

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BARNSTABLE A UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

# CHALICE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BARNSTABLE DEDICATED  
TO EDUCATING, INFORMING, AND INSPIRING OUR COMMUNITY.

Volume 36 Issue 1 | January 2026

## Mission Statement of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable

A welcoming congregation of and for all ages.  
Working for justice and compassion in our world.  
Encouraging spiritual journeys and thoughtful dialogue.

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper  
Office Administrator: Chandra Bibeault  
Church Office 508-362-6381

Open: Tuesday - Friday 9AM to 1PM

E-mail: [ucb@barnstableuu.org](mailto:ucb@barnstableuu.org)

Website: [www.barnstableuu.org](http://www.barnstableuu.org)

Minister's Contact Information [minister@barnstableuu.org](mailto:minister@barnstableuu.org)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9AM to 1PM | Monday - Day Off

Contact the office for appointments outside regular hours.

Director of Children & Youth Ministry Dawn MacKechnie | [DCYM@barnstableuu.org](mailto:DCYM@barnstableuu.org)



## Religious Services | Sundays 10:30AM

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| January 4  | “Because I Planted Flowers”<br>Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper           |
| January 11 | “Disability Visibility”<br>Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper               |
| January 18 | “Dr. King and Unitarian Universalism”<br>Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper |
| January 25 | “The Pebble Communion”<br>Ryan Smee and Jen Shattuck             |



Snowy UCB Photos by  
Susan Vaughn Harris  
and  
Sarah Beal-Fletcher



# Kristen's Korner

[minister@barnstableuu.org](mailto:minister@barnstableuu.org)  
[KLHarperUU@aol.com](mailto:KLHarperUU@aol.com)



When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost  
    To heal the broken  
    To feed the hungry  
    To release the prisoner,  
    To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among the brothers [and sisters],  
To make music in the heart.  
    —Howard Thurman

Happy New Year! In spite of all that has happened, and is happening, in our country, there are still a lot of things for which to be grateful that occurred this year—a growing and vibrant Children and Youth Program, more and more wonderful people finding and getting involved in our church community, an active Justice For All Team, surpassing the \$100,000 mark in scone sales, a wonderful and record breaking Holiday Fair, and so many of you volunteering to keep this congregation moving forward with love as our guide.

There were many painful parts of this year too—the deaths of John Mark Thomas, Chris Gordon, Susan Daly, Susan Hayes, Philip Fetzner, Alison Maloney, Mary Ellen McGowan and Mary Fran Wattles. There were falls and surgeries, illness, continuing grief, and emotional challenges.

I often find it helpful to reflect on the past year—what was joyful, what was a gift, what was healing, what new friendships were made and old friendships renewed. Although sometimes painful, it is also helpful to reflect on the places where we are stuck, the goals we didn't quite make, the progress not yet attained, the healing that still needs to be done, the friendships neglected and fractured.

# Kristen's Korner continued...



One of the great religious principles is "intention", being deliberate about your plans for life. And writing lists are one way to be intentional about what you want and don't want in your life and the life of your families and friends. It's good to review and reflect and it is helpful to set goals and purposely work on dreams yet fulfilled.

But this year is different. This year we enter into a time of uncertainty—about our healthcare(Medicaid), social security benefits and social services; about our immigrant neighbors—will the mass deportations continue and will more US citizens be sent erroneously to detention centers; about our trans family and community—will gender affirming care become a thing of the past; about the climate—will our unchecked consumption bring us to a breaking point; Will the climate of racism, oppression, sexism, homophobia and transphobia grow and spread? Will the rich get richer and the poor get poorer? Will the middle-class fade into obscurity?

Although I still think it might be good to reflect on our personal, familial and communal goals—this year we must add our plants of resistance and accomplice to our lists. We can peacefully resist, protest, write letters, call our representatives until they are sick of hearing our names; we can march on Washington, on Boston, on downtown Cape Cod in solidarity with the marginalized everywhere, of every sexual orientation, race, class, ability, or religious background. We can confront the hatred and incivility that has ensnared the hearts of some with love and compassion.

The enormity of the work before us can feel overwhelming. Not all of us can or want to do it all. It will be up to each of us to decide how we will live out our faith in these uncertain, scary and challenging times. I wonder if our civil rights leaders of the 50s and 60s could feel that urgency, that fear, that anticipation before the push came. Which act will be the tipping point. We are not there yet but we can get there. We shall overcome. And we will do it together.

See you in Church!

Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper



# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BARNSTABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM

## Highlights from December programming

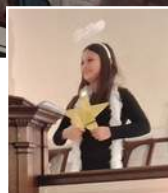


Thank you to our Family Choir—children, youth, and adults—who shared their voices and their courage with us during the Holiday Music Sunday. By coming together to sing, you reminded us that community is something we create, one brave step at a time. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is a lighthearted song, but it carries a deeper truth we hold dear as Unitarian Universalists: that each of us has inherent worth, and that what once set us apart may one day help light the way for others. This year, as we practice trusting in the unfolding journey, may we remember Rudolph's story—and our own. We don't always know where the path will lead, but when we walk it together, with care and joy, we help bring light into the world. Thank you for helping to share that light with us all.



On the winter solstice, as the light paused and began its slow return, we gathered to decorate the trees outside our sanctuary—not with lights or ornaments just for us, but with gifts for our animal neighbors. Pinecones filled with seeds, simple garlands, and natural treats became small offerings of care. In that moment, we remembered that even in the darkest season, kindness travels outward. Our decorations were a way of practicing interdependence—honoring the web of life we belong to and sharing the joy of the season with the creatures who share this place with us. May every bird, squirrel, and woodland friend who visits those trees feel welcomed and fed. And may we carry that same spirit of care, connection, and generosity with us as the light grows once again.

*Thank you for everyone who participated in the wonderful Christmas Eve service. It was one magical evening.*



# BELONGING BOOKS & BIG TREE PRESENT



## UNERASED: ASIAN VOICES OF CAPE COD

Join **The Unitarian Church of Barnstable** for a screening and talkback of **Un erased: Asian Voices of Cape Cod**, a short documentary that amplifies the experiences of members of our Asian community living or growing up on Cape Cod. Through personal stories and reflections, the film explores identity, community, and a path to healing.

**FRI, JAN 9, 6:00 PM**

made possible with funding from



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BARNSTABLE  
*A Unitarian Universalist Congregation*



Arts Foundation  
of Cape Cod



Mass  
Cultural  
Council

**3330 MAIN STREET, BARNSTABLE, MA**

and wendy wu

FUN FOR ALL AGES

Unitarian Church of Barnstable

# BINGO NIGHT

GET AWESOME  
PRIZES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>

6:30PM - 8:00PM

soup and bread potluck

EVENT IS FREE BUT WE ASK THAT YOU DONATE AN ITEM OR MORE TO SHARE WITH THE COMMUNITY AS BINGO PRIZES. HOPE YOU WILL PLAN ON COMING AND SIGN UP FOR THE POTLUCK



# **UCB'S PEBBLE COMMUNION**

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**All are invited to participate in  
UCB's Pebble Communion on January 25th.**

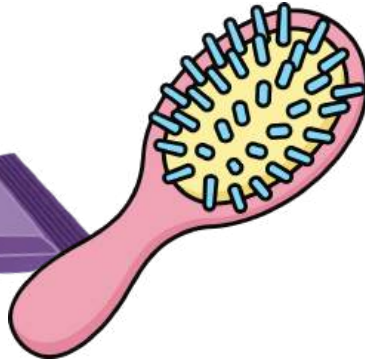
We are inviting anyone who has a special pebble they would like to add to the community pebbles that we use for our joys and sorrows every Sunday to bring it with you on the 25th. This is a special ceremony where we will share with one another briefly why we have brought it to be included in our community bowl of pebbles.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

During the month of January, we will be partnering with St. Joseph's House in Hyannis which provides shelter to homeless individuals. We ask that you include as many items as you choose from the list below, and place them in a gallon Ziplock bag:

- Hat
- Gloves
- Warm Socks
- Deodorant
- Sanitizing wipes



- Comb/or brush
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Granola bar
- Trail mix
- Water



Thank you for your generosity. Please place all donated items in the box in Warren Hall.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Gayle Leaversuch, Tina Payeur, or Sally Tarbell.



## UCB Finances

As reported at our Semi-Annual meeting, this fiscal year our finances through November are in good shape. Although Pledge donations, which represent 72% of our anticipated income, are behind target so far, Plate donations are ahead.

Many Pledges donations are made in December so things could get right back on track.

Fundraising is also doing well. With the great success of our Holiday Fair, we are about \$14,000 ahead of plan. Most of our fundraising activities are now complete but we still have another month of Scone sales to come in June so consider joining the Scone Squad, either as a baker or as a helper, to help us finish with a flourish.

The reason we do all this is so we can pay our staff fairly and support the things we do to help the larger community. It takes all of us to do this and everyone's generosity is greatly appreciated.



**SIDE WITH LOVE**

## 30 Days of Love 2026

**Love At The Center: Reimagining the World As It Could Be:  
Mon, Jan 19, 2026 through Mon, Feb 16, 2026**

At a time when fear, violence, and extraction dominate our politics and our planet, we practice another way. We believe love is not fragile; it is fierce. It grounds our organizing, fuels our imagination, and sustains our communities. Over five weeks, we will move through a journey from imagination to action, rooting our freedom dreams in faith and bringing them to life in our world.

Each week, we will have a written reflection from Side With Love staff; a conversation with a UU theologian; a multigenerational family activity; reflection questions for journaling; a meditative body practice; and a coloring sheet connected to the weekly theme.

**Sign up for an email or text when weekly content is live**



Our weekly themes are:

Week 1: Reimagining Thriving

Week 2: Grounding in Context

Week 3: Mobilizing Action

Week 4: Nurturing Community

Week 5: Exploring Possibilities



# Faith Communities Environmental Network

Inspiring Eco-Justice on Cape Cod & The Islands

[www.capecodclimate.org/faith](http://www.capecodclimate.org/faith)

An affiliate of the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative

**Eco-justice is a part of our Justice For All endeavor,  
by Susan Starkey, co-chair of the Faith Communities Environmental Network(FCEN)**

FCEN meetings during 2025 brought in ministers from different faith traditions to share their perspectives on Eco-theology. Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper kicked off the series in February 2025, talking about UU principles and her values of plurality. We also heard Eco-theology talks from the Jewish, Quaker, Celtic, and Christian perspectives. With partners, for Earth Day, we sponsored 4 films by Wampanoag scientists, elders, and healers, “Eco-Sophia” with Indigenous Australian content, and celebrated the first-ever Sun Day with a tour of Jane Ward and Steve Waller’s home.

A common belief across faith traditions is that we are called to care for the earth and all that is in it because it is sacred. A nationwide organization, [Blessed Tomorrow](#), has created a Guide that lays out a helpful summary of what we looked at this year:

Environmentally focused faith traditions call us to stewardship of the earth and all who depend on it. “Climate change presents us with a moral and spiritual call to action. Our changing climate negatively impacts each mission and ministry of our faith. Hunger, health, poverty, children’s welfare, and more are all made worse by the more frequent and devastating impacts of floods, drought, fire, and weather disasters. Children, older adults, lower-income families, and communities of color often experience the first and worst climate impacts, while contributing the least to climate change.

Climate change exacerbates injustices. Solutions are here, now. From clean energy to protecting nature, effective solutions are available and accelerating. People of faith are trusted messengers. When we talk, teach, and preach on climate change, we empower the 75% of Americans who are concerned about climate change. People of faith are leading on climate in their homes, congregations, and communities. We are preparing for climate impacts, acting as sanctuaries, protecting natural spaces, and voting for candidates who make climate a priority. When we address climate change, we all benefit. We are a part of a magnificent creation. When nature thrives, we flourish.”

Here, at UCB, our Justice For All committee will help us learn to use our voices to step up in new ways to protect our environment and align our actions with our values. Watch for a February 28 invitation to see the film Eco Sophia and discuss our choices for taking action. Later in Spring, we’ll offer an all-church read of a book on Emergent Strategies.

Susan  
Act Local, Pray Global

## **Massachusetts Medical Aid in Dying Update** - Adapted from UU Mass Action and Compassion and Choices materials

**Status: the Massachusetts bill advanced in November 2025 to the Senate Ways & Means Committee**



***2025 was a year of tremendous progress, marked by long-fought authorization victories and steady defense of existing medical aid-in-dying laws across all regions, from New York to California.***

UU Mass Action is part of the national Compassion & Choices Action Network, who are praising Senators for voting the End of Life Options Act ([S.1486](#)) out of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and sending it on to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. In 2025, Delaware, Illinois and New York all passed similar legislation.

[Fact Sheet](#) A more detailed description of the Massachusetts legislation can be found [here](#)

“Doctors, nurses, medical personnel, and researchers are dedicated health professionals who use every tool available to them to help a body heal and to ease suffering. We support their work and dedication when we contribute our resources to a variety of health care and education programs. We can also support their work by voting for An Act relative to End of Life Options and ensuring that doctors have one more option to offer their patients who are in the process of dying; one more option to allow for a peaceful death with dignity. “

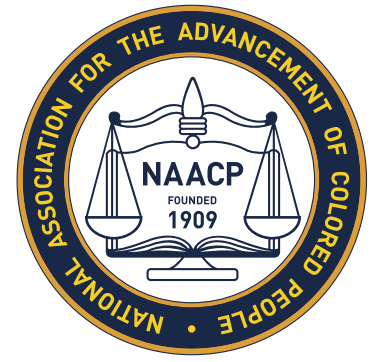
---Rev. Cari Keith, September 2025 Chalice

Please let [SuzanneLeeWall@msn.com](mailto:SuzanneLeeWall@msn.com) know if you're interested in the Cape Cod Compassion & Choices group.

Please note there are wonderful resources available through Compassion and Choices, including [a guide](#) for end -of-life care planning.



# SPLIT PLATE



Parish Council chose NAACP Cape Cod as the January and February Split Plate recipient. The mission of the Cape Cod Chapter of the NAACP is to end racial discrimination and segregation in all aspects of life.

The Cape Cod Branch is an active local chapter focused on civil rights, equity, and inclusion. Led by President Lynne Rhodes, they work on community engagement, voter registration, addressing local incidents, and partnering with other local groups. You can find the Branch on [Facebook](#) or e-mail [capecodbrancenaacp@gmail.com](mailto:capecodbrancenaacp@gmail.com).

## Caring *Connections*

Would you like the Care Team to contact a member or have an idea? Our email is: [caring-connections@barnstableuu.org](mailto:caring-connections@barnstableuu.org) or leave us a note in the suggestion box.

We are available to help with a meal, visits, run an errand, send a card and lend a helping hand.

If there is a member of the Congregation that you miss seeing, has had a hospitalization, illness, birthday or simply want to say Hi to? We have a full basket of cards to share on our table in Warren Hall. We will mail it for you if you are unsure of their address.

Bring Cheer to a fellow congregant! We will deliver donated flowers from Sunday Service. Spread the love.

Thank you, Meredith Censullo, Connie Hinds, Susie Littlefield, Nancy Rizzio and Carol Wall.

# NEW MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT

FEATURING

ANNE AND DAVID  
EGAN-ROBERTSON

BY SUSAN VAUGHN HARRIS



Anne and David Egan-Robertson both grew up in New England – she in East Hampton and he in Brattleboro, Vermont. They met at a nuclear freeze campaign in Greenfield, Mass., where he was working for a nonprofit agency and she was a volunteer. Their interest in social justice issues has continued.

David's interest started as sociology major at Williams College. He was involved in the Model U.N. in high school and was president of his senior class. His Unitarian affiliations go back to being christened at All Soul's Unitarian Church in Springfield, although he grew up as a Congregationalist, his father's religion. She grew up Catholic, but they became active members in the Unitarian Society of Northampton, where they lived when first married.

Anne earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in history and political science and a doctorate in education, all at UMass Amherst. She has taught at all levels from first-graders to doctoral students and was an assistant professor education at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

They lived in Madison for 30 years, one mile away from the university, so David could ride his bike to work there as a data analyst for the state government. He retired last May and they moved to Marstons Mills. Anne had spent summers on the Cape as a youth.

They said they joined UCB in 2025 because they like a smaller church like the one in Northampton with "friendly, like-minded people" and became active quickly. David joined the Building Committee and the Scone Squad, and Anne is involved with the Social Justice Committee and has joined the Rev. Kristen Harper's small group.

Their daughter, Maya, 30, lived in Madison and works for Habitat for Humanity.

# Church Officers and Committees

## GOVERNING BOARD

Dan Ewing, Treasurer ex-officio voting member  
Owen Fletcher  
Kim Hanggi, Clerk  
Rob MacNamee  
Ralph Marotti  
Michael Medeiros, Co-Chair  
Nancy Risio, Co-Chair

## Schoolhouse Steering Committee

Janet Abbot, UCB FOSH Liaison  
John Beach  
Polly Brazelton  
Crystal Gips, Chair  
Scott Kenyon  
Mark Nichols  
Nancy Risio, Governing Board Rep  
Lisa Standish

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Capital Projects, and Investments  
Long-Range Planning Committee  
Nominating Committee  
Personnel Committee  
Building and Operations Committee

## Submitting Material

Please email submissions to:

[chalice\\_ed@barnstableuu.org](mailto:chalice_ed@barnstableuu.org)

If you do not have access to email, please give your submission to the office manager.

**MINISTER** Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

Small Group Ministry: Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

Committee on Ministry: Allyson Bizer Knox

## PARISH COUNCIL

Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

Dawn MacKechnie, Dir. Children & Youth Ministries

Elaine Brennan

Jo Anne Miller Buntich, Coordinator

Carol Ewing

Betsy Johnson

Helen Matusow-Ayres

Nancy Risio, Governing Board Liaison

## PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES, GROUPS, & TEAMS

**Barnstable Interfaith Council:** Janet Abbott

**Communications:**

Website & YouTube: Chris Hammond

Chalice: Sarah Beal-Fletcher

Facebook: Jo Anne Miller Buntich, Susan Starkey, Sarah Beal-Fletcher

**Flowers:** Kathy Bryan

**Hospitality:** Patty Kenyon

**Justice for All:** Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

**Library:** Carolyn Barnes

**Membership:** Carol Ewing

**Music:** James Rosenblum, Music Director

**Outreach:** Gayle Leaversuch

**St. Joseph's House:** Ruth Owen

**WomanSpirit:** Karen Birely

**Worship:** Vicki Goldsmith

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM TEAM

Dawn MacKechnie, Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Jen Shattuck, Assistant DCYM

Mary-Jane Beach

Christine Bockmann

Allyson Knox

Michael Medeiros

Ryan Smee

Sarah Secules Smee

**Deadline for the February  
Chalice is January 27th.**

