



The Unitarian Society
of Northampton & Florence
The USNF Beacon

Weekly Newsletter of The
Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence

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www.uunorthampton.org

From the Minister

The song “Old Time Religion” recently came into my head:

*Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
It's good enough for me!*



*If it was good enough for Grandma, if it was good enough for Grandma
If it was good enough for Grandma, it's good enough for me!*

But - Grandma's world is long gone! This fall, and in the months ahead, many things in our congregation have changed, will change, must change.

With the departure of Lisa Britland, we have realized how much the Congregational Administrator's role changed during her time. The Board has decided to recognize and institutionalize the changes and has envisioned that position as one that will have more direct responsibility for aspects of our financial and other operational management. We have a candidate for the job we're excited about, and whom we expect to introduce soon.

Sometimes when things change, it isn't visible to everyone, especially at first. Jessica Harwood has, for the last few years, been our Director of Faith Development and Community Engagement. Beyond the DRE role, she has been instrumental in envisioning and offering adult learning opportunities. Her community engagement role has led her to provide support to the Coordinating Council, as well as to help with communications and other areas as needs and opportunities arise.

Allowing staff this kind of broader scope helps provide continuity and expertise. It helps volunteers take on roles knowing they have support and haven't signed up for a life sentence when they say yes. It can help make sure that important parts of our mission don't get lost.

The change and uncertainty we have all been facing over these many months can feel overwhelming, and one of our challenges is to do our best to find the opportunities in it. We can remember that what really matters is that we keep faith with our values and our principles, and that we hold one another in mutual support

and love.

I am honored to be trying my best to do that with all of you.

October Worship

Oct 10: Circles!

The Reverend Janet C. Bush and Jessica Harwood

Join us to explore images and stories centered around circles of relationships and interdependence as we acknowledge and honor Indigenous People's Day. You'll also have a chance to meet our new Youth and Young Adult Director Johnny Williams.

October 17: Beyond Belief

The Reverend Janet C. Bush

What do you get when you put UU principle three - acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth - and four - a free and responsible search for truth and meaning - together? (Seven is not the right answer.) Is there a UU theology?

October 24: Loving Disagreement

The Reverend Janet C. Bush

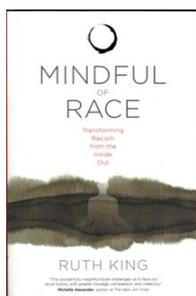
Ours is a covenantal faith tradition grounded in mutuality and responsibility for one another. How do we make that work? What gifts does our tradition have for today's world?

October 31: Day of All Souls

The Reverend Janet C. Bush

Musings on life after death and the presence of our departed loved ones in our lives.

Upcoming Adult Education Offerings



Due to popular demand, we will offer a second course based on Ruth King's *Mindful of Race* book starting October



Monthly Spiritual Discussion Groups. This year, we will be offering online sessions to discuss monthly themes and

13 at 7:00 pm. We'll meet weekly for 8 weeks, alternating between book discussions and mindfulness practices. We'll meet by Zoom, keeping the option to also offer in-person gatherings if conditions improve. Past participants are invited to attend again as a fresh look will likely offer new insights. To find out more or sign up, email craig@dreeszen.com

Mindful of Race Book Group

Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm
Starts Oct 13

sermon topics. These will be offered only on Zoom and provide an opportunity to contemplate worship themes in community. To find out more or sign up, email dre@uunorthampton.org.

Spiritual Discussion Group

Monthly from Oct-May
Wednesday, Oct 20 at 10 am

Learn more on our website: [USNF Adult Education Offerings](#)

Newcomer Virtual Breakfast

Are you new to the Unitarian Society? Join us on Sunday, October 10 for the Virtual Newcomer Breakfast. It will give you an opportunity to meet other new people and some not so new people. Virtual refreshments will be served. Contact Jan Nettler at 27deer@gmail.com for details and the Zoom link.

Contact
Us



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