



Unitarian Universalist
Meeting House
11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023
Nantucket, MA 02554
(508) 228-5466

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - February 2018

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

The Art of Being Lost

Rebecca Solnit in her book, A Field Guide to Getting Lost writes about the spiritual practice of getting lost. She begins by noting that lost has two disparate meanings: one is to lose something that is familiar and the other is about getting lost ourselves in which everything becomes unfamiliar. For Solnit, the art of getting lost is one that our world offers us fewer and fewer opportunities to explore and one that is rich with opportunities for wholeheartedness.

Solnit goes on to point out that it is not so much about being lost as about trying to lose oneself, to surrender what we know about who we are and where we are so that we can see and feel and construct new possibilities around us. But how to do this? How do we surrender ourselves to something new when we know where we are, or think we do? How do we decide that we are lost when we think that everything and everyone is familiar?

Meno, a pre-Socratic philosopher, writes, "How will you go about finding that thing the nature of which is totally unknown to you?" Plato takes on Meno posthumously and decides that his question is answerable; that there are no real mysteries, that all can be known.

I have to disagree with Plato, not because I believe I know more than he did. I am sure I do not. But because I need to believe in mystery and the unknowable and more than both of those, I need to believe that pursuit of that which we cannot know is worthy of the journey.

Perhaps in the end, this is why Gary and I are off for Nepal and India a two month sabbatical, leaving February 7th and back April 9th. [For a full description of the sabbatical and all it entails go to www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org/sabbatical]. I hope to get lost, to lose myself, to question my beliefs and orientations in the world and so reorient myself to who and where I am and so who and where everyone else is too.

Rebecca Solnit writes, "The things we want are transformative...love, wisdom, grace, inspiration-how do you go about finding these things that are in some ways about extending the boundaries of the self into unknown territory, about becoming someone else?"

Is this what being lost teaches us all finally: How to imagine what it is to be another? And if so, should we all not seek it wholeheartedly? Henry David Thoreau and Virginia Wolfe, to name a few, believed that with enough presence and intention, we could learn to be lost right in our own backyards and in our own consciousness.

I take you all with me, in my one carry on backpack! You are part of my soul, my consciousness, my heart. Take care of each other. I look forward to swapping stories when I return, to sharing new perspectives and possibilities...to seeing through new eyes together. May we all get lost from time to time!

*Nantucket is full of common pathways, some known by many, others known only by a few. Our Meeting House brings us together, traveling over many pathways, some common, some not, as we learn to walk with each other even when the ways are unfamiliar and unmarked.



JOIN US AT
10:45 A.M.
EVERY SUNDAY
IN HENDRIX HALL

February 4
**"The Spiritual Art
of Getting Lost"**
Rev. Linda Simmons

February 11
"Eat More Pie"
Rev. Kimberley Debus

February 18
"Transmogrified"
Rev. Kimberley Debus

February 25
**"First Principle:
What does it look
like in real life?"**
Lay Led Service
Guest Speaker
Rev. Dawn Fortune

Families Welcome!
**Religious
Exploration for
Children Every
Sunday**

Board of Trustees Monthly Report— February 2018

The Board of Trustees met on January 16, 2018. It was the last meeting for outgoing Trustees Cynthia Csabay, Lora Stewart, Joanna Greenfield, and Christine Sanford. I would like to extend my gratitude for the dedication and service of these four women. We will miss you!

The Board acted on the following:

- Approved a new “Animals in the Meeting House” policy to be included in the Congregational Handbook.*
- Began the conversation about the Meeting House becoming a short-term Sanctuary Church for our immigrant friends. This will require a congregational vote once a proposal is formulated. More next month.
- Revisited and revised our Mission Statement, which will be presented to the Congregation in a future series of “town hall” meetings after services.
- Set a meeting on January 22 for Val, Peter, Paul and Lora to meet to conduct a membership review for the UUA.
- Began the discussion of the future of the parsonage, considering its recent boiler failure and other issues.
- Approved a new wedding fee proposal for Faro de Luz.
- Approved paying the UUA a “Fair Share” amount (\$79 per member) for 2018.
- Nominated Directors for South Church Preservation Fund (to be voted by congregation at Annual Meeting).
- Formed a committee (Val, Christine) to prepare a welcome/orientation packet for new Board members.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Val Hall, President
scallop lady@gmail.com***

***Animals in Meeting House Policy**

To ensure the safety and well-being of humans and other animals in the interdependent web of which we are a part, we ask that animals (with the exception of service animals) refrain from coming inside the Meeting House. To request an exception or if more information is needed, it is necessary to speak to the Minister or the President of the Board of Trustees. When an exception is granted, people who bring the animal into the Meeting House have complete responsibility for the close supervision and behavior of the animal, as well as any necessary clean-up.

February Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 1, 5:15 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
Choir Practice—Hendrix Hall

Friday, February 2, 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
NICA Meeting—Activities Room

Saturday, February 3, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.
UU Crafting Group—Activities Room

Monday, February 5, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Monday, February 5, 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
Immigration Resource Center—Activities Room

Wednesday, February 7, 10:30 a.m.—12 p.m.
A Year to Live Workshop (led by Lora Stewart)—Activities Room

Wednesday, February 7, 5 p.m.—5:45 p.m.
Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting—Activities Room

Thursday, February 8, 5:15 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
Choir Practice—Hendrix Hall

Saturday, February 10, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.
UU Crafting Group—Activities Room

Monday, February 12, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.
Shirat Ha 'Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Thursday, February 15, 5:15 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
Choir Practice—Hendrix Hall

Friday, February 16, 6 p.m.—9 p.m.
Friday Frolics Potluck: Movie “Defending Your Life”—Activities Room

Saturday, February 17, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.
UU Crafting Group—Activities Room

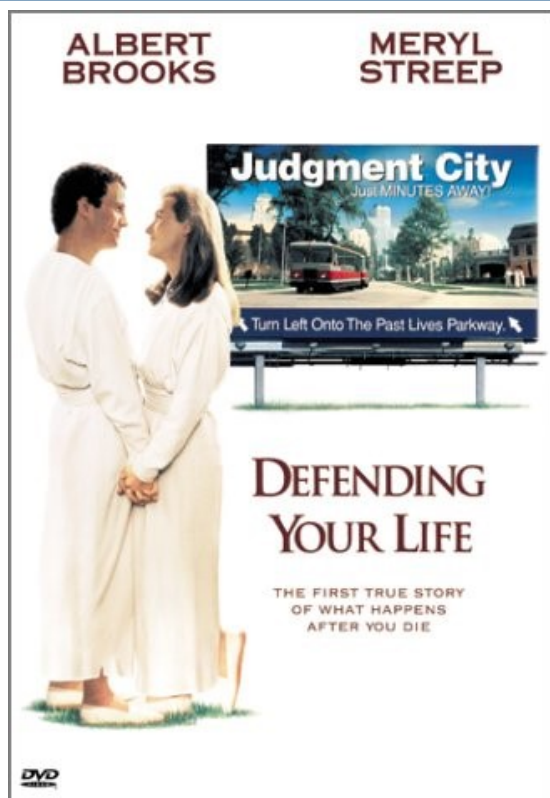
Sunday, February 18, 12:30 p.m.—1:30 p.m.
Finance Committee Meeting—Activities Room

Tuesday, February 20, 4:30 p.m.—7 p.m.
Board of Trustees Meeting—Activities Room

Thursday, February 22, 5:15 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
Choir Practice—Hendrix Hall

Saturday, February 24, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.
UU Crafting Group—Activities Room

See You at The Meeting House!



Friday Frolics are Here!

Join us on

Friday, February 16 at 6 p.m.

in the Activities Room for the first

Friday Frolics Potluck!

We will view and discuss the film

Defending Your Life starring Meryl Streep and Albert Brooks.

Bring a dish to share and let's enjoy some good food, a good movie, lively discussion, and great community!

Make sure and mark your calendars for the other upcoming Friday Frolics:

March 2—Karaoke Dance Party

March 16—Movie *Contact*

March 30—Tabletop Game Night



Follow-up on "Under One Roof" - UU Tree at the Whaling Museum by Joanne Polster

It's amazing how many activities take place under our roof whose logos decorated our tree at the Festival of Trees:

- Faro de Luz
- Shirat Ha Yam
- Muslim Prayer Group
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Immigration Resource Center
- South Church Preservation Fund
- Food Rescue Nantucket
- July 4th Reading of the Declaration of Independence

The Immigration Resource Center is Open!

Monday, February 5

5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m., Activities Room
and the first Monday of each month.

The IRC is a safe place to ask questions, receive referrals and compassion. If we don't know where to find the answers, we'll learn together!

Spanish, Portuguese, and English spoken.

Spread the word!

UU Crafting Group

Join us in the **Activities Room on Saturday mornings from 10am to noon.**

Drop in once or join us every Saturday to learn a new craft, get help on your current project, share your expertise and/or make items to support the church.

It's a fun and relaxed way to get to know others in the congregation.

All are welcome!

Contact Kat Robinson Grieder
(tuckernuckat@gmail.com) with any questions.

Food Rescue Nantucket

By Gary Langley

2017 was a real growth year with successful new initiatives and projects, including:

* A food collection bin, located in Wauwinet, for renters to deposit their unopened and non-perishable leftovers as they leave their rental units. We collect weekly and deliver to the Food Pantry. Another bin will be installed in Madaket, at the fire station, for this coming rental season.



* A donation of \$20,000 by a congregant to procure a walk-in cooler/freezer. This system will be up and running in April and will allow us to expand our ability to capture wholesome food that might otherwise end up as waste.

* Talks have begun between Food Rescue Nantucket, Sustainable Nantucket and Nantucket Public Schools to create a campus wide composting program for all of their schools.

* Food Rescue Nantucket, Sustainable Nantucket and the Food Pantry were partners in a project proposed to and selected by Worcester Polytechnic Institute this past Fall, to map the entire island's food system including the growing, importing, distributing and selling of food. It included resources from potential new agricultural land and ocean growing/harvesting, to surveys on attitudes surrounding various food related issues. The three organizations involved will use this research to inform their decisions going forward as well as publish the final project results publically.

We anticipate that in 2018 we can increase our food captured well beyond the 20+ tons of food diverted from becoming waste.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved or would like addition info, please contact Gary Langley - (gary@blinddogphoto.com).

"If only you could sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person."

- Fred Rogers

Lay Led Service Committee Report

Our next lay led service will be on February 25, when Rev. Dawn Fortune, minister of the UU congregation in Galloway, on the South Jersey Shore, will speak about the First Principle, which affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Although this principle is lofty in its intent, what does it look like in real life? What does it cost us to treat people with dignity?

Rev. Fortune is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, Massachusetts and studied sexuality and religion at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. Ze is a longtime activist with sexual and gender minorities, with a strong interest in issues of social, sexual and economic justice. Hir interests in church work include anti-racism education, class issues, anti-bullying efforts, diversity work, community outreach, and building interfaith coalitions. Rev. Fortune has also served as a hospital chaplain in Providence, Rhode Island.

Join us as Rev. Fortune helps us examine the many ways we can affirm the worth and dignity of ourselves and our neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Hall
Committee Chair

Coming in March . . .

Owning Your Religious Past

March 4, March 11, and March 18

12:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m. (bring a bag lunch)

UU Parsonage (10 Fair Street)

Through reflection, discussion, and journal writing, we'll explore our past religious perspectives and experiences, and explore who we hope to become. This workshop is open to all who wish to explore their religious pasts and move from discomfort and awkwardness to affirmation and wholeness.

NOTE: Attendance at all three sessions is required. The course builds on itself, as does the experience of examining our religious and spiritual experiences.

A sign-up sheet will be available starting Sunday, February 11.

JOIN US FOR
SPECIAL BOOK DISCUSSIONS
about
Nepalese Culture

Facilitator: Rev. Linda Simmons
Returning from 2 months in Nepal and India

Book: *The Royal Ghosts* by Samrat Upadhyay
A collection of short stories covering the Maoist revolution,
arranged marriage, role of women, religion & caste.
Get your copy at Mitchell's Book Corner

When: 3 discussions: Mondays April 30, May 7 & May 14
5:30-7 pm

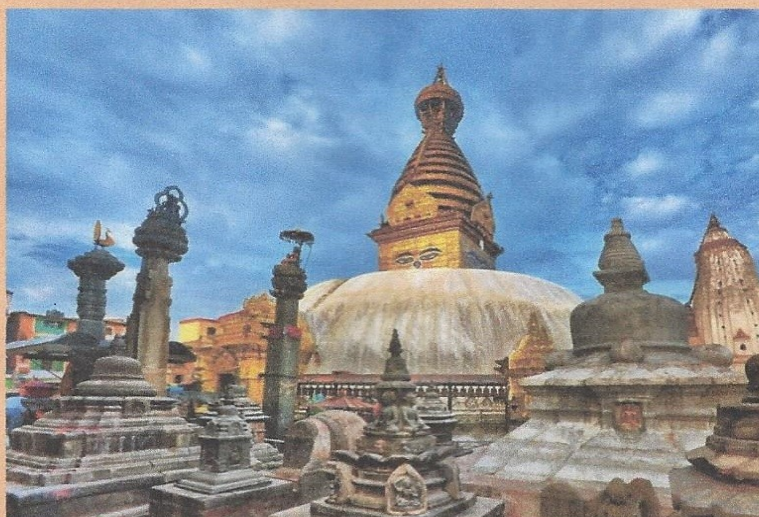
Where: Nantucket Atheneum downstairs in the Learning Lab

Extra: Travelogue PowerPoint Presentation by Rev. Linda
Simmons and Gary Langley ~ Monday, May 21, 5:30pm,
Atheneum Great Hall

For a study guide and complete supplemental packet of background material, look on
UnitarianChurchNantucket.org/sabbatical/

OR

Pick up a free copy at the Unitarian Church Office, 11 Orange Street, open 9:30 am -12;
or call Lucretia Voigt during office hours at 508-228-5466.



Legal efforts ramping up to assist Salvadorans

Uncertain future for some who've been here for 20 years

By John Stanton
Contributing Writer

You are from a small rural town in El Salvador, but for close to two decades you have been legally living and working on Nantucket. Now it looks like the immigration policy that has allowed you to build a life on this island might come to an end. You turn on Univision and there is the news. The Department of Homeland Security decided to end Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Salvadorans.

How to Find
Legal Help for
Those Losing TPS
Page 11A

"Virtually no Salvadorans woke up surprised the day TPS was terminated," Tom Ryan, the chairman of the Migrant and Refugee Committee of Cape Cod and the Islands Council of Churches, said.

"They've known it was coming and so they've been worried. It is not as if they need an Anglo activist to tell them it is time to find out what the options are. It's not news to them."

There are an estimated 3,000 Salvadorans living on Nantucket. There are no hard numbers about how many of them are here on TPS, but some Salvadorans put the number at half. Now faced with the uncertain calculus of immigration, they are finding support in church pews and public-school auditoriums.

"In the 1800s the source of support for the Irish immigrants was the church," Ryan said. "Each wave of migration that has happened in our country has had some connection to religious entities that have been part of their support and advocacy system. So, there is nothing new with this. It goes with the mem-

"They've known it was coming, and so they've been worried.

It is not as if they need an Anglo activist to tell them it's time to find out what the options are."

— Tom Ryan
Migrant & Refugee Committee
Cape Cod & Islands
Council of Churches

bership. We really believe the gospel calls us to do this."

Ryan's committee has a three-pronged approach. Outreach to immigrant communities often begins in churches. Ryan's group works with 178 churches on the Cape and Islands. One of them is St. Mary's Our Lady of the Isle.

"The first is supporting and caring and knowing by name our immigrant neighbors," he said. "That didn't start a week ago. It is ongoing. The second is forming a legal clinic, with lawyers who speak Spanish and can provide individual legal advice. The third is working with our congressional representatives."

When Unitarian Church members were putting together the Nantucket Immigration Community Alliance, gathering all the facts and phone numbers they could find and concerned that they had not put together a strong enough package of helpful information, Rev. Linda Simmons had a conversation that showed her first-hand the power of human connections.

"We kept putting it off and someone from that community stopped us and said, 'You know I cannot tell you how much it means for somebody to walk in that door and be treated like a human being and to know that you are sitting here and you care, even if you don't have answers or know what is next.' We opened the following week. She was absolutely right. So, in my opinion, it makes so much difference."

The resource center is now open the first Monday of every month, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Meeting House on Orange Street.

"It makes a difference to see

TPS, PAGE 11A

Salvadorans: Time is of the essence; Once out of legal status, hard to regain it

(Continued from page 1A)

someone's humanity and offer your own in response," Simmons said. "Am I hopeful? I'm not sure. But I am determined to continue to stand with my heart full next to these people, who I call my brothers and sisters in faith. What we believe in is the inherent worth of all people."

Ryan is quick to say that he is not an expert on immigration policy or law. His role is putting immigrant communities in touch with legal experts.

Schuyler Pisha and Collin Mickle are immigration lawyers. Pisha is legal director of Immigration Law Programs for Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc. Mickle is the coordinator of the Immigration Resource

Center, Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands, Inc. Ryan is working with them both to set up an "After TPS Clinic," which will include personal consultations. No date has been set.

Both lawyers said that immigration law is always on a case-by-case basis. The answer is always, they say, "It depends."

"It is more complicated in the sense that when people lose their status they don't necessarily just pick up and leave," Pisha said. "If I was a father of three American citizens and they were in Nantucket High School and they were achieving, I'd be very hesitant to bring them back to a place where in any given year they have a 1-in-100 chance to be killed by gang members. Taking your family

to the murder capital of the world is not something you do lightly. A lot of families will have to make tough choices. It is going to be a fight."

Arming for that fight, he said, means finding legal representation to start the process of finding a different legal status.

"Time is of the essence," he said. "Once you're here out of status, it can be a lot more complicated to gain legal status again."

There is often confusion and a sort of word-of-mouth-misinformation about what the next step should be, Mickle said.

"When things like this are in the news, a lot of people advance different theories," he said. "I spend a lot of time arguing third-person with people's cousins. They say their

cousin did this or that."

He said he can generally get a sense of whether a person has a chance or not of finding a legal solution after he looks over their documents and hears their story. He added that immigration law is not as cut and dried as other areas of the law.

"They made renewing TPS so easy that we see relatively few people who need help renewing," he said. "So, people did that through English-speaking friends or their church. The analogy is that you don't need a lawyer to register your car, but if you hit somebody with your car you need a lawyer. This is an

order of magnitude more complex, and you need help to legally deal with this."

Mickle is on Nantucket the second Friday of every month, between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., offering free clinics at Fairwinds counseling center on Vesper Lane. An appointment is preferred, but the service is free and has an open-door policy.

Mickle and Pisha will be on island at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29 as part of a "Know Your Rights" session held by Nantucket Public Schools English Learner/Bilingual Parent Advisory Council at the Nantucket Intermediate School, 30 Surf-

side Road. Free 15-minute consultations will be offered.

The effect immigration policies are having on the Hispanic community is part of everyday school life for students and teachers at Nantucket High School.

"I can't speak for them, but it is a very uncomfortable time and for them it is hard to know who you can trust," schools superintendent Michael Cozort said about the school's Hispanic students.

"You have to take care of the social and emotional needs of families before you can get down to the academic and intellectual needs of students."



SUN ISLAND FUEL

508 325 0776 • 5 Sun Island Rd

Resources for Salvadorans, other immigrants losing TPS

Schuyler Pisha, Esq.
Legal Director, Immigration
Law Programs
Catholic Social Services of
Fall River, Inc.
(508) 674-4681

Collin Mickle
Attorney at Law
Coordinator, Immigration
Resource Center
Community Action
Committee of Cape Cod
& Islands, Inc.
(508) 771-1727, ext. 140

Collin Mickle offers a free clinic at Fairwinds counseling center, 20 Vesper Lane, Building L-1, the second Friday of every month, 10:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.

Both Mickle and Pisha will be at the Nantucket Intermediate School, 30 Surfside Road, at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29 as part of a Nantucket Public Schools English Learner/Bilingual Parent Advisory Council "Know Your Rights" session.

The Migrant and Refugee Committee of Cape Cod and the Islands Council of Churches will hold a free legal advice clinic on-island. The date and location have yet to be announced.

The Nantucket Immigration Community Alliance Resource Center is open the first Monday of every month between 5:30 pm and 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Meeting House, 11 Orange St.

Sermons for February

February 4: “The Spiritual Art of Getting Lost” - Rev. Linda Simmons

We have so few opportunities to be lost in our society. What can being lost offer us that we are missing? How can we even get lost in a world that seems more and more known to us? What tools do we need in order to surrender what we know about who we are and where we are so that we can see and feel and construct new possibilities around us? Come get lost this Sunday as we explore new territory together!

February 11: “Eat More Pie” - Rev. Kimberley Debus

There is something about pie that speaks to all of us—it is one of the few truly universal foods. We’ll explore what pie means, what we can learn from pie, and how taking time for pie feeds our souls as well as our bodies.

Please bring a pie to share! After the service, we will have a potluck pie brunch to welcome Rev. Kimberley. Please bring a sweet or savory pie—quiches, pizza, shepherd’s pies, pot pies, berry pies, apple pies, tarts, cream pies—whatever kind of pie tickles your fancy. After spending an hour talking about pie, we’re going to want to eat some pie!

February 18: “Transmogrified” - Rev. Kimberley Debus

Sometimes, when our ideas, beliefs, and perspectives seem stuck, it’s helpful to take them apart, mix them up, and see what comes out. Let’s see what happens when we do this with our principles.

February 25: “First Principle: What does it look like in real life?” - Lay Led Service featuring Guest Speaker Rev. Dawn Fortune

Our First Principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Although this principle is lofty in its intent, what does it look like in real life? What does it cost us to treat people with dignity? (For more information about Rev. Fortune, see the Lay Led Committee Report on page 4)

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.

Unitarian Universalist Meeting House

11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

(508) 228-5466 (Office)

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On Facebook: www.facebook.com/Nantucket-Unitarian-Universalists-75824801619/

Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister (revlindasimmons@gmail.com) ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, Minister Emeritus
Diane T. Lehman, Music Director ~ **Leyah Jensen**, Youth Programs Coordinator, **Sherlly Morocoima**, RE Assistant
Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager ~ **Janelle Zapata de Morocoima**, Sexton ~ **Chuck Gieg**, Bookkeeper

Board of Trustees

Val Hall (President), Clay Twombly (Vice President), Paul Stewart (Treasurer), Peter Richards (Clerk)
Cynthia Csabay, Joanna Greenfield, Christine Sanford, Michelle Whelan, Lora Stewart
Rev. Linda Simmons (Minister)

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - noon

Minister’s Office Hours: Tuesday, 10 a.m. – noon and by appointment