnes

**Membership:** Carol Ewing

**Music:** James Rosenblum, Music Director

**Outreach:** Gayle Leaversuch

**St. Joseph's House:** Ruth Owen

**WomanSpirit:** Karen Birely

**Worship:** Vicki Goldsmith

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM TEAM

Dawn MacKechnie, Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Jen Shattuck, Assistant DCYM

Sharon Beard

Mary-Jane Beach

Christine Bockmann

Marcella Curry

Allyson Knox

Michael Medeiros

Ryan Smee

Sarah Secules Smee

**Deadline for the May Chalice  
is April 28th.**

