

the chalice

Published by the
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5PM
Submit articles to
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DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Please note the time of each service (starting times will vary!)

December 4: 10 Family Service and 10:30am Adult Service
“Hope Grows Through Connection”

At this post election time there is a need to renew our sense of hope. December is traditionally a season of hope. We will focus on how hope grows through making healthy connections with others.

December 11: One Service only starting at 10:30am
“Revels”

Children lead the congregation in a joyful, meditative exploration of the special meanings in many stories of this holiday season through chant, movement, monumental art, shadow theatre, and olfactory meditation. A feast for the senses!

December 18: 10am Family Service and 10:30am Adult Service
“Christmas and the Human Jesus”

Unitarians have approached Jesus as a human being and not as a divine savior. This service will explore why Unitarians have cherished the moral and spiritual message of the human Jesus.

December 21, Wednesday, 7pm:
CHOIR SOLSTICE SERVICE

This is one of the most moving services of our entire year. Our church choir will lead us in a celebration of the winter solstice. Through music, readings, and the play between dark and light, we will enter into the heart of this ancient earth based spiritual passage.

December 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

There will be three Christmas Eve services: **4:30pm, 6pm, and 7:30pm.** Each will include the same traditional Christmas Eve candle lighting ritual. The 7:30pm service will be smaller and more spiritually contemplative. Our Christmas Eve services, held in our historic meetinghouse, are beautiful and for many an important moment in their holiday season.

December 25: There will be **no service** on Sunday December 25TH.

January 1: One Service Only at 10:30am
“Time, Change, and Timelessness”

We will explore the concept of time and change and how it relates to our daily life. We will be joined by UU's from our 5 Point Cluster of UU congregations.

From the Minister

The election of Donald Trump as President has evoked deep concerns. I find his selection of Steve Bannon as his “Chief White House Strategist”, with his ties to right wing groups, troubling. At the same time we have to come together as a nation and listen to “the other side” with respect and consideration.

We need each other. I encourage you to talk about how you feel and what you think. Have a voice! Then find ways to stand up for the values which we cherish. In the words of Justice Sonia Sotomayor: “We cannot afford despair. We cannot afford to give up on pursuing the values that we and others have fought so hard to achieve.”

December is a time of hope. But notice that each of the December stories includes deep struggle. Hanukkah is the struggle for freedom against oppression, Christmas is the birth of a baby who is homeless and under threat, and Solstice comes at the darkest time of the year. Yet each of these stories contains the light of unquenchable hope! If we keep the light of loving kindness and hope at the center, then we will be constructive shapers of the future.

-Jim Robinson



Have you ever dreamt of being an elf? The Gifts for Kids program matches sponsors with children in need for holiday gift giving. Children identified by human service providers in twelve surrounding communities receive holiday gifts through your generosity.

Please become a sponsor or volunteer at a collection site and help spread the word. If you would still like to help, please consider making a donation of cash, gift cards, new clothing or unopened toys. Please sign up in the Vestry.

You will be given the first name, ID #, age, clothing size, and gift preferences or needs of a child. Place new, unwrapped gifts in a securely sealed sturdy plastic bag. Please include a tag with the child's name and ID # inside the bag and tape a second ID tag to the outside of the bag. Donations of wrapping paper and tape are appreciated.

Drop-off dates and sites:

SHARON: Unitarian Church vestry pantry on Sunday, December 11th.

WALPOLE: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 4:00 - 6:00 pm
VFW Post #5188 at 33 Robbins Road, off Rt. 27 (next to Johnson Middle School)

Call 508-641-2421 to speak to a GFK volunteer at the drop-off site

SHARON: Thursday, December 15, 2016 4:00 - 6:00 pm

O'Connell Hall, next to Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 59 Cottage Street

Call 508-641-2421 to speak to a GFK volunteer at the drop-off site

Thanks so much for your assistance.

December in Religious Education

Revels is just around the corner on December 11th and all of our RE classes are busy enjoying the traditions and preparations that accompany our annual celebration.

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** children are getting ready to share the story associated with their barn and the animals they've created.

The **Grade 1-2** students are putting the finishing touches on an art project that will illuminate the congregation about the solstice.

The **Grade 3-4** class is rehearsing the Hanukkah and Yule traditions they plan to share with the congregation.

The **Grade 5-6** group is rehearsing their shadow puppet rendition of an Italian Folktale.

And the **Grade 7-8** students are completing their preparations to lead the Santa Lucia ceremony.

On December 18th the RE groups will come together during our regular RE class time for a special session.

We will have our very own celebration of Yule including dancing!

Please note that there will be **no RE classes on December 25th and January 1st**. Regular classes will resume on January 8th.

Happy and healthy holidays to all!

Revels rehearsal schedule

Children and youth will have their first opportunity to practice leading worship in the sanctuary on **Sunday, December 4**, during coffee hour. The goal of this rehearsal is for all participants to feel comfortable in their roles as worship leaders. Knowing what to carry and where to stand helps children rise to the occasion and enjoy this responsibility.

In many ways, it will be like any other Sunday. Parents are asked to pick up their children after worship ends and to supervise their children during coffee hour. What will be different is that, starting at 11:40 am, groups of children will be asked to gather in the sanctuary at 10-15 minute intervals to practice their portion of the Revels worship service. Parents can remain at coffee hour. Teachers will return their children to the vestry once their part of rehearsal has concluded.

The second rehearsal will be on **Sunday, December 11**, at 9 am (except preschool-Kindergarten, who can arrive at 9:30). Parents of children younger than Grade 3 are encouraged to accompany their children to their classrooms for free play when they are not needed in rehearsal.

What will happen at Revels?

Grades 3-4 will welcome us in with Yuletide spirit and encourage us to explore the holidays with our sense of smell.

Grades 1-2 will offer their monumental art to help us deepen our appreciation of our very special relationship with the sun.

Grades 5-6 will share a shadow theatre telling of the Italian story, "La Befana and the Royal Child of Light."

Grades 3-4 will lead us in the lighting of a menorah.

Grades 1-2 will share a procession of their special animals into the barn, where the animals will gather under the star with the baby.

Grades 7-8 will lead our Santa Lucia ceremony.

Each of us will have the opportunity to reflect on where we find light within and around ourselves and how we can spread that light in the world.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Grades 5-6

Parents of 5th and 6th graders are encouraged to mark your calendars for the official opening of the *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) for Grades 5-6 program on **Sunday, January 8**. Your participation (and that of your 5th/6th grader) is required in this Parent-Child Orientation in order for your child to participate in the eight-session OWL program.

The Orientation runs from 12:30 until 3 pm. A lunch of soup, bread, and fruit (along with WOW! Butter sandwiches) will be provided at noon (free of charge). Fun care for siblings will be also available free of charge – so that all parents can attend the orientation if they wish.

If you have a question or concern, please contact Louise Marcoux.

December Programs

Pot Luck Supper on Friday December 2 at 6pm. Bring a dish and enjoy the company.



Conversations at the Meetinghouse - Friday, December 2, 2016, 7pm
“Blue Sky for All –
Reflections from columnist, author, and Sharon resident Rumni Saha.”

The book by Rumni Saha is entitled “Blue Sky for All: A Book of Cooking and Compassion.” Rumni is a regular contributor to the widely read Huffington Post on-line site. She is a special needs teacher in the Canton Public School System. Rumni will read passages from her book and expand on them from her life experience.

Book Group on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30pm to discuss “Flight Behavior” by Barbara Kingsolver.

Movie Night on Friday, Dec. 9, 7pm we will view and discuss the movie classic “It’s a Wonderful Life”, directed by Frank Capra and starring James Stewart.

Let’s Laugh Today on Saturday, December 10, 11am-12 noon – Enjoy this unique exercise of simulated laughter combined with gentle breathing that brings more oxygen to the body's cells. 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 your water bottle and at least one canned good for the Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry. New laughs are always welcomed! See www.letslaughtoday.com for more information.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 10th, 5-7 pm

Warm up your holiday spirit by joining families and friends at the congregation's annual pot-luck social from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, in the vestry.

Bring a favorite dish to share, whether an appetizer, salad, main course or dessert -- through the miracle of community, there's always enough of everything -- and the Membership Committee provides the setting for the casual, all-ages event..

See you there!

Writer’s Group meets on Sunday, December 11, 12pm in the library.

Meditation Group meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

Men’s Support Group meets on Thursday Dec. 8 at 8pm.

Women’s Support Group meets on Thursday Dec. 8 at 7:30pm.

Children’s Choir rehearses on Tuesday at 5:30pm and the **Adult Choir** rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm and Sunday mornings at 9:30pm. New voices always welcome!

Art in the Heart meets Friday, December 30 at 7pm in the Vestry.

Not Just Another Coffee House



Saturday, December 17, 7pm to 9pm
Will McMillan
An Evening of Cabaret

Come join us for a holiday cabaret, featuring cabaret singer Will McMillan and our own Mel Springer leading us in holiday singing. The vestry will be arranged with cabaret style seating with tables, where we can enjoy our home made desserts and fair trade beverages.



Holiday Choral Concert

Celebrate the holiday season and come listen to your friends sing familiar tunes like Handel's Hallelujah Chorus from the Messiah. Forbesy Russel, Dan Huse, Beth and Rory McGregor welcome you to join us on Saturday eve, Dec 10th at 7:30pm or Sunday afternoon Dec 11th at 2:30pm. Location is St Mark's Episcopal Church in Foxboro (adjacent to the high school entrance). A new piece that you may not be familiar with, John Rutter's Magnificat, will truly impress. See any of us for tickets or just show up at the door.

News From...

Our Partner Church in Portsmouth!



Helen Cato, the liaison from the John Pounds church in Portsmouth, returned home to England on the 8th after a month long trip to the U.S.A. She visited many different places, including our church where she shared postcards from England with us.

Fun Fact: Did you know that John Pounds, our partner church's namesake, carried simple food items like baked potatoes to attract children to his small school?

In the tradition of John Pounds, the John Pounds Church is hosting a Christmas Day luncheon for anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day. They are also supporting the victims of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti for their October offertory.

Circle Suppers



Church members and friends who want to participate in adult Circle Suppers in 2017 should sign up by Friday, Dec. 23 by contacting Allison Jones. If you signed up in October, you do not need to submit your name again. Circle Suppers are held the second Saturday of the month from January through May. Upcoming dates are January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, and May 13.

Send Allison the dates you wish to participate, the number of guests you can accommodate, the names of the hosts, phone number, street address and email address. Interested people can also sign up as Alternates, who may be called when hosts are seeking last-minute additional guests. Alternates do not host dinners.

If you need babysitting in order to attend a Circle Supper, we can recommend an active youth member of UCS who is great with kids. Contact Jim Robinson at RevRobinson@uusharon.org.

SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES - DECEMBER 2016

Clothing Drive: Thanks to all who donated items for The Family Center in Brockton this past month. We are working on plans for another clothing drive – stay tuned!

Nicaragua Service Trip for Adults – Several people (adults of all ages) have expressed interest in traveling to Chacraseca, Nicaragua July 15-25, 2017 with FNE International (fneinternational.org) to work in solidarity with the people of Chacraseca, a large rural community outside of the Pacific coastal city of Leon. On November 14, we met with FNEI's Michael Cipoletti and discussed possible projects we could work on there, including house construction, gardening, and visiting schools to meet with teachers and students. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2017 at church. At that time, if there are at least six people committed to participating, it's a go! Contact Janet Schmidt (jescoch@gmail.com) for more information.

Brown Envelope Update: We raised \$1600 in the month of October for the New Start Project (newstartproject.org). November Brown Envelope offerings will support the Syrian American Medical Society (www.sams-usa.net). In December, we will raise funds to support the food pantries in Sharon-Stoughton, Canton, Foxboro, Norwood, and Walpole. Christmas Eve offerings will support the residents of MainSpring House in the form of supermarket gift cards for them to use when they move from the shelter.

2016-17 UUA Common Read: There are several copies of *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement* in our church library and in the Vestry during coffee hour. It includes a timely analysis of how to build alliances for the common good from groups with disparate agendas. We will be organizing discussions (possibly in collaboration with one or more churches in our Five Points Cluster) and more in early 2017, but you are encouraged to borrow a copy any time. You can also purchase your own copy through Beacon Press (www.beacon.org).

Social Justice Committee Meets Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 PM: 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.

Individual Opportunities for Social Justice Updates and Actions:

- **UU Mass Action** - Sign up to receive updates from the state action network organizing and mobilizing 140 UU congregations and 20,000 UU's around issues of social justice. Go to uumassaction.org and click on *About Us* on the home page to get to the sign-up link.
- **Become a UCS Social Justice Change Agent** – Receive monthly email alerts about opportunities to act on time-critical social justice issues, primarily by contacting state and federal legislators. To participate, please email Kari Thostenson at kjhoste@gmail.com.

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, and +/-5% of the value stays with the church to help fund our social justice projects in support of people who experience food and housing insecurity locally and beyond.

Upcoming Dates:

-Sunday, December 11, 11:30 AM – Lunchmaking for MainSpring House (with peanut-free, dairy-free WOWBUTTER)

-Tuesday, December 13, 7:00-8:30 PM – Social Justice Committee Meeting

Gifts for Kids Drop-Off Options

-Sunday, December 11 – UCS Vestry

-Tuesday, December 13, 2016 4:00 – 6:00 PM - VFW Post #5188 at 33 Robbins Road, off Rt. 27 (next to Johnson Middle School), Walpole

-Thursday, December 15, 2016 4:00 – 6:00 PM - O'Connell Hall, next to Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 59 Cottage Street, Sharon

December 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Pot Luck Supper 6pm Conversations at the Meetinghouse 7pm	3 Committee Chairs 9am
4 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Membership Committee 11:45am Senior Youth Group 5pm Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	5 Women's Group I (Closed Grp) 7:30pm	6 Children's Choir 5:30pm Meditation Group 7:30pm	7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Book Group 7:30pm	8 Second Women's Group 7:30pm Men's Group 8pm	9 Movie Night 7pm	10 Let's Laugh Today 11am Holiday Party 5pm
11 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Writers Group 12pm Senior Youth Group 5pm Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	12	13 Children's Choir 5:30pm Social Justice Committee 7pm Meditation Group 7:30pm	14 Board of Trustees 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	15	16	17 Coffee House 7pm
18 Worship Service 10:15am Senior Youth Group 5pm Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	19 RE Committee Meeting 7pm	20 Meditation Group 7:30pm	21 Choir Solstice Service 7pm	22	23 Newsletter Deadline 5pm	24 Christmas Eve Services 4:30pm, 6pm, 7:30pm
25	26	27 Meditation Group 7:30pm	28 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	29	30 Art in the Heart 7pm	31

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



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*A Welcoming
Congregation of
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