

Newsletter of the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church
The First Universalist Church in America
Organized in 1779 as *The Independent Christian Church*

THE REVEREND JANET PARSONS, MINISTER

Worship Service: 10:00 am

10 Church Street [corner Middle & Church Streets]
 Gloucester MA 01930 (978) 283-3410 info@gloucesteruu.org



Reflections from Janet



Minister's Hours
*By appointment: Tuesday,
 Wednesday, Thursday*
email

rev.janetparsons@gmail.com

As I write this, I am aware of how much we have been building together over the past year seemed to gel, to fall into place, just today. Tonight the allee was filled and people listened from their porches as Deb Hardy and her band rocked the neighborhood in the latest of the Meetinghouse Foundation's Summer Concert series. And the opening act was the Grace Center's Jug Band, making their debut. The Grace Center offered refreshments for everyone and the mood was joyful on a beautiful summer evening. As night fell the front of the church was beautifully lit, and the crowd raised over \$1700 for the Grace Center.

So much of what we have been brainstorming seemed to come together tonight: our support of the Grace Center, the firm establishment of the Gloucester Meetinghouse Foundation, our wish to be active participants in the life of our neighborhood. It has taken a lot of effort over months and years, but tonight it felt as though our dreams were taking flight.

I'm beginning my second year here with you full of anticipation, having seen what we can accomplish together. I'm looking forward to a year where we continue to build and strengthen our beloved church home, and have fun together doing it. On a personal note, I'm also looking forward to finally

living here in Gloucester and becoming more involved in community life. Today also happened to be the day that I found the apartment I've been searching for. And so a new year begins, full of promise and excitement.

Spending Time Together

I am typically in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. If you would like to get together, please either call or email me, and we can set up a meeting time. I tend to be flexible and enjoy getting together, either in the office or out and about for coffee or a walk. And there doesn't have to be a problem to talk over, or a loss to share: feel free to reach out just to get to know me better! The second year of a ministry still feels quite new and we are still getting to know one another, so I welcome time with you.

Being in Touch

Even though we've been together for a year, it's a good time to remind everyone of how best to be in touch with me. I welcome hearing from you! I am most easily reached by email: rev.janetparsons@gmail.com. My cell phone number is 781-724-3284 if something urgent comes up. Generally speaking, I like to save texting for family. And I am on Facebook! I won't 'friend' you, as I think it could be awkward to be friended by your minister. But I do accept your friend requests if you offer them. This is completely up to you! We have many ways of being in communication and I invite you to reach out.

Blessings, Janet



**Accessible Entrance at Corner of
 Pine/Proctor & Church Streets
 AND off Gould Court lot**



www.facebook.com/gloucesteruu

Ingathering– Mingling the Waters

Sunday, September 11th—Mingling the Waters

Even though we gather for services every Sunday during the summer, we often find that we don't see each other as often as vacations and family call us elsewhere. As with many faith traditions, Unitarian Universalists often designate an early September Sunday as Ingathering: a recognition that the community is coming together again and reconnecting. It's a long-standing Unitarian Universalist tradition on our Ingathering Sundays to bring water representing a meaningful moment in our recent lives: perhaps a heartfelt conversation, a gorgeous sunset, a special time with family or friends.

We invite you all to bring a tiny amount of water from a place or event that mattered to you over the summer. During our worship this Sunday, we will pour our water into a common container, to represent the ways in which our lives are coming together again. It's a joyful moment: we hope you will attend and join in!

September: Invitation

Our Theme for September is Invitation

September is a time for turning: turning toward fall, turning back to what we think of as our 'regular' lives. It's a time for new beginnings: a new school year, perhaps a new house or apartment, and a time for re-engaging with activities that we perhaps put down for a few months.

Life is just not business as usual in September! And with so many adjustments it's a time when we can be more open to new things, to look carefully at our lives and see what's important, to listen for where we are being called.

Our theme for September, with all its new possibilities, is Invitation. What calls to your heart now? Are you making space to listen and think about what you might be hearing? What might it mean for you to accept an invitation?

We will be exploring questions such as this throughout the month, both in worship and at our monthly group conversation. Typically we meet after coffee hour on the first Sunday of the month. This month we will gather on September 18. Mark your calendar for a heartfelt conversation about Invitation!

"Do not try to save the whole world or do anything grandiose. Instead, create a clearing in the dense forest of your life and wait there patiently, until the song that is your life falls into your own cupped hands and you recognize and greet it. Only then will you know how to give yourself to this world so worthy of rescue."

-Clearing by Martha Postlewaite

September Worship

September 4: Newt Fink will offer the last of our summer series of lay-led services, and is planning a meditative service with audio and visual offerings.

September 11: Mingling of the Waters. Remember to bring some water that represents a special moment in your life during the summer. We will gather and pour the water into one vessel to represent our community joining together again.

This will be a multigenerational service, designed for all ages.

September 18: Bring a Friend Sunday! In the spirit of Invitation, we invite you to invite a friend to join us for worship. Reverend Janet will preach a special sermon about Waitstill and Martha Sharp: a Unitarian minister and his wife who were asked to go to Europe during World War II to help rescue refugees

by the predecessor of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Filmmaker Ken Burns has created a documentary about the Sharps called "Defying the Nazis" which will air Tuesday, September 20. This is not to be missed!

September 25th: TBD, led by Rev. Janet Parsons

Defying the Nazis– Film by Ken Burns

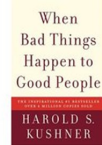
On Tuesday, September 20, PBS will air a documentary by renowned filmmaker Ken Burns about a Unitarian minister from Wellesley, the Reverend Waitstill Sharp, and his wife Martha, who were asked to sail to Europe during World War II and help escort refugees across Nazi lines to safety. This is their story, and a compelling one it is. Here is a link to an article in UU World magazine about the film: [https://www.uuworld.org/articles/ken-burns-unitarians-wwii?utm_source=uuworld&utm_medium=f](https://www.uuworld.org/articles/ken-burns-unitarians-wwii?utm_source=uuworld&utm_medium=front&utm_campaign=picks)

Stay tuned for more information as

this gets closer - we are talking about organizing viewing parties so we can share the experience!

September Book Group:

The next book for the Gloucester UU Book Club is **When Bad Things Happen to Good People** by Harold Kushner. When Rabbi Kushner son was diagnosed with a fatal degenerative disease he was faced with the ultimate question: Why God? This book is about the doubts and fears that arise when tragedy strikes. It is considered a classic in its genre that offers clear thinking and consolation in



times of sorrow. Come join the discussion on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 7 pm in the Historical room.

Social Justice Blog:

A calling for writers interested in Social Justice Issues. Gloucester UU is starting a Social Justice Blog called **Not Just Us - The Social Justice Blog of the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church**. Are you passionate about social justice issues, do you like to write? If so talk with Kelly Knox or Janet Young to get more details. We'd love to hear your ideas, and read your perspective on the countless social justice issues we face today.

Membership Notes- "Bring a Friend to Church!"

Dear Friends and Future Friends,

On Sunday, September 18th we will be celebrating Bring-a-Friend to Church Sunday. This includes family, of course.

Dictionary.com defines friend as: 1, a person attached to another by feelings of affection or personal regard; 2, a person who gives assistance; patron; supporter; 3, a person who is on good terms with another; plus three more less common usages.

Please give some thought as to people in your life whom you think would appreciate our unique UU community. Perhaps a newcomer to town, someone who's going through "a rough patch", as Wendy would say. I have in mind a couple who were once an integral part of our sister church in Rockport, who fondly remember their girls as angels in X-mas Eve pageants. They are questing, intelligent, have

expressed an interest & I've been meaning to invite them for some time. We all know folk who've not yet met Rev. Janet Parsons, our insightful newish minister (appropriately named, my brain just realized).

Families with children are most welcome, as are old friends whose faces haven't been seen as of late. Perhaps someone who's been to our inspired summer concert series, or admires the work of the Grace Center, or has participated in Rose Sheehan's creative outreach programs to children & families.

How about our neighbors in our inner city locale? Any one who might be lifted by the thoughtful offerings from

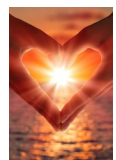


our members, our minister, our choir? (Opportunity presents: we welcome new choir members, as well as ones who might fall into the category of "lapsed".

Music is a total expression of love, & during rehearsals & services we focus our attention, while everyday worries drop away. Not to mention the benefits of building new circuits in our plastic brains!

Thanks for extending yourself for this & every Sunday. Open hands & hearts gift the receiver & the giver: sometimes just a smile makes all the difference. We promise a splendiferous coffee hour.

Blessings, Diana Peck
(Membership)



Meeting House Foundation –Summer Concert Series Success!

The free concert series presented by the Gloucester Meetinghouse Foundation, *Music on Meetinghouse Green*, has been a great success in its first season and plans are already afoot for next year. Each Friday evening since July 8th has featured a different musical offering, using the Meetinghouse entrance platform as a stage and the green as an outdoor concert hall.

Many patrons enjoyed picnicking under the shade trees as they enjoyed the concerts. Via free-will offerings, raffles and membership opportunities, each event has been a benefit for a different partner non-profit.

The first event was raised \$1,200 to benefit Pathways for Children with music by John Baboian's Berklee Jazz Quintet.

In the weeks that followed music included many Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church members such as Ken Steiner's Ensemble with music of New Orleans, Willie Alexander with the Raztones, and Deb Hardy with Alternate Roots Band plus many others such as the Northshorem Barbershop Chorus and Peter Souza with 3 Sheets to the Wind. Non-profit partners many others who do great work in our community such as the Writers Center, Kestrel Educational Adventures, Art Haven, the Angel Opioid Program and the Schooner Adventure. The August 26th event beat all the others in the amount donated, raising \$1,700 for the Grace Center.

Staff who handled the logistics and publicity for the series included Church members Jeremy Melvin on lighting, Newt Fink and Marylou Bassani on setup and takedown, plus Rose Sheehan as event coordinator. The 3-part movable stage was built by Jim Clarizia of Lighthouse Construction and his crew who are slated to do the upcoming Church kitchen renovation. We are grateful to everyone who lent a helpful hand or advice.

The final concert will be performed by the Cape Ann Big Band on Friday, September 9th, to benefit the upcoming Fire-Sprinkler and Deterrence Project. This is the top priority of the Gloucester Meetinghouse Foundation to protect the grand 1806 church building from loss by fire. The overall mission of the GMF is to preserve our historic building as a civic hub, cultural venue and community center for the good of all. For more information on our events, ways to contribute and how to become a GMF member please visit: www.gloucestermeetinghouse.org

Mayor Sefatia Romeo-Theken will be on hand to thank our Sponsors in the opening ceremony at 6:00pm at the September 9th event. They include: Tom & Susan Andresen, J.J. & Jackie Bell, Michael & Mary Ann Bresnan, Harry & Mary Hintlian, Charles Nazarian, Tom & Kristin Zarrella, the Cape Ann Savings Bank and, especially Linzee & Beth Coolidge who provided an extraordinary matching gift. Their generosity paid the entire series' expenses in advance so all proceeds could go to the non-profits. *Music on Meetinghouse Green* would not have been possible without them.



Welcome from Debra Zagaeski the new Church Office Administrator

Hello to the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church community. I am so pleased to have been invited to work here at the Gloucester UU Church. I have already met many of you and I look forward to meeting more of you as the new Church year begins.

My daughter, Linnea and I moved to Gloucester in January 2016 and we are both still getting to know our way around beautiful Cape Ann. In addition to Linnea, who is a senior at GHS I have

four grown children that live around the country. Brendan, Keira, Adrian, and Julian.

I am a Unitarian Universalist and served as the Director of Religious Education at Follen Church in Lexington, MA for the past seven years. I am excited to collaborate with the wonderful staff here. Having worked with Rev. Janet at Follen I feel especially fortunate to have the opportunity to work together once again.

I have a new puppy, Taz (he is now five months old) and we are regular visitors to the dog park at Stage Fort Park.

You may meet him sometime here in the office or at the dog park.

In Faith, Debra



News from the By-Laws Revision Committee

September news from the Church Bylaws revision committee

The Bylaws revision process started one year ago in June 2015 and a first draft of new Church Bylaws has been submitted in June to the Board of Managers.

As a Board member, I took on the task of starting a Bylaws Revision task force and with the help of Karen Bell, Kelly Knox, Ken Belanger, Dick Prouty, and Kate Ruzewski we reviewed many other UU churches bylaws and documents from the Unitarian Universalist Association and designed a new outline with the goal of making the Bylaws an easy readable and working documents for all involved in the Church Governance and Ministry.

It is now the work of the Board to review this first draft. As Board members, Kelly Knox and myself will continue to be involved in this process.

I am thankful to Karen, Kelly, Kate and Dick for their hard work and support.

Respectfully submitted by
Geneviève Dionne



More from the Gloucester Meeting House Foundation—Poetry Reading

Friday, September 23rd at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary—Poetry Reading with Jeannie Alexander and Jim Seavey.

Jeannie will read poems from her unpublished manuscript, "Ever the Unsafe Girl", a collection of poems, essays, and photographs. She has described her work as 'confessional-mythological'. Visit her website, noexceptions.net, the No Exceptions Prison Collaborative, seeking justice and compassion for those incarcerated

in Tennessee prisons. Jeannie is a member of the First UU Church of Nashville.

Jim, a Cape Ann native, has been writing poetry since the mid sixties, publishing very occasionally. He will read from "Work Days" written during the time he lived in Lanesville and worked in downtown Gloucester, each poem being the revelation of the landscape as envisioned by a Cape Ann artist, and other poems.

There will be a time for Q&A following the readings and a reception with refreshments.

This event is free, donations will be gratefully received.

Religious Education -Summer Activities

Religious Exploration activities continued during the summer.

A new group for children under three and their adult caregivers started meeting weekly at the church in July. We look forward to a new session of "Little Tots" starting up again this fall.

Arts Alive! Music and More on Cape Ann was a lively, fun-filled music day camp held in late August at Saint John's, Saint Paul, Annisquam Village Church, First Congregational Church of Rockport and Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church. Fifteen children from around Cape Ann aged six to thirteen years participated including Matilda and Eleanor Melvin from GUUC! Plans are underway to offer the successful camp again next summer.

Middle School Activities –

Last year's middle school group celebrated the end of the year with a pizza/bowling party at Cape Ann Lanes. Plans are underway to start a new social group this year for tweens to include eleven-year-olds in the fun.

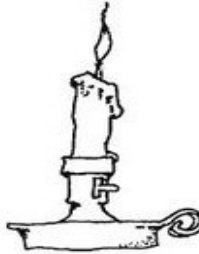
Sabine at the pizza/bowling party



Matilda ringing chimes at the Arts Alive Camp

**INVITATION**

If you are a dreamer, come in,
If you are a dreamer, a wisher, a liar,
A hope-er, a pray-er, a magic bean buyer . . .
If you're a pretender, come sit by my fire
For we have some flax-golden tales to spin.
Come in!
Come in!

**Welcome all to a new year of active Religious Exploration!**

September's Theme is "Invitation". We will search for the ways that our religious community invites us to live, learn, work and celebrate. We will also consider how to be part an inviting community.

September 11: Multigenerational Service Childcare available in the Darlington Room

September 18: Religious Exploration Program Begins – All meet in the vestry at 10:00.

September 25: Spirit Workshop, Leader TBD – DRE away

NEW PROGRAMS COMING

After participating in a very successful interfaith music camp for Cape Ann children this summer, Rose will be offering two sessions of **Sing through the Seasons** here at GUUC. One will be a morning offering for parents and children. The other will be a weekly afterschool program for children K through sixth grade.

Little Tots, a parent/child playgroup for adult caregivers with children birth through 35 months will also meet once a week. (This program met occasionally during the summer and took a break in August.)

Spirit Play will be a weekly parent/child program featuring a story, circle time and play for adult caregivers with children three through five years of age.

West End Neighborhood Community Hour is a collaborative offering between the Backyard Growers and our Religious Exploration Program for the children and families in our neighborhood. We will meet on Fridays from 5:00 to 6:00 for games, projects and science learning.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

As part of our ongoing community outreach efforts, the RE Program will plan and host **The Enchanted Forest**, an afternoon of fun (not scary) Halloween activities. This will be held on Sunday, October 30.

Plans are underway to once again stage **Welcome Yule! A Midwinter Celebration**. The performance date is Saturday, December 10.

CHOIR NOTES!

Wednesday, September 14 will be our first choir rehearsal of the new church year! Although ANYTIME during the year is a great time to join the choir, perhaps September is the best time. Come ANY time, (as long as you can sing on pitch.) Check out a rehearsal!!! We have been blessed with excellent, dedicated singers. I think most choir members will agree that rehearsals are most often relaxed, and fun, and much is accomplished. If you don't want to take my word for it, ask a choir member! I recognize that people have their own lives, and the general

policy is that we are happy to have members there whenever they are able to be there; but no pressure! The choir rehearses in the Historical Room, Wednesdays from 7PM to 8:30 PM. If you ever had, or have a new interest in singing, please come and give it a try. (No auditions necessary!) Any questions, give me a call 978-546-2959 or e-mail rwechew@comcast.net Bob Wech



Flowers

September 4th Given by Dennis and Janis Daulton in loving memory of Dennis's parents, Everett and Marion (Sammet Daulton, and to honor the late Harold N. Pike Sr., Dennis's mentor and friend, and a good friend of this Church.

September 11th Given by the Tanguays in gratitude for the support of this congregation during and after Bob Tanguay's illness and passing. Time and again we asked for your help. Time and again you were there.

September 18th Given by Ann Leamon in loving memory of her Grandmother Moore, who was born in September.

September 25 TBA



Memories and Celebrations

In Sympathy:

To Holly Tanguay and family on the passing of Bob Tanguay in July.