

The Herald

First Church in Salem Newsletter



Dear Friends,

Well, it's October and I'm in Salem! For weeks now, I've been hearing from you about what's it like here as Halloween approaches and I can't wait to see for myself: "wait, till you see Salem in October! The crowds! The traffic! The costumes!" I'm very curious to see how these next weeks unfold....already plenty of people in costumes and witch hats on the street.

It's been a month of settling in to my office, beginning to meet with some of you in person, and getting my feet under me as best I can. Beginning in a new congregation is always a huge sea change, and it takes time. For you to get used to me, for me to get to know you. Thank you for the time you have shared with me already and for your honest reflections on the last few years. It helps me to get situated and to begin to try and understand the community, your aspirations, what you hope for and what concerns you. If you were in worship on September 18th, you heard me reflect a little in my sermon about the interim ministry period. It's called "Setting Out" and you can find [the full text here](#).

Over the next month, the Standing Committee and I will have a start-up retreat with the help of a consultant from the UUA New England Regional office, Wren Bellavance-Grace, who consulted extensively with the church during the last year of Rev. Ide's ministry.

And, the Standing Committee will be forming a transition team who be helping the congregation accomplish the [five tasks of interim ministry which you can find here](#). Thank you for your presence on Sunday, your work on committees and task forces throughout the week, and your willingness to participate in the life of this community. It makes a difference.

If you are not currently involved in a project and would like to be, drop me an email and I'll try to get you connected to the appropriate lay person:

minister@firstchurchinsalem.org.

In faith,

Jenny Rankin, Interim Minister

Newsletter Highlights

October Calendar

Upcoming in Religious Ed

UU Common Read

A Message from Stewardship

First Church Tours in October

First
Church
in
Salem,
Unitarian
Universalist

>>> October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am World Communion Service	3	4 9am Staff Meeting 9:45am Worship Planning	5	6	7	8
9 10:30am Service & Religious Education	10 Indigenous Peoples' Day	11 12pm Staff Meeting 12:45pm Worship Planning	12 6pm Standing Committee Retreat	13 5pm-8pm First Church Tours	14 5pm-8pm First Church Tours	15 5pm-8pm First Church Tours
16 10:30am Service & Religious Education	17	18 12pm Staff Meeting 12:45pm Worship Planning	19 7pm Standing Committee Meeting	20 5pm-8pm First Church Tours	21 6pm Family Fun Night 5pm-8pm First Church Tours	22 5pm-8pm First Church Tours
23 10:30am Service & Religious Education 11:30am Standing Committee Forum	24	25 12pm Staff Meeting 12:45pm Worship Planning	26	27 5pm-8pm First Church Tours	28 5pm-8pm First Church Tours	29
30 10:30am Service & Religious Education	31 Halloween	1	2	3	4	5



Flowers by Joann Silva: September 25.
Thank you Joann!

HELP ADD A TOUCH OF BEAUTY TO THE MEETING HOUSE!

The Garden Committee is asking congregants to support flowers for our Sunday Communion Table. You may donate a plant or arrangement to grace the table on any of the following Sundays: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30. Please email Brenda Marean at: mareanbrenda2@gmail.com if you would like to participate. Donations may also be given in honor of a loved one.

FELLOWSHIP IS IN NEED OF HOSTS FOR SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

The Fellowship Committee is looking for church members and friends to help host coffee hour on Sundays. You can sign up as an individual or as a partnership or group to handle the snacks for any given Sunday. Sometimes, committees choose to host, or someone will host in honor or remembrance of someone. It's up to you! To learn more and sign up use this link: <https://bit.ly/fcfellowship2022>



I am so excited to be back again this year as RE Coordinator. Whether you are brand new or have been at First Church for years, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our Religious Education program.

This year, we will be exploring the ways in which we can see our UU values at work in the world. We started off the year by exploring exactly what our shared UU values are, and figuring out what we wanted to get deeper into. We used posters for a “Big Brainstorm”, and worked together to create a patchwork paper quilt. We also played some fun games that taught us more about each other and our principles. Over the next few months, we will start to hone in on ways that we can express our UU values closeby—at church, at home, and in our community.

October brings many exciting special events, like Bread Baking for World Communion Sunday and our Halloween Parade through the meeting house. On October 2nd, we will gather together in Wilson Hall to mix up some cornbread and enjoy community together. If you haven’t done this with us before, you are in for a treat: both in the sense that it’s a very fun time, and that you get to take home a loaf of cornbread after church! On October 30th, we hope that you will brave the downtown crowds and join us in costume. All children and youth will have a chance to parade around the meeting house right before the Time for All Ages.

I am thrilled to announce that we will also be having our first Family Fun night since 2019 on Friday, October 21 from 6-8pm! This is a beloved RE tradition, and we are so excited to be able to gather together for it again. Come in costume (with a mask) and join us for an evening of games, crafts, and a flashlight tour of the meeting house. Please feel free to invite some friends—there will be plenty of fun for everyone!

We have some other very exciting things on the horizon, including the start of our Coming of Age program and RE Field Trips. Stay tuned for more updates!

Theo Burbank
Religious Education Coordinator

Halloween Family Fun Night Returns!

Get your costumes ready and join the fun for night of games, snacks, and crafts!
Friday, October 21.
The evening starts at 6pm!

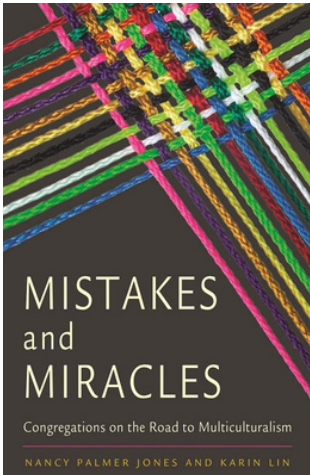


Preparation for 2022 Holiday Outreach

After ten years, Jim Ognibene is stepping down as Social Outreach Committee, Chairperson. Looking ahead to the holidays, we need a volunteer to come forward to lead the FIRST CHURCH STOCKING PROJECT. For those unaware, the STOCKING PROJECT is a longstanding outreach project providing the local Salem community with purchased items that serve as holiday gifts for those financially disadvantaged. We are recruiting a team leader and two team members for 2022. We will build the team in October, plan during November and implement in December. We can run this outreach project similar to years past or we can design and run a completely different idea/ program. If you are willing to help with this project, send Jim your ideas. This is about boots on the ground! If you bring an idea, please be willing to lead it. Thank you.
Contact info: Jim Ognibene, at: jim@visioneerconsulting.com



UU COMMON READ 2022-2023



The UU Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared focus for reflection and action. A Common Read can take us on a powerful faith journey as we explore what it means to be human and accountable in a pain-filled world.

If anyone is interested in forming a book group for this year's Common Read please reach out to Catherine at firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com. This is something that could take place over the course of the church year and the UUA provides resources for discussion. Find out more here [UU Common Read](https://www.uua.org/common-read) There are no grades or attendance taken! It's just an opportunity for people to gather. If a few folks are interested please reach out!

From the UUA website:

Authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explored five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community. In *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* (Skinner House Books, 2019), they shared the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.

The world has seen much turmoil, pain, and yes, glimmers of hope, in the three years since *Mistakes and Miracles*' publication. As we enter a Common Read of this book, we find ourselves receiving its report with a changed spirit, an urgent need, and perhaps new hope for multiculturalism and antiracism work in our congregations and our movement.

Today, UU faith communities are grappling with a charge to dismantle white supremacy in ourselves, our communities and our world. What lessons and inspiration can we find in *Mistakes and Miracles* to guide our striving for Beloved Community, today?

Updates from the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee has a few updates to share as we head into the Fall.

- Standing Committee decision to adopt "Mask Choice" policy in the Meeting House, effective October 2nd.

"Your Standing Committee has voted to adopt a "mask choice" policy for worship and fellowship, effective immediately. This means that attendees may choose to wear a mask or not, while continuing to respect social distancing practices.

Why the change now? Incidence of health effects in Essex County is low, and the risk level is currently showing "green" (low) on the Covid Act Now site, while mask choice policies have been common practice among public establishments for a while. And it makes sense to establish consistent practice in the Meeting House as in other areas and uses of the church (e.g., Fellowship).

We are recruiting members to a Pandemic Task Force whose role will be to actively monitor public health and community data going forward and recommend appropriate measures or policy changes.

We believe and expect that all members will use sound judgment, adopt low-risk behaviours, and continue to be aware of and respect the feelings of others who may experience different degrees of comfort and safety."

- **Standing Committee Meeting Schedule:**
 - Third Wednesday of each month, 7pm at the church (unless otherwise noted):
 - October 19th
 - November 16th
 - Standing Committee Retreat: Wednesday, October 12th
 - Open session for all: Sunday, October 23rd, following worship.
 - The purpose of this session is to present the organization, committee roles, and decision-making practices of First Church, with plenty of time for questions.

As always, please feel free to share comments, observations, concerns and/or requests with any member of the committee.

Steve Palmer, Chair

John Pydynkowski , Jeannine Helen, Holly Chase, John Newhall, John Ninneman, Rose Marcrum, Christopher Granniss, Anna Brandenburg

FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Greetings First Church Members and Friends,

Welcome back to Church! Fall has arrived, with all the high spirits it brings with it here in Salem.

On Homecoming Sunday we enjoyed our tradition of sharing water from our various summer experiences, a beautiful way of calling us in after being apart for the summer. Pouring our water from many sources – some salty, some fresh – into a shared bowl, reminds us of the power of coming together from our divergent paths.

With the Fall, we welcome our Interim Minister Jenny Rankin. We're thankful for Jenny's years of experience as we enter a time of transition. She is here to help us along during this in-between time, as we work to better understand ourselves and one another.

One of the non-verbal ways we communicate our support of the First Church Community in times of transition is through our generosity of financial resources, recognizing that some have more to offer than others, and that all gifts from the heart are meaningful. Indeed, it is at times of tenderness and vulnerability that the strength of a community is revealed through generosity of many sorts.

Pledging may feel like a token gesture, especially if you are not in a position to give much. It's not. Rather, the act of making a commitment is very meaningful in what it communicates to fellow congregants about the strength of our covenant with one another, to staff who rely on us for their livelihoods, and to prospective ministers who might consider answering our call.

As of late September, 43 individuals / families have made pledges totaling approximately \$70,000 for the current church year. Seeing the many faces in attendance in person and on Zoom makes us wonder if this is a full reflection of the engagement, hope, and enthusiasm for the coming year. With that in mind, the Stewardship Committee is continuing last spring's stewardship campaign through the end of October.

Please consider pledging generously today. See below on how to do so!

In covenant,

Anna Brandenburg Jessica Kane Nicole McLaughlinn

Make a Pledge Today!

You can make your pledge by doing one of the following:

- Use this link: <https://firstchurchinsalem.breezechms.com/form/c33203>
- Email Catherine Bertrand at: firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com
- Email any of the Stewardship Committee members:
annabrando@icloud.com | jesskane07@gmail.com | nmclaugh@comcast.net
- Fill out the pledge form below and hand it to Catherine, a Stewardship Committee member or mail it to the Church at 316 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970



FIRST CHURCH TOURS IN OCTOBER

The First Church will be offering self-guided historic tours of our meeting house and grounds in the month of October to visitors. We are looking for guides, story-tellers, historians, teachers and First Church friends and fans to greet visitors, offer a quick intro to our church, and emphasize that the donations support the ongoing mission of the church, with 100% of monies collected going to our church.



As well as being a potentially lucrative fundraiser for our work, sharing accurate, dignified information and stories about our history will allow First Church to be a resource for visitors to Salem who are in search of a sensitive perspective on our fascinating past. Please note that we are not offering a "haunted" tour; we are opening our doors in the interest of illuminating history with wisdom and dignity. If you are interested in learning more or helping out with tours, please contact

Anna Brandenburg annabrando@icloud.com or Alicia Diozzi alicia_diozzi@yahoo.com. You can also sign up to volunteer here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b45acac23a13-october>

Each Evening 5pm-8pm

Thursday Oct. 13

Friday Oct. 14

Saturday Oct. 15

Thurs. Oct. 20

Fri. Oct. 21

Saturday Oct. 22

Thursday Oct. 27

Friday Oct. 28

[Sign Up Here to Volunteer](#)





You are invited to join our small group ministry Soul Matters which gathers to share reflections on a specific theme each month. Participating in a small group that encourages mindful engagement is a way to deepen your personal spiritual practice and your connection with others in the church community. To help get you started thinking about the monthly theme there is a booklet full of exercises, meditations, questions to ponder, and music and readings to inspire and engage you. Click on the "[Courage](#)" link to open the packet and begin your journey.

The Soul Matters theme for October is Courage. The meeting will take place in person on Sunday, November 6 at 12:15pm in Willson Hall.

Drop-ins are welcomed. Come to the meetings you can. (There will be two meetings in November, the first for the October theme of Courage and the second for the November theme Change, on November 27.) If you have questions or would like a reminder email, contact Melody Lee at leemelody071@gmail.com.

First Church Committees and Leaders

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	MEMBERS
Standing	Steve Palmer	John Pydynkowski , Jeannine Helen Holly Chase, John Newhall, John Ninneman, Rose Marcrum, Christopher Grannis, Anna Brandenburg
Nominating	Marlene Warner	Brenda Marean, Anthony Silva
Membership/Welcoming	Eric Kenney	Donna Fritz, Charlene Long
Archives	Diane Smith	
Fellowship	Alicia Diozzi	Stephanie Diozzi
Garden & Decorating	Jan Eschauzier	Brenda Marean, Lynn Taggart
Human Resources	Ben Waxman	Deborah Greel, Mary Krigbaum
Lifebridge Service	Jess Kane	
Master Planning	Steve Palmer	David Helen, Richard L'Heureux, Paul Marquis
Pastoral Care	Sally Millice	
Pandemic Task Force		Donna Fritz, Wolfgang Koch
Property	Jamie Tanch	Peter Eschauzier, Eric Kenney, John Wathne
Religious Education	Valentina Burbank	Chris Grannis, Jess Kane, Amy Prodanis, Bob Soucy, Jeannine Helen
Social Justice		
Social Outreach		
Stewardship	Nicole McLaughlin	Anna Brandenburg, Sarah Blodgett, Valentina Burbank, Jess Kane
Vestry		
Worship / Music	Tiffany Magnolia	
Deacons	Lynn Taggart	Eric Kenney, Peter A. Copelas, Mimi Ballou, Jamie Tanch, Steve Palmer, Charlie Newhall, Bill Henning, Claire Donaldson, Nicole McLaughlin, Valentina Burbank
Trustees		Laura Caron, Peter Copelas, Nicole McLaughlin
Officers		Jamie Tanch, Moderator Jim Ognibene, Clerk Brenda Marean & Marlene Warner, Treasurers

To connect with members of committees or leadership at First Church please use our online Directory.

This can be accessed through your Breeze account:
firstchurchinsalem.breezechms.com

Under 'Tags' you will find "Online Directory".

Please feel free to contact Catherine at firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com as well.

**Breeze
Workshop!**
**MAKE BREEZE WORK
FOR YOU.**
November 6,
Right After Church
**Learn the ins and outs of Breeze with
Catherine. We'll start with the basics!**

A PUBLICATION OF
THE FIRST CHURCH IN SALEM,
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
316 ESSEX STREET
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970

PHONE: 978-744-1551
EMAIL: OFFICE@FIRSTCHURCHINSALEM.ORG
PUBLICATION SUBMISSIONS:
FIRSTCHURCHCOMM@GMAIL.COM
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINSALEM.ORG



INTERIM MINISTER: REVEREND JENNY RANKIN
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: MICHAEL KRAFT
DIRECTOR OF HENNY PENNY: LISA CHAREST
LEAD TEACHER, HENNY PENNY: TRICIA PINI
CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR: CATHERINE BERTRAND
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR: THEO BURBANK
SEXTON: BILLY MCCARTHY
CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE: STEVE PALMER
CHAIR OF THE DEACONS: LYNN TAGGART

LOOKING FOR THE STAFF?

REV. JENNY RANKIN IS IN-PERSON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS WITH OPEN OFFICE HOURS THURSDAY FROM 1P-4P. SHE CAN ALSO BE REACHED VIA EMAIL OR PHONE 978-741-1629.

CATHERINE BERTRAND, CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR, IS IN THE OFFICE, TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:30A-2PM AND SUNDAYS BEFORE THE SERVICE AND AFTER UNTIL 12:15PM. PLEASE FEEL TO REACH OUT VIA EMAIL OR PHONE AT 978-744-1551.

BILLY MCCARTHY, THE CHURCH SEXTON, IS ONSITE MONDAY-THURSDAY 7AM-11AM AND SUNDAYS 8AM-1:30PM.

OUR RE COORDINATOR THEO BURBANK WILL BE AVAILABLE TUES-FRI 3P-6P AND SUNDAYS 9:30A-1:30P. PLEASE SEND THEO A NOTE THROUGH EMAIL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

AS ALWAYS MUSIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL KRAFT CAN BE REACHED VIA EMAIL.