

the choice

Published by the
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**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association**
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Wednesday, February 21st
Submit articles to
admin@uusharon.org

February 2018

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

Childcare provided

Sunday February 4: Butter, Beer and Brigid

10:00am Family Service

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

This morning, in honor of the pagan holiday of Imbolc, we look at the stories surrounding the Celtic Goddess/Irish Saint Brigid, who is honored on February 1, and reflect on abundance, generosity and belief.

Sunday February 11:

So, Why Aren't There More Black Unitarians in our Congregation?

10:00am Family Service

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

Discussions about race in our community and congregation are not easy. Our denomination calls on us to take this day to listen to the history of black Unitarians, what the denomination and congregations have lost due to that history, to strive to hear on a regular basis the feelings and input of our fellow members of color and to build a new way together. Dialogue will be part of the service. Led by UCS member Wilbur P. Edwards Jr.

Sunday February 18: Temptation, Distraction, Clarity and Grit

10:00am Family Service

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

Many Buddhists celebrate Nirvana Day on February 15, and this year the Christian liturgical season of Lent begins on February 14. This morning we look at the stories of the temptations faced by Jesus in the wilderness and by the Buddha under the Bodhi tree, and reflect on what it means to stay grounded in a chaotic time.

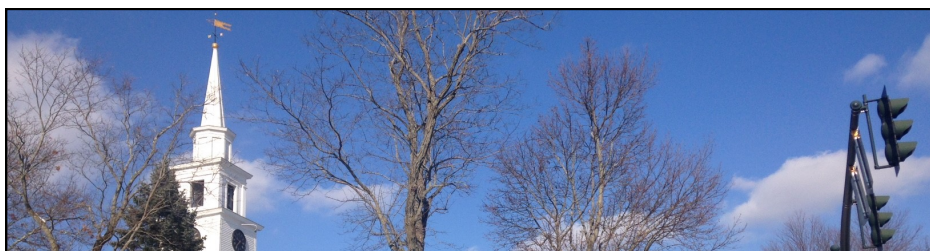
Sunday February 25: Deep Work

10:00am Family Service

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

What does it mean for us to live, work and connect deeply? Rev. Rebecca will explore the concept of deep work and offer ideas on how we can integrate this into our lives.

Reverend Rebecca Bryan is the Interim Senior Minister at First Parish in Brookline in Brookline, Mass.



From the Minister



February is Black History Month, and on February 11 we will be hearing the voices of some of our black UU siblings from around the UU world. As part of this service, USC's own Wilbur Edwards will share some of his thoughts on black experience within the UUA.

February is also a month many of us associate with the heart and with love because of the mid-month holiday known as Valentine's Day. This month - and continuing into early March - I will spend a few Sundays reflecting on belief and what it means to believe. The word "believe" comes from an old root that means to "belove" or "to give one's heart to."

On February 4, I'll share some of why I've "given my heart to" the Irish Saint/Celtic goddess Brigid, and I've been inspired by stories of her generosity and hospitality. On February 18, I'll share my reflections on some stories from both the Buddhist and Christian traditions, both of which have claimed parts of my heart. In early March, I'll reflect on what it means to be a "religious humanist" and on how we use "god" language. And in mid-March, you'll hear from a few members of the USC community as they share their own credos with the congregation.

St. Claire of Assisi once said, "We become what we love, and who we love shapes what we become." Throughout the next couple of months, I hope you, too, will join me in reflection on what you believe, what you "belove," and to what you give your hearts.

Imbolc blessings!

Rev. Wendy

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Thank you all those who help to maintain our church. We are very grateful to Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks, Jack Armstrong, Gare Reid, Doug Wilbur and Wilbur Edwards, all of whom put in many hours and overcame all obstacles to purchase and install a new, larger storage shed. In keeping with her quest for organization, Ellen is also heading a task force to rationalize storage in all the closets. If your group or committee has anything at all stored in the church, you should be represented on this group. Many thanks to Terry Fitzgerald for his hours gathering information and quotes on painting the church; to Paul Tuck for installing a new heater in the women's rest room; and to Gare for restoring the coat closet rack to an upright position.

A reminder: if your group or committee uses the vestry and/or kitchen on Friday or Saturday, we all appreciate your leaving the rooms in good condition for Sunday. This may require using the vacuum in the storage room opposite the kitchen and drying dishes and putting them back in the cupboards.

Submitted by Lindsay Drisko

From our Partner Church in Romania

Our Dear Friends,

I would like to greet You with great love in this year, in 2018. For us, Unitarians, this year is going to be an important year. The Hungarian Unitarian Congregation was born 450 years ago, when at Torda the parliament of the Transylvanian Principality on the initiative, proposal of the Unitarian bishop, Ferenc Dávid adjudges and enacts the religious freedom. For the first time in the world it was enacted here that nobody must be persecuted, bullied for their faith, belief. That law would be a giant step even in our often impatient world today, so we can imagine how important it was half a millennium ago.

In the terms of this anniversary we are planning some ceremonies in our congregation, too. I am going to send you photos about these ceremonies.

The scholarships and donations which were sent by You have arrived and we gave them to their places of destination. I would like to transmit the grateful thanks of those people who were nobly supported by You.

In the new year I am going to start to visit the families, then I have services on the Ecumenical Prayer Week. The main idea of this year was defined by the Christians from the Caribbean Island, and its message has a consonancy with the idea of the religious freedom. On the terms of this idea I am going to define my thoughts during my services.

With love,

**Rev. Tokés Lóránt,
Gyulakuta**



Winter Potluck and Games

Please join us for a Five Points Cluster Winter Potluck and Games hosted by Foxborough Universalist Church and First Parish Stoughton on February 24th at 5pm in First Parish Universalist Church.

To RSVP please go to:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080444a8a62da5fd0-winter>

All ages welcome! Bring a dish to share and games to play.

Elizabeth McGregor

Who has a voice?

UUA Bylaws change

We teach children that our fifth principle says: "every person deserves a voice and a vote in matters that concern them."

Every member of every UU congregation is eligible to become a delegate at our association's annual General Assembly (GA). Delegates get to vote on the business before the UUA -- about where our resources will be directed, about which issues we'll focus on, about who will preside over our Association. Every congregation is allowed a certain number of delegates. And every minister is given a delegate's credential as well.

Last spring, a difficult conversation was begun at the highest levels of the UUA about who could lead within our Association. One person in leadership stated that he believed that religious educators did not have the authority to be accepted as leaders -- that ministers were the appropriate choice. The conversations that followed -- about who can lead, about white supremacy culture within the UUA, and more -- have been painful and have helped people see old situations in new ways.

One surprise that came to light was that most religious educators are not eligible to serve as delegates at General Assembly -- and therefore could not vote last June on who would be the next president of the UUA. How could this be? What about our 5th principle??

There was a time that religious education directors (DREs) were members of their congregations, and were thereby eligible to be chosen as one of their congregation's delegates. Over the past 40 years, UU religious educators have sought to professionalize. One part of assuming a professional identity has involved stepping away from church membership in order to put service to the congregation's needs front and center. This change removed most DREs from the pool of delegates at GA. The UUA changed its bylaws to offer delegate status to professional religious educators who had achieved a "Master's level RE Credential". This credential, however, requires considerable time, effort, and expense to achieve -- it is awarded only to those at the very pinnacle of the profession. Most UUs didn't even notice that most

voices of professional religious educators were excluded from GA. Until last spring...

The professional association of UU religious educators (LREDA) is beginning a movement to include DREs' voices at GA. A change in the UUA's by-laws (about who can be a delegate) can be voted on at GA if at least 15 congregations request the same exact change. So LREDA approached congregations with a request to endorse a change of the by-laws which would allow all religious educators who are both serving a congregation and active members of LREDA (i.e. people like Louise Marcoux) to be given delegate status at GA. The goal is a vote on this change at GA 2018.

The UCS Board of Trustees received this request in January. They viewed it as a justice issue and a way of standing up for the congregation's values about religious education. The Unitarian Church of Sharon has long understood the importance of religious education to the health of this congregation and of our movement. Even when UCS was a small congregation, religious education was a priority. Over the years, the Board of Trustees has listened to its religious educators' counsel and budgeted resources so that the program -- and the congregation -- has grown and flourished. They believe that the UUA will benefit when the voices of DREs are included in the mix of delegates at GA. **Their vote was a unanimous yes.**

The Board has submitted this motion to the UUA. If at least 14 other congregations have submitted this same motion by February 1, there will be a vote this June at GA -- so that religious educators could have a voice and vote at GA 2019.

Submitted on behalf of the Board



Super Bowl Gathering at McGregor's

Join the party to watch our Patriots play in the Super Bowl on Sunday Feb 4 at 6pm. Game starts at 6:30pm. Place is the McGregor residence at 52 Upland Road. Park on Upland Road, Moose Hill Parkway, or at the Train Station. Do not park on Rte. 27. Bring something to share for the table. Beverages will be provided. Cover charge is \$5/person. Betting squares are available in the vestry at \$5 each. See you there. Call Rory at 508-400-4719 if you have questions about this annual celebratory tradition.



Our Committees

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee strives to encourage the congregation's growth and help newcomers deepen their involvement in the UCS.

We have around 190 members and influx of newcomers. Many of our visitors have heard about UCS through a friend or the local newspaper, or have seen our rainbow banner or website before they visit us. We put a lot of our energy into welcoming newcomers at our Sunday service, since that is typically their first contact with our congregation. We always have a Membership Committee member at the door, watching out for people who might be first-time visitors; we answer any questions they might have, and encourage them to stay after the service for our coffee hour. If they have children, we try to connect them with someone in the Religious Education (RE) program. We also ask them to fill out a brief visitors form and if they would like to receive our newsletter. Together with the Linda Cveckova, the Office Manager, we maintain the membership database. Regular visitors who want to join the congregation are asked to complete a membership application, which is submitted to the board of trustees for approval.

What seems to motivate the visitors to become members and what seems to keep our members engaged over many years? Interesting worship services including good music, strong RE classes, meaningful social justice work and good programming that offers the members a role on the multiple committees that keep things going. It is not just the membership committee, but the entire congregation has to play a role to provide opportunities for people to be active participants in the life of the church.

Our committee has two major rituals: we introduce new members to the congregation as part of a membership-book-signing ceremony during a regular service, and we organize an all-ages holiday potluck dinner early in December.

The Committee meets monthly, however we do not have a preset meeting day. The committee co-chairs are: Jean Zaniwski and Terry Fitzgerald. Members are: Lisa Yaransian, Kathy Farrell, Elaine Price, Peggy Moran, John O'Connor. If you would like to join our committee please contact Jean or Terry.

Terry Fitzgerald and Linda Cveckova

Volunteers Needed

Sign Up for Help on Sundays

There are several Sunday's where we do not have volunteers for coffee, flowers or greeting. Please consider signing up to get these important function filled!

To sign-up, click on the link below:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f49a5ae2f4-coffee>

We will also have a paper sign up circulating. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Zaniwski at zaniew@verizon.net.

Treasurer

Treasurer position opens July 1, 2018. Do you have a facility for working with numbers? Do you have the ability to learn a simple financial software package? (An experienced user will provide tutorials.) Would you consider working with a fine group of former treasurers and current Board members?

Please consider "giving" of your time in this important job as part of your church life. Call or e-mail Susan Allison of the Nominating Committee OR suggest a candidate, and your name as "nominator" will be kept confidential!

Covenant Group Two 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month

On the 2nd and 4th Sunday evening of each month, I participate in a group unlike any other in my busy life. My covenant group has become so important to me because this is where I can deeply explore my spiritual beliefs, my thoughts about God, my values, and share them with a group of friends. These have become very special friends, because they also want to explore their thoughts, beliefs, and feelings and figure out how to then integrate all that to live their best life. At every meeting, we come together to discuss a topic. We follow a specific covenant group format that allows everyone to speak without interruption or crosstalk. Our covenant group is different than the 1st and 3rd Sunday group because we specify that we all feel comfortable talking about God, whatever that means to each individual member. We now have two available spaces in our group for new members. If this sounds interesting to you, please let me or Wendy know, and come join us in sharing!

Laurie Wallace

Religious Education News

February in RE

This month our **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will explore the themes of listening, love, remembering and waiting. They will discover that listening and talking are ways of sharing, and they will create valentines and discuss how feeling loved brings people joy. They will also play a memory game, be encouraged to share their experiences and feelings about waiting, and create a dripping paint project.

The **Grade 1-2** group will be continuing their OWL curriculum. Their sessions will cover keeping their bodies healthy and safe, exploring all types of families and talking about the feelings associated with being a part of a family, especially when there is change. The class will join with the Grade 3-4 class on February 18th for a special joint RE lesson.

In addition to teaming up with the Grade 1-2 group on February 18th, the **Grade 3-4** students will visit the preschool-kindergarten children for a session that demonstrates that giving time and love are the most valuable gifts. Later in February the group will discuss the idea that our flaws are sometimes revealed to be beautiful and give us strength. They will also talk about gender stereotypes and try a role-playing activity.

The **Grade 5-6** group will continue to work on planning a social action project of their own design. The class will explore the topic of being true to oneself as they hear the story of Charles Darwin. They will discuss the idea that imperfections can be beautiful, and the group will join with the junior youth on February 18th for a joint session in which they'll create cards of caring for members of our community.

In addition to their joint session with Grade 5-6, the **Grade 7-8** students will have a busy month. They have been learning about Judaism and are preparing to visit Temple Sinai on February 11th. The group will then turn their studies to Islam at month's end.

Karen MacKinnon, RE Assistant

Calling all artists!

You are invited to share your enthusiasm for art, your creativity, and your talent with youth in grades 5-8 this winter and spring. The group has 5 Sundays dedicated to art projects (some already planned, some* which you could suggest a project if you wish) which require adult direction and support.

Dates: February 18, April 1*, April 15*, June 3, June 10.

Curious about sharing art with youth? Contact Louise Marcoux at dre@uusharon.org.

Youth Groups

Senior Youth Group

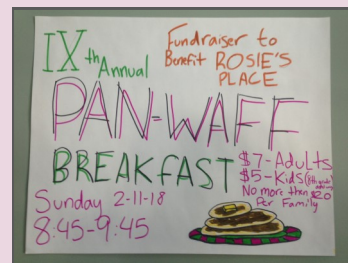
Upcoming Events!

SYG meets on Sundays from 5-7pm in the Vestry. Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 9-12 and folks are encouraged to bring friends! We've got several upcoming big events, including:



Annual Pancake Breakfast

fast - Sunday February 11th the Senior Youth will be holding a pancake breakfast before church worship as a fundraiser for service projects. Traditionally in the past money raised has gone towards serving a meal at Rosie's Place, a Boston based shelter for homeless women. Breakfast starts at 8:45am and costs \$7 per adult, \$5 per child, and maximum of \$20 per family. Please mark your calendar and join us!



Youth CONvention - From Saturday March 24th to Sunday March 25th the Senior Youth Group will be hosting a large CONvention for local UU Youth. Be aware that there will essentially be a youth take-over of church facilities during this event, so mark your calendars and plan meetings accordingly. CON will wrap up Sunday morning before worship and regular Sunday programming will otherwise take place as usually scheduled.

Junior Youth Fellowship Group

Had a blast doing group challenge games and puzzles at **Boda Borg** in Malden this past month in January. We will make another attempt at a sledding event in February and are currently working on a back-up activity plan in case the weather doesn't cooperate again. JYFG families can check their email for details. Additionally, mark your calendar for our March event scheduled for Friday March 9th when JYFG will be making their own chalices out of clay at a local art studio! JYFG meets once a month and is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in our congregation.

Have questions about our Senior and Junior youth programs? Interested in volunteering to help with the groups or have a student who might be interested in joining? Email our Youth Coordinator Chelsea Gould at yc@uusharon.org

Chelsea Gould, Youth Coordinator

Coming of Age in February

Tue, Feb 6, 7:30pm Youth

Tue, Feb 27, 7:30pm Youth and Mentors (a week later than usual to accommodate the February school vacation)

February Programs

Music and Arts

Adult Choir – Meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm in the vestry and Sunday mornings before service. New voices always welcome.

Art from the Heart meets every 4th Friday of the month, in the vestry. Art from the Heart is an evening of play, fun, creativity, and community. We will provide for you a variety of artistic medium under the guidance of Jean Fox. This is art without right or wrong, good or bad, better worse—rather it is art for everyone to enjoy. Hope to see you there!



Children's Choir

We love to hear our children singing! Children's choir welcomes all. Meets Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30pm in the vestry. Pizza included. Performing in church twice a month. Please note the choir does not meet when the school is out. Questions? Contact Forbesy at forbesyrussell@hotmail.com



MMAS Theatre Group

The next theater night at Mansfield Music and Arts Society is Saturday, **March 24**. Shakespeare's classic **The Tempest** tells the story of castaways brought to an island through a tempest created by the magician Prospero, who was exiled there with his daughter Miranda. In this contemporary retelling, audiences will experience Shakespearean plays as they were originally intended – through the expression of sound and movement.

Our make-our-own-pot-luck reception starts at 7:00pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. As always, we must have at least 16 attendees to have our reception before the show. Tickets are \$26.00 for non-members. The performance takes place at 377 North Main St. Mansfield.

The last performance for the rest of the year is:
Hair 4/28/18

If you would like to attend any of the shows please email me just to let me know and then send a check (separate checks for each show please) **made out to MMAS** to me at 40 Jordan Drive, Stoughton 02072. Guests and non UU members are always welcome. Please pass the word.

Pat McDougal

Not Just Another Coffee House

Aubrey and Elwood Atwater-Donnelly and Cathy Clasper-Torch

Saturday, February 17
7pm, doors open 6:30pm

Back by popular demand – Rhode Islands Treasure – The highly praised husband-wife duo blends gorgeous vocals with an astounding array of instruments including the mountain dulcimer, old-time banjo, tin whistle, guitar, mandolin, harmonica, limberjacks, feet and more. Also not to be missed are Atwater~Donnelly Trio shows where Aubrey and Elwood collaborate with Cathy Clasper-Torch on violin, cello and Chinese erhu.

[Atwater Donnelly website](#)
[Cath Clasper-Torch website](#)

During intermission enjoy our home made desserts and fair trade beverages.



Cathy Clasper-Torch



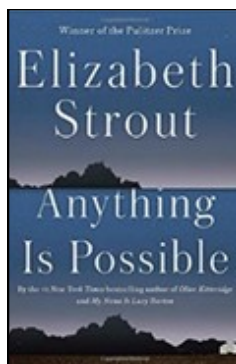
Elwood Donnelly and Aubrey Atwater, husband-wife duo

February Programs, continued

Interest and Discussion Groups

Book Group – Join us in the church library at 7pm on Wednesday, Feb 7th, when will discuss Elizabeth Strout's **Anything is Possible**, in which a cast of small-town characters copes with love and loss.

Everyone is welcome, whether or not you've finished the book. With rare exception, we meet at 7 on the first Wednesday of each month, in the church library.



Covenant Sharing Groups – Covenant Group One meets every first and third Sunday at 7pm. Covenant Group Two meets every second and fourth Sunday. To join Covenant Group Two contact Laurie Wallace. Covenant groups are small groups (between 8 and 12 members) who discuss core spiritual and ethical themes, using specific guidelines for sharing which ensure that the experience is safe for everyone involved.

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 Library. The group is now closed. If you would like to join, please contact Barbara.

Let's Laugh Today – in Sharon is on Saturday, February 10th. Bring the whole family and get your giggle on by attending a FREE Laughter Yoga session in Program Rooms A/B from 11am to noon on Saturday, February 10th (and every second Saturday of each month). Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Enjoy this unique exercise of simulated laughter combined with gentle breathing that brings more oxygen to the body's cells. This oxygen boost gives enhanced vitality, energy and a feeling of real well-being. Please bring your water bottle because laughing can be dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. If you have any questions, just call them at 508-660-2223 or e-mail billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com. PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY. New laughs are always welcomed! See more information and more opportunities to laugh at www.letslaughtoday.com.



Meditation Group—Join our circle of mindfulness meditation on Tuesday evenings at church at 7.30 PM. Return as your schedule permits, if you have been a part of the circle over the past few years. If you have not experienced the quieting of your mind, we encourage you to join us. For one hour we practice both sitting and walking meditation. Sometimes we lay out a special canvas labyrinth produced by one of our own youth groups. If you have questions, please arrive at 7:15 PM or contact Ray Wallace or Susan Allison.

Writer's Group – Meets on second Sunday of the month, at 12noon to 1pm, in the church library. Come share a poem or prose piece you have written with a supportive and interesting group. Or just come along to enjoy to writings and the conversations.

Support Groups

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

Men's Support Group - Meets on second and fourth Thursdays of the month, at 8pm in the church library. New men are always welcome to join.

Reiki Support Group - Meets every first Sunday of the month at 3pm. This is a closed group. Please call Laurie Wallace, if you have questions.

Women's Support Group – Meets on second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:30pm in the Program Space A/B. New women are always welcome to join.

Movie Night

Friday, February 9 7PM

The UCS Movie Group will be viewing "The Big Sick" - based on the real life courtship between Kumail Nanjani, Pakistan's born comedian and Emily V. Gordon. True love withstands the expectations of his Muslim family and a medical crisis. Popcorn is free.



Movie group meets every second Friday of the month at

SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES



Brown Envelope Update

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we collected \$1,250 in BE donations for five local food pantries (Sharon/Stoughton, Foxboro, Walpole, Norwood, and Canton) during the three Sunday morning services in December. (Interesting factoid: one pantry reports that our monetary donation allows them to purchase food in bulk from the Boston Food Bank, and that our \$250 equals 3.3 **tons** of supplies!) In addition, a total of \$1375 was collected during the offertory at the two Christmas Eve services, which was turned into grocery gift cards and donated to MainSpring House in Brockton.

In January, our BE funds will support UU Mass Action, whose director, Laura Wagner, was our pulpit guest on January 21.

The recipients of BE funds collected on three Sundays will be the Equal Justice Initiative (eji.org), an Alabama-based organization led by Bryan Stevenson, committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. (Stevenson's book *Just Mercy* was a recent UUA Common Read that we explored in detail.) During the BLUU service on February 11, donations will support a nationwide UUA fundraising effort on behalf of BLUU, with a possibility of one-to-one matching. See the Order of Service in February for details.

Social Justice Sunday January 21

Thank you to Laura Wagner, Executive Director of UUMass Action, for leading our service, sharing her personal story and bringing us information on the many ways our faith calls us to change the world. Here in Massachusetts, oppression, racism, mass incarceration, environmental injustice, immigrant criminalization, LGBTQI rights, economic injustice are all issues needing our response. Laura gave us many ways to work for justice in all of these areas. She spoke of intersectionality, ways UU Congregations and other organizations can come together to build unity and strength in working for justice. The UU Mass Action weekly newsletter gives current information on actions needing justice work to which we can respond as individuals, teams, congregations, and interfaith organizations. Laura gave us information on current bills in legislative committee needing citizen advocacy. After the service during Coffee Hour, the congregation gathered at the Do It Now table to sign letters to senators and representatives sponsoring the bills remaining in committee and needing to be moved out by the February 7 deadline. Those bills are Safe Communities Act and nine clean energy bills.

Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) Worship Service

On February 11, the special worship service "The Promise and Practice of our Faith" will be built around the words and experiences of Black Unitarian Universalists. We will introduce the UU organization Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and join other congregations and our Association's leaders in committing to support this ministry. We encourage you to read about this effort to fulfill our principles as an Association at www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/promise-and-practice/history-black-lives-uu.

CommUnity Closet Update

The **CommUnity Closet**, located at the UU Church of Brockton (325 West Elm Street), is open on the second Saturday of every month. At the January 13th opening, there were 80 people from the Brockton community who came to fill a bag with items they need. Thanks to all who have donated; the recipients are very appreciative. Our church will staff the opening on **Saturday, February 10, 2018**. Please contact Camelia Rodriguez or Jim Mullin for more information and to volunteer.

We continue to collect donations of new and gently used clothing. The focus continues on winter clothing a bit longer, and with limited storage space available, we ask that you save other items to be donated soon. You can always donate new socks and underwear, as well as diapers, reading glasses, and women's sanitary products. Drop off items in the Vestry.



Social Justice Sunday, January 21 - Laura Wagner, Executive Director of UUMass Action and members of SJC

SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES, Continued

Social Justice Updates – Subscribe

Plenty of updates and action opportunities to share this month: if you are interested in keeping informed on some of the most current information, we recommend that you sign up for your own weekly update from UU Mass Action (uumassaction.org).

Everyone in our church community is welcome to attend the monthly Social Justice Committee meetings. The next one is on Sunday, February 4 at 12 noon. Share your ideas and concerns at a meeting, or contact one of the co-chairs, Elizabeth Siftar and Gare Reid.

Interfaith Vigil in Solidarity with Immigrants

On Sunday, January 21, 60-70 people (including Linda Fingerson, Gilly Gilson, John Schumacher and Janet Schmidt from our church) gathered near the South Bay House of Correction in Boston for an interfaith vigil of prayer and song, to stand up for the rights of immigrants detained by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) in a section of the jail. We carried paper hearts, each labeled with the name, country, and date of death of an immigrant detainee. As we waved and held up the hearts, detainees responded by banging on the windows, holding up signs and waving back. (See pictures below.) The vigil was sponsored by MCAN (Massachusetts Communities Action Network (www.mcan-pico.org), and the next one is scheduled for March 18th at 2pm.

Nicaragua Service Trip for Adults

The **March 1st deadline** for deciding if the trip is a “go” is coming up soon. Several people have expressed interest and we want YOU to join us! The group (5 people minimum) will travel to Chacraseca, a rural community near the city of Leon on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua, and participate in a variety of activities according to individual interests – these can include helping with house construction, gardening, teaching English informally, and learning or teaching crafts. The trip dates will be approximately July 15 – 23, 2018 (dates can be moved up or back a day or two) and individual costs will be \$1000-\$1200, depending on the cost of airfare. We will work in cooperation with FNE International (fneinternational.org). Please see last month's Chalice for more details, and contact me (Janet Schmidt, jcscoch@gmail.com) for more information.



Here are 403 pounds of donated school supplies on their way to 5 schools in Puerto Rico. Shipping provided by YOU, from the profits at our Fair Trade Table at Coffee Hour. (A special thanks to Camy Rodriguez and Rumni Saha for coordinating this effort.)

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, February 4, 12 Noon – 1:30 PM – Social Justice Committee Meeting (Library)

Sunday, February 11, 11:30 AM – Lunch making for MainSpring House (Vestry)

Sunday, February 11, BLUU Worship Service



Interfaith Vigil participants express their concern for immigrants detained by ICE at the South Bay House of Corrections in Boston on 21 January with prayers, songs and signs held high. Through the facility windows, inmates reply.

Conversations At the Meetinghouse



How Can You Believe *That*?

Exercises in listening to one another
when many don't

**RUMNI SAHA, RAY WALLACE,
LAURIE WALLACE, JENNA KOINES, ANDREW PLUMRIDGE**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018, 7 PM

We're living in a time of increasing polarization when people are less willing to engage in difficult conversations. These five members of the Unitarian Church of Sharon have a goal of helping people come to a place where they are open to a different point of view and ready to put in the mental and emotional work to understand the other. Please join them for a fun, informative and engaging evening.

Conversations at the Meetinghouse is a monthly program held on the first Friday of each month (October to June) at 7PM where members of the community share their expertise and experience about important issues of the day.

Free and Open To Public

February 2018 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Please go to www.uusharon.org/calendars to reserve meeting space or to view the most up to date calendar. </div>				1	2	3
				ESL 6pm (LIB) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Conversations Team Meeting 7pm (A/B) Space & Storage Task Force 7:30pm (VES)	Pot Luck Supper 6pm Conversations at the Meetinghouse 7pm (A/B)	Committee Chairs 9am (VES)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Family Worship Service 10am Religious Education Classes 10:30am Worship Service 10:30am SJC 12pm (LIB) Reiki Support Group 3pm (A/B) Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) Super Bowl Gathering 6pm (McGregor's residence) AI-Anon Meeting 7pm (LIB) Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	Women's Grp I (Closed Grp) 7pm (LIB)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:30pm (LIB) Coming of Age Youth 7:30pm (A/B)	RE Committee 7pm (NUR) Book Group 7pm (LIB) Endowment Committee 7:15pm (A/B) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Second Women's Group 7:30pm (A/B) Men's Support Group 8pm (LIB)	LREDA Meeting 9-2:30pm (A/B, VES) Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	CommUnity Closet 8:30-4pm (Brockton) Let's Laugh Today 11am (A/B)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Family Worship Service 10am Religious Education Classes 10:30am Worship Service 10:30am Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7pm (LIB) Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	Journey Group (Closed) 7:30pm (LIB) Massapoag Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES) Building & Grounds 7:30pm (A/B)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:30pm (LIB)	Sustainable Sharon Coalition 7pm (A/B) Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB)		Coffee House 7pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Family Worship Service 10am Religious Education Classes 10:30am Worship Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7pm (LIB) Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	Women's Grp I (Closed Grp) 7pm (LIB)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:30pm (LIB)	Caring Committee Meeting 7pm (MIN) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Second Women's Group 7:30pm (A/B) Men's Support Group 8pm (LIB)	Art in the Heart 7pm (VES)	
25	26	27	28			
Family Worship Service 10am Religious Education Classes 10:30am Worship Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7pm (LIB) Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	Green Day Planning 7pm (A/B) Journey Group (Closed) 7:30pm (LIB) Massapoag Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) GRASP Support Group 7pm (LIB) Coming of Age with mentors Meditation Group 7:30pm (A/B)	Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)			



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF SHARON
4 NORTH MAIN STREET
SHARON, MA 02067



*A Welcoming
Congregation of
the UUA*

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