

BELL STREET COLUMNS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF BELL STREET CHAPEL



WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

SERVICES BEGIN AT 10 AM

TODDLER CARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AVAILABLE

2 | OCTOBER

ATONEMENT

Rev. CJ McGregor

Yom Kippur begins at sundown Oct. 7 and ends at sundown Oct. 8. It is a day of reconciliation, when Jews strive to make amends with people and to draw closer to God; to again be at one with God.

9 | OCTOBER

COMING OUT

Sally Gabb and Brian Kovacs

Coming out is about truth, integrity and authenticity. It is a declaration of self. To come out, we need safety, support and hope. Today we talk about the spiritual experience of coming out.

16 | OCTOBER

ZERO SUM

Rev. CJ McGregor and Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

Our commitment to justice, equity, and compassion as well as our goal of world community calls us to transcend our urges to guard what we perceive to be ours, protect our own, and retreat into isolated groups.

23 | OCTOBER

MANY WINDOWS, ONE LIGHT

Daniel Lawlor

Unitarian-Universalism is a different way of being religious. From early Unitarian congregations to Humanist fellowships, some values and people continue to unite and challenge us. What and who are they?

30 | OCTOBER

WISDOM FROM THE DAY OF THE DEAD

Rev. CJ McGregor

We have much to learn from the Mexican culture in how to honor and remember those we have lost. Kate Gillis will once again build our altar. You are welcome to bring photos or other items to place on the altar as we recognize our dead.

FROM THE MINISTER

I attended the Bell Street leadership retreat at Cedar Hill in Duxbury, Mass. a few weekends ago. It was a small group but I appreciated the opportunity to get to know some of the leaders at Bell Street better and it was a chance to let other responsibilities fall away for a while and reflect on our much-loved congregation. I was allowed the time to articulate a few thoughts I've been chewing on for that past several weeks and was able to share my observations. I'm grateful that they were graciously received.

As your minister, it's my task to keep my eyes and ears wide open and to be present. I do this so I can observe what's stirring on the congregational level. I can observe trends, themes, and take the pulse of the community as a whole. This isn't meant to sound "big brother-ish." It's a role I take seriously in order to help the congregation remain healthy and keep moving toward the vision we've created and committed ourselves to. It was the observation made by a wise group member about the congregation on the retreat that I haven't been able to stop thinking about and has inspired this writing. I've started to write an explanation of this observation many times but found myself reaching for the delete key. Eventually I figured out that I could best offer my interpretation through story:

When I was nearly eleven I rode a school bus to and from school each day. The bus brought me the same route day in and day out without any deviation from the long and boring route. I could rely on the fact that this bus would safely pick up and drop off without incident. That was until one day when there was a mechanical malfunction and the bus, loaded with hysterical children, veered off the road and into a ditch nearly landing on its side. We were escorted off the bus through the rear door by a shaken driver. Eventually helped arrived, the bus was repaired, and we were asked to board once again. I couldn't. Despite seeing all my friends and the driver safely get back in the game. Despite the verbal and physical coaxing, promises of safety, and jeering. I remained on the side of the road unable to join them. I was distressed and afraid. In that moment I was unable to trust that I would be safe; that I would return to the comfortableness of predictability. The bus had failed me once. How could I be sure it wouldn't happen again? I eventually was picked up by my displeased father and in time, on my time, boarded the bus again a week later.

Some of us can relate. Over the past few months, since my call, we have experienced the joy and promise of something new. We have celebrated a beginning with picnics and potlucks. We have been encouraged by one another to move on from our past and embrace what looks like will be a "Bell Street renaissance." Yet some of us, while smiling, blowing up the balloons, and hanging the streamers are unable to "get back on the bus." We've been here before. We've counted on our success before only to be disappointed and left with a feeling that we have failed. We can't get back on the bus because, at the moment, we can't trust that we will be safe and successful.

Those of us that have boarded the renaissance bus and are cheering others on to join us might not fully understand what others might be experiencing. Before they can board they first need to place and process the feelings that prevent them from fully engaging the celebration. It is helpful for everyone to recognize this. Those who are not ready and need to end one chapter before beginning another require our patience, our understanding, and our willingness to allow trust to return without being hurried and judged.

CONT. ON PAGE 2

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REV. BEN HALL

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

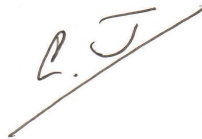
EDITOR, MEREDYTH WATERMAN
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CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Some of us are still left holding bad feelings and suffering. I'm not worried. With time and care all of us, together, will regain the ability to move smoothly and in one direction (or at least the same general direction. We are Unitarian Universalists!) and trust that our beloved community has returned vibrant, steady, and ready to write that next chapter. I am grateful to be serving this congregation during this extraordinary time. Reach out and grasp the hand of another and offer to be a guide on this journey.

Blessings,



WHERE IS OUR HOLY CHURCH?

The Ballou Channing District is sponsoring a worship leading workshop Oct. 1 entitled "Where is Our Holy Church" Congregational Worship for a new day. The workshop is open to lay and ordained worship leaders interested in exploring and planning worship experiences that celebrate our living tradition in a rapidly changing world. This hands-on participatory workshop will be led by Rev. Dr. Judith Campbell, Unitarian Universalist Community minister and retreat leader for the Ballou Channing District, Oct. 1, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First Parish Kingston, 222 Main Street, Kingston, Mass. (www.kingstonuu.org). Pre-registration is required and there is a \$25 fee, which includes refreshments and handouts. Register on-line at <http://www.bcduuu.org>. There is plenty of parking and the location is handicapped accessible.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Heidi Gilkenson, our office manager, works 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. The office is open for parish business 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Please be mindful of this schedule if you need assistance from Heidi. She may be contacted at (401) 273-5678 or contact@bellstreetchapel.org

SUBMITTING ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to have your announcement included in the weekly e-mailed schedule of events or printed in the order of service, the information must be sent to Heidi Gilkenson at contact@bellstreetchapel.org by Wednesday evening. Please note your announcement may be edited due to limited space.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next issue of *Bell Street Chapel Columns* is Oct. 16 at 8 p.m. Please submit your articles as a regular Word attachment (.doc, not .docx, please) to Meredyth Waterman at MeredythW@aol.com. Our newsletter is one of the most effective means of communicating with our members and friends, so don't miss out on this opportunity. And remember — it's not just for announcing events. If you have information like what your committee is working on, or other church-related information of interest that you'd like to share with the Bell Street community, please send it in.

~Meredyth Waterman

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



FAREWELL, REV. MARY MARGARET EARL

Please join our congregation for a farewell and best wishes reception for Rev. Mary Margaret Earl after service on Oct. 16. We will have an opportunity to thank her for being one of our community ministers and for the wonderful services she shared with us. She has shown much kindness to us over the years she has been at Bell Street and we wish her well as she moves on to new adventures.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

As we start an exciting church year with our new minister, the Worship Committee would like to re-introduce ourselves. Not as individual people, though you can see our names below, but as a vibrant, essential part of Bell Street Chapel. Our role is changing a bit, since, with CJ as our new minister, we will no longer be responsible for as many lay services. But we'd like to take this opportunity to tell you what we do and to humbly offer our services to the rest of the church community.

We are here to help create engaging, inspiring worship services. While we will be assisting CJ in whatever ways he requests, we think of ourselves first as lay worship leaders, coaches and assistants. We are here to make your lay service brilliant!

Here's what we do: Whether you're a committee hoping to share its focus with the congregation, an experienced lay speaker who's found an inspiring topic, or a new lay speaker who's moved to share inspiration with the congregation, we are with you every step of the way. We will meet with you at least three weeks before your service date to share some important guidelines on worship leading. These time-tested guidelines are from many sources and we promise they will help you craft your best service. We will make sure you meet deadlines for submissions to the newsletter and the bulletin. We will spend a little time with you and the sound system, so that your message can be heard and appreciated by everybody in the pews. We will create an order of service with you; suggesting appropriate hymns, readings, a children's story. Since most of us attend most services, we can offer valuable perspective about which hymns have been sung recently and whether a children's story is of appropriate length.

One role we take especially seriously, both with new lay speakers and with those who've graced our pulpit many times, is that of listener. Nothing can replace having an objective, supportive person listening as you read your reflection aloud. Notice I said objective, so, not your partner, your mom, your dog. Your worship committee assistant will make every attempt to meet you almost any time, anywhere, to hear your reflection and to give you honest, compassionate feedback. You can bet that every worship committee member who delivers a service has done this with their assistant as well. It's essential, and as of this year, we will be requiring that all lay speakers share a draft of their reflection with their assistant well before their service.

And of course, we will be there on your Sunday. We will handle pieces of the service, such as Welcome and Announcements, Offertory, Candles, so that you don't need to worry about them. We will help with readings. We will present the children's story if you like. In short, we will make sure that you feel as comfortable and inspired as possible. We want you to have a great service!

The Worship Committee's unique role at Bell Street is to help other members and committees shine in their moment in the spotlight. Our goal is to help you communicate with ease so that your unique perspective inspires our congregation. In the coming year we hope to be of great service.

Jasmine Appleberry

Sally Gabb

Audrey Greene (chairperson)

Brian Kovacs

Dan Lawlor

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

Wouldn't it be nice to add to the beauty of our sanctuary and worship services with the addition of flowers each Sunday? If you would be interested in offering flowers for a Sunday service please let our office manager, Heidi Gilkensen, know by contacting her at the office at (401) 273-5678 or e-mailing her at contact@bellstreet.org. She will let you know which day is available. Please know that any offering of flowers is appreciated. A professional and costly arrangement is not necessary.

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

REV. CJ'S INSTALLATION OCT. 23

Bell Street Chapel is pleased to announce the installation of Rev. CJ McGregor as its minister Sunday, Oct. 23, at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. After four years of transition, we are very excited to begin this exciting relationship with CJ. Please join in the celebration!

In advance of the installation, we will be spiffing up our church. Among the plans is a new coat of paint for Eddy Hall. If you are interested in participating in a painting day, please contact Ray Perreault at ceviz58@yahoo.com or (401) 575-0709. A date will be selected based on when the most people can help.

PSJ NEWS

LGBT History Month

Oct. 2 Crossroad Lunch-making

Oct. 11 National Coming Out Day

Oct. 12 Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's Death

Oct. 20-22 Horror Fest

Crossroads Lunches- P&SJ sponsors this activity of making 100 lunches for the homeless. Donated items such as tuna, cookies, juice boxes are always welcome.

Share the plate- Half of the cash donations in the offertory are designated to a local nonprofit. In October, the designated nonprofit is Jobs with Justice, a coalition of labor, community, faith-based and student groups taking concrete action to level the playing field by building power for poor and working-class people. Jobs with Justice works to re-

establish justice in the workplace while promoting social, racial and economic justice and demanding an end to corporate greed and economic inequality.

Books through Bars- This supported P&SJ activity continues to mail donated books to prisoners. The group meets each Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Parish House.

RI International Horror Film Festival is Proud to Bring You Another Warped Year of Fear, Malice, Murder and Mayhem... October 20-23, the FLICKERS: RI International Horror Film Festival will screen some of the world's greatest independent fright films. Films presented will be from across the globe and represent a broad range of cinematic styles and approaches to the genre. The weekend of frights will occur at the hauntingly historic Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Bell Street Chapel, the Providence Public Library, the Jamestown Arts Center and the Barrington Public Library. Admission is \$10 per person for all shows at Bell Street Chapel. Discount passes are also available.

ASSOCIATION SUNDAY OCT. 2

For the past few years, the Unitarian Universalist Association has organized Association Sunday as a way to raise funds that target specific areas of growth and strengthen our connections with each other. This year, Association Sunday funds will support Excellence in Ministry, concentrating on ways that we can enhance development and continuing education among our three professional ministries: ordained clergy, religious educators and musicians.

In preparation for this event, scheduled for Oct. 2 in our congregation, the UU Ministers Association, the Liberal Religious Educators Association and the UU Musicians Network have teamed up to develop programs that will further our shared commitment toward promoting transformative ministry in our congregations and our association. Each organization will submit requests to the UUA including scholarships for religious professionals, resources for small congregations, coaching programs for ordained clergy and seminarians, and education in multigenerational, multicultural worship.

During the service on Oct 2, Rev. CJ will highlight Association Sunday and we will have special envelopes that will collect donations for this fund. This is an exciting opportunity to affect our movement on the denominational level.

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A group of eight from Bell Street gathered for a Leadership Retreat at the Cedar Hill Retreat Center in Duxbury on the edge of Plymouth Bay. We shared our core values and some of the words that came up were kindness, justice, authenticity, love, wisdom, integrity, family, influence, faith and joy. We looked at our experiences at Bell Street and found many ways that our core values are reinforced and expanded. Bell Street offers us acceptance, a place to fit in, affirmation, a place to feel proud of ourselves, kindness, a place where we feel we have arrived.

We are excited with thoughts of what we have achieved and where we hope to go next. We thought about the Bell Street story. What chapter are we in now? What possibilities does the next chapter hold for us? We look forward to working with you to experience a deepening sense of community, a circle of kindness, a sense of mindfulness about our place in the world and all it has to offer us, and many opportunities to express our devotion to peace and justice.

*Blessings,
Kate Gillis*

MORE UU FOR U

Sometimes the only Unitarian Universalists we meet are the ones that come to Bell Street Chapel. It's fun to expand our horizons and see what other UUs are doing and what they have to say. If you wish, you can sign up for a weekly e-mail with links to articles on all kinds of timely issues. Here is the address: <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/uuworldweekly>

If you are a member of Bell Street you should be receiving the magazine UU World in the mail. Let the Bell Street office know if you want it but are not getting it. If you are not a member of Bell Street, you can subscribe to the magazine or read the articles online at www.uuworld.org. Sign up for Twitter to follow **UU World** (@UUWorld) on your phone.

If you find a really good article and want to share it go to the Bell Street Chapel page on Facebook and let everyone know what you have been reading.

REMEMBERING



Bell Street member Dan Brown, Jane Peet and Rev. CJ McGregor represent Bell Street Chapel at the Brown University Sept. 11 Service of Remembrance. Not pictured: Bell Street member Philip Smith.

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



BUILD A PLAYGROUND

KaBOOM!, UnitedHealthcare, the Providence Department of Parks and Recreation and the West Broadway Neighborhood Association (WBNA) have invited us to team up with them to build a playground at Dexter Training Ground (between Dexter and Parade streets on the West Side of Providence). Construction will take place Tuesday, Oct. 11. You don't have to be skilled, trained or have any special tools. You just have to be enthusiastic, energetic, a team player, and willing to work and have lots of fun! Everyone must be pre-registered, so please contact Rev. CJ ASAP if you would like to participate at cjmgregor@prodigy.net Arrive at 8 a.m. for breakfast and stay until project completion at 3 p.m. We will provide lunch, beverages, music and prizes! This build will happen rain or shine! Don't forget to wear your Bell Street T-shirt!

BSC CALENDAR

Bell Street is a very active place. We have ten groups who meet here weekly or monthly, another 5 or 6 who use our hall occasionally, as well as all our own events and committee meetings. To keep all of this in order and prevent double booking, Mike Durette is our calendar coordinator. He will be the person entering information onto the calendar.

Do you want to see the calendar? The current month is in each issue of the newsletter. The whole calendar is online on the Google website. It is a private calendar, meaning that the whole world can't see it. The only people that can see it are those with whom it has been shared.

Bell Street would love to share the Google calendar with anyone who wants to be able to see it. It only takes two steps. One – set up a Google account (go to Google.com and enter your current e-mail address and a password). Two – send an e-mail to Mike Durette (mdurette at Hasbro.com – replace word “at” with @) and ask him to share the calendar with you. That's it! He will enter your e-mail address into our shared calendar list. Then when you log in to Google.com with your e-mail address and password, you will be able to click on “Calendar.” If you can't find the word “Calendar,” click on the word “more” and the word “Calendar” will be in the drop-down menu. Once you see a calendar, click on the little arrow next to the words “My Calendar” and you should see Bell Street in the list. Let Mike or me know if you need more directions.

~Kate Gillis
President

HOUSE COMMITTEE

We're covered for the winter!

October is an exciting month for us as we now have a new roof and gutters on the Parish House and repairs to the chapel roof completed. We can now concentrate on the interior painting in the chapel and seashell rooms as soon as feasible.

Beth Grossi has organized a kitchen clean-up for Saturday, Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. Please join us if you can. We'll have cookies and coffee. Please call Beth for more info at (401) 723-6126. Thanks, Beth!

Ray is leading the crew painting the interior walls of Eddy Hall. Our thanks to Ray and please see him if you can help.

The House Committee has been very fortunate that some members have had extra time available to donate to beautifying our property.

Recent success and “Thank you:”

Parish House remodeling: Old wallpaper removed and walls were painted in the conference room, entry, Rev. CJ's and the office manager's office. Our garden is improving every day, the pulpit mechanism is working again and our driveway has gotten some patching.

Thanks to: Peg Boyle and her son Aaron, Audrey Greene, Rev. C.J, Richard (for our beautiful purple bench!) Beth Grossi, Stu Smith, Meredyth Waterman and any others I may have missed! Welcome Ellen Knight (New House Committee Secretary [and world-class seamstress!])

As always, anyone interested in volunteering a bit of time to improving our property any skilled or unskilled assistance is greatly appreciated. Please contact Dan Brown at (401) 648-1696.

*Thank you,
Dan Brown
House Committee Chairperson*

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PH=PARISH HOUSE | S=SANTUARY | EH=EDDY HALL | MPL=MEET IN PARKING LOT | OS=OFFSITE | RE=RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ROOM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am Social hour (S) 11:30 am Cross-roads 4 pm Daydream</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review (S) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship (PH) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>3 pm Big Train Farm pickup (EH) 7 pm Outside group (PH)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8 am meditation (EH) 10 am kitchen cleaning (EH)</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am Social hour (S) 4 pm Daydream Rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>COLUMBUS DAY 10</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review (S) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 6:30 pm Governing Board (PH)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8 am Playground building (OS) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>3 pm Big Train Farm pickup (EH) 7 pm Gay Bingo (OS)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8 am meditation (EH)</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am Social Hour 4 pm Daydream 8pm newsletter deadline</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review (S) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7 pm Trustees (PH)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH) 7:15 pm House Committee (PH)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6 pm Order of Service deadline 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>3 pm Big Train Farm pickup (EH)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7 pm Drum Circle (EH)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8 am meditation (EH)</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9 am choir 10 am Service (S) 11:30 am RE Committee 3 pm Rev. CJ 's installation</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review (S) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6 pm Peace & Social Justice (PH) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>3 pm Big Train Farm pickup (EH) RIIFF Horror Fest (6 pm)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>RIIFF Horror Fest (6 pm)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8 am meditation (EH) RIIFF Horror Fest (6 pm)</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9 am newsletter folding EH 9 am choir 10 am Service (S) 11 am Social Hour (EH) 4 pm Daydream</p>	<p>HALLOWEEN 31</p> <p>6 pm Empire Review (S) 6 pm Daydream rehearsal (EH)</p>					

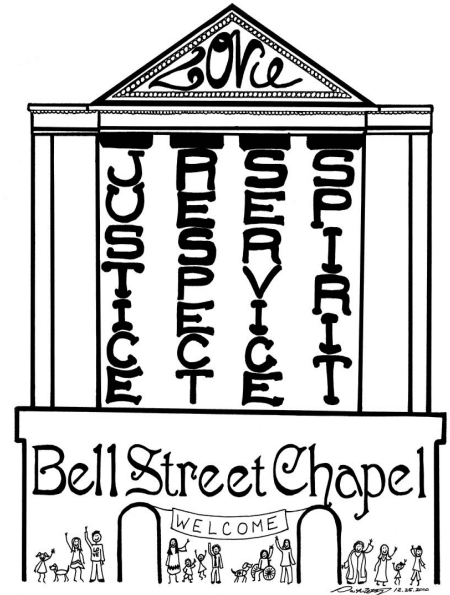
BELL STREET T-SHIRTS AND MORE

Visit www.cafepress.com/bellstreetchapel and get your own Bell Street Chapel T-shirts, sweat-shirts, canvas bags, mugs, bibs, doggy shirts and lots of other stuff!

David Whitty, fiancé of Board member and Membership Committee Co-chairperson Meredyth Waterman, created the original design at left, which is now available on all kinds of things through our Cafepress.com shop . (Look carefully at the people in the design. You may recognize some!)

And just to make a good thing even better, 10 percent of each sale comes back to Bell Street Chapel.

Wear your Bell Street pride and help spread the word about our great church community!



The Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel

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**“Love is the spirit of our church
and service is its law.**

**This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.”**

