

## SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JULY AND AUGUST

Each Sunday we gather at 10:00 for a time to renew our spirits with music, prayers, ancient wisdom, and a sermon that connects to our daily lives – all this in an atmosphere of acceptance and friendship. After worship there is a time to enjoy refreshments and to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.

Throughout the summer, The Rev. Brain will preach a sermon series on the **foundational stories of our faith**. What relevance do these old familiar tales have today? How have they shaped our belief systems. In what ways do they require re-interpretation?

**July 7 Foundational stories ~ Adam and Eve**

The Rev. Brain preaching                      Communion Sunday

**July 14 Foundational stories ~ Noah**

The Rev. Brain preaching

**July 21 Guest Preacher, The Rev. Ben Perkins**

See the page below for an introduction to Ben Perkins

**July 28 Foundational stories ~ 10 Commandments**

The Rev. Brain preaching                      Baptism of Katie Noll Lundberg

**August 4 Foundational practices ~ Singing and hospitality**

Hymn sing for worship.                      Pot luck communion

In the Bible we have lyrics for songs (Psalms) that originated in the ancient past, we sing songs from Europe, Africa, Spain, Central America, and the USA. We love to sing and celebrate that spiritual practice today. Suggest a favorite hymn and tell us why it moves you. Kathleen Adams, our music director will anchor this service.

Beginning today, AVC will be recapturing a practice of the early church in which communion was not a symbolic meal served during worship, but rather an actual communal supper where food and life-stories were shared. Worship will begin as usual at 10:00 and our after-worship gathering will be a pot luck lunch. Bring a dish to share or just come and enjoy the hospitality.

**August 11      Guest Preachers, Thomas Smoker and Andrew Hankinson**

Residents of Rockport, Thom and Andrew are active in the community theatre scene on Cape Ann. Through music and witness, they will be sharing how faith shapes their lives. Watch this page for more about Thom and Andrew.

**August 18      Foundational stories ~ Jonah and the Big Fish**  
The Rev. Brain preaching

**August 25      A joint service with the Vedanta Society of Providence, RI.**

The Annisquam Village Church has had a connection to the Hindu community since 1893 when, on his way to make his mark at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago, Swami Vivekananda gave his first address on American soil from our pulpit.

In this service, we will be integrating worship practices from the Vivekananda community into our worship which will include Vedantic chanting, a reading from Swami Vivekananda's work promoting interfaith harmony, an address from Pravrajika Shuddhatmaprana, a nun from their order, and music from both of our traditions.

The service will be followed by a luncheon featuring both American and Indian foods. We invite the whole community to join us for this festive, peace-making event!

More about Swami Vivekananda here. <https://annisquamvillagechurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/1893-Swami-Brings-Modern.pdf>

## THE REV. BENJAMIN PERKINS, GUEST PREACHER ON JULY 21

An avid social-justice practitioner, intellectual, and creative thinker, Benjamin Perkins is currently the Vice President of Health Equity Strategies for the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. He has worked in the public health field for over seventeen years, first specializing in disease prevention and research education to communities vulnerable to HIV infection, where he held numerous leadership roles, from community advisory board chair, to founding director of a CDC-funded HIV-prevention and wellness center, to project director for an NIH-funded HIV-prevention feasibility study. In 2014, he shifted focus to health disparities and inequities in cardiovascular disease and stroke rates among communities of color and other underserved populations.

Benjamin received his Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in 2000 and is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and serves a wonderfully multicultural congregation in the Boston area. In addition to his education at Harvard Divinity School, Benjamin received his Master of Arts degree in clinical psychology from Antioch University in Los Angeles and his Bachelor of Arts in geography from the University of California at Los Angeles. His interests include fitness, reading theology, creative writing, and engaging in health equity/social justice work as spiritual practice.

