

the chalice

Published by the
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*A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH
5PM
Submit articles to
newsletter@uusharon.org

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

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

March 5: When “Spiritual But Not Religious” Is Not Enough

We are pleased to welcome Reverend Michael Walker as our guest preacher. Rev. Walker has had a distinguished career serving in UU churches and retreat centers and is currently serving our UU Church in Harrisburg, PA. The theme of his sermon is community and the support system that it provides.

March 12: Staying Strong Through Change

The Unitarian Church of Sharon is moving into a time of major change. Our nation is going through a time of major change. We will explore how to remain centered and strong through times of change. In this way, we can help direct change through positive values. Meg Dussault and Jim Robinson will be speaking.

March 19: Inner and Outer Peace

Franchesca D’Abramo and Jim Robinson will help us explore the value of peace, from both inner and outer perspectives. What is genuine peace and how do we work for it? Franchesca has a post graduate degree in Peace Studies.

March 26: Credo Sunday

Our annual Credo service is always a special Sunday. This year, Brad Larson and Andrea Pannone will share with us their core values and beliefs and how they came to them. Then you will be encouraged to think about some of your core values and beliefs.

From the Minister

Retirement and Transition

My retirement from full time ministry is coming soon: my last service is May 26th. My wife and I will remain living in Sharon. After June 1st, I must follow the UUA ministerial guidelines about how I can and cannot relate with members of the Unitarian Church of Sharon. I listed these guidelines in last month's Chalice. In retirement, I look forward to three things: 1. More time with family; 2. More focus on my personal spiritual practice; and 3. Volunteering to help in another UU congregation.

I quietly passed the word about my desire to help, up to ten hours a week, another UU congregation. The Board of Trustees at the Foxborough Universalist Church expressed interest. We have agreed upon a Covenant together, which was shown to the Regional Office of the UUA and which the Foxborough congregation voted unanimously to accept. Starting next September I will work with the Foxborough Universalist Church. In return for my services, they have pledged to work to repair their beloved church building and to grow in membership.

Meanwhile, the Ministerial Search Committee at UCS continues their work. It is an excellent committee. They will recommend to our Board of Trustees an Interim Minister by the end of May, who will begin around August 1st. There are many capable UU Ministers who like doing interim ministry.

This is a time of change for our beloved spiritual community. It is important to stay strong and committed during times of change. That is the theme of our annual financial stewardship drive, which will be held this month. I encourage you to be generous so the Unitarian Church of Sharon remains strong and healthy.

Jim Robinson

From the Director of Religious Education

Telling it like it is

Did you know that every week, four members of this congregation prepare and share a story with children? Three of them tell a story without a picture book.

Religious education leans heavily on stories: wisdom stories from many traditions, folk tales, accounts of men, women, and children who have stood up and spoken truth to power. While powerful and potentially thought-provoking, the stories are not necessarily entertaining in the standard sense of the word. Which puts the burden on the storyteller: how can I make this engaging for the children I am working with?

I've asked master storyteller Cindy Rivka Marshall to join us on Sunday, March 12, to teach some of the techniques she uses to keep her storytelling fresh and engaging. Cindy teaches through active play – every participant is engaged in exercises that free up creativity and playfulness. Nobody is put on the spot. Storytelling becomes a full-body sport – incorporating motion, gestures, stances, facial expressions. Lots of laughter and some “aha” moments along the way.

I can say this from personal experience. Eight years ago, I came away from my first workshop with Cindy with a bag of tricks which I continue to use every week. But even better than the bag of tricks was the joy I encountered by playing with story. Cindy helped me discover what I found fun in storytelling. It's different for different people, I know. But I'm confident that she can help each of us make our storytelling more fun – both for us and for the people we share our stories with.

I hope to see you at the workshop/playshop!

Louise

Religious Education News

March in Religious Education

Some special friends will be joining the **Preschool-Kindergarten** children this month; teddy bears! The furry friends will assist the children in games and activities that explore friendship, helping others, feeling afraid and saying goodbye.

Our **Grade 1-2** children will recap their visit to the Islamic Center of New England, learn more about Islam and hear stories of Mohamed. The sessions focus on connections to Unitarian Universalism, and the importance of the faith home and being good neighbors. The class will also spend some time preparing for RE Sunday which is in April.

The **Grade 3-4** students will explore the Golden Rule and helping others as they hear the Christian story of the Good Samaritan. The class will have the opportunity to experience the benefits of being generous, and they will also discuss the ideas of treading softly on the earth and the interconnectedness of all things. The students will begin preparing for RE Sunday as well.

Taking action will be the main theme in the **Grade 5-6** sessions. The students will hear about two boys who fought bullying at school, and learn how one's heart can lead you to good actions. They will explore the topic of climate change while learning that taking just one step, even when a problem seems to have no clear solution, can still lead to change. The students will also hear a story about a church that tried to save a member from deportation in a session that promotes the importance of reaching out and sharing your passion and enthusiasm for an issue.

The theme for the **Grade 7-8 OWL** class this month will be responsible sexual behavior. The class will also attend the Credo service at month's end.

Making Storytelling Fun!

A workshop/playshop for RE volunteers (and others who want to have more fun telling stories)

Featuring master storyteller,
Cindy Rivka Marshall

Sunday, March 12 1-3 pm

Unitarian Church of Sharon
Sign up on the RE bulletin board in the vestry.
Childcare provided at no charge.



Our Grades 1-2 Religious Education Class has been learning about how to be good neighbors. In response to news that our neighbors at the Islamic Center of New England has received hate mail, the children visited the center and brought a card they made saying they are glad we are neighbors.

March Programs

March 1, Wednesday, 7:30pm: **Book Discussion Group.** We will discuss *“The Underground Railroad”* by Colson Whitehead.

Adult Choir is always open for new voices. The choir rehearses Wed. evenings at 7:30 and Sunday mornings at 9:15 – but you can join the choir without attending all the rehearsals!

March 3, Friday, 6pm: **Potluck Supper** – bring a dish and enjoy the company



Conversations at the Meetinghouse

Friday, March. 3, 7pm

“Ward’s Berry Farm: A Conversation with Jim Ward”

Ward’s Berry Farm is a family farm located in Sharon. Brothers Jim and Bob Ward have run the farm since 1982 offering the finest quality fresh picked fruits and vegetables. These along with Ward’s family recipes, pick your own fruit, hayrides, garden plants have made Ward’s a destination for Sharon residents and the environs. Learn all about Ward’s Berry Farm from Jim Ward.

March 4, Saturday, 4pm-5:30pm: **The Third Reconstruction book discussion**

Join us in our third and final session discussing Rev. William Barber’s guide to building a movement to overcome the politics of fear and division. This session will focus on “Building Fusion Coalitions.” Come along even if you have not attended the previous two sessions or even if you had not finished reading the book. We want your ideas as we work to build progressive coalitions.

Covenant Sharing Groups – Covenant Sharing Groups are small groups of UCS members and friends who share on core moral and spiritual themes. The groups use specific sharing guidelines to ensure that the conversations remain respectful and contemplative. If you would like to join one of our groups, contact Jim Robinson at revrobinson@uusharon.org.

Children’s Choir is always open to new voices. The choir rehearses each Tuesday, 5:30-6:30, at church with pizza included.

March 10, Friday, 7pm: **Movie Night** – we will view and discuss the documentary *“13th”*, which is about the 13th amendment and is nominated for an Oscar this year. The popcorn is free!

Let’s Laugh Today: Saturday March 11, 11am -12noon– Free. 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 laughers are always welcomed! See www.letslaughtoday.com for more information.

Women’s Support Group – If you would like to join our on-going women’s support group contact Kathleen at k.guilday@comcast.net.

Men’s Support Group – If you would like to join our on-going men’s support group contact Jim at revrobinson@uusharon.org.

Meditation Group meets every Tuesday evening, 7:30-8:30pm, and is always open to new members.

The Art Wall Display in the vestry, for the months of March and April, is by Kate Parker O’Toole and Mare Parker O’Toole.

(Continued on page 5)

March Programs, continued



Not Just Another Coffee House

Saturday, March 18 at 7pm

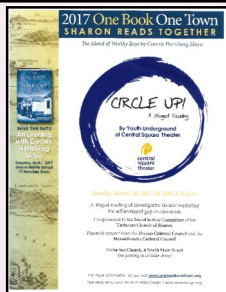
The KC Moaners: Jug Band Music at its Finest!

Drawing on old time blues, jazz, jug, and folk sources, this Rhode Island band blends the traditional (fiddle, guitar, banjo, harmonica, mandolin, ukulele) and non-traditional (kazoo, jug, washboard, washtub and more) instrumentation to create a free wheeling, foot stomping, rollicking good time. They recreate the jug band sound that was popular in the 1920's and 1930's in Memphis and Louisville and which electrifies a room with its energy and fun. And, of course, you can also enjoy our home made desserts and Fair Trade beverages. Admission: \$15 or whatever you can afford that evening. Childcare is provided.

March 24, Friday, 7pm: **Art in the Heart:** Join 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 Applesseed 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!



2 more Theatre Nights at MMAS this season: ***Picasso at the Lapin Agile*** by Steve Martin on 3/25 and the ***Great American Trailer Park Musical*** on 4/29. If we have enough people the evening will start at 7:00pm with a potluck reception and the show starts at 8:00pm. The ticket price is \$26.00pp. We welcome any UU members and friends to join us for an evening of socializing and great entertainment. Please contact Pat McDougal if interested.



A Staged Reading: **CIRCLE UP!**

On Sunday, March 26, 2pm at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, the Youth Underground of Central Square Theatre will present a staged reading of investigative theater exploring the achievement gap in education. The event is sponsored by the Sharon One Book One Town program, with financial support from the Sharon Cultural Council and the MA Cultural Council, and is co-sponsored by our UCS social justice committee. This is a dynamic presentation highlighting injustice in our educational system.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

APRIL 21-22, 2017 in WOBURN, MA



Your New England Region UUA is bringing you a unique opportunity to gather with New England Unitarian Universalists for a celebration of spirit. Worship with acclaimed liturgist-singer-music director Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout and UU/UCC preacher Rev. Robin Bartlett. Sing with composer-musician-song leader Dr. Ysaye Barnwell. Attend a UUA Presidential Candidates Forum. Meet and greet your New England Region UUA staff, and choose from three workshops being offered. **REGISTER:** new-england.eventbrite.com

Register by February 28 for Early Bird Pricing. Youth are welcome to participate; special rate for ages 12-19. Free child care available for ages 11 and

Five Points Cluster Workshop

An Invitation to Growth: Building Our Churches Through Reaching Out

Saturday, March 18, 2017 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM

First Parish Unitarian Universalist, 1508 Washington Street, Canton
Free Workshop – Includes light breakfast and lunch

**Presenter: Christana Wille McKnight
Minister, First Parish Church in Taunton**

Presentations

**The Culture of Invitation - Bringing People In
The Culture of Yes - Accommodating New Members and
Continuing to Grow**

About the Presenter

Christana Wille McKnight's experiences in ministry have been shaped by the years she has spent in working in different Unitarian Universalist churches and organizations, as well as her five years as a long-term care and hospice chaplain. Since coming to First Parish in Taunton in April 2012, Christana has overseen significant growth and rejuvenation in the congregation, and looks forward to continued vitality and joy in their community.

Register by Saturday, March 11

Go to <http://whoozin.com/W4G-CYX-49U4>

Preregistration for childcare is required.

News From...

Our Partner Church in Portsmouth!



Recently, the John Pounds Church has been given a revised marriage license, which allows them to offer marriage ceremonies to same-sex couples. This milestone is a large victory in the quest for equality.

Another triumph that the John Pounds Church achieved was raising £81.00 to be given to the Breast Cancer Support Group at the Alexandria Hospital in Portsmouth. They enjoyed a meal and read the poem Address to Haggis by Robert Burns.

Fun Fact: Haggis is a meal made out of a sheep's stomach stuffed with the sheep's organs and other ingredients. Since sheep's lungs are considered inedible in the U.S, we would not be able to partake in that Scottish delicacy. Luckily for adventurous eaters, that law may be overturned in the near future.

Meetinghouse Grounds Updates

Going...Going....

The 10x12 church shed can be yours. The plan is to replace it with a larger one. The old one still has some life. If interested, contact Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks.

Spring into Gardening

The Meetinghouse Grounds are a growing sanctuary for wildlife. But only relatively recently. The 2009 addition to the Meetinghouse required us to gladly say goodbye to an invasive grove of Norway Maple saplings. Not much else existed but lawn. Most of our new plants are Native plants in the form of wildflowers, trees, shrubs and perennials ...even some weeds...helping to restore a native habitat, a wildlife sanctuary, in an era when habitat loss threatens wildlife. We do what we can, yes?

Last year we had 7 welcome volunteers tending small sections of this garden. Small signs signify the areas. They kept it weeded, mulched and trimmed. We are looking to expand the Garden Tending Program with more volunteers this year. You could volunteer as a family, double up with another, or just volunteer as one. All welcome. You can tend as large or small an area as you like. We supply the mulch and tools, you supply the loving tending. Please contact, Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks. Hope to see you in the garden enjoying the over 600 bulbs planted in the fall. Thank you to all the gardeners.

SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES - MARCH 2017

Book Discussions on the UUA Common Read: *The Third Reconstruction* by Reverend William Barber. Our first session, "Moral Dissent" (Feb. 18) was an engaging and thoughtful discussion where our participants quoted from the book, shared their impressions of the strategic approach Reverend Barber brings to his work as a preacher, and an organizer in North Carolina, and how participants had varying levels of comfort/discomfort with the Biblical references. Reflections were made about times when we experienced defeat when we stood up for our own values, how this work is work for the long haul, and how our times are reminiscent of the Justice Work of the 1960's. Our second session, "Leadership" (Feb. 26, noon - 1:30) focused on how "directly affected people are the best moral witnesses" of their own experiences and how this is a movement of "raising up leaders" rather than "recruiting followers".

Our third session, "Building Fusion Coalitions" (March 4, 4:00 - 5:30) brings us through the history of the First, Second, and now the Third Reconstruction toward action, the "Fourteen Steps Forward Together." ALL ARE WELCOME.

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**UU Mass Action Advocacy Day 2017** will be on Tuesday, April 11, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM at the Arlington Street Church in Boston and the State House. Go to the UU Mass Action website ([uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)) for more information about this important opportunity for action and to register before March 20<sup>th</sup> for \$25 (\$35 after that date).

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Brown Envelope Update: Our February Brown Envelope collections will support Centro Presente's work (cpresente.org) promoting immigrant rights, workers rights, and civic engagement. Brown Envelope funds collected in March will go to the Massachusetts chapter of CAIR, the Council on Islamic-American Relations (cairma.org). CAIR works to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote social justice and mutual understanding. Next month's Chalice will include an update on the amounts raised through Brown Envelope collections over the past few months. Thanks to all for your generosity!

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**Supporting Immigrants:** The Social Justice Committee has begun to discuss how our church might become involved in efforts to provide sanctuary for immigrants. Some members participated, along with people from all across the country, in an informational UUA webinar on the topic. We will continue to gather information and discuss this at future committee meetings. Please join the discussion if this issue is important to you.

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Social Justice Committee Meets Sunday, March 19 at 12 noon: We had a well-attended meeting on Sunday, February 12 at noon, even as snow was falling outside, so we decided to schedule another after-church meeting. All are welcome to participate as 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.

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(Continued on page 8)

## ***SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES - MARCH 2017, Continued***

*(Continued from page 7)*

**Come to the Social Justice Corner at Coffee Hour!** You can buy **Equal Exchange** fair trade coffees, chocolates and other items. Plan to buy some **Shopping for Justice** supermarket gift cards, which we have 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. And, you can meet February featured Vestry Gallery artist **Kari Thostenson** and buy **note cards** created with her beautiful photographic images, with all profits supporting the social justice projects of the church.

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### **Join us at Green Day! Saturday, May 6th**

Join the Sustainable Sharon Coalition at their annual Green Day Street Festival, to be held on Saturday, May 6 from 12 noon–4 PM in Sharon Center. (In the event of rain, festivities will be held in the great hall of the Congregational Church).

The UCS Social Justice Committee will host **ELECTRONICS RECYCLING** again this year in our Church parking lot. Boy Scouts will be available to take your old computers, printers, phones, e-readers and other items for proper disposal and recycling.

Enjoy a free, family-friendly afternoon, and discover how you can make your home and your town a more sustainable place to live!

#### **Featuring:**

- Local Environmental Organizations
- Solar & Renewable Energy Exhibitors
- Recycling
- Green Farming
- Water Conservation
- Sustainable Transportation
- Crafts
- Kids' Activities
- Live Music / Free Food

If you wish to volunteer or set up a table, please contact Silas Fyler at [greenday@sustainables Sharon.org](mailto:greenday@sustainables Sharon.org)

Learn more about the Sustainable Sharon Coalition at [www.sustainables Sharon.org](http://www.sustainables Sharon.org)

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### **Upcoming Dates:**

- Sunday, March 4, 4:00 – 5:30 PM – Discussion of Third Reconstruction (Program A/B)
- Sunday, March 12, 11:30 AM – Lunchmaking for MainSpring House (Vestry)
- Sunday, March 19, 12:00 – 1:30 PM– Social Justice Committee Meeting (Library)
- Monday, March 20 – Early Registration Deadline for UU Mass Action Advocacy Day
- Sunday, March 26, 2:00 – 3:00 PM – Circle Up! A Staged Reading (See page 5.)



# March 2017 Calendar

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Monday                                   | Tuesday                                                                                        | Wednesday                                                                        | Thursday                                             | Friday                                                             | Saturday                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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.                                                           |                                          |                                                                                                | 1<br>Book Group 7:30pm<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm                                 | 2                                                    | 3<br>Pot Luck Supper 6pm<br>Conversations at the Meeting-house 7pm | 4<br>Committee Chairs 9am<br>3rd Session-Book Discussion of "the "Third Reconstruction" 3pm |
| 5<br>Family Worship Service 10am<br>Worship Service 10:30am<br>Religious Education Classes 10:30am<br>Senior Youth Group 5pm<br>Covenant Sharing Group 7pm                                                          | 6<br>Women's Group I (Closed Grp) 7:30pm | 7<br>Children's Choir 5:30pm<br>Ministerial Search Committee 6:30pm<br>Meditation Group 7:30pm | 8<br>Board of Trustees 7:15pm<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm                          | 9<br>Second Women's Group 7:30pm<br>Men's Group 8pm  | 10<br>Movie Night 7pm                                              | 11<br>Let's Laugh Today 11am<br>Circle Suppers 6pm                                          |
| 12<br>Family Worship Service 10am<br>Worship Service 10:30am<br>Religious Education Classes 10:30am<br>Making Storytelling Fun! workshop/playshop 1pm<br>Senior Youth Group 5pm<br>Covenant Sharing Group 7pm       | 13                                       | 14<br>Children's Choir 5:30pm<br>Meditation Group 7:30pm                                       | 15<br>RE Committee Meeting 7pm<br>Caring Committee 7pm<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm | 16                                                   | 17                                                                 | 18<br>5 Point Cluster Workshop at Canton UU<br>Coffee House 7pm                             |
| 19<br>Family Worship Service 10am<br>Worship Service 10:30am<br>Religious Education Classes 10:30am<br>Social Justice committee 12pm<br>Writer's Group 12pm<br>Senior Youth Group 5pm<br>Covenant Sharing Group 7pm | 20                                       | 21<br>Children's Choir 5:30pm<br>Meditation Group 7:30pm                                       | 22<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm                                                     | 23<br>Second Women's Group 7:30pm<br>Men's Group 8pm | 24<br>Newsletter Deadline 5pm<br>Art in the Heart 7pm              | 25<br>MMAS Theatre Group 7pm                                                                |
| 26<br>Family Worship Service 10am<br>Worship Service 10:30am<br>Religious Education Classes 10:30am<br>Circle Up! 2pm<br>Senior Youth Group 5pm<br>Covenant Sharing Group 7pm                                       | 27                                       | 28<br>Children's Choir 5:30pm<br>Meditation Group 7:30pm                                       | 29<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm                                                     | 30                                                   | 31                                                                 |                                                                                             |



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*A Welcoming  
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FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES  
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

**781/784-3652**

SEND AN EMAIL TO

**ADMIN@UUSHARON.ORG**

OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT

**[www.uusharon.org](http://www.uusharon.org)**