

# the chalice

Published by the  
Unitarian Church of Sharon  
*A Welcoming Congregation  
of the Unitarian  
Universalist Association*  
4 North Main Street  
Sharon, MA 02067  
781/784-3652  
www.uusharon.org

**President**

Tim Theiler  
President@uusharon.org

**Minister**

Rev. Jim Robinson  
Office Hours  
Tu W Thu Fri  
9:00am – 1:00pm  
and by appointment  
(Day off is Monday)  
781/784-3652 x2  
RevRobinson@uusharon.org

**Director of Religious Ed.**

Louise Marcoux  
Office Hours  
Tu W Th  
8:30am - 3:00pm  
Sunday 8:30am-1:00pm  
and by appointment  
781/784-3652 x3  
DRE@uusharon.org

**Office Manager**

Janet Mayo  
Office Hours  
Tu Th F  
8:30am - 3:00pm  
781/784-3652 x1  
Admin@uusharon.org

**Newsletter Editor**

Janet Mayo  
Newsletter@uusharon.org

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28**

**5PM**

Submit articles to  
**newsletter@uusharon.org**

## ***OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES***

**10am Family Service**

**10:30am Adult Service** (while children in their  
religious education classes)  
Childcare provided

**October 2 “Between the Bars: How Jails Fail – One Woman’s Journey”**

The US has 25 per cent of the world’s incarcerated people and 5 per cent of the world population. Mass incarceration of poor, most black and brown people, is THE civil rights issue of our time. Slip between the bars through story and statistic with two speakers from EMIT (End Mass Incarceration Together – a working group of UU Mass Action Network).

**October 9 “The High Holy Days”**

The ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a sacred time of reflection, reconciliation, and change. While these days are within the Jewish tradition, they contain wisdom and inspiration that we all can draw from, whatever our background.

**October 16: “Honesty, Lying, and Authenticity”**

We humans, in general, say we want to be honest. But studies show we stretch the truth every single day. This service is about the struggle to be honest and authentic and recognizing the pressures upon us to not be.

**October 23 “The Place of the Arts in Human Life”**

We will explore the important role of the arts (music, drama, writings, paintings, dance, etc.) in human life. How do the arts help us change society for the better? How do the arts help us deepen our spiritual experience? How do the arts make us human?

**October 30: “All Souls Service”**

This is one of the most moving services of our church year. You will be invited to light a candle to name and remember loved ones who have died. We will affirm that love is deeper than death. We will embrace the natural place of grief and the importance of celebrating our memories.

~~~~~  
**Please note:** Sunday Oct. 9: First Universalist Church of Stoughton invites members of the Five Point Cluster to a shared worship service, 10:30 AM. Meet their new minister, Sarah Napoline.

---

## *From the Minister*

---

### *Change is our Friend*

Last spring when I announced my retirement (effective June 1, 2017) I sensed anxiety in the congregation. But now that we have a Ministerial Search Committee and some time has passed, I sense a quiet optimism in the congregation. All will be well. Change can be bumpy at times, but change is the nature of life, and change is our friend.

We have between now and June to make as smooth a transition as possible. One goal I have is that all our adult programs become self sufficient, not needing my support or guidance. Another goal is to have the worship committee (which already is healthy and functioning) become even stronger so it can provide stable grounding for the Sunday worship services. There are other goals that I will work towards as well.

We have grown in the past six years from around 115 members to around 185. The religious education program has grown from around 75 children and youth to around 95. We have grown in the number of groups and programs that we offer during the week. Average Sunday attendance of adults (in service or teaching RE) has grown from around 70 to around 100. This is the new size of the Unitarian Church of Sharon. It is a good and healthy size to be. The Unitarian Church of Sharon is a wonderful community. It has been here since 1737 and will be here far into the future. With gratitude, we are the souls enjoying it in the present moment.

-Jim Robinson

---

## *From the Director of Religious Education*

---

### *Big world/little kids*

How should we talk to our children and grandchildren about the big world? How much should we shelter them from suffering? How much should we let knowledge of the pain of the world in – to waken their compassion without overwhelming them?

There is no “one right answer”. Children’s individual differences remind us that a profoundly aware and sensitive child can extrapolate an awful lot from a tiny amount of information, while a happy-go-lucky child may need the painfulness of a situation pointed out to them. In order to reach our children where they are, we need to share information in bite-sized pieces – and watch how our child digests each bite. There are no medals for being able to stomach more; this is not a competition. In fact, taking in too much may overwhelm a child and instill feelings of helplessness and hopelessness about the world. You know you’ve hit the right spot when your child is thinking about what they can do to connect with people who are suffering.

I was touched by the story told by President Obama about the response of a 6 year old boy from New York to the photograph of Omran Daqneesh, the 5 year old Syrian boy who survived an air strike. Where might this story of war land in the heart and mind of a 6 year old child?

The President said,

Alex, who is 6 years old, wrote me a letter. He said wanted Omran to come to live with him and his family. “Since he won’t bring toys,” Alex wrote, “I will share my bike and I will teach him how to ride it. I will teach him addition and subtraction. My little sister will be collecting butterflies and fireflies for him. We can all play together. We will give him a family and he will be our brother.”

Not every child can respond to such a painful image with such grace and generosity. And we don’t expect them to – because each child meets that image in a different place inside. For some, Omran’s photo is just too big a bite – leading to endless worry about air strikes. It falls to parents and grandparents to offer, with great care, truly bite-sized bits of information about this world filled with beauty and suffering and then be with our children while they chew, swallow, and digest.

Blessings,

*Louise*

### October in Religious Education

During October our **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will continue to learn more about our church. They will make clay chalices and play a memory game. They will make flower collages in a session that explains how we remember those who have died, and they will also have a day of shadow play. The class will end the month with their first Revels lesson based on the story "The Barn."

The **Grade 1-2** group will be exploring topics related to families and homes. Students will have a chance to "show and tell" about an object that represents home to them, and learn about UU faith ancestors. They will explore the similarities and differences among families while making family badges, and learn about meal time blessings. The class will embark on their Revels project preparation during their last October session.

The **grade 3-4** students will wrap up a session exploring their inner voices as tools for goodness. This session introduces a project to aid students in recognizing acts of goodness that will carry on throughout the year. The group will learn about the practice of prayer and make their own prayer beads, and they will spend a session discussing the importance of empathy. Their Revels preparations begin with learning about Hanukkah at month's end.

The **Grade 5-6** class will write "I am from..." poems as they explore the power that comes from our connection to our origins. One of their sessions will explore the journey that food takes to reach us and the impact this has on the environment and communities. The story about a UU church in California which has connection to a church in Transylvania illustrates the power in honoring both our connection to our own location and the connections others feel to their location. The group's final October session is devoted to "The Story in the Dark" which kicks off their Revels lessons.

The **Grade 7-8** group will have five OWL session in October which include examining values, learning appropriate language related to sexuality, discussing personal concerns and exploring the topic of body image. The students will begin Revels sessions in November.

### Welcome back, Chris Scheller!



In case you missed this newsflash: Chris Scheller is back as our Youth Coordinator for this entire church year! Chris will meet with the Senior Youth Group (high school students) weekly on Sunday evenings. He gathers the Junior Youth Fellowship Group (middle school students) once each month (usually on a Saturday) for fun adventures together.

Chris began serving this congregation as Youth Coordinator in 2012. He became our ministerial intern from 2013 to 2015. He continues to be a candidate for the UU ministry and has served as Director of Religious Education at First Parish Sudbury, Unitarian Universalist since 2015. Chris lives in Winchester with his wife Liz and their daughter Kimmie (age 3 ½).

Thank you, Chris, for extending your service to this congregation! We're so glad you're back!

### Volunteers needed to work with high school youth

Our Senior Youth group organizes a range of activities throughout the year – from visits to Rosie's Place, to weekend youth conferences, to shopping trips for Gifts for Kids.

Liz Moore and Laurie Wallace serve as youth advisors for our weekly programs (Thanks, you two!). Additional volunteers are needed to support our retreat, participation in youth conferences, and even projects like the Waffcake breakfast. If you'd like to find out more about what's involved in becoming a youth advisor, please contact Chris Scheller ([yc@uusharon.org](mailto:yc@uusharon.org)), Kate Parker-O'Toole, or Louise Marcoux.

### Church seeks Assistant Nursery Provider

Please help spread the word about this job opening at the church. The Assistant Nursery Provider takes care of infants and toddlers for two hours every Sunday morning. We're looking for someone with experience with young children. Adults and high school students are encouraged to apply. Online job description at: <http://tinyurl.com/h8x6uug>

### Thank you to:

- Su McCarthy for compiling *Our Whole Lives* Teacher Manuals.
- Christian Roulleau, Dia Cheney, and Kate Barber for cleaning Program C and the RE Office.
- The 49 people from this congregation who are teaching RE this year. You rock!

## October Programs

**Meditation Group** - Meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30. New comers are always welcome. We alternate sitting meditation with brief periods of walking meditation, chanting, and breathing meditation.

**Book Group** - Meets Wednesday Oct. 6 at 7:30pm to discuss “The Turner House” by Angela Flournoy.

**Pot Luck Supper** - Friday, Oct. 7, 6pm. Bring a dish and enjoy the company.

### Conversations at the Meetinghouse - Friday, October 7, 7pm

#### Conversations at the Meetinghouse

“Coming to America”. UCS members Francesca D’Abramo and Aidan Cunningham will share their stories of immigrating to the US (Francesca from Italy and Aidan from Ireland). Then people in the audience will be invited to briefly share how and when their ancestors came to America. The evening is a conversation celebrating how our country is a nation built from immigration.



**Movie Night** - On Friday, October 14, 7pm we will view and then discuss the movie “Race”. Race is a 2016 biographical sports drama film about African American athlete Jesse Owens, who won a record breaking four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics held in Nazi dominated Germany.

**Let’s Laugh Today** meets on Saturday, October 8th, 11am to noon, in program room A/B. See how contagious laughter really is by attending a FREE Laughter Yoga session. Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY. Please bring your water bottle because laughing is dehydrating. New laughers are always welcomed! See more information at [www.letslaughtoday.com](http://www.letslaughtoday.com)

**Men’s Support Group** - If you would like to join our on-going men’s support group contact Jim Robinson at [revrobinson@uusharon.org](mailto:revrobinson@uusharon.org).

**Women’s Support Group** – If you would like to join our on-going women’s support group contact Kathleen Guilday at [k.guilday@comcast.net](mailto:k.guilday@comcast.net).

**Covenant Groups** – If you would like to join one of our on-going covenant groups contact Jim Robinson at [revrobinson@uusharon.org](mailto:revrobinson@uusharon.org). A covenant group is a small group, using contemplative sharing guidelines, which discusses core spiritual and moral issues.

**Children’s Choir** - Every Tuesday at 5:30 – 6:30pm. New voices always welcome.

**Adult Choir** - Every Wednesday 7:30pm rehearsal. New voices always welcome.

**Writer’s Group** - Sunday, October 23, 12noon-1pm. Share a poem or piece of prose you have written or just come along to enjoy the conversation.

**Art in the Heart** – Friday, October 28, 7pm in the church vestry. Joy us for an evening of play, fun, creativity, and community. We will provide for you a variety of artistic media under the guidance of our Art in the Heart team of Kate Parker O’Toole, Mare Parker O’Toole, Dia Cheney, Jean Fox, and Appleseed Robinson. This is art without right or wrong, good or bad, better worse – rather it is art for everyone to enjoy. Let your inner child play!

(Continued on page 5)



## *October Programs, Continued*

(Continued from page 4)

**Journey Group** - If you would like to join our on-going Journey Group, which meets on Monday evenings, contact Barbara Rose at [barbjnr@msn.com](mailto:barbjnr@msn.com). This is a group which supports our spiritual journeys.

**Five Point Cluster Fall Gathering** - Join your fellow UUs from our congregations in Foxboro, Stoughton, Canton and North Easton for our annual fall dinner and conversation on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Unity Church of North Easton. We'll gather at 4:00 for sharing of 'best ideas' from our five congregations, and enjoy a potluck dinner starting at 5:30. All are welcome to come for the whole event or just the potluck; space is accessible and child care available. Please look for and respond to an upcoming e-vite from the Cluster.

Also upcoming: On Saturday evening, Nov. 5, a Cluster-sponsored viewing and discussion of the new film "**Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War**," place TBD. Look for more information in the November Chalice.

**MMAS Theatre Group** - The next show is David Mamet's *November* on Oct 22 at 8:00pm at Mansfield Music and Arts Society. The evening starts at 7:00pm with a potluck reception followed by the show. The ticket price is \$26.00pp. David Mamet's Oval Office satire depicts one day in the life of a beleaguered American commander-in-chief. With Mamet's characteristic no-holds-barred style, November is a scathingly hilarious take on the state of America today and the lengths to which people will go to win. How timely! Please email Pat McDougal if interested.



The art display in the vestry for October is by UCS member Forbesy Russell.

### *Not Just Another Coffee House*

*Saturday, October 15th, 7pm:  
The Boxcar Lilies*



Our October coffee house will feature "The Boxcar Lilies". Combining spine tingling three-part harmony and savvy songwriting, The Boxcar Lilies have made a name for themselves with their signature mix of folk, country, blues, and bluegrass-tinged Americana music. Their trademark harmonies may have put the band on the Americana map, but their genuine and charming stage presence and off-the-cuff banter helped keep them there. And of course, you can also enjoy our Fair Trade beverages and home made desserts.



David and Mary Nelson hold their grandson, Leo Glenn Nelson, son of Kurt and Miyuki Nelson.

## *Caring Committee*

The Caring Committee is a group at church that provides support to our members and friends with the understanding that any of us can be in need of support at some time in our lives. We make every effort to provide meals, shopping, transportation, or meet other pressing needs. Please reach out if we can assist – we are here to help. You can contact the Caring Committee many ways: email the Committee at [caringcommittee@ucs.org](mailto:caringcommittee@ucs.org), speak with any member of the Committee (Pat McDougal, Jean Zaniwski, Nina Lynch, Joyce Bramhall, Ivy Krull), speak with Rev. Jim Robinson, or call Ivy (phone number is in the directory).

## Welcome to Rias Herbal Cleaning



Vasco will always be held fondly in our memories, and we are grateful that his nephew Jose has been willing to help while we sought a permanent solution for our cleaning needs. We are fortunate to have found Rias Herbal. The Board of Trustees has approved 5 hours of cleaning service each week and Maria DiBattista, the owner, is eager to begin. She and her workers will begin the week after Columbus Day. If you meet them in the building, please say hello and welcome.

## E-mail Lists

The church has two e-mail lists. The Announcement list, run through the church's web host, is used for church announcements and business only. Only list owners are allowed to post messages. The second list, hosted by Yahoo, is a more open forum where members can share anything of interest with the congregation — questions, concerns, announcements, volunteer opportunities, job networking, recipes, you name it.

### **How do I sign up for the church announcements e-mail list?**

It's pretty simple. All you need to do is open this page <http://www.uusharon.org/announcements-sub-unsub/> provide the e-mail address you want to use for this service and click subscribe. A subscription confirmation will be e-mailed to you. Just click to confirm/verify your e-mail address. Be sure that you add the list address [announcements@uusharon.org](mailto:announcements@uusharon.org) to the trusted senders list in your e-mail program.

### **Why would I want to do this?**

There are a lot of times when announcements need to be sent out on short notice, or otherwise just don't make it into the Order of Service or the *Chalice*. This kind of e-mail service is an easy way to do that. Announcements may be about special services, meetings, changes in plans, or anything related to church business.

### **How do I unsubscribe?**

This is also pretty simple. All you need to do is open the same page <http://www.uusharon.org/announcements-sub-unsub/> provide the e-mail address you want to remove from this service and click unsubscribe.

### **How do I sign up for the UUS Sharon Yahoo Group?**

Simply click this link <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/UUS Sharon/info> and click the icon to join. You will receive a confirmation e-mail and instructions for what to do.

### **Why would I want to do this?**

Share party invitations, recipes, news of social justice events, personal or family crises, requests for information, offers of zucchini, carpooling ... anything in short which might be of interest to the beloved community which is not "official" enough to go out on the congregation announcement list.

### **How do I unsubscribe from the UUS Sharon Yahoo Group?**

Simply send a blank e-mail message to [UUS Sharon-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:UUS Sharon-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com).

## ***SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES - OCTOBER 2016***

**Social Justice Committee News:** At the Unitarian Church of Sharon, we are all members of the social justice committee. **Everyone** is welcome to attend our monthly meetings, where we plan and coordinate the social justice activities of the church and discuss current issues. **The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 PM.** Also, look soon for a new online sign-up where you can find other ways to help.

If you'd like to receive information about social justice issues and take action from your computer or mobile device:  
-UU Mass Action is the state action network organizing and mobilizing 140 UU congregations and 20,000 UU's around issues of social justice. You can sign up for specific (or all) email messages from them at [uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org) (click on *About Us* on the home page to get to the sign-up link).

-UCS Social Justice Change Agents – Receive monthly email alerts about opportunities to act on social justice issues, primarily by contacting state and federal legislators. To participate, please email Kari Thostenson at [kjthoste@gmail.com](mailto:kjthoste@gmail.com).

Support **GLAAD Spirit Day**, which is on October 20th this year. Started by a high school student and observed annually since 2010, Spirit Day raises awareness and unites people in taking a stand against bullying and in support of LGBTQ youth. Participants wear purple, which symbolizes "spirit" on the rainbow flag. Go to [glaad.org/spiritday/pledge](http://glaad.org/spiritday/pledge) to learn more and sign up.

**October 2nd Social Justice Sunday Worship Service: "Between the Bars"** The US has 25 percent of the world's incarcerated people and 5 percent of world population. Mass incarceration of poor, mostly black and brown people is THE civil rights issue of our time. Slip between the bars through story and statistics with two speakers from EMIT, End Mass Incarceration Together, a working group of UU Mass Action Network. Meghann Perry will share her poignant journey as a formerly incarcerated drug user. UU activist and prison volunteer Susan Tordella will share highlights from the watershed book by Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. EMIT activists, under the umbrella of UU Mass Action network, volunteer in prisons and storm the Statehouse to change state and federal law that unfairly impacts poor, black and brown minor drug offenders.

To learn more before Sunday's service, we strongly encourage adults and teens to view Michelle Alexander's 24-minute TEDx talk online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQ6H-Mz6hgw>

The **brown envelope** offerings in October will support the New Start Project ([newstartproject.org](http://newstartproject.org)), whose mission is "reducing recidivism through advocating and supporting the successful reintegration of re-entry residents from incarceration into our community."

**Nicaragua Service Trip for Adults** – Would you like to spend a week in Nicaragua in July 2017? We will be working with FNE international ([fneinternational.org](http://fneinternational.org)) on house construction and other activities. For more information, please contact Janet Schmidt ([jcscoch@gmail.com](mailto:jcscoch@gmail.com)). Stay tuned for notice of a meeting in November.

**Shopping For Justice** – You can buy **Shopping for Justice** cards at church during coffee hour or order extra cards in advance. We have cards in various denominations for Shaws, Stop & Shop, and Big Y (which recently bought out the Hannaford stores in our area), and +/-5% of the value stays with the church to help fund our social justice projects aiming to end hunger and homelessness in the region and beyond.

Upcoming Dates:

- **Saturday, October 1, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Justice and Equality Conference** hosted by UU Mass Action and All Souls Church of Braintree, 139 Elm Street, Braintree (Free, includes lunch), [uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)
- **Sunday, October 2, 10:30 AM – Social Justice Sunday Worship Service** (see above)
- **Sunday, October 16, 11:30 AM – Lunchmaking for MainSpring House** (now with peanut-free, dairy-free WOW-BUTTER)
- **Tuesday, October 18, 7:00-8:30 PM – Meeting of the Social Justice Committee**
- **Thursday, Oct. 20, all day – GLAAD Spirit Day** (see above)

# October 2016 Calendar

|                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                          |                                                                                              |                                                                    |                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                          |                                                                                              |                                                                    | 1<br>Committee Chairs 9am                                          |
| 2<br>Family Worship Service 10am<br>Worship Service 10:30am<br>Religious Education 10:30am<br>Senior Youth Group 5pm<br>Al-Anon Meeting 7pm<br>Covenant Sharing Group 7pm                                 | 3<br>Women's Group I (Closed Grp) 7:30pm<br>Journey Group 7:30pm | 4<br>Children's Choir 5:30pm<br>Search Committee 6pm<br>Meditation Group 7:30pm                                                                                  | 5<br>Book Group 7:30pm<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm         | 6                                                                                            | 7<br>Pot Luck Supper 6pm<br>Conversations at the Meeting-house 7pm | 8<br>Let's Laugh Today 11am<br>Circle Suppers 6pm                  |
| 9<br>Family Worship Service 10am<br>Worship Service 10:30am<br>Religious Education 10:30am<br>Membership Committee 11:45am<br>Senior Youth Group 5pm<br>Al-Anon Meeting 7pm<br>Covenant Sharing Group 7pm | 10                                                               | 11<br>Children's Choir 5:30pm<br>Meditation Group 7:30pm                                                                                                         | 12<br>Board of Trustees 7:15pm<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm | 13<br>Our Whole Lives 5-6 Team Meeting 7pm<br>Second Women's Group 7:30pm<br>Men's Group 8pm | 14<br>Movie Night 7pm                                              | 15<br>Coffee House 7pm                                             |
| 16<br>Family Worship Service 10am<br>Worship Service 10:30am<br>Religious Education 10:30am<br>Worship Committee 11:45am<br>Senior Youth Group 5pm<br>Al-Anon Meeting 7pm<br>Covenant Sharing Group 7pm   | 17                                                               | 18<br>Children's Choir 5:30pm<br>Social Justice Committee 7pm<br>Meditation Group 7:30pm                                                                         | 19<br>Caring Committee 7pm<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm     | 20                                                                                           | 21                                                                 | 22<br>5 Point Cluster Potluck Supper 5pm<br>MMAS Theatre Group 7pm |
| 23<br>Family Worship Service 10am<br>Worship Service 10:30am<br>Religious Education 10:30am<br>Writer's Group 12:00pm<br>Senior Youth Group 5pm<br>Al-Anon Meeting 7pm<br>Covenant Sharing Group 7pm      | 24<br>Journey Group 7:30pm                                       | 25<br>Children's Choir 5:30pm<br>Meditation Group 7:30pm                                                                                                         | 26<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm                             | 27<br>Second Women's Group 7:30pm<br>Men's Group 8pm                                         | 28<br>Newsletter Deadline 5pm<br>Art in the Heart 7pm              | 29                                                                 |
| 30<br>Family Worship Service 10am<br>Worship Service 10:30am<br>Religious Education 10:30am<br>Senior Youth Group 5pm<br>Al-Anon Meeting 7pm<br>Covenant Sharing Group 7pm                                | 31<br>RE committee 7pm                                           | <p>Please go to <a href="http://www.uusharon.org/calendars">www.uusharon.org/calendars</a> to reserve meeting space or to view the most up to date calendar.</p> |                                                          |                                                                                              |                                                                    |                                                                    |