



THE GLEAM

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield

January/February 2021 Newsletter

Beloved Church,

I don't know about you, but I'm heading into 2021 utterly exhausted by 2020. It has been quite the year! I've said to many of you in the past month that I am happier than I could have anticipated to have made the shift from chaplaincy to serving our wonderful congregation! I didn't know how quickly I'd love your feisty selves or how my heart would swell each time you share what you love about our church. I'm so proud of the ways we've made safe choices and so grateful for the ways you continue to ask how we help those who struggle with technology stay more connected. And, with all of that joy and love, this is not the first year with a new minister I think any of us would have hoped for. The realities of 2020 have made many things difficult.

And now we leave that year behind. We look ahead to 2021, and already there are things on our horizon we were afraid to hope for a few short months ago. Two vaccines are approved for emergency use, and it moves me to tears each time a new friend, family member, or even acquaintance shares that they have received the first round of vaccine against COVID-19. Our federal government is about to shift as it does every few years, and many of us are hopeful about the changes that will bring. The days are growing longer, and, as I do every year, I find myself surprised how my body notices even these subtle daily increases in daylight.

2021 will be different from 2020, we can be certain of that. And, it will take some work. It will take our continued commitment to create and find beauty in a year that will still bring challenge. I'm glad to be in that work with you. And so I leave you with Sheenagh Pugh's poem, "Sometimes," which reminds us that sometimes things do go right, but those times take effort:

'Sometimes'

Sometimes things don't go, after all,
from bad to worse. Some years, muscadel
faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don't fail.
Sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

A people sometimes will step back from war,
elect an honest man, decide they care
enough, that they can't leave some stranger poor.
Some men become what they were born for.

Sometimes our best intentions do not go
amiss; sometimes we do as we meant to.
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow
that seemed hard frozen; may it happen for you.

Warmly,
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

Jan 3: Check In; No Service

Jan 10: Janine Fabiano

Letting Go - New Year's Fire Ritual

Each New Year offers the opportunity for "forgetting old wrongs" and making amends, then beginning afresh with open, loving and positive energy. This ritual will help enter 2021 free from a regret, a disappointment, a resentment, a hurt, a fear, a conflict, or whatever it may be weighing you down. Each person will be invited to share what they want to let go of or atone for. Each statement will be read aloud and burned to release the burden, lighten our steps into 2021, and begin the New Year afresh.

Jan 17: Rev. Elizabeth
Whose Future?

Adrienne Maree Brown wrote that one of the impacts of colonization is that it determines who gets to dream and imagine the future. As we celebrate the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we look at dreams of a more just future and amplify and center contemporary prophetic BIPOC voices whose visions for our future can help us dream bigger ourselves.

Jan 24: Rev. Elizabeth
Our Wildest Imaginations

If there were no barriers, no limitations, no restrictions, no financial concerns what future would you shape for our congregation here in Wakefield? Today we'll let our imaginations run wild! What do you want to see in our church and our town? It all begins with a nugget of "what if?"

Jan 31: Chapel Service

TBD

Feb 7: Rev. Elizabeth
To Need One Another

As we begin a month of exploring Beloved Community, we start from a place of truly needing one another. What would it look like to embody that in our actions and our community building? What do we really mean when we say we want to build Beloved Community? Why does it matter that we are always building, and can we ever really arrive at Beloved Community?

Feb 14: Rev. Elizabeth
An 8th UU Principle

Our Unitarian Universalist faith is one that responds to community and changes in our larger world. A group within our Unitarian Universalist faith has proposed the addition of an 8th Principle. We'll explore the origins, the work, the adoption process, and how an 8th Principle relates to the familiar concept of Beloved Community.

Feb 21: guest minister
TBD

Feb 28: Chapel Service
Side With Love's 30 Days of Love



**SIDE WITH
LOVE**

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.*

Around the Block

Do you have some personal news to share with our congregation?

Please send it to news@wakefield-uu.org

for the next issue of "Around the Block". Thank you!



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!



Sadly, our dear friend and church member Mary Adele Taylor passed away on December 24. Del spent the last days of her life at the Kaplan Family Hospice House where her family could visit with her.

Del has been an integral part of our church community since the 1970's, being active in a variety of positions, committees and groups. For many years, Del served as clerk on the Board of Management. Religious Education and Library Committees were two areas Del put a lot of her passion and energy. Over the years, Del led the church's book group, cared greatly for her work with the Social Action Committee, and formed close bonds with the members of her Small Group. In 2009, Del was named a Church Deacon for her continued support and dedication to this church and its mission. Del will be greatly missed by her church family. Our deepest sympathies to Del's family members during this sad time.

Private burial service will be held on a future date. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the UU Church of Wakefield or The Scholarship Foundation of Wakefield.

it's time for
tea



Also, visit with Rev. Elizabeth and other church members friends when Rev. Elizabeth hosts her "Tea with Rev. E".

Look out for email announcements for when the next virtual "Tea with Rev. E" will be held.

Church News & Announcements

Introducing the COSM

Our congregation has a new committee called the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM), operating independently from the Board of Management. The COSM is a committee that exists to support and strengthen the quality of the church's entire ministry. This means that while the COSM supports the work of Reverend Elizabeth, it also addresses all other church ministries, such as music, youth and adult religious education, pastoral care and social justice. The committee carries out its charge by keeping the focus on mission fulfillment, and by modeling shared ministry and covenantal relationship. The members of this committee are Rev. Elizabeth, Fern Barkalow, Vicky Doran, Dennis Fardy, Elizabeth Lowry, and Peter Stickel. Meeting monthly, the members of this committee will support the minister's progress toward full fellowship, sabbatical planning and other professional development activities. They will serve as advisors and consultants, encouraging experimentation and helping to create a learning community.

On Dec. 15, our Affiliate Minister Rev. Ralph Galen picked up another 67 cloth face masks made by Eleanor and Kristen to be distributed to the folks he encounters who are in need of washable fabric face coverings. When he picked up the new masks, he gave us a substantial supply of fabric to make more. He asked if we could put the word out that more volunteers are always welcome to join up and help out. You don't have to be nimble with a thimble to aid in this effort, just have some hours you can spare. So far, the small team of two has made 117 masks.

Also, please save the plastic and metal clips that come with bags of coffee (Peet's, Starbuck's, maybe others). We use them to make nose pincher thingies; they work great! Thanks.

Kristen Henshaw, Scribe

THE VALUE OF OUR ENDOWMENT

Since 1874 church members have been contributing to an endowment for the benefit of our church. The Current Principal being held in the General Endowment is the sum of all of the contributions to the Endowment over the years plus a 20% cushion, currently equaling \$139, 512. The full Endowment now exceeding \$400,000 and consisting of the Principal and any unused income is invested in a mix of stocks, bonds, and cash. The investments are held in funds, typically at moderate risk, with Fidelity Investments and The Vanguard Group.

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!

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 invited you to witness stories of our partners around the world as they tell you about home. We asked for your donation to support the work Unitarian Universalist Service Committee does with their partners. Please mail your checks to UUSC/GAYT to the church at PO Box 529, Wakefield or donate online at UUSC.org by January 12th.

Social Action Corner



WAKEFIELD SALVATION ARMY HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

Thank you, and particularly this year with even greater need, for generously donating new

toys, art supplies, clothes and books to help the children of Wakefield enjoy their 2020 holiday season. As a church community we supported five children with over 25 gifts.

Another program that we support is *The Boys and Girls Club of Wakefield and Stoneham*. These are dedicated, safe places for youth up to age 18, with supervised, engaging, affordable and healthy programs. Their Mission: To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Please visit their website:

<https://bgcstoneham.org/wakefield-clubhouse/>



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF STONEHAM & WAKEFIELD

Stand Together for Racial Justice - new schedule: second Saturdays only!

9:30am - 11:30am

The Social Action Committee continues to host "Stand Together for Racial Justice" in support of Black Lives Matter, racial equality and to end structural racism and white supremacy. With the cold and dark of winter, we are moving to just once a month on Saturday mornings. We invite all church members and friends to join these peaceful demonstrations in front of the church **each second Saturday of the month: January 9th, February 13th, and March 13th, 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 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 Greater Boston Food Bank. So, if you are able, please consider donating to the Food Pantry directly. More information is available at <https://wakefieldfoodpantry.org/>.

The Social Action Committee (SAC) meets on the third Tuesday of every month @ 7:30 pm. At this time, all meetings are via Zoom. If you care to join us, please inform Laura Broding and I will forward the meeting information to you.

The SAC meets monthly to discuss and plan our many activities. The SAC is open to all, and we would love for you to join us! If you are interested in knowing more about this committee, please contact Laura Broding at brodingl@gmail.com.

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, or 617-312-6718.





MISSION OF DEEDS

Furnishing Homes. Changing Lives.

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.

Coats for Families in Need: Kids & Adults ~ Now through January 31, 2021

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

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



The UU Church of Wakefield has a long tradition of supporting the great work of this organization. Mission of Deeds gives beds, furniture, and household items, free of charge, to people in need. They help people throughout Middlesex and Essex Counties, as well as in the Suffolk County communities of Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop.

At this time, we are collecting NEW winter coats to donate to those in need through Mission of Deeds. In the past gently used coats were accepted but now **only new coats, new hats and new gloves.**

Please bring your donated coats, hats and gloves to the church on Saturday, January 9th between 9:30 am and 11:30 am.

Or, call or text Laura Broding, 617-312-6718 to arrange a pick up for your donation,
Or, drop off at Mission of Deeds office: 6 Chapin Avenue, Reading, Monday–Friday, 9am – 3pm (ring doorbell)

Mission of Deeds Inc,
6 Chapin Ave. Reading MA 01867
www.missionofdeeds.org

Linden Tree Coffee House presents virtual concerts:

January 9 at 7:30 pm
Return visit with Memorable Music from
Linden Tree favorite: David Roth

February 6 at 7:30pm
Encore from Wakefield Kirsten Manville
And New Jersey Kipyn Martin

To receive Linden Tree notices and links
to show: email

LindenTree85@comcast.net

Links to the show will also be posted to
our Facebook and web pages.

Shows are free, but donations to the
performers are especially welcomed.

www.LindenTreeCoffeehouse.org

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 January session will be on Friday Jan 15. The February session is on Friday Feb 19.



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 and request to be added.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

At my traditional "Letting Go" Fire Ritual service on Sunday, January 10, I will be most happy to let go of "2020"! There may be some other items as well as such as Zoom meetings and services, masks, outside gatherings only and staying 6 feet apart. However, there may be some things I want to salvage from 2020, like the lessons I have learned about the importance of human connections.



How often I enjoy the simple pleasure of gathering together, in person, never thinking it would vanish one day... How I love organizing church potluck dinners, dinning with friends, hosting at home gatherings with extended family or friends. How I so enjoy attending live theater, live concerts or sporting events in a large venue or arena full with other enthusiastic fans or attendees. So much of this I have just taken for grant it over the years, never thinking I would one day not be able to come together with family members, friends or even strangers.

But most of all, I so miss connecting with people through our voices in song. I always enjoy singing with others, harmonizing and synchronizing. But now we can not sing together, because it is one of the easiest ways to spread the COVID 19 virus. How I truly miss singing hymns together in church, singing at my favorite piano bar, singing at Raise Up Sing sessions and the Winter Solstice, caroling at Christmas time, and the many other ways I love to come together in song. Singing together is a wonderful ritual for celebrating, for mourning, for praising, for reflecting and for deep listening to each other. Through singing together, I humanly connect in a spiritual, emotional and significant way with others, in a way I will never take for grant it again.

Looking forward to singing with you in our lovely sanctuary in 2021! ~ *Janine*

Church Officers and Staff

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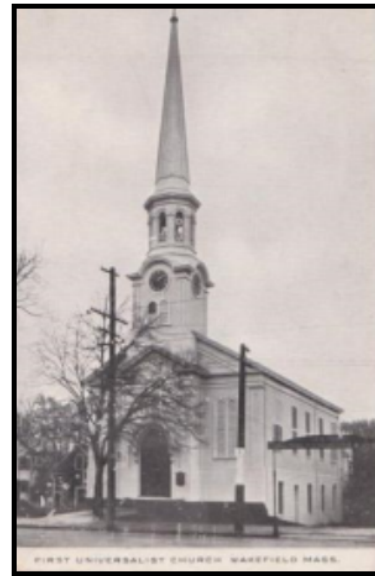
For Newsletter Submissions:

news@wakefield-uu.org

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

admin@wakefield-uu.org

* Please remember we now have new church email addresses and website name as listed above.



The **Board of Management** will meet Tuesday, Jan 12th and Feb 9th at 7pm via Zoom. All members and friends always are invited to attend any board meetings. Email 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

The next *Gleam* deadline is February 20th

Gleam Editor: Janine Fabiano

Copy Readers: Joe Cresta, Vicky Doran, Sheila Moran, Lucy Skeldon & Peter Stickel

Publisher: Nick Malfroy & Joe Cresta

Reporters: You



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

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to **affirm** and **promote**:

The inherent **worth** and **dignity** of every person;

Justice, equity and **compassion** in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to **spiritual growth** in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for **truth** and **meaning**;

The right of **conscience** and the use of the **democratic process** within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of **world community** with **peace**, liberty and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of **all existence** of which we are a part.

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