



Unitarian Church of Barnstable

Chalice

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 11

December 2023

A newsletter of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable dedicated to educating, informing, and inspiring our community.

Mission Statement of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable

*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

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Chandra Bibeault

Church Office 508-362-6381

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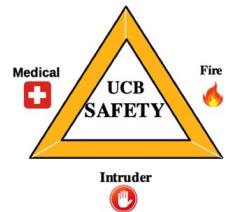
Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Dawn MacKechnie

DCYM@barnstableuu.org

Safety Team's Annual Report to the Congregation

The Safety Team was created by the Governing Board in 2020. Our mission is to help the congregation prevent and, when needed, appropriately respond to fires, medical emergencies, and security incidents.



During the past year, the Safety Team has:

Created a safer escape route (in the event of fire) by having the overgrown pathway behind Warren Hall cleared and a railing installed on the incline,

Continued to provide for annual fire drills for the congregation (our next one will be this spring),

Continued to provide for annual CPR and defibrillator training for the staff and congregation,

Arranged for hands-on fire extinguisher training for the staff and safety monitors (and we plan to offer this training to the congregation),

Published six articles in the Chalice to educate the congregation about various safety matters,

Recruited & trained additional Safety Monitors,

Planned & Implemented a Buddy system for the Monitors, and

Hosted a Safety Monitor appreciation dinner.

It has been our pleasure to work on safety matters for UCB. We end this Report with a heartfelt expression of gratitude to all those in our congregation who are, or have served, as Safety Monitors:

Phread Ayres, Steve Berglund, Dave Bryan, Joyce Campagna, Martha Campbell, Meredith Censullo, Brett Dubner, Emma Dubner, Chris Hammond, Kim Hanggi, Steve Hukalowicz, Patty Kenyon, Scott Kenyon, Mike Lorenz, Ralph Marotti, Richard Negus, Jackie Ramirez-Frasier, Nancy Risio, Brian Sheehy, Ryan Smee, Martha Swindler, Bill Tarnowski, and Lucy West.

We look forward to any questions or suggestions you may have.

Your Safety Team: Martha Campbell, Meredith Censullo, Chris Hammond, Mike Lorenz, Ryan Smee & Lucy West

U to U
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**Published Monthly  
Unitarian Church of Barnstable  
3330 Main Street  
PO Box 285  
Barnstable, MA 02630**

### **Newsletter Editors**

Carolyn Barnes  
Patricia Steacy

### **Submitting Material**

We welcome your comments for the *Chalice*. Please email submissions to:

barnscapecod@gmail.com  
patsteacy@gmail.com

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

Deadline for the January Chalice is December 20th.

### **A reminder**

All who have indicated that they wish to receive the Chalice by email are sent a link to it each month. Please call the office to request changes.

### **We're on the Web!**

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



Visit us on Facebook

@UCBarnstableinAction



*Chalice* photographs by:

Dawn MacKechnie

Lucy West

Elizabeth Bader

Susan Vaughn Harris

## **Religious Services**

### **Sundays, 10:30 a.m.**

|             |                                    |                                      |
|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| December 3  | <i>Blue Christmas</i>              | Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper              |
| December 10 | <i>Hanukkah: Holiday of Lights</i> | Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper              |
| December 17 | <i>Music Service</i>               | James Rosenblum and<br>The UCB Choir |
| December 24 | <i>Advent: Waiting</i>             | Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper              |
| December 31 | <i>Time for Reverence</i>          | Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper              |

### **Christmas Eve Services**

As Christmas Eve is on a Sunday we will only be having two service that day. Our regular 10:30 service in the morning and our multi-generational 5pm service.

**Top of the Hill Scones** has had a wonderful year and this is all thanks to the incredible Scone Squad that include 30 bakers that bake from one to six batches a week! The bakers don't have to bake, they bake when they want to and when they can bake, and The Unitarian Church of Barnstable is extremely grateful. We have baggers and labelers every week who place the precious scones in If You Care Bags because we are a Green Sanctuary.



Then we have several helpers who set up the now quite professional looking selling area. They set up the tent, the tables and chairs, and all the scone signs. Then the wavers come in and bring in customer after customer. They are waving the yellow with blue writing signs and it works big time. All along the cashiers and credit card handlers are making sure the money is all handled correctly and it always is. Then the helpers take down the signs, tent, tables, and chairs and the cashiers tally the revenue for the day.

There are about 40 individuals, women and men, who bake, set up, bag and label, and take down when all the scones are sold over the course of the summer and fall. Not all 40 at once but when people feel like pitching in they do and some just come to sit and demonstrate community to our many many customers. The revenue earned all goes to UCB to be sure that we pay our staff fairly and take care of the building and other church expenses. The last day for scones is at the Holiday Fair on December 2nd. The scones freeze beautifully so you can buy as many bags as you want. If you are interested in baking or any other tasks to help sell Top of the Hill Scones when we begin again on Memorial Day, you can talk to any one of us or email Elaine Brennan at [lifetapes@yahoo.com](mailto:lifetapes@yahoo.com).

**Elaine Brennan**

## Kristen's Corner

Beloveds, we are in the time of mystery and miracle—the light that kept burning days after the oil was supposed to have run out—reminding us that even the smallest spark can warm our souls after all our resources appear to be gone; the sun nestled into the midnight sky—reminding us to slow down, embrace the healing dark, breathe slowly and steadily; and the birth of hope—reminding us that we are worthy, that our lives are precious, that forgiveness and grace and love are our birthright. This is the season full of memories made and in the making. I invite you to intentionally throw off the traditions that no longer work for you and make new ones, without self-judgement, without all the material consumption, with care and compassion for yourself and others.

Although times may seem grim and scary, remember that as the solstice turns so turns the world, and it can turn from harm to compassion, from war to peace, from greed to giving. This is the time we need to gather the love and hope we have inside us and spread it to others—get out of your homes, your heads, and enter your hearts. Find the abundance that is within you and give generously of your love to those around you. You don't need gifts and treasures to show how much others mean to you, how much you care. You don't need to spend a dime but you do need to spend your time and compassion to brighten the world. Let your light shine and the gloom around you will lift.

I know so many of you will worry about getting the perfect present to show how much you love your child, your grandchild, your spouse, your friend. But the time you spend with them truly expressing how much they mean to you will be the best gift you can give. Try to make something for them. Put your love in a project, in a card, in a delicious meal.

Because this is a time for light, I encourage you to light candles, to string lights around your home. To light a fire in memory of those who are no longer with you but whose flames still burn in your heart. Create a ritual for each night of the season honoring someone who has made a difference in your life. Visit a friend you haven't seen for a while. Send a letter, by snail mail to a loved one.

We have entered the season where three of the great religious traditions converge and draw us into their web of awe. The winter solstice, on the night of December 21st, is such a tradition. As old as time it reaches to the very heart and psyche of the human condition—birth, life, death and rebirth. Unfortunately we forget to revere the lessons of the solstice, that we need the dark, we need the time of regeneration

and germination to sprout once again. That we are connected to the dark as much as to the light. For too many the dark of winter is a time to be avoided, a time of fear, anxiety, stress, depression and exhaustion. It is a time that can be a traumatic test of the human spirit, evoking memories of loves lost, dysfunctional family gatherings, gifts never received

So I also encourage you to revel in the darkness. To use it as a time for regeneration, for reflection and contemplation. Spend time owning the darkness and all its contemplative properties. Let us use this time as a time to balance light and dark and find redemption in both.

See you in Church!

**Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper**



### **LIGHT FOR ALL with UUMFE**

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 7 pm**

The Winter Solstice occurs when Earth's axis tilts away from the sun, making it the shortest day and longest night of the year for those living in the Northern Hemisphere. Join UUMFE the evening BEFORE the Winter Solstice for music, reflection, meditation, and spiritual grounding.

On this longest night, we will be featuring the work of the [Energy Democracy Project](#) and sharing a portion of our offering with them. Let's work for light for all on the longest night of the year. Our service is part of the larger arc of Clean Energy as a Human Right being led by Side with Love.

**Full information on speakers and music here:** <https://www.uumfe.org/support-for-activists/light-for-all/>

**Register to attend and receive the zoom link here:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0vcumurzgvGNfGw4lsyIL9eG3tGfc3ZGaL#registration>





# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BARNSTABLE

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM



Thank you to all of you who came out to the Multigenerational Halloween Ceilidh and made it such a fUUn event! There were some very creative costumes and amazing talent shared. And such yummy treats!

### *Exciting opportunities for the month of December in the Children and Youth Program:*

#### **Kids Table at the UCB Holiday Fair on December 2nd**

Grown-ups can shop while the kids make some fun crafts.

There will be notecards you can purchase created from the artwork the children and youth have been creating.

#### **Family Choir for Holiday Music Sunday on December 17th**

James Rosenblum who is our Music Director will be leading this great opportunity for families to learn a song and perform it at the Holiday Music Sunday on December 17th

We are inviting any children and youth who wish to participate but are also extending the invitation to their grown ups as well.

We will be learning just one song to sing all together

Rehearsals will be before church at 9:30am on Dec 3rd, 10th and 17th.

Please let me know if you wish to participate so we can plan ahead.

#### **Christmas Eve 5pm Lantern Dance**

Elizabeth Bader will be teaching the traditional lantern dance to any children and youth who wish to participate.

Performance will be during the 5pm evening service on Christmas Eve.

Rehearsals will be after church on December 3rd, 10th and 17th and before the service on Christmas Eve.

It's important to let me know if your child wishes to participate so that we make sure we have enough lanterns for everyone.

*Please note that there will be no programming or nursery available the morning of Dec 24th. We are inviting families to attend the 5pm Christmas Eve Multigenerational evening service.*

Contact me for more information and to sign up to participate.

Dawn MacKechnie,

Director of Children and Youth Ministries

[DCYM@barnstableuu.org](mailto:DCYM@barnstableuu.org)

## New Member: Claudia Susdorf



Claudia Susdorf has owned a home just down the road from the Unitarian Church on Route 6A in Cummaquid for 19 years, but only discovered the church this year. She met Polly Brazelton, who introduced her to the church and she is happy she did. She joined in September.

She had never been a Unitarian before, and had visited other churches, "but nothing really fit until I came to UCB," she said. "The church has been wonderful. I'm struck by how warm the people are. I love Kristen."

To back up on how Claudia ended up here: She was born in Chicago, raised in Hastings on Hudson, N.Y., and graduated from Smith College and Cornell Medical School in Manhattan. She is a pediatrician, who has had a practice in Fredericksburg, Virginia, for 26 years and is still practicing remotely.

Claudia also taught pediatrics to medical students and residents at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville, where she also was in charge of the Newborn Nursery. She previously lived in Fredericksburg and most recently in Charlottesville, but sold her home there to come to her Cape home permanently two years ago. She came to give hospice care to her mother, Eleanor Susdorf, who lives in Barnstable. Claudia also took care of her father, Dieter, before he died 25 years ago.

"I'm more interested in caring for people," Claudia said. "My motto in life is to help others." Perhaps that may lead her to the church caring committee. Although she said she didn't have that many interests, she named several "passions" in her life.

Her main passion is classical music. She has played the piano, French horn and sang. "Music has been a huge part of my life," she said, which explains why one of her favorite parts of the church service is listening to the piano.

Claudia is also an avid tennis player, playing four times a week at the Mid-Cape Athletic Club, where she met Polly and Elaine Brennan. She also ran the Boston Marathon.

She also loves interior decorating, especially on holidays. "I'm passionate about holidays," she said. She makes a gingerbread house every year and will probably make one for the church fair and also has made as a special Christmas tree for the fair.

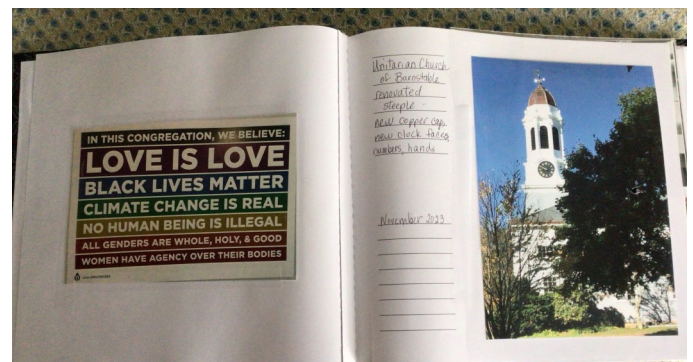
Claudia has enjoyed traveling in several countries in Europe. She is married and has no children.

**Susan Vaughn Harris**

## Cherished Member: Wanda Loring

Long-term cherished member Wanda Loring will be celebrating her 99th birthday on Thanksgiving. UCB sent her some well wishes.

Wanda is enjoying her photo book and thanks all of her friends at UCB for their cards and best wishes. As always she says, UCB is her church!







## Revision to Article II of the UUA Bylaws

After extensive engagement with UUs across our faith tradition, the Article II Study

Commission have completed their Final Proposed Revision to Article II of the UUA Bylaws. Links to the text and additional important information are in this email, including a deadline of 5pm ET on February 1, 2024 for submitting any new amendments. The Commission's letter that follows lifts up all of the creative energy around the process, reflecting generations of UUs actively shaping our faith.

As your congregation prepares to review the language describing Unitarian Universalist shared values, it's worth noting that this process began in 2020, when the Article II Study Commission was charged by the UUA Board to review that section of UUA Bylaws that includes the Principles, Purposes, and Sources. The Commission was to propose revisions that will enable our faith tradition to be a relevant and powerful force for spiritual and moral growth, healing, and justice. Learn more about the history of this process in the [Article II section of UUA.org](#).

The Commission held thousands of conversations with UUs and developed a proposal that went before a vote at the 2023 General Assembly. Delegates voted to move forward with a process to discuss further changes and approved several amendments to the Commission's proposal. In the months since GA 2023, the Commission has worked to incorporate those amendments into a final document for congregations to review. That document, the Final Proposed Revision to Article II, is now available.

At GA 2024, we will come together and vote on whether to adopt this revision as the new Article II of the UUA Bylaws. This email shares links to the proposed revision, information on submitting amendments, and resources to support engagement with this important opportunity to connect more deeply with what it means to be UU.

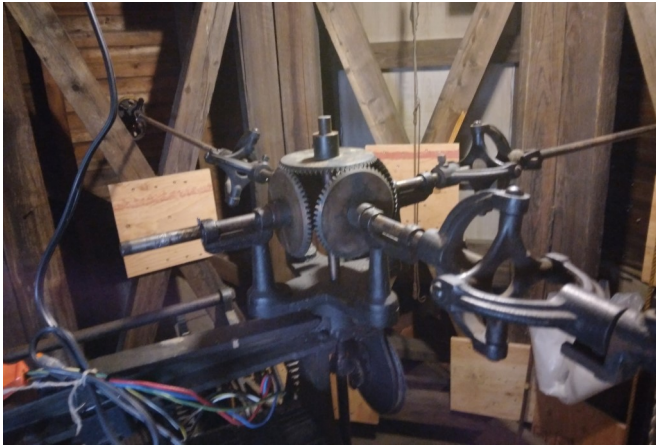


All women of the church are welcome to the Womanspirit Solstice Celebration and Pot Luck at the LeGrand home Monday, December 11th at 5:00, located at 175 Old Main St., South Yarmouth. Please bring a beverage and either appetizer, main dish, salad or dessert of your choice. Any questions, call Karen Birely(508-776-1807) or Judy LeGrand (508-760-4014).

**The Brick Walkway Project** is an ongoing effort of The Unitarian Church of Barnstable to help sustain itself so that it can continue to do its good work. The bricks symbolize a footprint that you, your loved one, your pet, your wedding, your group existed and somehow were connected to this church on Cobbs Hill in Barnstable, MA. The bricks offer a little bit of permanence in a very transient world. You can have engraved an expression of joy or peace or whatever appropriate expression you wish that will forever remain on our walkway to the church.

The Brick Walkway will soon be repaired from the lift that was used to restore the church and the rest of the walkway will be spiffed up by Sears and Sons, the original installers of The Brick Walkway in 2008. If you would like to purchase a brick there are red forms in Warren Hall or you can go to our UCB website and scroll down to where it says Buy a Brick and you'll find out how to go about it. If you are not sure what or how to say something on your special brick you can talk with Elaine Brennan or you can email her at [lifetapes@yahoo.com](mailto:lifetapes@yahoo.com) and she'll help you figure it out.





## Restoration of the Steeple Clock

In the process of restoring the steeple, it was obvious that the internal clock mechanism would need to be protected. The mechanism was covered in plastic to protect it from water and dirt as work was being done. The gears survived the torque of removing the hands which had not been removed in 120 years.

By searching the internet, I discovered that the steeple clock gears should never be lubricated, as grease or oil attracts dirt which acts as an abrasive on the bronze gears. I knew there was grease on the gears, so it made sense to remove as much of it as possible.

As the steeple restoration neared completion, Elizabeth and I, with brushes, rags, and solvent, cleaned all the gearing of grease and dirt. Proper maintenance did require light oil on all the axle shafts, which was done.

With the newly gilded clock hands reinstalled, it was time to start the clock. The hands were synchronized and the clock was started. A few days later it was obvious that the clock hands were no longer synchronized! Back into the steeple to find out why. We found that one of the axles was being forced out of the gear train with each minute of rotation. A ride on the cherry picker with our builder Ethan, revealed that the minute hand on the south facing clock was getting caught on the hour hand. Ethan assured us he could fix that, which he did.



Back inside the steeple we discovered that the universal joint on that axle was worn and loose. Locating a replacement “U” joint for a 120 year old clock was impossible. But not quite! There is a lot of old junk in the steeple left over from when the clock was converted from hand-wound to electric.

Elizabeth took a flashlight and looked around. Behind some old boards she found an axle and an old but good “U” joint. Talk about Divine Providence!

With the new (old) “U” joint in hand, I replaced the worn “U” joint with the good one. By loosening some set screws, we were able to re-synchronize the clock hands. With that done we restarted the clock, and it has been keeping good time to date.

**Robert Mesrop**

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## Library News

Two donated books have been added to the Church library.

*The Gift of Peace* is a memoir and personal reflections of the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Archbishop of Chicago, who died of cancer that had returned after a 15 month remission. In the final two months of his life he dedicated his remaining time to sharing his personal reflections and insights through this book.

*The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee was listed on the National Book Award Longlist in 2021 among many other awards. McGhee embarked on a journey across the country tallying what we lose when we buy into the zero-sum paradigm idea that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others.

**Carolyn Barnes**





## Parish Council News

As we reflect and lovingly celebrate light and renewal during this part of the year, your Parish Council sends Seasons Greetings to our Community.

Elaine Brennan, Jo Anne Miller Buntich, Betsy Johnson, Helen Matusow-Ayres, Sheila Place, Nancy Risio, Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper, Dawn MacKechnie.

Here are some Winter Holidays being celebrated:

- Diwali: A five-day Hindu celebration of the Festival of Lights. November 10-14.
- Hanukkah: The eight-day Jewish celebration of the Festival of Lights. December 7-15.
- Bodhi Day: A Buddhist celebration of when the Buddha realized enlightenment. December 8.
- Winter Solstice: The shortest day this year is December 22. Yule is the pagan celebration of the Winter Solstice.
- Christmas: The celebration of Jesus' birth. Dec. 25. For Eastern Orthodox Christians, Jan. 7.
- Kwanzaa: A weeklong secular holiday honoring African-American heritage. From December 26 to January 1.
- Lunar New Year: A most important holiday in several East Asian countries, marking the start of the Chinese lunar calendar. "Lunar New Year" is preferred over Chinese New Year. Observed in South Korea as Seollal and Vietnam as Tet. This year it falls on January 22.
- Eid al-Fitr: The Muslim celebration of Ramadan's end. The Muslim calendar has shifting dates and this holiday sometimes falls in December. It will fall next on April 9, 2024.

**Jo Anne Miller Buntich**

## Community Outreach

Community Outreach is partnering with Toys for Tots for the month of December. Toys for Tots collects toys for children throughout the Cape. There are two opportunities for UCB congregants to help.

1. Join other volunteers in sorting toys at the Toys for Tots warehouse at 212 Midtech Dr., Yarmouth (use middle door). Volunteers will be sorting toys according to type, age group and gender. Some volunteers will also have family lists to use to create gift bags for families. The warehouse is chilly (dress warmly) and this task does involve a lot of walking. **Volunteers can go to the warehouse to help anytime between 9-5, Monday – Friday from 12/11-12/24.**
2. Donate toys. There is a great need for toys and gift items for newborns, pre-teens and teenagers. Please bring unwrapped toys to the Community Outreach table at the church **before 12/17** and we will deliver them. Please consider scheduling some time to help this organization. They are in great need of sorters and gifts for older children.

This month we will also continue to partner with Cape Kids Meals to provide weekend food bags for children in Cape Cod schools. We will assist with the packing on **Thursday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m.** at the organization's headquarters at **1336 Main St., Osterville.**

If you are interested, please sign up in Warren Hall so that we know how many packers to expect. No preparation or purchases required. Questions about any of these opportunities? Contact Gayle Leaversuch, Helen Matusow-Ayres or Sally Tarbell. Thanks to all.

**Helen Matusow-Ayres**



## Wedding Bells

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, we joyfully celebrated the marriage of Rafael Walter and Yelianny Polanco. Our beloved community mobilized on short notice to provide everything for the special day, from flowers, punch, refreshments and music to wardrobe assistance. The professionalism of our staff ensured that all went smoothly.

I am profoundly grateful for the outpouring of love and support shown for this young couple. \$3,200 was contributed to the housing nest egg fund I set up for them.

**Janet Abbott**





## Church Officers and Committees

### GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Kenyon, Chair  
 Martha Swindler, Co-Chair  
 Clerk - Kim Hanggi  
 Treasurer – Dan Ewing, ex-officio voting member  
 Mary Jane Beach  
 Mark Nichols  
 Nancy Risio

### CHURCH OFFICERS

Governing Board Chair –Patty Kenyon  
 Governing Board Co-Chair - Martha Swindler  
 Moderator - Kathy Bryan  
 Assistant Moderator - George Cavanaugh  
 Clerk - Kim Hanggi  
 Assistant Clerk - Carol Ewing  
 Treasurer – Dan Ewing  
 Assistant Treasurer(s) - Christine Marzigliano, Richard Negus, Chris Hammond, Sharon Marotti

### STANDING COMMITTEES

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

**MINISTER:** Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

### PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE, GROUP, AND TEAM LEADERS

Parish Council:  
 Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper  
 Jo Anne Miller Buntich, chair  
 Elaine Brennan  
 Betsy Johnson  
 Helen Matusow-Ayres  
 Sheila Place  
 Dawn MacKechnie, Director of Children and Youth Ministries  
 Nancy Risio, Governing Board liaison  
 Communications:  
 Website - Chris Hammond;  
 Chalice - Carolyn Barnes, Pat Steacy;  
 Facebook - Jo Anne Miller Buntich, Susan Starkey  
 Flowers: Betsy Johnson

Green Sanctuary: Sheila Place

Hospitality: Jo Anne Miller Buntich and Patty Kenyon

Justice for All: Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper.

Library: Carolyn Barnes

Membership: Nancy Risio

Music: Lucy West

Social Outreach:

Outreach - Gayle Leaversuch  
 St. Joseph's House - Ruth Owen  
 Barnstable Interfaith Council - Janet Abbott, Carol Cahoon

WomanSpirit: Karen Birely

Worship: Vicki Goldsmith



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**If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, write REFUSED on this mail piece and drop it in a mail box.**

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**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
BARNSTABLE**

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