



Unitarian Universalist
Meeting House
11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023
Nantucket, MA 02554
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Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - July 2017

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

Being Found

"Not till we are lost, in other words not till we have lost the world, do we begin to find ourselves, and realize where we are and the infinite extent of our relations." These are the words of Henry David Thoreau and are as provocative today as in the days he wrote them in 1854. Yet in these times, it seems we are all called upon to be more and more *found* and on point, ready to go, to keep track of our allegiances and our ways of knowing lest we are called upon to stand in their defense.

These days ask so much of us. Do you find this to be true as well? We are called to compassion, thoughtful dialogue, and deeper and deeper engagement with the world. We are daily more frazzled and expect more and more from ourselves as we go. The results are exhaustion, frailty, and an impatience in us in places and ways in which we used to be quite capable of calm assessment and response. We are on edge these days and our skills at recognizing and naming this are at a low. We are naming everything else: the political environment, racism, environmental chaos, erosion of rights, generalized anxiety yes- but seem unable to name and see ourselves as in need of our own care.

I understand why. It feels narcissistic. It feels individualistic in a time when people are hurting, really hurting, and rights are being eroded and lives are being taken and families are being split apart. What is my exhaustion and anxiety in the face of all of this? Not much really. Not much.

And yet. It is something. Just that. It is enough to name so that we can take care of it and so be able to do what is required of us well next time we are asked, which will be any minute now. We keep waiting for others to see and hear and love us these days as we grow more and more depleted but everyone else around us is depleted too.

We need to rest from time to time. We need to nourish ourselves with beauty, love, and compassion. We need to be good to ourselves which includes getting outside, eating well and gently and being awake together too.

Taking some liberty with Thoreau, who loved and associated with many good Unitarians after all, and his opening words I used at the beginning of this piece:

May we find the infinite extent of our relations when we are found, right here, in the blessing of our own skin, our own arms, our own infinite capacity to love and be loved.

*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 THE
HISTORIC
SANCTUARY

Sunday, July 2
"Flipping the Script of
Independence"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, July 9
"Blessing the Hard
Places"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, July 16
"Suffering and
Forgiveness"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, July 23
"Rejoice and Resist"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, July 30
"Radical Hope"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Families Welcome!
Religious Exploration
for Children Every
Sunday

Board of Trustees Monthly Report— July 2017

The Board of Trustees met on June 13. We have begun discussing a marvelous little book entitled “Serving with Grace”, which is written for lay leaders, whose service can be seen as part of our spiritual practice. Thanks to Rev. Linda for suggesting it! Treasurer Paul Stewart gave a quarterly budget report, telling us that everything is on track. We will have to buy a new back fire door for the Activities Room, because the current one finally fell apart. Thanks to Bob Lehman for giving it a temporary fix! The Strands have given a generous donation to help with refreshments at Coffee Hour. Thank you Brad and Kristina! The Board voted unanimously to approve Rev. Linda’s Congregational Sabbatical Plan, which consists of the job advertisement, location details (with lovely color photos by Gary), and the job description. Thanks to Paul for putting together a wonderful informational booklet! Linda plans to go to India Feb 8-April 8, 2018 for her sabbatical. These plans were previously approved by the Sabbatical Committee and the Board. The Board also approved a request from Barbara Elder for a summer noonday concert series. We discussed plans for the July 4 celebration, the summer members’ gathering (July 20), and the summer auction (Aug 5-6), and have postponed the volunteer fair until fall. Rev. Linda and Gary, along with Val Hall, Peter and Susan Richards, Paul and Lora Stewart will be heading to New Orleans for the UUA General Assembly on June 26. We are all very excited!

Respectfully submitted,

Val Hall
President Board of Trustees
scallop lady@gmail.com

The Immigration Resource Center is Open!

**Monday, July 3
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!

July Calendar of Events

Monday, July 3, 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
Nantucket Immigration Community Alliance Immigration Resource Center—Activities Room

Tuesday, July 4, 9 a.m.—10 p.m.
Reading of the Declaration of Independence—Sanctuary

Thursday, July 6, 12 p.m.—1 p.m.
Noonday Concert featuring Women’s Chorus of Nantucket, led by Barbara Elder—Sanctuary

Friday, July 7, 1 p.m.—2 p.m.
Muslim Prayers Service—Hendrix Hall

Monday, July 10, 6 p.m.—8 p.m.
NAMI Dragonfly Emotional Wellness Group—Activities Room

Thursday, July 13, 12 p.m.—1 p.m.
Noonday Concert featuring Anthony Healy—Sanctuary

Friday, July 14, 1 p.m.—2 p.m.
Muslim Prayers Service—Hendrix Hall

Thursday, July 20, 12 p.m.—1 p.m.
Noonday Concert featuring Janie Hopson-DuPont and Lisa Wendelken—Sanctuary

Friday, July 21, 1 p.m.—2 p.m.
Muslim Prayers Service—Hendrix Hall

Thursday, July 27, 11 a.m.—12 p.m.
Food Rescue Meeting—Activities Room

Thursday, July 27, 12 p.m.—1 p.m.
Noonday Concert featuring Jake Vohs—Sanctuary

Friday, July 28, 1 p.m.—2 p.m.
Muslim Prayers Service—Hendrix Hall

See You at The Meeting House!



Noonday Concert Series Returns This Summer!

The Thursday Noonday Concerts are returning this year, beginning on July 6th and continuing on every Thursday in July and August. The thirty minute concerts will begin after the bell tolls 52 times at noon. Plan a visit, walk in off the street, come on your break during your lunch and listen to the music of the summer. The concerts offer an oasis of calm, joy and serenity in our sanctuary featuring the wonderful acoustics and beautiful new historic lighting. The Goodrich Organ is also featured in a few concerts. Susie Jarrell began the concert series close to 40 years ago.

JULY

6—Women's Chorus of Nantucket, Barbara Elder
13—Anthony Healy, solo piano
20—Janie Hopson-DuPont & Lisa Wendelken, singer-songwriters
27—Jake Vohs, solo piano

AUGUST

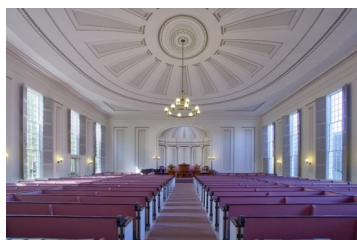
3—Nick Davies, clarinet
10—Carson Cooman, organ
17—Mollie Glazer, cello & Isaiah Williams, piano & organ
24—Marcia Hempel, organ
31—William Schutt, saxophone

See You at the Meeting House!

Docenting Report

by Peter Richards

Now through Labor Day our docents open the doors of our beautiful Sanctuary to the public. People come from all over the country and the world to visit Nantucket and many will make a point to stop in our historic meeting house. Key talking points include the beautiful trompe l'oeil artwork, the glorious Goodrich organ, and our magnificent Portuguese Bell. If you would like to



join our docent team, please contact Peter Richards at cobbleland@aol.com. Discover the “real good feeling” of presenting our historic Meeting House.

Don't miss the 18th annual 4th of July community reading of the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights right here in the Meeting House.

Sousa marches on the 1843 Goodrich Organ, a patriotic sing-along with Bob and Diane Lehman, and the Meeting House Community Chorus, all help to kick-off the spirit of the island's holiday festivities, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Children can sign a replica of the Declaration; and win a chance to ring-in-the-4th on the 1815 Portuguese bell in the Meeting House tower.



Plan to come early to participate in this traditional family celebration of the beginning of our freedom and democracy.

Coffee Hour



Coffee Hour Update

The Sunday after-service coffee hour has been going along fine. This past Mother's Day we instituted a new tradition of having all men do the coffee hour. It was a great success and fun! Thank you to all the guys who participated—good job!

Last year, Brad and Kristina Strand made a generous donation for coffee hour and have donated again this year for which we are very grateful. Thank you Brad and Kristina!

And thank you to everyone who has helped with making coffee hour an enjoyable social part of Sundays at the Meeting House! If you would like to donate or help with any part of coffee hour there is a sign-up sheet in the Activity Room.

Regardless, all are welcome for coffee and conversation!

Val and Christine

Second Congregational Meeting House Society Auction Saturday evening, August 5

The church auction each summer is our major fundraising event of the year, as well as a joyous opportunity to build community among our members. Members of the congregation donate items or services, and most of them are auctioned off in a silent auction—while a few highly prized items are set aside for a special live auction, hosted by our own Bob Lehman.

Please consider donating items such as art work, furniture, household items, and jewelry. Also please think of what service or services you might wish to offer. Popular services in the past have ranged from songwriting lessons, to two hours of a guy with a pickup truck, to an excursion in a boat.

If you have items or services to donate, please contact Paul Steward paul@plpdd.com or Lora Stewart Lora@plpdd.com or Barbara Elder musicelder@gmail.com or Jim Sulzer sulzer@comcast.net

This year's auction will be Saturday, August 5. The doors to the silent auction (in the activities room) will open at 5:00 pm on that day,



with the live auction held at 6:00 pm sharp in Hendrix Hall.

The bidding for items in the silent auction will continue Sunday morning, August 6, before the worship service. Bidding will be closed during the worship service, but will open briefly after the service and will close for good around noon Sunday.

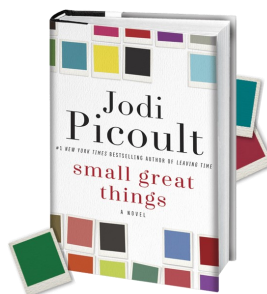
People who win items will be contacted as soon as possible, and we will ask you to pick up your items late Sunday afternoon, August 6.



Images from the UU General Assembly, New Orleans, June 21—25



New Book Group



The UU Meeting House and St. Paul's Episcopal Church will host a book group to read

Jodi Picoult's novel, Small Great Things

about racism in a small community in America.

We will meet to discuss the book and begin our own conversation about racism in our lives and communities.

Please join us for this important conversation and interesting read!

All are welcome!

Sign up in the AR or with Rev. Linda revlindasimmons@gmail.com

All Meetings are on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30pm
July 19 St. Paul's, Parish House, 20 Fair St pp 1-70.

July 26 St. Paul's, pp 71-132

August 2 St. Paul's, pp 133-197

August 9 St. Paul's, pp, 198-271

August 16 St. Paul's, pp 272-335

August 23 St. Paul's, pp 336-416

August 30 St. Paul's pp 417-end

Sermons for July

July 2: “Flipping the Script of Independence” - Rev. Linda Simmons

The Declaration of Independence offers safety and happiness as conditions of freedom. What else might we need for all people to be free? This sermon will explore the notions of safety, happiness, and freedom using story, metaphor, and travel.

July 9: “Blessing the Hard Places” - Rev. Linda Simmons

What is it to be grateful for the experiences that are hard, that ask too much of us, that insist we go beyond our preferences, that give us something other than what we have chosen? How do we learn to bless the hard places and the gifts they offer us for the journey? This sermon will offer us tools for the journey of this time when we so often find ourselves facing what we would rather turn away from.

July 16: “Suffering and Forgiveness” - Rev. Linda Simmons

How do we go on after we have hurt another? How do we forgive ourselves when the hurt is historic or when it is personal and unintentional and small and hard to admit or even when it is big and so long ago it's hard to get back to? This sermon will explore suffering and forgiveness for ourselves.

July 23: “Rejoice and Resist” - Rev. Linda Simmons

This service will bring music, poetry, spoken word, and storytelling in recognition of marginalized peoples throughout the world. Join us as we lift up our voices to compassion and justice and fill our beautiful sanctuary with the music and words of love.

July 30: “Radical Hope” - Rev. Linda Simmons

How do we stay hopeful in these times and why does it matter? This sermon will explore the work of Bryan Stevenson who spoke at General Assembly this year in New Orleans. Stevenson is an American lawyer, social justice activist, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative. We will ask together what is the role of hope in social justice and how do we keep it alive?

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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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

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 a.m. - noon

Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday, 10 a.m. - noon and by appointment