

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 35 Issue 5 | May 2025

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

Office Administrator: Chandra Bibeault

Church Office 508-362-6381

Open: Tuesday - Friday 9AM to 1PM

E-mail: ucb@barnstableuu.org

Website: www.barnstableuu.org

Minister's Contact Information 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



Religious Services | Sundays 10:30AM

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| May 4 th | 300th Anniversary of the Church of Christ: "Oh, How Far We've Come" | Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper |
| May 11 th | "Faith versus Belief" | Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper |
| May 18 th | "Resilience" | Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper |
| May 25 th | "Poetry Sunday: Resilience and Resistance" | Crystal Gips |

Much poetry has been written over the years about having the resilience to withstand obstacles, physical and otherwise, and resistance to one kind of force or another. Some poems deal with war, while others touch more on social or personal issues. We will share the work of poets from several centuries, some speaking to specific historical events or political or cultural eras, others more relevant to personal struggles. We also hope to share poems written by members of the congregation. If you have any thoughts about a piece you would like to share on Poetry Sunday, please contact Crystal Gips: crystal.gips@yahoo.com or 518-527-0768.



“The times are perilous, and the risks are only growing. And yet the moral imperative to embody our Unitarian Universalist values and protect our beloveds is clearer than ever.

Let us proclaim with unwavering clarity to our young people:

If life, and Love, and all that is holy made you transgender, that part of you is also part of the Divine. You were not made wrong -- you were made sacred, and through you we are all made more whole.

UUA.ORG



A 'Fierce, Unshakable Love': The Unitarian Universalist Association Responds to Harmful Anti-trans Presidential Proclamation

**Are you following UCB on Social Media?
Find UCB on Facebook and YouTube!**

Interested in helping stream our weekly services to YouTube? Reach out to [Sarah Beal-Fletcher](#) to learn more!

CLICK HERE:





Kristen's Korner

minister@barnstableuu.org
KLHarperUU@aol.com



Recently a member reflected that it would be helpful to know what the staff actually does as they represent the largest percentage of our congregation's budget. So I thought I would let you all know what it is that I do: I encourage you to read until the end.

The most public thing I do is to lead worship services three out of four and four out of five Sundays per month. This means I pick the topic and based on that topic, prepare the service elements, choose the hymns, and research and write a sermon. I meet with James and Dawn to make sure the music and Child Within Us All story or message fits as closely as possible to the theme of the service. I set up the order of service which is sent to Chandra to format and copy. Between research and writing, it used to take me about 20 hours to produce a sermon, now it takes me between 8 and 12 hours and the other service elements take a couple hours as well.

The next important piece of my position is pastoral care. I got to nursing homes and hospitals to see people, I visit people in their homes and talk and text with them on the phone. Some people come in to see me at the office for advice or just to have someone to listen to them. I also provide resources, advocacy and financial aid to members and individuals in our community. Sometimes that pastoral care includes helping members of our community and the wider community fill out forms for Medicaid, long term care, and elder housing. I take new members and visitors out to lunch, dinner, or coffee or meeting with them in my office or their homes. Once a month I provide a space on zoom for people wrestling with their feelings and spirits about the state of our nation to come, vent, decompress and center. I try to keep in touch with members who are not as active and former members who still need support. I led a group after the election for members and community people needing the express their grief over the results.

Administration takes up part of my responsibilities. I answer lots of phone calls and emails, and a little bit of mail. I write agendas, lesson plans, emails and announcements for the committees or groups I lead. I help Chandra in figuring out scheduling around programming, events, fundraising and new renters. I write news letter articles. I meet weekly with our Children and Youth Director, Dawn Mackechnie, and our Office Administrator, Chandra Bibeault, and monthly with our Music Director, James Rosenblum. I meet with members about all aspects of church leadership, safety, governance, religious education or caring. I do annual evaluations of the staff and field questions and constructive feedback about staff or church operations.

I attend meetings—the Governing Board, Parish Council, the Membership Committee, the Committee on Ministry, the Worship Committee, the Communications Committee and I lead the Justice For All meetings monthly. This spring I worked with both the Stewardship Committee on our campaign and the 300th Anniversary Committee on how to celebrate the church's milestone.

Twice a year I provide an Adult Religious Education course, usually in conjunction with Cedar Lane UU and monthly I lead a small group ministry cluster. I am responsible for finding space within small groups for new members. With the membership Committee I help lead a Path to Membership Class twice a year and meet with people who would like to join the church and discuss church history, opportunities to get involved in the church and stewardship of the church.



Kristen's Korner

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I attend potlucks and multi-intergenerational events, support our Fundraisers in whatever manner I can, and attend standouts, vigils and participated in the Big Read Poetry and Essay night, and the Soul Sister Story Slam, put on by members. I co-lead an All Church Read on White Poverty by Rev. Dr. William Barber.

As part of my duties, I create and lead Celebration of Life services, Weddings and Child dedications for church members.

For the wider community, I attend Faith Communities Environmental Network meetings (an interfaith eco-justice group of which UCB was a founding member). I regularly pack and deliver food for Cape Kids Meals, I led a board retreats for Latinx In Action (A non-profit organization that serves immigrants on Cape Cod), I provide counseling, weddings, baby dedications, christenings, baptism, dozens of memorial and graveside services for unchurched community members, I support interfaith efforts such as Habitat for Humanity's devotionals, Clergy for Choice, Interfaith and non-profit organization vigils and rally's that align with our church's mission. I also try to lead at least one religious education course in conjunction with the Center for the Spiritual Journey in the Spring. I speak at local faith communities about faith and eco-justice, race relations, multiculturalism and interfaith dialogue. I worked with mid-Cape clergy to organize a meeting with the Barnstable DA and the Sheriff to discuss immigration issues on Cape Cod. I am on a community advisory board that meets monthly with the superintendent of Barnstable Public Schools. This year I met with community members to plan the Social and Economic Justice Institute at Cape Cod Community College and spoke at the Cape Cod Commission on Women about being a female leader. I sponsored a Film about Afghanistan and Iraqi War veterans at the church. I was on Unity Church's podcast about Eco-Justice.

For the larger UU community, currently, I meet with individual Cape clergy, I mentor four UU ministers, I write essays for UU sponsored works and, some years, as in this year, I go to General Assembly, the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists. I am infrequently invited to speak at installations and ordinations of new ministers.

For my spiritual and professional development, I meet with a mentor once a week, take courses on issues such as boundaries, justice, Protecting Religious Liberty and LGBTQIA Rights and Welcoming LGBTQIA members and friends, Christian Nationalism, Mandated Reporting, Reproductive Justice, and Trauma informed Pastoral Care and Ministry. I attended community events such as the Indigenous film series on Air, Fire, Water and Earth or the Big Read Speaker Event with Claudia Rankin. I read a lot.

I hope I serve you, the members of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, fully and faithfully.

See you in Church!

Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper





**COME CELEBRATE
THE 300TH
ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FIRST
SERVICE OF THE
EAST PARISH'S
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MAY 4, 2025,
10:30AM-12:00PM**

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We thank the 38 parishioners who responded so thoughtfully to our recent survey. We received some wonderful new ideas for future guests in the pulpit, as well as themes and topics you hope to see addressed; and some clear affirmations of certain previous speakers who will plan to welcome back. The committee will be reviewing together, all other responses about our worship service, and look forward to sharing more with the congregation in the future. We appreciate your comments, Vicki Goldsmith, Chair, with Worship Committee members John Beach, Marcella Curry, Owen Fletcher, Cari Keith, and Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper.

**THANK
YOU**

During these times of uncertainty and anxiety, I will be available on the first Thursdays of the month at 1:00 pm for people to come online and check-in about how you are feeling, what you are doing to stay grounded and safe, and what we might do together to build our strength, courage, resilience and resistance. Please come and be in community with others.

Warmly,

Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper



[Click here for Zoom Link](#)

Flowers for Sunday Services



The Flower Committee invites you to brighten our sanctuary by bringing flowers or a flowering plant to one of our Sunday Services. As members have done recently, share your remembrance of loved ones or your celebration of a special person or event. To sign up for “Sunday Flowers”, please [CLICK HERE](#) Select a date, and if you’d like, write a tribute to be included in the Sunday order of service.

If you would like to have your flowers given to a member who needs a lift, wonderful!

The Caring Connection group will put them in a church vase and deliver them.

If interested, please contact Susie Littlefield at sshlittlefield@gmail.com



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BARNSTABLE

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL PROGRAMMING

Growing Justice

Celebrating Environmental Justice leading up to Earth Day
In the weeks leading up to Earth Day, we explored Environmental Justice in a fun, thoughtful, and hands-on way—helping our children and youth understand that caring for the Earth and caring for one another are deeply connected.

As part of our celebration, the kids decorated flower pots as symbols of hope, fairness, and love for our planet. During our special Earth Day service, a few of our amazing youth helped bring Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* to life, sharing its powerful message of environmental stewardship with the whole congregation.

After the story, each child and youth received their decorated flower pot—now with a special surprise planted inside—to take home and nurture as a living reminder of their role in growing a just and sustainable world.

Sharing Sunday

One Sunday in April, our Children & Youth community had a truly heartwarming Sharing Sunday. It was a joy to witness the ways our young people showed up for one another with open hearts and listening ears. One youth shared a few special cars from his collection, another brought in his favorite lovey to show us, and we even had a child play their violin for the group—what a gift!

Sharing Sunday is a time for us to practice being in community: to speak from the heart, to listen with care, and to honor each person's unique light. Whether our kids shared something joyful, something personal, or simply listened with compassion, they helped make our circle a beautiful reflection of what beloved community can be.

We're so proud of them—and so grateful to be growing together.

Easter Sunday

What a wonderful Easter Sunday we had together! It was such a joy to celebrate with all of our families—thank you for being part of it. Our egg hunt at the playground was bursting with excitement, laughter, and colorful eggs around every corner. Watching the children explore and celebrate together was pure delight! A huge thank you to our amazing youth helpers who hid the eggs in the playground—they did a fantastic job! And as a special surprise, they were treated to their very own egg hunt in the sanctuary after the service. It was so fun watching them get to play along, too!

Wishing you all continued springtime joy and renewal!

world religion programming

Learning About Islam & Ramadan!

A big thank you to Audra Shattuck for doing a wonderful job introducing us to Islam and sharing insights about Ramadan. The children enjoyed watching a short video that explained the significance of fasting, prayer, and community during this special time. We also had a blast with our Oreo Moon Phases Activity, where we explored how the lunar calendar determines the timing of Ramadan. Using Oreos, we recreated the different moon phases and connected them to the start and end of the holy month. It was a fun and engaging way to combine science and culture!

IN MAY WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT BUDDHISM

May 4th

300th Anniversary Celebration

✓ Regular programming ✓ Nursery will be available

May 11th

Child Dedication during the service

✓ Regular programming ✓ Nursery will be available

**** May 18th ****

FAMILY Field Trip to Taylor-Bray Farm for an end-of-year CELEBRATION!

✓ Nursery will be available for those not attending the field trip

Youth Group Ice Cream Social (during coffee hour)

Art Show (during coffee hour)

Check out all the amazing programming done this year with this showcase on the stage in Warren Hall

Path to Membership (after service)

✓ Childcare available if you sign up ahead of time
✓ Refreshments will be served.

May 25th

No programming or Nursery Enjoy the holiday weekend!

June 1st

Multigenerational Flower Communion Ceremony

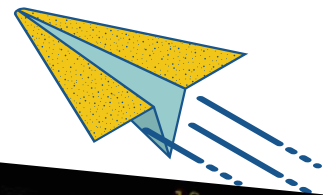
Join us as we celebrate the last Sunday of the church school year before breaking for the summer.

World Religions Celebration (during coffee hour)

The nursery will be open and available until the end of June



NEW MEMBER



SPOTLIGHT

FEATURING

PHINEAS FISKE



BY ANGELA PATRICK

Phineas and I met at a local coffee shop for an hour or so for a good conversation; he is a thought-provoking person with a pleasant manner. He was born in Connecticut; his father a financial adviser in New York. Phineas' career he describes as an editor and writer.

Phineas married and had two daughters but the marriage, unfortunately, failed. He does, however, have four grandchildren- 1 girl and 3 boys. He married again to the love of his life, Joanna, for 40 years until her passing 3 years ago. He enjoys music from Beethoven particularly through Gershwin. His television is only for the Red Sox, as he is an avid fan!

At the request of his daughters, he is editing a biographical book, which keeps him busy. Phineas will be most welcome in our interesting and diverse community.



UCB COBBS HILL CONCERT SERIES REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL HANDS, HEARTS AND MINDS

The Cobbs Hill Concert Series is off to its third year with a schedule of six wonderful concerts. We were delighted to have an average of 70 attendees at last year's concerts. Our mission is to celebrate our music in a way that opens our church doors to the community, and we appear to be doing just that. All that was accomplished with a very small group! We would love to have more members involved. We need help creating the graphics, spreading the word, moving the chairs, bringing the snacks. Please let Crystal Gips, Mark Nichols, Susie Littlefield or James know if you might be willing to join us and help.

Crystal: crystal.gips@yahoo.com
Susie: sshlittlefield@gmail.com

Mark: marknyc30@verizon.net
James: softwhitefire@gmail.com



Membership means Stewardship

Becoming a member of UCB is simple. As our By Laws describe there are 3 steps:

1. Attending an orientation session conducted by the Membership Committee in conjunction with the Minister or meeting with the Minister
2. Signing the Membership Roll in the presence of an Officer or the Minister
3. Signing a pledge prorated for the then remaining portion of the Church year.

Remaining a member is simple too and it means becoming a Steward of UCB as well. Also from our By Laws:

Active Members shall agree to support the Church by personal participation and by making an annual financial contribution of record to the operating budget.

We currently have 167 members in 127 member units (families). As of April 27 we have received 91 pledges toward our FY2026 operating budget. That is 69% of our member units. While membership does not require making a pledge it does require making a “financial contribution of record.” Telling us what that will be in advance (making a pledge) helps us plan for the coming year.

During these turbulent and frightening times, perhaps more than ever before in our lifetimes, we need to support each other and be nurtured by our church community. We also need to realize that our beloved church, it's staff, programs and building and grounds must be paid for and that support is up to each and every one of us. A pledge from you tells us how you plan to participate in supporting UCB and fulfilling your membership obligation. If you have already pledged for fiscal 2026, Thank You! Your generosity is truly appreciated. If not, please do so today by clicking [here](#).

The Stewardship Committee

Janet Abbott, Mary Jane Beach, Kathy Bryan, Susan Brinckerhoff, Dan Ewing, Kim Hanggi, Connie Hinds, Patty Kenyon, and Rosemarie Merino



UCB – a Safe Space



Thanks go out to Chris Hammond and Ryan Smee who are cycling off the Safety Committee, after several years of valuable and devoted service. Ryan and Chris have contributed greatly to keeping us all safe during these challenging times. Updates to balcony safety have been completed. We now have safe glass barriers above the balcony railings, and a stanchion barrier to restrict access to the area behind the organ. Special thanks to Steve Hukalowicz for his expertise with the barriers and other projects.

Ryan has reported that the safety measures protecting our youth and children downstairs have been completed. The safe areas now include locks, new safety shades, and other measures designed to isolate and protect our kids from unwanted intruders. Our committee will soon hold training sessions for the assisting adults, to familiarize them with these measures. We are preparing upcoming drills and training sessions for the whole congregation on all our safety measures: first aid, AED (automated external defibrillator), fire extinguishers, personal health emergencies, etc.

We'll fine-tune our procedures with these drills, then produce a series of training videos (with Sarah Beal-Fletcher and Becket Smee's help) to be accessed and used as needed.

We're doing several things to more closely interconnect our Sunday morning safety monitors and the morning's users. Interested in serving the congregation as a safety monitor four times a year? Contact Chris Hammond (captainclh@gmail.com) for information. We're working with Kristen to tighten our cybersecurity safeguards. This is an ongoing concern, and will require continual updating, training, and reminders. We will be working with the Barnstable Police in conjunction with our June 19 "stand out" demonstration. Safety is something we can all help to improve. Please let anyone on the committee know if you see something that we can work to improve.

Your Safety Committee: Chris Hammond, Meredith Censullo, Martha Campbell, Ryan Smee, Scott Kenyon, Owen Fletcher, and Dave Bryan



The Path to Membership

How do you become a member of UCB? This is a question that we on the Membership Committee get often. The process is fairly simple: attend a Path to Membership class, sign the Membership Book and make a financial pledge to support the church. Being an active member, however, means more than just this process. It means becoming involved in our church community. There are many ways to do this. We are inviting any folks who are interested in learning more to attend the Path to Membership class that is happening on May 18, after church, from 12 to 1. There will be food and childcare. Please let us know if you are coming by calling Chandra, our church administrator, at 508-362-6381 or by email at UCB@barnstableuu.org

We hope to see you there!
Membership Committee





MEMORIAL DAY IS SURPRISINGLY EARLY THIS YEAR WHICH MEANS TOP OF THE HILL SCONES SEASON 2026 WILL BEGIN SATURDAY, MAY 24TH, FROM 9:30 A.M. TO NOON THROUGH SUMMER AND THE FALL. OUR SOLID MEMBERS OF THE SCONE SQUAD ARE 30 TO 40 MEMBERS AND IT IS FUN. IF YOU ARE NEW MEMBERS TO UCB AND WANT TO KNOW WHAT TOP OF THE HILL SCONES IS ALL ABOUT, TALK TO ANY MEMBER THAT IS WEARING AN "ASK ME ABOUT SCONES" TAG OR BUTTON. SCONES IS A SIGNIFICANT FUNDRAISER FOR UCB AND WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS WHO BAKE SCONES FOR US TO SELL AND OTHERS HELP US SET UP OUR POP UP EVENT WHERE WE MEET SO MANY PEOPLE WHO LOVE OUR SCONES AND LEARN ABOUT UCB. ASK AND COME JOIN US.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

We will be partnering with The Cape Cod Foster Closet for the month of May to collect donations of children's new swimsuits and pajamas.

- Boys and Girls pajamas size 5 and larger
- Boys and Girls swimsuits 2T-8
- And women's size one-piece suits for teens

The Cape Cod Foster Closet provides critically needed clothing and supplies, community connections and a listening ear to anyone on the Cape & Islands who is raising someone else's biological child. This includes foster, adoptive and kinship families, including the thousands of grandparents in the area who are raising their grandchildren. They're always looking for volunteers to help in their Orleans storefront boutique, and for financial and in-kind support. For more information, please call 508-514-7125 .



Parish Council News

Parish Council meets on the second Thursday of the month. Meetings are held at 3 PM in Warren Hall with a Zoom option. If you would like to attend email jmillerb@comcast.net if you would like the Zoom link.

The Split Plate for May and June is Latinx in Action provides hope and services to immigrant families and individuals, including the newly arrived. The LatinX website describes their mission –

“Seeing the need for energetic work and no charge services, we formed our organization in order to offer common sense solutions. We have grown consistently since then, thanks to the support of this incredible community. Our amazing team of full-time and part-time volunteers are engaged in helping our clients We stick to our convictions and convert them into action. We are proudly immigrant led.”



CAPE COD CARING CARDS BY LUCY WEST



Almost every Sunday during coffee hour, you will see longtime church members Janet Abbott and Carol Cahoon at a table selling Cape Cod Caring Cards. Cards are available in various amounts (\$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100) for Stop & Shop and Shaws, and can also be ordered for Roche Bros, if requested. You can purchase a card at its face value and then use it at the respective store. When you use the card, 5% of the face value is paid by the grocery store to Project Prevention. The Housing Assistance Corporation of Cape Cod distributes funds from Project Prevention to help Cape residents who are struggling with their housing bills.

If you want, instead of using the card yourself, you can donate the card that you've purchased to our Church. Last year over \$80,000 was raised by Cape Cod Caring Cards for Project Prevention. More than \$1 million has been raised during the Caring Cards' 21 years of existence. Janet and Carol would be glad to answer any questions you have about the program. If you are going to be buying groceries at any of these stores, please consider purchasing a Caring Card. It's a "win-win" not only for you, but also for persons struggling to stay in their homes on the Cape.

UCB Gardens

The Garden group needs help this summer. There are many different jobs that need to be done every week. In the past we have met on Thursday mornings starting about 9 and working until 11 or so. We tried something different last summer and asked people if they would take some portion of the garden and work on it at their own schedule. That worked somewhat, however, there were some areas that still needed more attention.

It is also nice to work with other people and share in the decisions about what are the best things to do...and get to know each other. If you worked in one area last summer and that still works for you, then let us know what you plan to do this summer. I know that there will be some of us who will come on Thursday mornings.

Please let Steve Berglund (508-331-7778) email : sebx@comcast.net) or Susan Brinckerhoff (508-362-2367) email: gsbrinck@comcast.net) know if you are able to help this summer – or if you have any questions.

We will start as soon as the weather warms up.

Remember that many hands make light work!

Church Officers and Committees

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Kenyon, Chair
Mary Jane Beach, Vice-Chair
Clerk - Kim Hanggi
Treasurer – Dan Ewing, ex-officio voting member
Rob MacNamee
Ralph Marotti
Nancy Risio

CHURCH OFFICERS

Governing Board Chair –Patty Kenyon
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

MINISTRY

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, Director of Children & Youth Ministries
Elaine Brennan
Jo Anne Miller Buntich, Coordinator
Betsy Johnson
Helen Matusow-Ayres
Nancy Risio, Governing Board Liaison

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE, GROUP, & TEAM LEADERS

Communications:

Website: Chris Hammond
Chalice: Sarah Beal-Fletcher
Facebook: Jo Anne Miller Buntich, Susan Starkey

Flowers: Betsy Johnson

Hospitality: Jo Anne Miller Buntich, Patty Kenyon

Justice for All: Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper

Library: Carolyn Barnes

Membership: Carol Ewing

Music: James Rosenblum, Music Director

Outreach: Gayle Leaversuch, Sally Tarbell, Helen Matusow-Ayres

St. Joseph's House: Ruth Owen

Barnstable Interfaith Council: Janet Abbott

WomanSpirit: Karen Birely

Worship: Vicki Goldsmith

THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM TEAM

Dawn MacKechnie, Director of Children & Youth Ministries
Allyson Knox
Mary-Jane Beach
Sarah Secules Smee
Ryan Smee
Christine Bockmann
Michael Medeiros
Jen Shattuck

Submitting Material

Please email submissions to:

chalice_ed@barnstableuu.org

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

**Deadline for the May
Chalice is April 24th**

