

*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](mailto:rev.janetparsons@gmail.com)

the metaphor of the hot, dry, hard summer, and offers a way forward to a different place.

From the place where we are right  
Flowers will never grow  
In the spring.  
The place where we are right  
Is hard and trampled  
Like a yard.  
But doubts and loves  
Dig up the world  
Like a mole, a plow.  
And a whisper will be heard in the place  
Where the ruined  
House once stood.

Suddenly there is no pretending that it is still summer; the wind is feeling chilly, and clouds and rain are becoming more frequent. We certainly welcome the rain! The summer was dry and hot, seemingly relentless at times. I found that the drought, the crunchy, hard lawns and dusty curled leaves, felt like a perfect metaphor for the political climate we find ourselves in this election year. It has been a season of hard, dry, hot places, both indoors and out.

In church these last few weeks we have talked some about how to navigate these times of divisiveness, anger, and hatred. How can we keep channels open to those we disagree with? In this era of being able to pick and choose our news sources that reinforce our beliefs, how do we engage with others, learn from each other, hear each others' concerns? It is a hard, arid time in our lives.

I often find myself these days thinking of the poem "The Place Where We Are Right," by Yehuda Amichai, and thought that I would share it here. It reinforces

I am hoping, as we move toward November and the presidential election, that some rain will continue to fall on us, softening the hard-packed earth where we stand, helping channels between us open and fill with life-giving water, so that we in the United States regain our ability to listen, to doubt, to reach toward one another.

Blessings to you on this journey,

Rev. Janet



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



[www.facebook.com/gloucesteruu](http://www.facebook.com/gloucesteruu)

## The Worship Theme for the Month of October is Healing

### October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Please join the Mayor, city state and school officials as we continue our campaign to make Gloucester a Domestic Violence Free Zone.

Plan to Join in on Tuesday, October 4th at 12:30pm on the Gloucester City Hall Steps there will be a rally in support of Domestic Violence Awareness.

Rev. Janet Parsons will deliver the closing remarks.



## Going Deeper

**Going Deeper:** Each month we'll offer some of the resources that were mentioned in worship, in case you have the time or inclination to go back to topics that particularly interested you. And if you don't see something here that you want to explore, please let Reverend Janet know! She'll be glad to get together to talk something over, or even just email you additional thoughts and resources.

### Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War:

In case you didn't get a chance to watch the Ken Burns PBS documentary on Unitarian heroes Waitstill and Martha Sharp, here is a link to the program: <http://www.defyingthenazis.org/>

### Sister Simone Campbell and the Nuns on the Bus:

<https://networklobby.org/bus2016/>

### Reverend Dr. William J. Barber:

The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement

To see Rev. Barber speaking at last June's UU General Assembly in Cleveland:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLDkYPGgOSg>

### Reverend Nancy McDonald Ladd:

To see Rev. McDonald Ladd's sermon at UUA General Assembly, "In All Thy Getting, Get Understanding", the link is here:

<https://www.uua.org/ga/past/2016/worship/sunday>

## October Worship

**October 2:** "Healing Our Wholeness, Healing the World".  
Rev. Janet Parsons

Blessing of the Animals: 11:30 on the ally.

**October 9:** Worship led by Rev. Janet Parsons

**October 16:** Worship led by Nicki Schoel

**October 23:** Worship led by Rev. Janet Parsons

**October 30:** Worship led by Music and Liturgy Committee



# Coffee Hour Team Assignments!

Schedule for October, November and December

TEAMS have been reconfigured this year to include 6 people/Sunday.

Your TEAM will get a reminder by e-mail or phone the week before you're scheduled.

## October 2 - TEAM B

Caroline Connolly

Cynthia Dunaway

Daren Duncan

Newt Fink

Karen Lundh

Peter Berkrot

## October 9 - TEAM C

Mary Lou Bassani

Donna Therian

Gail Seavey

Jim Seavey

Linda Riley

Tim Ryan

## October 16 - TEAM D

Jeremy Melvin

Genevieve Dion

Alex Floyd

Willie Alexander

Debbie Aminzadeh

Evelyn Bauer

## October 23 - TEAM E

Susan McKain

Ken Steiner

John Berges

Ann Leamon

Tracy Bowen

Charlotte Lacey

## October 30 - TEAM F

Lucille LePage

Marjorie Melanson

Phil Dunn

Pat Baker

Holly Tanguay

Carl Furlong

## November 6 - TEAM G

JoeAnn Hart

Gordon Baird

Ken Ekstrom

Kate Ruzecki

Taylor Harnish

Lee Steele

## November 13 - TEAM H

Ann Straccia

Linda Kidder

Carol Ackerman

Jerry Ackerman

Karen Bell

Charles Nazarian

## November 20 - TEAM I

Doug Smith

Cindy Lawry

Sylvia Anthony

Martha Oaks

Scott Memhard

Bob Wech

## November 27 - TEAM J

Naomi Ruben

Keith Gray

Paula Gray

Isabel Sloane

Sarah Sawyer

Bill Jackson

## December 4 - TEAM K

Lucy Myers

Peggy Kimball

"G" Hyatt

Rufus Collinson

Robin Newhall

Jude Warrington

## December 11 - TEAM L

Diana Peck

Rob Hill

Dianne Stephan

Dick Prouty

Geoff Richon

George Smith

## December 18 - TEAM M

Roger Garberg

Mern Sibley

Holly Randall

Eric Runnels

Jim Schoel

Nicole Schoel

**Dec. 25 - DAY OFF**

Gloucester Meeting House Foundation Presents

**Sunday, October 23rd 6:00pm**  
**Dr. Jeckyl & Mr. Hyde**  
**AND**  
**The Haunted House with Buster Keaton**



Sonic Artist, Peter Krasinski on the historic Meetinghouse pipe-organ, improvising accompaniment to 2 silent film classics: The Buster Keaton comedy, “The Haunted House” and the scary main feature, “Dr. Jeckyl & Mr. Hyde.” The Event will open with a fun costume parade and grand organ prelude.

Sunday, October 23rd at 6:00pm

At the Gloucester Meetinghouse (UU Church)—10 Church Street.

Admission at the door

\$15 General

\$12 Students

Seniors (65+) and children (under 12) FREE

Ghouls and Ghosts TBD

## News from the Social Justice Committee

We have launched a social justice blog called *Not Just Us, The Social Justice Blog of the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church*. If you have a social justice blog idea please see Jan Young, editor of the blog. Check out the first posting at <https://gloucestersojust.wordpress.com/>.

The Social Justice Committee is working with ECCO (Essex County Community Organization) to create safe and healthy neighborhoods on the North Shore. ECCO teaches people how

to exercise their power to address the root causes of the problems they face by using community organizing principles of leadership development and action for justice. Recent initiatives of ECCO include voter registration drives, leadership training, Police training on implicit bias, immigration issues and more. If you are interested in learning more about ECCO speak with Kelly Knox or Reverend Janet Parsons.

Grace Center is looking for volunteers. If you would like to learn more about the Grace Center and its volunteer opportunities please contact Rona Tyndall, part-time outreach coordinator, at [ronatyndall@gmail.com](mailto:ronatyndall@gmail.com).

## News from the Board

### Bylaws Revision

Work continues on revision of our congregational bylaws. Following the excellent work done by the special subcommittee led by Genevieve Dion over the past 15 months, the revision work continues by the board itself. We expect this to continue on for several more months. While it may seem like this is taking a long time, we feel it is best to approach revision of the bylaws in a methodical and thoughtful way. Once a final draft of the new bylaws is approved, we will begin to circulate it within the congregation for additional feedback.

### Kitchen Project Update

We now have a signed grant contract with the city that allows us to proceed with renovation of the kitchen. Unfortunately, just after we received the signed contract back the contractor we were planning to work with suffered a torn muscle. It turns out he will have to have surgery and will not be able to start work on our project for some time. This is an unexpected setback, and we are currently evaluating our options on how best to proceed to complete the renovation in a timely way.

## More from the Gloucester Meeting House Foundation—Poetry Reading

On Friday, September 23rd the Gloucester Meeting House Foundation hosted a poetry reading with Jeannie Alexander and Jim Seavey.

Jeannie 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](http://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 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.



## Religious Exploration *with* Rose



**October's Theme is "Healing". Our explorations will include the following ideas and questions.**

Unitarian Universalists believe that each and every person is important and that all people should be treated fairly and kindly. How is healing connected to this belief?

Clara Barton was an important Universalist healer. What can we learn from her work?

We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things. How does the Earth heal us? How could we help heal the earth?

Unitarian Universalists believe it is important to learn about other faiths and religions. Rosh Hashanah celebrates the Jewish New Year. It is a time to seek and offer forgiveness. If forgiveness is an important part of healing, how do we forgive ourselves?

October 2: A Time for All Ages – Everyone begins upstairs; children will be sung out of the service

October 9: Spirit Exploration – Story and activities

October 16: Spirit Workshop – Group Project

October 23: Spirit Exploration – Story and activities

October 30: Spirit Workshop – Group Project

### **HELP WANTED**

***The Enchanted Forest***, an afternoon of fun (not scary) Halloween activities, will be held on Sunday, October 30. From 4:00 to 7:00. Volunteers are needed for set-up (12:00 to 3:30), staffing (3:30 to 7:00) and clean-up (7:00 to 8:00). Please let Rose know if you can help.

### **WEEK-DAY PROGRAMS**

**Sing through the Seasons** will begin Tuesday, October 11 for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. This six-week session will run from 4:30 to 5:30. Second sessions for children birth through five years and their caregivers will meet on Friday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00. This group will begin on October 14.

**Little Tots**, a parent/child playgroup for adult caregivers with children birth through 35 months will resume on Wednesday, October 19 and will run from 9:00 to 11:00.

**Spirit Play**, a weekly parent/child program featuring a story, circle time and play for adult caregivers with young children will begin in November.

**West End Neighborhood Community Hour** garden program has ended. We are making a transition to a Friday afterschool drop-in time.

## Community Spaghetti Dinner a Success!



## Flowers and October Birthdays

**October 2nd** Given by Cynthia Dunaway to observe with love the October 5th birthday of her late husband, Paul Murphy.

**October 9th** Given by the Gordon Baird and Jerry Ackerman in honor and hope of peace in the world.

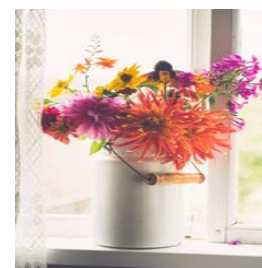
**October 16th** TBD

**October 23rd** Given by Philip and Elizabeth Jensen in memory of his father, Arthur Jensen, and of the "East Gloucester Girls", Jenny and Lillian Jensen and Mildred Smith.

**October 30th** Given by Linda Riley in loving memory of Eileen Ryan, daughter of Linda Riley and sister of Tim Ryan.

Happy Birthday to:

Joanne Moceri-Taveira  
Linda Kidder  
JoeAnn Hart  
Kerry Mullen  
Lucy Garberg  
Charles Nazarian  
Walter Melvin



## News from the Finance Committee

### Budget view

As we start to see the financial year in perspective, some trends are clear. On the income side, pledged giving is on track, while donations and fund-raising income are both below the aggressive levels called for in the budget. Gloucester Meeting House overhead payments, along with rents from the Grace Center, combine to provide crucial support.

On the expense side, circumstances have reduced the costs of operating our ministries: we have so far been unable to find the additional instructor needed to deepen our religious education for children; and we were without a church administrator for 2 months after Karen's departure.

How do income and expense trends impact the health of the church? It appears that we will be able to complete the year without the anticipated endowment withdrawal that the congregation agreed to at the last annual meeting. That's good news.

But the trends illustrate just how important it is that we strengthen congregational stewardship: pledges are the vital nutrients for building a healthy and sustainable ministry. Pledges must grow to support greater presence in the community and program offerings for a range of ages, children as well as adults. Really, that's also the good news: there are commitments to be made and work to be done in the coming year!