the chalice

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Unitarian Church of Sharon
A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association

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SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Childcare provided

September 4

"Spirit of Life"

10:15am Service

On our final Sunday of the summer, we will sing "Spirit of Life' and Laurie Wallace and Jim Robinson will share their reflections on this popular and beautiful Unitarian Universalist hymn/song.

September 11 "In Gathering and Water Communion Sunday"

10:15am Service

We celebrate the beginning of a new church year with our annual intergenerational water communion service. You are invited to pour water into a common bowl (water which you brought with you or is provided in a pitcher for you) and share about an important place or event from your summer. At the end of the service we will use the water to bless each other and our spiritual community.

September 18 "The Blessings of Imperfection"

10:00am Family Service

10:30am Adult Service (while children are in their religious education classes)

The Unitarian Church of Sharon is a spiritual community where you can "come as you are." You can be atheist or theist, young or old, rich or poor, straight or gay – that is, you can be yourself. And we are all filled with strengths and imperfections. We will not judge or shame your imperfections but learn to find the gifts within them.

September 25 "Finding Our Home"

10:00am Family Service

10:30am Adult Service (while children are in their religious education classes)

We find our home at many levels: a physical place, our family and friends, a spiritual community, a cultural identity, our body, our soul. This service will be about how we can encourage the sense of being at home in the world.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 11, 11:15am in the Meetinghouse All members of the Unitarian Church of Sharon are urged to attend

Article 1: To approve the members of the Ministerial Search Committee as nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Unitarian Church of Sharon: Tom D'Avanzo, Melissa Leonard, Beth McGregor, David Nichamoff, David Slater, Laurie Wallace, Valerie White.

From the Minister

The Black Lives Movement is causing controversy across the country, including Sharon and including in our congregation. Our Social Justice Committee had a serious discussion of this and voted 7 to 1 to recommend to the Board of Trustees that we continue to hang the Black Lives Matter sign at the corner of our church property. The Board accepted that recommendation. The matter will be reviewed as events unfold in our country. I have sent a letter to the Sharon Advocate explaining why we display the sign. The letter is reprinted below.

Racism in America has been and continues to be a destructive reality. Just consider a few current statistics. The average white American has 17 times more financial assets than the average black American. African Americans comprise 13% of the overall population but make up 45% of the prison population. The American Journal of Public Health estimated "Over 886,000 deaths could have been averted, between 1991 and 2000, if African Americans had received the same care as white Americans." The Federal Government has examined several of the large urban police forces, including Baltimore, and concluded they are plagued by patterns of racism.

Americans remain in denial about the extent of racism in our country. That is why we display a sign reading "Black Lives Matter" at the corner of our property at the Unitarian Church of Sharon. Of course, all lives matter. And they matter deeply. But we have to be reminded, again and again, of how deeply racism against African Americans operates in our country. We need to change our institutions. We need to dismantle structural racism.

We do not agree with everything that comes with the Black Lives Matter movement. We do not agree with a recent statement that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians. And we are strongly supportive of our Sharon Police Department and police forces throughout the country. Israel is not perfect but we can be supportive. Police are not perfect but we can be supportive. The Black Lives Matters Movement is not perfect but we can be supportive.

What we need now in America is a healthy dialogue. A dialogue where we do not vilify one another, but instead listen to one another. We believe that the Black Lives Movement has a message we need to listen to even if we do not agree with all of it.

Jim Robinson

From the Director of Religious Education

All will be well

I returned from my small-ship cruise in Alaska with many unforgettable memories and a lingering sense that the world was rocking back and forth. The feeling wasn't overwhelming – I was able to walk around and drive without a problem. But when I stood or sat still, I would have the occasionally strong sensation of lurching to one side or the other. Off-balance. The internet search was reassuring: this happens to plenty of people; it usually takes time for the problem to resolve; and the less you stress about it, the better. Easy for them to say – they weren't feeling this odd lurching sensation while they read a computer screen. Still, I have tried to relax into it – and it is slowly resolving.

When I came back from Alaska, the first thing I discovered at church was that Sam Teitel would not be able to serve as our youth coordinator this year. My mind lurched – which was a familiar feeling at that point. Off-balance. The good thing was that I knew what to do. This happens to plenty of churches; it usually takes time to resolve; and the less you stress about it, the better.

The job has been posted in all the right places. The RE Committee and I are working our networks like never before. And we're relaxing into this process, because it will work. I am confident that we will find the right person to work with our wonderful Senior Youth Group and our lively Junior Youth Fellowship Group. If you have any questions (or if you know someone we should be recruiting), please contact me. And remember, all will be well.

Blessings,

Louise



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

September in Religious Education

On September 18th we will welcome new and returning students to begin the new year of RE classes filled with fun and exploration! The first week will include getting to know classmates, making nametags and discussing class covenants.

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** class will use the "Chalice Children" curriculum which helps children learn about their church and congregation. This month's lessons include learning the name of our church and taking a church tour.

The **Grade 1-2** students will begin the "Creating Home" curriculum with a session about the significance of community and the gifts that each of us brings when we come together as a community.

The **Grade 3-4** group will begin the "Moral Tales" curriculum with sessions that discuss the interconnectedness of all living things, and use a Buddhist story to explore the role of one's inner voice.

The **Grade 5-6** class will begin the "Sing to the Power" curriculum by learning a song and being introduced to the idea that the four elements – earth, air, fire and water – represent different types of power that each of us can use to make the world a better place.

The **Grade 7-8/Junior Youth** group begins the "Our whole Lives" curriculum with a discussion about sexuality.

Parents can keep an eye out for RE news in the weekly emails sent out to each class.

Where will my child's RE class meet?

Up to 3 rd birthday	Nursery
Preschool-Kindergarten	Program C
Grades 1-2	Program B
Grades 3-4	Program A
Grades 5-6	Vestry
Grades 7-8	Library

Please note that all these spaces are now NUT FREE. A big thank you to the Social Justice Committee for finding a tasty alternative to peanut butter for the lunches prepared for MainSpring House residents! The substitution of nut-free, dairy-free WOW! Butter makes the vestry a welcoming space for all children.

Teacher Meetings in September

Sept 3 Orientation and Planning (Preschool-Kindergarten), 9-11:30 am

Sept 6 or 8 (TBA) Grades 1-2 team meeting, 7-9 pm

Sept 7 Grades 3-4 team meeting, 7-9 pm

Sept 13 Grades 7-8 team meeting, 7-9:30 pm

Sept 15 Grades 5-6 team meeting, 7-9 pm

Mark your calendars: Sunday, September 18

- Installation of Teachers at the 10 am worship service;
- First religious education classes of the church year at 10:30;
- Our Whole Lives Parent Orientation at 4 pm.
- First meeting of Senior Youth Group at 5 pm.

Our Whole Lives Grades 7-8 Parent Orientation

Parents of 7th and 8th graders are reminded of the upcoming Parent Orientation for the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program. This **mandatory meeting** will be held on **Sunday**, **September 18**, **from 4 pm to 6 pm**. At least one parent must attend this meeting – ideally all parents will attend.

Parents will have the opportunity to meet the OWL teachers, hear an overview of the program, review curriculum materials, and consider their particular goals as their child's primary sexuality educator. At the end of the meeting, parents will be able to complete permission slips so that their child may participate in OWL.

The Our Whole Lives program for Grades 7-8 will begin on Sunday, September 25. Classes will last 90 minutes: from 10 am until 11:30 am. The program will run through May 2017 (with a break in November-December for Revels).

If you have any questions, please contact Louise Marcoux.

Senior Youth Group

Senior Youth Group will hold their first meeting on Sunday, September 18, from 5 pm to 7 pm. Don't miss it!



September Programs

Meditation Group: Starting September 6, the meditation group will meet every Tuesday evening from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. New comers are always welcome. Instruction is available for people new to meditation. We alternate times of sitting meditation and walking meditation.

Book Group: Meets Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7:30pm in the church library. We will discuss "Circling the Sun" by Paula McClain. The book group reads one novel a month and meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Always open to new members.

Let's Laugh Today meets on Saturday, Sept. 10, 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



64th Annual Bean Supper Pot Luck Style Saturday, September 10 from 5-7

The Bean Supper will be Pot Luck Style this year. It won't be our usual fundraiser, but it will be fun. It will be more or less a congregation only event (and friends), similar to our father's day picnic. Food donations (bean dishes will be prepared at home) and work assignments are still needed. You will be getting a Sign Up Genius invite for food donations and work assignments. Contact Ken Zaniewski for info.

Journey Group - An evening of meditation, chanting, sharing and reading/discussion of spiritually related materials. The meetings are facilitated by Barbara Nelkin-Rose and are scheduled for selected Monday evenings in the Minister's Study. The next meeting will be Monday, September 19th from 7:30-9:00PM. All are welcome. Please contact Barbara to RSVP or to receive more information.

Covenant Groups - Covenant Groups are small groups (8 to 12 participants) who discuss core spiritual and ethical themes in a contemplative atmosphere. If you would like to join one of our covenant groups, please contact Jim Robinson at revrobinson@uusharon.org.

Men's Support Group: Our men's support group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings of each month from 8pm to 9:30pm. New members are always welcome. Just come along some Thursday and try it, or if you want more information contact Jim Robinson at revrobinson@uusharon.org.

Women's Support Group: Our women's support group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings of each month from 7:30pm to 9pm. New members are always welcome. Just come along some Thursday and try it, or if you want more information contact Kathleen Guilday <u>k.guilday@comcast.net</u>.

Al-Anon Meeting: An 11th step Al-Anon group meets at UCS each Sunday evening at 7pm. It is an open meeting.

Art in the Heart: Meets on Friday, September 23, 7pm to 9pm, 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)



September Programs, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

MMAS Theatre Group: The first theatre night of the season will be at MMAS on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 8:00pm for The Miracle Worker; the winner of the 1960 Tony Award for Best Play. Our pot-luck reception will start at 7:00pm and the show will start at 8:00pm. As always, we must have at least 15 attendees to have our reception before the show. Tickets are \$26.00 unless you are a member in which case they are less. Please refer to MMAS.org for information on how to become a member. Keep in mind that only members can exchange their tickets up to 48 hours prior to a performance. Contact Pat McDougal for tickets or more information. Scholarship help is available – don't let money stop you from coming. For scholarship help contact Jim Robinson at revrobinson@uusharong.org.

Children's Choir – Our children's choir rehearses each Tuesday from 5:30pm to 6:30pm (pizza is included) in the church vestry, led by children's choir director Forbesy Russell. New singers are always welcome. Just come along and give the group a try. For more information contact Forbesy Russell at forbesyrus-sel@hotmail.com.

Adult Choir - Our adult choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm and on Sunday mornings at 9:15am. New voices are always welcome. You do not need to make every rehearsal to be an active member of the choir. For more information contact choir director Jennifer Spencer at nifandi@comcast.net.

Movie Night - Our movie night meets in September on the 3rd Friday, Sept. 16, at 7pm. We will view and discuss the award winning movie "Spotlight" about the clergy sex abuse scandal in the Boston Diocese, as uncovered by the investigative staff of the Boston Globe.

Writer's Group – Meets Sunday, September 25, from 11:45am to 12:30pm, in the church library. Bring a poem or piece of prose you have written and share it with a very supportive group. Or come along just to listen and share in the conversation.



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

Not Just Another Coffee House Fifth Season!!

Saturday, September 17, 7pm: Hiroya Tsukamoto returns to UCS!



Hiroya Tsukamoto deeply touched our coffee house audience and is back by popular demand. Hiroya takes us on an innovative, impressionistic journey filled with earthy, organic sounds that impart a mood of peace and tranquility. "Zealously recommended" says Jazz Review. "Hiroya Tsukamoto plays with fluid mastery, pristine tone, and great warmth" says Acoustic Guitar Magazine. Playing guitar and singing, both original pieces and standards in English and Japanese, Hiroya creates a mood that leaves you in a deeper space then when you arrived. And of course, you can also enjoy our home baked desserts and Fair Trade beverages.



Meetinghouse Joys and Concerns



- Vasco Freitas has been our part time church sexton for over twenty years. His sweet temperament and reliability has been a great blessing for us. As you read this, he will either be in a nursery home or in the hospital as he is dying of lung cancer. Jim Robinson has been visiting him and bringing him cards or flowers on behalf of our church community.
- Congratulations to Tom D'Avanzo on his retirement this month from his outstanding career with the Environmental Protection Agency.
- We are happy that Jean Fox and her grandson Nathan are now settled in their apartment in Canton.
- Aaron Martin and Casey O'Brien have moved (bought a home in Bridgewater) and we may not be seeing them any longer at UCS. We wish them well.
- And congratulations to Andrew Wilbur on his wedding this month!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Vasco Freitas has served us well as church sexton for as long as most of us can remember. Sadly, poor health requires him to retire and us to seek his replacement. A revised position description and application form are available on the church website at uusharon.org. If you know of a reliable cleaner who may be looking for some additional work, please help our recruitment by sharing this information with him/her. With your help, we hope to find another person as loyal and cheerful as Vasco.

2016-2017 Circle Supper Sign-Up

Church members and friends interested in Circle Suppers in 2016 and 2017 should sign up by Sunday, September 25, 2016 by contacting Allison Jones and Jack Gregory. Dates this season are October 8, November 12, January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, and May 13.

Intrigued by the idea of Circle Suppers but uncertain about the commitment? Become a Circle Supper Alternate! You'll enjoy the fun of an invitation to dine with old and new church friends without worrying that it won't fit your busy schedule. Dinner hosts often turn to the Alternates list last minute when looking for an extra guest or two for their dinners. By adding your name to the list, you may receive a call the week before a dinner to see if you are available. Alternates do not host dinners.

Circle Suppers are potluck and take place in the homes of participants. Hosts provide the main course. Guests bring appetizers, desserts and salads. On average, full year participants host twice. Newcomers welcome!

The schedule for the fall will be issued at the beginning of October. In December, we will ask for any changes needed in the schedule requests for 2017. A list of locations and guests for 2017 will be published in January. Participants can commit to attending a dinner every month or just an occasional month, depending on your schedule.

Send us the following information: Name(s), telephone number, email address, street address. Also, the number of people in your household participating (used for counting guests) and the number of people you can accommodate for dinner (not including the hosts). Let us know which months you will participate or if you want to be an alternate. Send to Allison Jones or Jack Gregory by September 25.





SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES - SEPTEMBER 2016

Social Justice Steering Committee News: At the Unitarian Church of Sharon, we are all members of the social justice committee. Would you like to be a more active member? There are many ways... read on for specific opportunities.

- Shoppers for supplies to make 100 bag lunches for MainSpring House in Brockton, once a month
- Delivery People for the 100 bag lunches (next date is Sunday, September 18)
- Delivery People to bring collected items to the Stoughton-Sharon Food Pantry, 1-2x monthly on Tuesday mornings.
- Shopping for Justice and Fair Trade Sales tables. Sign up to help at one or more Sundays during coffee hour.
- 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 kithoste@gmail.com.

Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly steering committee meetings, where we plan and coordinate the various social justice activities of the church. We reserve time during each meeting for some discussion of current issues. **The next meeting is on Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00 PM.**

We offer a standing ovation and our many thanks to our outgoing Chair, Mia Joiner-Moore, who was our dedicated leader (sometimes with a co-chair) for 7 years. Gare Reid is the new chair (returning to the job he has done before). We are seeking a co-chair to share the work with him, but in the meantime, Janet Schmidt (another former SJC chair) is working with Gare as the committee clerk, handling correspondence and other details for now.

If you are interested in participating on the steering committee and/or helping with any of the above tasks, please let us know of your interest by sending a message to justicecommittee@uusharon.org or contact Gare or Janet S. directly.

Black Lives Matter: Recent developments within the BLM movement have created new rounds of discussions regarding our commitment to having the 'Black Lives Matter' sign as part of our messaging at the Wayside Pulpit on the front corner of the church. At the last SJC meeting, we dove into the issues and, with a wide range of opinions being heard, we voted (7-1) in favor of maintaining our public stand in support of the need for further dialogue and engagement around the problems of systematic racism in our country. Please read Jim Robinson's thoughtful message on this topic in his column. There are many points of view that need to be explored and understood, and we will continue to walk this path together as a congregation, guided by our 7 Principles, especially the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person, and our commitment to Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations. Please join the conversation.

The "brown envelope" offering on September 4th will finish out our summer collection for next summer's youth programs at the UU Urban Ministry. Brown envelope funds collected on the remaining Sundays in September will support our Partner Church in Gyulakuta, Romania. We will provide funding for an organist to play at one Sunday service each month, subscriptions to the Transylvanian Unitarian magazine, and a continued contribution toward the tuition for one of their members to attend high school. UCS has a longstanding partnership with this small congregation in the Transylvania region, through the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council. Remaining funds may be donated to our other partner church, the John Pounds Memorial Unitarian Church in Portsmouth, England for their work with disadvantaged children living in the Portsmouth area.

Nicaragua Service Trip for Adults – Would you like to spend a week in Nicaragua in July 2017? If the answer is "yes" or "maybe" please contact Janet Schmidt (icscoch@gmail.com). Several people have already expressed interest, but we need at least 6 people to confirm by November. We will be working with FNE international (fneinternational.org) on house construction and other activities, which can be planned according to the interests of our group.

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, Hannafords, Big Y and a few remaining cards for Roche Bros., 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:

Sunday, September 18th, 11:30 AM – Lunchmaking for MainSpring House (featuring peanut-free WOWBUTTER) Tuesday, September 20th, 7:00 PM – Meeting of the Social Justice Steering Committee Sunday, October 2nd, 10:30 AM – Social Justice Sunday Worship Service with guest speakers from EMIT (End Mass Incarceration Together)



Spectra Pipeline Update

This is no time to let down our guard against the Access Northeast proposal or Governor Baker's support for new fossil fuel infrastructure. The Supreme Judicial Court ruling prohibiting the proposed 'pipeline tax' on electrical ratepayers, is a MAJOR roadblock, but it has not killed the project. Here's a recent statement from Spectra to local officials:

The need for additional gas supply into New England has not changed despite the recent ruling of the MA Supreme Judicial Court (the "SJC"). Algonquin Gas, as the sponsor of the Access Northeast Project, is certainly disappointed with the SJC's decision. However, that decision only spoke to the state statutes, which regulate the generation and distribution of electricity in Massachusetts, and not to the need for additional supplies of natural gas into the Commonwealth. Thus, Algonquin Gas is in the process of evaluating the path forward to ensure that it is consistent with the Court's decision while also providing the natural gas infrastructure so urgently needed by New England's electric and gas consumers. We will communicate the results of that review as soon as it is completed.

Defying The Nazis: The Sharps' War

On Tuesday, September 20 at 9:00 pm. PBS will air a Ken Burns documentary about the Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp. The couple left his Unitarian parish in Wellesley (and their children with relatives) and twice went to Europe in the '30s to help rescue Jews and others from the Nazi onslaught. Their efforts in Czechoslovakia and France were recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem.



Did you know?

Below are some tips to help you communicate with other members and friends of the church...

- You can reach a specific committee chair by email by using the links located on http:// www.uusharon.org/about/committees/.
- You can also email all of the chairs together by sending an email to committeechairs@uusharon.org.
- You can also email the Board of Trustees by emailing board@uusharon.org.
- There are two church email lists, the listserve announcement list and the yahoo group email list. The listserve is used to send announcements about special services, meetings, changes in plans, and other church related business. The yahoo group is more informal and can be about personal social events, information sharing, and other non-church related activities. Find out more information here: http://www.uusharon.org/visit/email-lists/



September 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Teacher Orientation 7pm	2	3 Preschool Orientation and Team Meeting 9am
4 Worship Service 10:15am Al-Anon Meeting 7pm	5	6 Meditation Group 7:30pm	7 Grades 3/4 teaching team 7pm Book Group 7:30pm	8 Women's Group 7:30pm Men's Group 8pm	9	10 Let's Laugh Today 11am Bean Supper 5pm
11 Worship Service 10:15am Special Congregational Meeting 11:15am Al-Anon Meeting 7pm	12 Journey Group 7:30pm	13 Children's Choir 5:30pm Junior Youth Team Meeting 7pm Meditation Group	14 Board of Trustees 7:15pm	15 Grades 5/6 Team Meeting 7pm	16 Movie Night 7pm	17
Covenant Sharing Group 7pm 18 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Worship Committee 11:45am Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	19 Journey Group 7:30pm	7:30pm 20 Children's Choir	21 Caring Committee 7pm	22 Women's Group 7:30pm Men's Group 8pm	23 Newsletter Deadline 5pm Art in the Heart 7pm	24 5 Point Cluster of UU Churches 10am, First Parish Canton MMAS Theatre Group 7pm
25 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Writer's Group 11:45am Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	meeting 7pm	Meditation Group	28	29	30	

Please go to www.uusharon.org/calendars to reserve meeting space or to view the most up to date calendar.



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