



# THE GLEAM

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield

November/December 2020 Newsletter

Beloveds, what fortune that our upcoming themes are “Healing” and “Stillness”! As we close out this turbulent year, I know these are two things that I could really use in my life. The election is upon us and perhaps you are reading this before election day, or before we have results, or once we know where our local and federal leadership is headed. Maybe we are still wondering about how our wider communities will react, or maybe we already know. We sit in a time of deep unknowing, and that can be scary. Fortunately, that also lends itself to great possibility, to the beauty of newness, and to the “what if” that sparks our wildest imaginations.

This month, I want to share with you a favorite poem. It’s one I return to, again and again, when I need to steady my spirit. I breathe deeply, settle my body, and read. And with that, I am connected to the world, to possibility.

i thank You God for most this amazing  
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

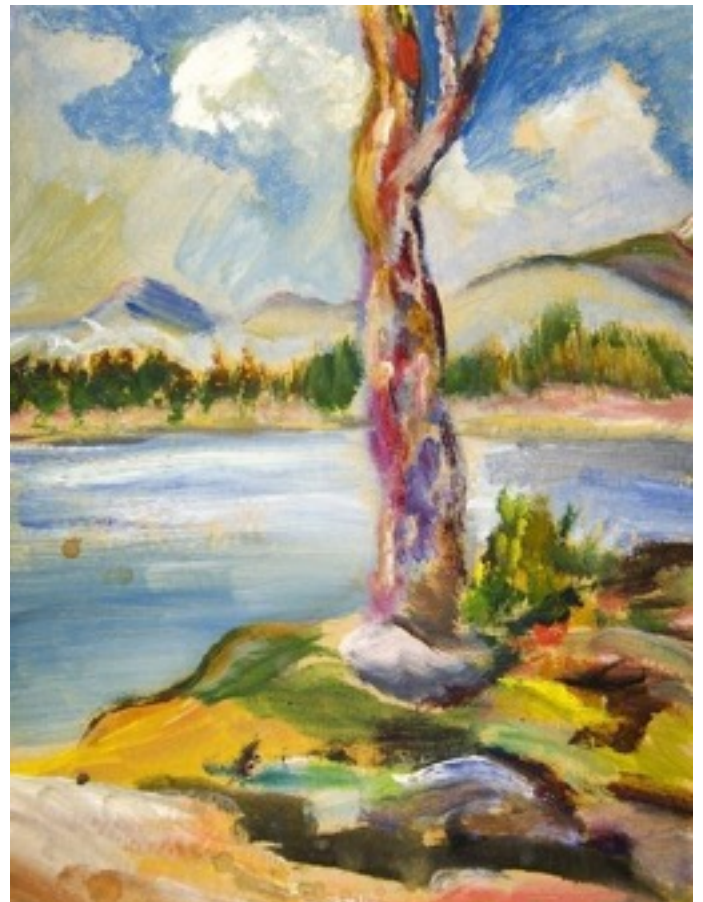
(i who have died am alive again today,  
and this is the sun’s birthday; this is the birth  
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any—lifted from the no  
of all nothing—human merely being  
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

- e.e. cummings

Rev. Elizabeth





**All Sunday services begin at 10:30 AM via Zoom**  
**Join the link for the UU Church of Wakefield Sunday services at <https://bit.ly/3iaDgtT>**  
**Music by Alla Vishnevetsky starts at 10:20AM**

**Nov 1: Rev. Elizabeth**

***I Dreamt We Were All Beautiful and Strong***

As we head into this election, we carry a lot of uncertainty and anxiety. We also carry a lot of potential, a lot of promise. Together we will explore tools and practices for coping as we seek to heal ourselves and our beautiful, broken world

**Nov 8: Worship Committee**

***Exploring our 7th Principle, Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part through the Prayer for The Earth: An Indigenous Response To These Times***

As the world rushes toward the brink of biospheric collapse, many people are now looking to traditional Indigenous wisdom for guidance on how to live sustainably. Yet Stan Rushworth, a professor of Native American Studies & an elder of Cherokee descent, believes a different kind of wisdom is revealed once there's a willingness to face the truth about genocide & loss of right relationship to the rest of the life.

**Nov 15: Rabbi Trek**

TBD

**Nov 22: Rev. Elizabeth**

***Rearranging the Pieces***

Paige Bradley's sculpture, *Expansion*, depicts a woman, seated in the lotus position. The bronze sculpture is cracked in multiple places, and from those cracks pours brilliant light. Together we will explore this sculpture as a metaphor for healing: so often we cannot fix what is broken, but we can create something beautiful and new in our healing.



**Nov 29: Chapel Service**

***UUSC Guest At Your Table***

***The Meaning of Home***

For many of us, our relationship with home has intensified this year. The pandemic has given many of us new appreciation for, and concerns about, the places we call home and the centrality of these places in our lives.

This year during Guest at Your Table, we invite you to witness stories of our partners around the world as they tell you about home. Our partners in Central America are working to make sure no one is forced to flee their home due to violence or economic devastation. Our partners in Alaska, Louisiana, and the Pacific are fighting for their homes and ancestral lands against the ravages of extractive industries and climate change. And our partners in Burma, Bangladesh, and beyond are working tirelessly to support the rights of the Rohingya ethnic minority of Burma after facing government backed genocide in their homeland.

**Dec 6: Rev. Elizabeth**

***Capturing Snowflakes***

Photographer Snowflake Bentley spent so much careful time in the stillness of observation that he was the first to posit that no two snowflakes are alike. When we welcome in stillness, we create an opening for discovery. How can we nurture that stillness and spiritual deepening?

**Dec 13: Rev. Elizabeth**

***The Wholly Family***

Our church is a mosaic of families, who have found their way to our community on their individual paths. Come hear some of our church families tell the story of why this is their church home. Let us lean together into the truth that we are wholly beloved, and celebrate the stories that bring us together.

**Dec 20: Rev. Elizabeth**

***Choose Your Own ADVENTure***

The story of Advent--with a twist! Come join this service in which the congregation chooses which parts of the Advent story you want to hear. Like the children's books of the 1970s and 80s, you are in control of the narrative!



## Worship Service schedule, cont.

**Dec 24: Rev. Elizabeth**

### ***Christmas Eve Service, 7pm***

Our lessons and carols service will weave ancient and contemporary stories of Christmas as we light candles and celebrate the holiday.

**Dec 27: No Service**

## Our Church's Mission:

*We gather in faith to  
Welcome with open appreciation,  
Worship together in community.  
Walk a path of truth, and  
Work with love for a better world today.*

### Meeting and Pastoral Care with Rev. Elizabeth:

Beloveds, this year has made us rethink how we build connection and care. One thing that remains true is that we all have moments where we need to check in, have someone listen deeply and intentionally to the stories of our lives, and hold those burdens and joys with us. Although our building is closed, you can still schedule a meeting with me. We can meet in person (outdoors and socially distanced), on Zoom, or over the phone. Scheduling is really easy! Follow this link: <https://calendly.com/revelizabethassenza>, pick the day and time that works best for you, fill out the brief form, and we'll both get confirmation e-mails. I'll see you or talk with you soon!

Rev. Elizabeth



## Around the Block

Do you have some personal news to share with our congregation? Please send it to [news@wakefield-uu.org](mailto:news@wakefield-uu.org) for the next issue of "Around the Block". Thank you!



Our member Glen Ebert is now living at The Residence at Melrose Station in assisted living. The address is Glen Ebert, The Residence at Melrose Station, 158 Essex Street, Apartment 206, Melrose, MA 02176. Here is a picture of Glen eagerly filling out his mail-in ballot.



Mary Adele Taylor continues her stay at Aberjona Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, 184 Swanton St, Winchester, MA 01890. She would appreciate hearing from you through cards.

The collective hearts of this church community go out to the family and friends of Scott Doran (10/30/19), Mike Skeldon (11/4/19) & Marjorie Hill Devine (12/21/19) throughout this year and especially on the one year anniversary of their passing.



# Church News & Announcements

## Church YARD SALE

First, a very big thank you to the great team of volunteers: Steven Coyne, Joe Cresta, Dennis Fardy, Kristen Henshaw, Matthew and Elizabeth Lowry, Jackie Millinor, Miriam Morales, Kelli Parece, Janet Schuchter, Lucy

Skeldon and Nancy Trimper (hope I didn't miss someone!). The set up, sale and clean up all went very smoothly because this team worked hard to make that happen! We opened early for several early bird shoppers, had a steady flow of customers all day, and were cleaned up well before 2pm. A special thanks to Lucy and Kristen for discard drop offs to Salvation Army and Savers.

Secondly, thanks to all who donated items to this yard sale. We had some wonderful items for sale. And lastly, we earned \$960 which is awesome for a last minute fundraiser. Many of us got to clean out the pile of donations that had been gathering since last spring.

All in all a great day - \$960 additional funds for the church, great chance to connect with UU members & friends, and community members, all on a warm sunny day!

Thank you!!!

Janine

## THE PURPOSE OF OUR ENDOWMENT

Since 1874 church members have been contributing to an endowment for the benefit of our church. For many years the Trust Funds were used to supplement the operating budget, but in 2005 the congregation adopted a policy that disallows the use of the funds for an ordinary budget shortfall. Rather, the funds are to be used for special projects or opportunities that further our mission, for "major capital expenditures and significant improvement projects related to the church's buildings and real property", and to help manage emergency cash flow needs.

Gifts of any size are welcome additions to the Endowment. They can be made at any time or as a bequest in your will. Language for either a direct donation or a bequest is now available in a brochure that the Trustees have produced. Thank you for supporting the UU Church of Wakefield!



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF STONEHAM & WAKEFIELD

The collection held on Sunday, October 25 service during our "Teach Your Children Well" service with guest speaker Anthony Guardia raised \$526 for the Boys & Girls Club. Thanks to all who donated! Also, thank you to Anthony, Chief Development Officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Stoneham & Wakefield for taking the time to speak about their programs and support offered to the local families and children, particularly during this challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Our new Church Email Addresses!

Please note and update your email contact list with our new Church email addresses. The old version (without the "-" between "wakefield" and "uu") will no longer work after October 31, so any emails sent to the old address will NOT be received.

### For general Email:

**admin@wakefield-uu.org**

### For Newsletter Submissions:

**news@wakefield-uu.org**

**For "This Sunday & Beyond" weekly emails and other requests for email distribution:**

**admin@wakefield-uu.org**

## Social Action Corner



### WAKEFIELD SALVATION ARMY HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN WHEN WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP WAKEFIELD CHILDREN ENJOY A WONDERFUL 2020 HOLIDAY.

Because of COVID-19, we will be offering the times below for dropping off your gifts at the church. If none of these times work for you, please let Laura Broding or Sheila Moran know and we will make personal arrangements with you. The important date to remember is **Thursday, December 10** as that is the last date for drop off or pick up.

#### DROP OFF DATES AT THE CHURCH

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 10-11 AM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 4:30 - 6:30 PM

WE WILL BE SENDING OUT THE LISTING OF FAMILIES AND THEIR GIFT WISHES EARLY NOVEMBER WHICH WILL GIVE YOU AMPLE TIME TO SHOP.

### Stand Together for Racial Justice - new time and additional second Saturdays!

The Social Action Committee continues to host "Stand Together for Racial Justice" in support of Black Lives Matter, racial equality and to end systemic racism and white supremacy. We are moving to an earlier time starting Tuesday, Nov 3rd. We invite all church members and friends to join the gathering in front of the church **each Tuesday, 4:30pm-5:30pm, and one Saturday a month on the second Saturday: Nov 14 and Dec 12, 9:30-11:30am**

Although there is plenty of room for social distancing on the church front lawn, we ask that you please bring a mask to wear. If you prefer to sit while holding your sign, please bring a folding chair as well.

Any questions, please contact Janine Fabiano.





The Wakefield Food Pantry is hosting an online auction November 15th - 22nd at <http://www.charityauction.bid/wakefieldfoodpantry>. This website explains how an online auction works and even has a video demonstrating how to register as a bidder. For those serious bidders among us, they offer a mobile bidding app that will notify you when you are outbid on an item. And for those who prefer proxy bidding, you are able to enter your highest bid on an item, sit back, and watch the bidding commence.

The food pantry has seen a 30% increase in the number of households visiting the pantry since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, over 800 households visited the pantry, taking home an average of 4 bags of groceries per visit. This adds up to 24,512 bags given out in the last year. The increase in food insecurity is affecting our neighbors in Wakefield. While donations of food to the pantry are appreciated, monetary donations are more valuable. For each dollar donated, the Food Pantry is able to buy four dollars worth of food from the Boston Food Bank. So, if you are able, please consider either donating to the Food Pantry directly or participating in their online auction. More information is available at <https://wakefieldfoodpantry.org/>.

## My Brother's Table

We continue to support the work of **My Brother's Table**, the largest Soup Kitchen on the North Shore.

Traditionally, we have a group from our church community volunteering on the 4th Saturday of every OTHER month. Although, at this time carpooling to volunteer together may not be an option, volunteers are still needed. MBT is preparing meals to-go, and help is needed to put the meals together and distribute. More information on volunteering opportunities with meal prep and other means of helping can be found by contacting My Brother's Table:

98 Willow St. Lynn MA 01901 (781) 595-3224. <https://mybrotherstable.org/>

If you are interested in joining our UU Community with volunteer efforts, more information will be posted on our Church website.

For more information, contact Laura Broding at [brodingl@gmail.com](mailto:brodingl@gmail.com), or 617-312-6718.





The Mission of Deeds, a non-profit organization based in Reading, provides furniture and household goods to individuals and families in need throughout our region.



**MISSION OF DEEDS**  
Furnishing Homes. Changing Lives.

The UU Church of Wakefield has a long tradition of supporting the great work of this organization. Upcoming is their 20/21 Winter Coat Drive Annual Event

## **Coats for Families in Need: Kids & Adults:**

**November 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021**



**Only new coats, new hats, and new gloves are accepted due to their new restrictions COVID-19.**

### **Drop Off Coats:**

1. Mission of Deeds office, 6 Chapin Avenue, Reading, Monday-Friday, 9am - 3pm (ring doorbell)
2. At our Church:  
Saturday, December 5 from 10 am - 11am  
Tuesday, December 8 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm  
- More dates to be announced in January-Feb 2021 Gleam
3. Or call Social Action Committee member to arrange a pick up:  
Laura Broding: 617-312-6718  
Sheila Moran: 781-548-9429  
Vicky Doran: 781-771-4863  
Janine Fabiano: 781-245-0631

**Help Us Keep Our Neighbors Warm.....*Thank You in Advance!***



**Linden Tree Coffee House  
presents: Rev. Robert B. Jones  
and Matt Watroba**

**Saturday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Youtube** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRacVT6YgEI&feature=youtu.be>

**Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/mustardsretreat/live/>

The Linden Tree Coffeehouse announces its next 36<sup>th</sup> season show on Saturday, November 7, at 7:30 p.m. Boston time!, featuring Detroit natives Rev. Robert B. Jones and Matt Watroba. Due to Covid-19, we cannot have the shows at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Wakefield. Our national performers will broadcast live from the safety of their homes. Up close and personal, Linden Tree will continue to *Make Memorable Music*.

**Matt Watroba and Rev Robert B. Jones** – The American Experience: From Roots to Rap, A Musical Celebration of History and Diversity. *Long-time musical partners, Watroba and Jones will present music that reflects history, social change, migration, hopes and dreams. This is music that is rich and diverse, direct and powerful. This is a musical seminar - not to be missed!*

**Rise Up Singing now on Zoom!**

Rise Up Singing is an informal and spirited evening of shared music-making inspired by, but not limited to the Rise Up Singing and Rise Again songbooks. Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are welcome. No auditions and no rehearsals – just come and join in! Rise Up Singing is held on Zoom the 3rd Friday of every month at 7:30 PM. The November session will be on Friday Nov 20. The December session is on Friday Dec 18. The Zoom information will be emailed to everyone on the Rise Up Singing email list a few days ahead of time. If you are not already on the email list please send an email to [riseupsinging.wakefield@gmail.com](mailto:riseupsinging.wakefield@gmail.com) and request to be added.



Hope you can join us!

**PRESIDENT'S PIECE**



Our church community continues to have our services, meetings and most activities virtual through Zoom for the rest of 2020 and into 2021. I would like to express a big thank you to Joe Cresta who hosts the church services each Sunday. Also, thank you to Jackie Millinor for her work with the worship service details, and to Rev. Elizabeth Assenza and Alla Vishnevetsky for their flexibility and dedication to providing the congregation with a quality worship experience through Zoom.

The congregation does have one weekly opportunity to gather together at our *Stand Together Tuesdays* for Racial Justice and Black Lives.

Lastly, if you have not voted yet, please remember to vote early at the town Hall or on Tuesday, November 3rd at the Galvin Middle School!

*Janine*



The **Board of Management** will meet Tuesday, Nov 10 and Dec 8 at 7pm via Zoom. All members and friends always are invited to attend any board meetings. Email [admin@wakefield-uu.org](mailto:admin@wakefield-uu.org) to request a Zoom meeting invitation link.

**Each board member is a liaison to one or more church committees. Please contact them for assistance with your committees or area of interest.**

1. Administrative Tasks: Joe /Janine
2. Membership: Joe
3. Religious Education: Nick
4. Shared Space: Kurt
5. Finance/Fundraising & Trustees: Nick
6. Property: BOM
7. Safe Congregations: Kurt
8. Worship & Music: Janine/Joe
9. Ministerial Relations: BOM
10. Nominating: Kurt
11. Social Action: Zayda/Janine

**From Gleam Editor:** The Gleam is now a bi-monthly newsletter with 5 publications a year:

Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr & May/Jun.

All submissions for the *Gleam* must be in writing, either email or paper copy. Please include the contact name, phone and email address for each article. Please send email submissions with the word "Gleam" in the subject line to:

[news@wakefield-uu.org](mailto:news@wakefield-uu.org)

**The next *Gleam* deadline is **December 20****

Interim Gleam Editor: Janine Fabiano Copy Readers: Joe Cresta, Vicky Doran, Sheila Moran, Lucy Skeldon & Peter Stickel Publisher: Nick Malfroy & Joe Cresta

Reporters: You

## Church Officers and Staff

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### Church Rentals - Elizabeth Lowry

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Email: [admin@wakefield-uu.org](mailto:admin@wakefield-uu.org)

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[news@wakefield-uu.org](mailto:news@wakefield-uu.org)

**For "This Sunday & Beyond" Weekly Emails and other requests for email distribution:**

[admin@wakefield-uu.org](mailto:admin@wakefield-uu.org)



**On Facebook?**

Please "Like" and following us at  
**Unitarian Universalist Church of  
Wakefield**

## We Are a Welcoming Congregation



Having fulfilled the requirements of our denomination to be a "Welcoming Congregation", the UU Church of Wakefield is intentional about

celebrating the presence and full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons in all aspects of congregational life. We also welcome all persons regardless of race, economic status, theological and political perspective, or other distinctions that keep us from embracing our common humanity. We acknowledge that we still have work to do and we welcome your advice about how we may be more welcoming. We want to say, truthfully, ***"All are welcome here!"***



Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield

PO Box 529, Wakefield, MA 01880

