

# the chalice

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

**President**  
Susan Drisko  
[president@uusharon.org](mailto:president@uusharon.org)

**Interim Minister**  
Rev. Wendy L. Bell  
781/784-3652 x2  
[minister@uusharon.org](mailto:minister@uusharon.org)

**Director of Religious Ed.**  
Louise Marcoux  
781/784-3652 x3  
[DRE@uusharon.org](mailto:DRE@uusharon.org)

**Office Manager &  
Newsletter Editor**  
Linda Cveckova  
781/784-3652 x1  
[admin@uusharon.org](mailto:admin@uusharon.org)

## **NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**Friday, November 26**

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## **NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES**

10:00am Family Service  
10:30am Adult Service  
(while children are in their religious education classes)

### **November 4: Exploring democracy in our own backyard**

Join us on Sunday Nov 4 as three of our members, Linda Godfrey Bailey, Chris Just, and Lori Taylor talk about the 5th principle of democracy while using an issue that is close to all of their lives, Question 1 on our state ballot. A balanced discussion representing both sides of Question 1 will be presented to model what democracy and open dialogue looks like.

### **November 11: A Prayer for Democracy**

We gather to be together and to reflect on the results of the midterm elections and on the fragility of our democracy.

### **November 18: A Guest at Your Table**

This morning, as we celebrate Thanksgiving, we also celebrate our abundance. We will introduce the "Guest at Your Table" program, a project from the UU Service Committee through which we can share of our abundance to help those in need.

### **November 25: What Breaks Your Heart?**

The world feels perilous and precarious right now. This morning we will reflect on - and share some of - what breaks our hearts. And next week, in a companion service, we will look at what gives us hope.

## **From the Minister**



When I first became a Unitarian Universalist, I fell in love with the UU Principles, especially the 1st, which affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and the 7th, which affirms that we are all part of one interconnected web of existence, bound together in what The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called "an inescapable network of mutuality."

I also was drawn, of course, to the language in the other principles...justice, equity and compassion...acceptance and encouragement...a free and responsible search...world community...peace and liberty.

(Continues on Page 2)

## From the Minister, continued

*(Continues from Page 1)*

The only one I stumbled over at all, back in the day, was the 5th principle, through which we affirm "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process." I mean, "right of conscience" I understood. But why talk about democracy in a set of religious principles?

The answer, of course, is partly our polity or system of governance. Ours is a community of covenanted, self-governing, autonomous congregations. We make our own decisions democratically. Our polity is distinct from other polities, which include hierarchical systems and hierarchical decision making. And our democratic polity is rooted in our theology.

But the other piece that informs our 5th principle is the reality that autonomous congregations like ours - congregations that value the right of conscience - cannot exist outside of a democratic society. Our values, even our theology, are inconsistent and even incompatible with authoritarianism of any kind. A "free" church cannot exist within an authoritarian system.

Right now, at this very moment in history, our democracy is in great danger. No matter whether you are a registered Republican or a registered Democrat or a Green Party voter or an Independent voter, our religious tradition calls upon us to maintain a strong democracy. Democracy means "rule by the people." And Larry Diamond, an American political scientist, says that democracies have four key elements:

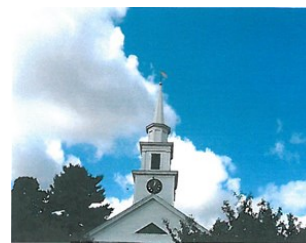
1. Free and fair elections
2. Active participation by citizens
3. Protection of human rights for all
4. Rule of law, in which laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens

I believe that every single one of those four elements are currently under threat.

As you know, this year's midterms are on Tuesday, November 6th. I hope that you will vote. I hope that you will vote your conscience. I hope that you will vote your values as Unitarian Universalists. And no matter the outcome, I hope that you will continue to find support and comfort and inspiration through religious community. And that together, we will continue to live as best we can according to our principles.

Blessings,

*Rev. Wendy*



## Conversations At the Meetinghouse

### Nones -

POSSIBLY THE LEAST RESPECTED  
PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY, OR MAYBE  
THE WORLD

**JIM MULLIN**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018, 7 PM**  
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

Pew Research Center published data saying that about one in four US adults were not interested in religion and did not belong to one. When examined by age, the numbers increased among the younger people. Mr. Mullin will help examine that data, discuss what a religion is, and discuss what the people without religion, the "Nones", do believe. Popularity and Civil Rights issues with non-believers will be discussed since Atheists and Agnostics are a significant, but not majority, segment of the Nones.

*Conversations at the Meetinghouse is a monthly program held on the first Friday of each month (November 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***

## From the President



As I write this I am deeply concerned (and sad) about our country and deeply grateful to be part of our community and congregation.

In the last week we witnessed several pipe bombs sent to Democratic political

leaders and others across the country. We witnessed another mass shooting, this time in a Pittsburgh synagogue that killed eleven people who were practicing their faith. They were murdered by a man who, driven by his hatred of Jews, felt he had a right to do this. In Kentucky, we witnessed a white extremist killing two African Americans after his unsuccessful attempt to enter a predominantly black First Baptist Church nearby. It is a scary time.

I was heartened by the demonstration of our values in diversity, love, respect, equality, honesty, integrity, peace and justice after our annual All Souls celebration on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Members of our congregation stood on the street in front of our church with signs that supported our values of respect, integrity, honesty, justice, equality and peace. We stood in support of one another and lent hope and encouragement to all who drove and walked by. We were greeted with honking horns and cheers of support. We need to hang together and support each other and those around us now more than

ever.

On October 28<sup>th</sup> several members of our Board and from the Social Justice Committee attended a day long retreat sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association on Claiming Your Spiritual Leadership (See photo on this



page.). We came together with other UU congregations to reflect, learn and share. I attended to gain an understanding of what spiritual leadership is and learned that it is not a role, but an orientation and practice that use our gifts (our joy, our purpose – not just our skills) to help us meet ongoing challenges and live the vision we have for our community. I don't quite have this down. My leadership style is more technical and problem solving. I want to also be a leader that uses my other gifts to help us continue our wonderful work and dream of a beloved community that lives our values. Especially now, in this time.

I am so glad to be part of this community.

*Susan Olson Drisko*

President



**28 Oct 2018 - Claiming Your Spiritual Leadership Workshop** - From left to right: Chuck Bordman, Brenda Wilbur, Janet Schmidt, Susan Drisko and Barbara Rose Not shown: Elizabeth Siftar.

### Do you have a furniture dolly that the RE program could borrow?

The Grades 1-2 group hopes to borrow a couple flat furniture dollies like the one depicted below for Revels. Dates needed: November 25 through December 9. Please contact Louise Marcoux if you are able to help.



## Ministerial Search Committee

### Ministerial Search



### Survey Results

The UUA outlines the process for conducting the search for a new minister and a substantial amount

of work is directed toward determining what the Congregation wants and expects in a new minister. Most recently, the Ministerial Search Committee has been conducting Cottage Meetings and the Beyond Categorical Thinking service and workshop, but our discovery work began with a survey that ran from June 1 through June 30.

The survey was built from a template, provided by the UUA and customized by the Search Committee, to meet the needs of our congregation.

At the close of the survey, on June 30, we had collected 104 responses, representing approximately ½ the congregation. Here are some of the highlights from the survey:

### Responses by length of Membership

Length of Membership	# responding	%
1-2 years	11	12.09%
3 - 5 years	11	12.09%
6-10 years	11	12.09%
11 - 15 years	11	12.09%
16 - 20 years	13	14.29%
20 + years	34	37.6%

### Reasons for first coming to the church

“Community” and “Celebrating Common Values” were cited by nearly everyone (94%) as either extremely important or very important factors in being initially drawn to the church. Respondents also cited “Spiritual Growth,” “Children’s religious education,” and “Fellowship.”

Comments included: “Acceptance of diversity,” “Welcoming congregation,” and “We came because the rainbow flag indicated a welcoming place ...”

### Church Activities

Our congregation is very dedicated to church activities, 38% of respondents dedicate 3.5 hours per week to church activities and 14% report spending 6 hours

or more.

43% reported attending a Board or committee meeting at least monthly and 34% reported at least monthly involvement with children’s religious education activities.

Sunday services were the big draw with 89% attending at least monthly and 54% attending weekly.

### Personal Beliefs

The survey asked for a reporting of spiritual beliefs, with the opportunity to respond with as many as applied. In descending order, Christianity (39 responses), Humanism (36), , Buddhism (32), and Judaism (28), garnered highest number of responses. “None” was included in 24 responses. While ranking lower, Taoism (11), NeoPaganism (9), Hinduism (7), and Islam (6), were all noted. 12 congregants indicated “Other,” with many noting the desire to learn broadly about the world’s religious traditions.

When asked about which components of Sunday Worship were most important, 72% ranked Sermon extremely important and another 23% ranked it as very important. 80% indicated sharing joys and concerns was either extremely or very important. Congregants value music as part of the worship experience, many indicated that “Choir,” “Instrumental music,” and “Singing of hymns” were important.

### Priorities for the new minister

Respondents were asked to rank the top priorities for the minister, in order of importance

1. Presenting stimulating and challenging Sunday services
2. Fostering a sense of fellowship and community within the church
3. Pastoral Care and counseling individuals
4. Creating a sense of awe and wonder in Sunday Services
5. Church administration, Encouraging lay leadership, Encouraging Social Justice programs, and Engaging with children and youth, were ranked as lower priorities for the new minister.

### The Minister’s Administrative Role

Respondents were asked to select the statement that best describes the minister’s role.

44% felt the minister should be actively involved in church committees; 27% want the minister to have an

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Ministerial Search, continued

(Continued from page 4)

administrative role in operations; 26% want the minister to be concerned with the religious life of the congregation, with the committees serving as the primary administrators. 2% of the respondents are looking for a minister who will administer the daily operations of the congregation.

### Worship Objectives

The survey asked for a ranking of worship objectives. Responses ranked in order of importance:

1. Stimulate thought and new learning
2. Build Community
3. Understand other perspectives
4. Show new paths for individual growth and change
5. Self-reflection
6. Spur individuals to act on their convictions
7. Develop and share individual feelings and beliefs
8. Inspire reverence and awe

86% of respondents agreed with the policy of freedom of the pulpit. 45% believe this extends to the expression of partisan political views. 17% believe it does not extend to political views and 37% were unsure on this issue.

The majority of respondents expressed little or no concern of a minister based on gender, sexual orientation, or class. However, 46% indicated they would be uncomfortable with someone who is politically conservative.

### Demographics

66% of respondents were female, 90% heterosexual, 90% married or partnered. 75% have a spouse or partner affiliated with the congregation. 98% describe themselves as white (not of Hispanic origin.) 75% have an advanced degree (Masters or beyond) 20% have a bachelor's degree.

The Search Committee will include the survey results as part of the informational packet available to candidate ministers.

If you have questions about the search process please reach out to anyone on the committee. If you're not sure who to ask, Wendy will be happy to help you.

### Your Ministerial Search Committee

*Tom D'Avanzo, Linda Godfrey-Bailey, Beth McGregor, David Slater, Laurie Wallace, Valerie White and Karen Zelevinsky*

## “IS THERE A SIMPLE WAY TO HELP?”

The answer is YES. The RE Committee is seeking volunteers for a variety of “one-off tasks” – ranging from carpentry to driving to shopping for food. They're hoping that you will choose a couple straightforward tasks that work within your schedule and interest – and which will support the running of the RE program.

You're invited to check off items that interest you in the survey at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNOQzsfo93q5fhU-TWsC\\_nwKU0RCuuqmb1BGn2-3k42PNN\\_A/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNOQzsfo93q5fhU-TWsC_nwKU0RCuuqmb1BGn2-3k42PNN_A/viewform?usp=sf_link).

A member of the RE Committee will get back to you to review the specifics and see if you're still interested.

*Submitted by Louise Marcoux*

## On Race and Immigration



### A Public Forum

Nations should be expected to develop fair and ethical ways to manage often unanticipated immigration to their international borders, as well as rational policies to monitor and secure them.

Are our own immigration laws and practices fair?  
Do they reflect deeper racial prejudices within American Society?

**We welcome a panel to discuss this important issue**

William Dickerson, Executive Director, Brockton Interfaith Community  
Laura Wagner MSW, Executive Director, UU Mass Action  
Robert RN Ross, Ph.D., Consulting Minister, UUCB

Join us in for constructive discussion and refreshments

**Saturday 3 November 7:00 pm**

Universalist Unitarian Church of Brockton 325 West Elm Street

For further information contact:

Rev. Dr. Robert RN Ross [rrnross@post.harvard.edu](mailto:rrnross@post.harvard.edu) 508-339-5639

## Religious Education News



**From Director of Religious Education**

### **Consent: A Message for ALL Adults**

My window into social media in September and October exposed me to the wor-

ries of parents. Many parents worried about their sons being falsely accused of sexual assault. A few parents worried about their daughters being victims of sexual assault. What I took from this unfortunate conversation is that parents worry that their sons don't know the difference between assault and consent – and that there are many parents who wouldn't know how to begin having that conversation with their sons.

More than a generation ago, a group of Unitarian Universalists decided to upend "rape culture." In imagining a life-affirming understanding of sexuality which valued the worth, dignity, and beauty of every person, they gave birth first to the About Your Sexuality curriculum and then the Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum. These curricula have changed the way UU families talk with their children about sexuality and the way young (and now not-so-young) UUs understand their rights and responsibilities as sexual beings. They get what consent is. (And you can too. Just watch this online video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZwvrXVavNQ>)

Who do we have to thank for OWL's transformative power? The Unitarian Universalist Association devotes dollars given by member congregations to the development and revision of this curriculum as well as the training of teacher trainers. Our own Board of Trustees annually recommends that the congregation allocate resources for OWL teacher training, curriculum purchases, and educational materials – and the congregation votes for these at annual meeting. Members and friends of this congregation pay pledges every month or quarter – a portion of which goes to pay for the cost of running OWL here. Every year, experienced religious education volunteers from this church step up to be trained and to teach this demanding curriculum. And parents make their children's participation in OWL a priority in busy family schedules.

So thank yourself. Thank this community. Thank the UUA. Together we build a new way.

Each of us can also reach out to folks around us – those who don't have access to OWL – and share the experience that there is another way. It can be as personal as talking with fellow parents about the challenges of talking with your children about sexuality or as simple as sharing the "Tea and Consent" video (link above) with the friend who doesn't know how to talk with their child about consent.

In faith,

*Louise*

### **November in RE**

When the calendar turns to November it's time to embark on Revels preparations!

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will learn the story of the baby born in the barn. The class will have their own barn and the children will choose and create the animals to fill it.

The **Grade 1-2** students will explore the winter solstice and our relationship with the sun. They will learn about ancient stone circles and markers, and then create their own megalith to share at Revels.

The **Grade 3-4** class will spend the month learning about being worship leaders, as well as exploring some traditions of Hanukkah and Yule in preparation for their role at Revels.

The **Grade 5-6** students will study the story of the Sun Cow and the Thief. Then they will go through all the steps of planning, creating and rehearsing for the retelling of the story as a shadow puppet presentation at Revels.

The **Grade 7-8** OWL group will continue their OWL curriculum covering topics that include gender identity, gender stereotypes, and sexual orientation. At month's end they will turn their attention towards Revels and begin preparations to lead the Santa Lucia celebration.

*By Karen MacKinnon, RE Assistant*

### **Save the Date: Revels Rehearsals**

Children in preschool through Grade 8 will lead worship on **Sunday, December 9**. Rehearsals:

Sunday, December 2, from 11:45 am to 1 pm

Sunday, December 9, from 9 to 10 am



## Religious Education News

### What is Revels?

Revels is this congregation's celebration of the dark time of the year, the 6 weeks prior to the winter solstice. Children and youth explore the many traditions of this holiday season and then share what they've learned as they lead worship on Sunday, December 9. Revels season in RE began on October 28. Find out more by speaking with Louise Marcoux or any member of the Religious Education Committee.



### Our Whole Lives for Grades 5-6

Our comprehensive sexuality education program for Grades 5-6 will be launched on Sunday, November 4, 4:30 to 7 pm with a Parent-Child Orientation. Participation in the orientation by parent and child is required for youth to take part in the 10 session OWL 5-6 program. Fun Care will be offered for siblings. A light supper for participating families is included in the program. There is no charge to participate. RSVP helpful but not re-

### RE Teachers needed

**Grades 5-6 Teacher/Assistant** (7 Sundays between January and June) Curriculum focus: cultivating the spirituality that underlies the work of social justice.

**Santa Lucia Director** (3 Sundays: November 25, December 2, December 9)

Curious? Please contact Louise Marcoux at [dre@uusharon.org](mailto:dre@uusharon.org).



Cedar Hill Retreat - One shoe prank

### YOUTH GROUPS

#### Senior Youth Group

Meets on Sundays from 5-7pm in the Observatory (aka Nursery). Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12 and folks are encouraged to bring friends! Activities this past month included a Halloween themed movie night, our annual Cedar Hill youth retreat, and a fire pit Samhain celebration. Upcoming in November is a racism workshop program for youth developed and offered by UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury, MA entitled "Seeing Me in the World." We will be joining other youth groups on Saturday Nov. 17th for this all-day program focused on understanding racist structures, identifying opportunities for change in our local community, and taking action on those opportunities. The Social Justice Committee article in this Chalice edition has more information on UUUM and ways to get involved.



#### Junior Youth Fellowship Group

Had a blast at our annual Cedar Hill youth retreat. Many rounds of One Night Werewolf, other games and pranks were played and enjoyed by all. Our next event will be Lazer Tag on Saturday, Nov. 10th. Please mark your calendars and RSVP to the details email so Chelsea can get a head count and figure out carpool numbers. 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](mailto:yc@uusharon.org)



Cedar Hill Retreat - Junior Youth Fellowship Group

## November Programs

### Music and Arts

#### Not Just Another Coffee House

### Rupert Waters

**Saturday, November 17**

7pm, doors open 6:30pm

His music is an eclectic mix of acoustic, melodic art/folk, with flavors of jazz, vaudeville and cabaret. He has released nine solo CDs. They have received outstanding reviews in the international online press and tracks from them have been played on radio all over the world. In addition, Waters' songs have been covered by other artists in the UK, Canada and the US. Two full length tribute CDs to his material have been recorded: 'Crazy Puzzle' (2015) by Nashville-based performer Roxie Rogers, and 'Wide Open Heart' (July 2017) by Los Angeles vocalist Susan Kohler.



Despite Waters' British background, and underpinning the universality of his music's appeal, Folk And Acoustic Music Exchange has called him "a prime figure in American music" ([www.acousticmusic.com](http://www.acousticmusic.com)) and goes on: "This is one gifted sonofabitch... If you're not hip to this guy yet you're missing out.". Audiences everywhere respond to Waters' brand of melodic art/folk—haunting songs that ring true.

[www.rupertwatersmusic.com](http://www.rupertwatersmusic.com)

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

#### The 2018-2019 UU Theater Nights



The next UU Theatre night at Mass Music Arts Society is **on Sunday, December 9 at 2pm** for A Christmas Carol. Written by Charles Dickens, a Christmas Carol is a Victorian morality tale of an old bitter miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, who undergoes a profound experience of redemption over the course of one evening. This beloved classic is the perfect addition to your

holiday festivities.

The dates for the upcoming shows are:

**Dec 9** at 2pm A Christmas Carol for families  
(no reception)

**Jan. 26** The Complete Works of William Shakespeare

**Mar 16** Odd Couple Female Version

**May 4** Evita

**Children's Choir** meets regularly on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30pm in the vestry. Pizza included. Performing in church twice a month. The choir does not meet when the school is out. Questions? Contact Forbesy at [forbesyrussell@hotmail.com](mailto:forbesyrussell@hotmail.com) or 781-201-9533.

### Support Groups

**Al-Anon Meeting** - An 11th step Al-Anon group meets at UCS each Sunday evening at 7:15pm. It is an open meeting.

**Men's Group** - The Men's Group is a group for men who are members and friends of UCS. We gather on the first and third Monday **\*change of day of the week\*** of each month at 8 pm to talk about our lives and topics of mutual interest. We are open to new members. If you're curious please feel free to drop in on one of our meetings. For more information you can ask Jon Slavin ([jslavin37@gmail.com](mailto:jslavin37@gmail.com)) or any other group member.

**Women's Support Group II.** – Meets on second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:30pm. New women are always welcome to join.

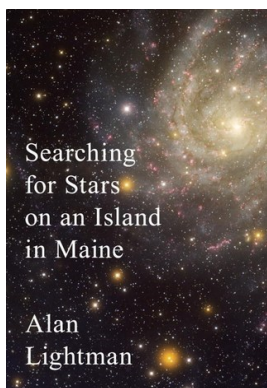
talk to



## November Programs

### Interest and Discussion Groups

**Book Discussion** - Join us on December 8 at 10am to discuss a book Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine by Alan Lightman - an inspired, lyrical meditation on religion and science, with an exploration of the tension between our yearning for permanence and certainty versus modern scientific discoveries pointing the impermanent and uncertain nature of the world.

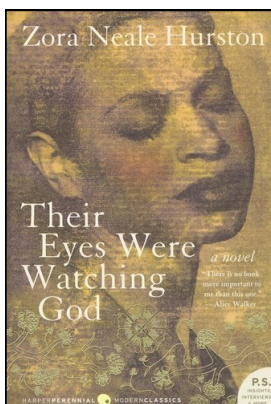


to

For more information, please contact Susan Edinger.

**Book Group** – For November 14 meeting, we will read Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston. A PBS “Great American Read” Top 100 Pick, the book brings to life a Southern love story long out of print due to audiences’ rejection of its strong black female protagonist.

You are welcome to come even if you haven’t finished reading the books.



**Let's Laugh Today** – Unbuckle your chuckle and attend a FREE Laughter Yoga session in Program Rooms A/B from 11am to noon on Saturday, November 10th (and every second Saturday of the 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. Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker will give you the gift of laughter!

If you have any questions, just call them at 508-660-2223 or e-mail



[billandlinda@letsclaughtoday.com](mailto:billandlinda@letsclaughtoday.com). PLEASE BRING A CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY. Children usually come to this morning session, so the energy is invigorating !! New laughers are always welcomed! See more information and more opportunities to laugh at [www.letsclaughtoday.com](http://www.letsclaughtoday.com).

**Meditation Group** meets weekly. It is an open group, available to anyone who cares to give it a try. We meet Tuesdays at 7pm for one hour of silent meditation. The one-hour period is divided into two sitting periods with an optional period of walking meditation in the middle. This division also allows participants to join us for just 30 minutes of meditation and then leave, without any disruption, instead of (or after) the walking meditation. Please call Susan Allison or Ray Wallace with any questions.

### **Seeing White**

Seeing White discussion groups in November will focus on

#### Part 3: Made in America

<http://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-33-made-in-america-seeing-white-part-3/>.

Sunday group meets on November 25, 7:30-9 pm (closed group)

Tuesday group meets on November 27, 7:30-9 pm. (See Louise Marcoux, if interested in joining)

**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.

### **Movie Night**

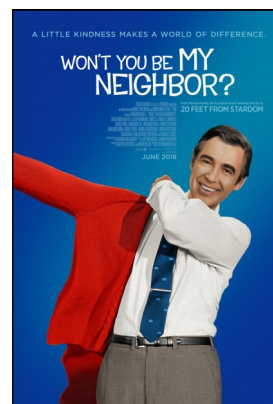
November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

#### **Won't You Be My Neighbor**

An exploration of the life, lessons, and legacy of iconic children's television host, Fred Rogers.

Popcorn is free!

Movie Group meets the second Friday of the month at 7PM.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



So much is happening in the world right now; check-in here to learn more about how our congregation is working to make a difference, guided by our UU principles.

### YES on 3

#### (Ballot Question #3)

YES on 3 to uphold respect and dignity. Here's what you need to know: On Election Day, Massachusetts voters will face the first-ever statewide popular vote on protections for transgender people from discrimination. The referendum would repeal our state law that protects transgender people from discrimination in public places, including restaurants, stores, and doctors' offices.

A YES VOTE would keep in place the current law, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation.

A NO VOTE would repeal this provision of the public accommodation law.

<https://www.freedommassachusetts.org>

A recent perspective from Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President:

- On **Sunday**, the New York Times reported that the Trump Administration is considering "narrowly defining gender as a biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth" in an effort to undermine federal civil rights protections for transgender people.
- Our Unitarian Universalist faith affirms that no person's identity is dictated by laws and legislation. In accordance with our First Principle, transgender, genderqueer, non-binary, and ALL persons possess inherent worth and dignity, which includes the right to define who we are. The Trump Administration's attempt to erase trans identity is an attack on our Beloved Community as a whole and is the latest in a series of human rights violations that feed cruelty and threaten the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- We unapologetically reject any effort to erase transgender people and demand that President Trump put an end to any and all policies that bring further harm to marginalized communities already at risk.

- As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity, the full humanity and beauty of our trans siblings. Beloveds, we see you. We will follow your lead.
  - My fellow UUs, we've also got work to do to be communities of inclusion and solidarity, protecting and advocating with the transgender, genderqueer and non-binary community.
  - We call all people of faith and conscience to join us by **TAKING ACTION** in the following seven ways (recommended by [Out Magazine](#)):
    1. If you live in Massachusetts, vote YES ON 3 and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well. (Visit <https://www.freedommassachusetts.org> for more information.)
    2. Get out the vote.
    3. Contribute to trans-led organizations.
    4. Understanding that trans people are criminalized, contribute to bailout funds.
    5. Cis Allies: Call or text three cis people in your life about a measure they can take to support trans people.
    6. Pay attention to proposed federal and state legislation.
    7. Support trans and nonbinary journalists.
  - As Unitarian Universalists, we are with Chelsea Manning who declares, "Laws don't determine our existence - \*we\* determine our existence...we will keep fighting."
- May it be so!

### Race and Immigration - A Public Forum

**Saturday, 3 November, 7:00 pm**  
UU Church of Brockton

Are our nation's immigration laws and practices fair? Do they reflect deeper racial prejudices within American Society? What are the ethical and fair ways a nation can manage often unanticipated immigration to its international borders? What rational policies should be in place to monitor and secure those borders?

Please join the discussion on this important issue. (See the poster on [page 5](#) for details.)





## Letter to the Sharon Advocate

On Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> Sharon demonstrated its commitment to diversity and respect in response to two demonstrators who stood on the corner in front of the Unitarian Church of Sharon. While we were in Church several Sharon residents showed up to counter the protest with "Hate Has No Home Here" signage while respecting the demonstrator's right to free speech as well.

After Church, several members of our congregation joined in with the Sharon residents who, by then, had gathered on all four corners showing the best of our community – affirming our values that hate has no home here!

We are grateful for the support of this Community, both on the street corners and in the Facebook Sharon What's Up thread that clearly supported our Church, what we stand for and how important taking care of one another and respecting our diversity is to all of us.

Finally, we want to thank the Sharon Police for their attentive presence during the demonstration.

As we go forward in this controversial time, the Unitarian Church of Sharon will continue to be here to help us reflect, learn, find joy, love, solace and community while supporting the belief that hate has no home here. All are welcome!

Thank you,

*Wendy Bell, Minister*

*Susan Drisko, Board President*



## Celebration of UU Values

On October 28 our community was on the corner out front for a celebration of UU Values. Church members and friends of all ages were holding signs for LOVE, RESPECT, and DIVERSITY to show the world what we stand for. This was not a rally to support specific political issues or candidates, but rather a chance to demonstrate what our core values as UUs are all about. Enjoy the pictures on this page from our UU values celebration or check out this video: <https://youtu.be/0XUeW98XLsc>





## Guest at Your Table (UUSC)

### November Brown Envelope donations and more

During all of November, we will be supporting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual inter-generational program, *Guest at Your Table*, to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since they work in over 25 countries, with over 75 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from this important work. This year's theme, 'Justice Across Borders', will focus on the plight of four individuals, the 'guests' at our table, whose lives are caught up in the Central American migration trail. We will focus on this topic at our 18 November services, with additional information at Coffee Hours, through family opportunities for discussions and giving at home, and during our weekly Brown Envelope donations.

And, right here in Sharon, there are guests at our table who need our support:

### Immigrant Family seeks assistance

The Salmeron family of 6 is seeking asylum in the US after fleeing death threats and gang violence in their home country of El Salvador. Their ages range from 30 years of age to 2 and a half. Since arriving in the US, they have worked with the US Refugee Relocation program and Access to Justice/PAIR Project in their petition for asylum. Members of Sharon Interfaith Action network have come together to help this family secure housing, furnish their apartment, and cover some basic expenses and needs.

The Social Justice Committee has committed to donate Shopping for Justice grocery cards to help the family purchase their food. We are asking the congregation to consider purchasing Stop and Shop grocery cards to help the Salmeron family obtain groceries for the coming year. The need is great, so help as often as you can. Stop by the Shopping for Justice table and purchase a grocery card and the SJC will designate your purchase for the family (or make a donation of any amount and we will convert it into grocery cards). Grocery card purchases are a concrete and direct way we can make a difference in the life of one family.

## Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry An Introduction to the UUUM

*"The UU Urban Ministry unites communities and transforms individuals through education, service, and advocacy. We engage communities and congregations in social action and change, with programs that empower youth and adults to realize their full potential."*

Headquartered at the First Church in Roxbury campus, the UU Urban Ministry operates programs that provide education and enrichment programming for children and youth, emergency shelter for individuals and families fleeing from domestic violence, and job- and education-readiness training for survivors of domestic violence. An important part of the mission is to bring people from different walks of life to work together toward justice and equality. The goal is to create a human community that is peaceful and just.

We at Unitarian Church of Sharon are responding to the invitation to build stronger bonds with people from different walks of life in working toward justice and equality. There are numerous ways for UCS members to participate in this process. The four service programs are **Programs for Youth, Domestic Violence, Services and Community Engagement**. Each of these programs has needs for volunteers and engagement from those of us from different walks of life. We will be sending invitations to you to participate in different programs at UU-UM, including one time service, musical programs, forums and community dinners. The goal is to begin building relationships between Unitarian Church of Sharon congregation and UUUM. There will be invitations to participate during the months of November through May. Check out [www.uuum.org](http://www.uuum.org) for the latest news and programmatic announcements. We look forward to your participation.

This month, on November 17<sup>th</sup>, our SYG will travel to Roxbury to be part of the exciting 'Seeing Me in the World' program. Often, young Unitarian Universalists tour famous UU landmarks in Boston, or even grow up UU in Boston, without ever setting foot in a neighborhood of color. Participants who engage in this curriculum will learn a deeper and broader story about our UU faith in the context of a majority-minority neighborhood. They will explore and deepen their faith from this perspective and engage with critical issues of our time: the history of racism in America, in Roxbury, and in Unitarian Universalism, and the current issues facing our changing neighborhood now at risk of gentrification. This will be a day of learning, reflection, service and more. Senior Youth Group is looking for volunteers to be drivers and chaperones. Please contact Chelsea Gould.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

### Brockton Interfaith Community Update

Brockton Interfaith Community has come full circle. Since spring the focus has been Brockton school funding, understanding problems, meeting with officials and determining how to proceed in building better and consistent school funding. October saw the first public gathering of officials and community, including UCS members in support of BIC. We thank you for joining us. A new round of community organizing trainings will start in January. Sign up with Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks.



**BIC** - BIC members including SIA members including Elaine Price and Janet Schmidt

### Ongoing Social Justice opportunities

There are many ways that you can support our work for social justice: visit the **Social Justice Corner** in the Vestry, following Sunday worship services, where you can buy **Fair Trade** coffees, chocolates and other items, as well as **Shopping for Justice** supermarket gift cards in various denominations for Shaws, Stop & Shop, and Big Y. Five percent of the card's value is donated by the stores and stays with the church to help fund our social justice projects in support of people who experience food and housing insecurity. We also collect non-perishable food items for the local **Food Pantry** in the front Lobby, along with toiletries for the overnight guests of **MainSpring House** homeless shelter in Brockton. Once a month we also assemble 100 bag lunches for MSH. Clothing items for the **Community Closet** are always welcome (drop-off in the Vestry). Don't forget to learn more about our monthly suggested offering for a worthy cause via our **Brown Envelope** donation program, and keep an eye out for our occasional **Do It Now** action requests at Coffee Hour for participatory efforts on a range of topics. Interested in finding support for a topic close to your heart? Come to the monthly SJC meeting to learn how we work together to make the world a little bit better, one step at a time.



**BIC** - Members of UCS attending the October BIC Convention in Brockton to push for Education Reform.

### Tragedy in the Merrimack Valley Our Faith in Action

As winter approaches there is a great need for blankets for victims of the gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley. So far only 30 miles of destroyed pipelines have been replaced and families are relying on electric hotplates for cooking and space heaters for warming their homes. The space heaters are small and inadequate. There is a great need for blankets, including small blankets for children. We will be delivering the various supplies collected at UCS soon, so please be generous and fill the boxes in the Vestry with lots of warm blankets. Monetary donations will be used to purchase large quantities of blankets (checks to 'UCS', memo Merrimack Valley, or cash, collected at the Fair Trade Table).

#### Brown Envelope Collections:

**September 2018** – Partner Church in Gyulakuta, Transylvania, \$1225.50

**October 2018** – UUA Disaster Relief Fund – t.b.d.

**November 2018** – Guest at Your Table (UUSC)

#### Upcoming Dates:

**Saturday, 3 November**, Race and Immigration Forum, 7pm, UU Church of Brockton

**Sunday, 4 November**, SJC monthly meeting, noon, Library

**Sunday, 11 November**, MSH lunch making, after the Service, Vestry

**Saturday, 17 November**, SYG program at UUUM – Seeing Me In The World

**Sunday, 18 November**, *Guest at Your Table* services at UCS, 10:00 & 10:30am

## November 2018 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">           To view up to date calendar of events go to   <a href="http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2018-11/">http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2018-11/</a> </div>				1	2	3
				ESL 6pm (LIB) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Personnel and Search Committee 7:30pm (AB) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	Rental SHS Choir 8:30-2:20 (SAN, VES) Potluck Supper 6pm (VES) Conversations 7pm (AB)	Committee Chairs 9am (VES) Theater Outing 7pm (OFF)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Adult service 10:30 a.m. Family Service 10:00 a.m. OWL 5-6 Parent Info 12pm (A/B) SJC monthly meeting 12pm (LIB) Reiki Support Group 3pm (LIB) OWL Gr. 5-6 Parent-Child Orientation 4:30pm (VES, ABC) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) SSC 7pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES)	Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)	Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	Let's Laugh Today 11am (A/B) Circle Supper (OFF)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Adult service 10:30 a.m. Family Service 10:00 a.m. Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	RE Committee 7pm (LIB)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Membership Meeting 7pm (MIN)	SSC meeting 7pm (A/B) Book Group 7pm (NUR) Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)		Coffee House 7pm Not Just Another Coffee House 7pm (VES)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Adult service 10:30 a.m. Family Service 10:00 a.m. Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES)	Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Caring Committee (Closed) 7pm (MIN) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)	Chalice DEADLINE	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Adult service 10:30 a.m. Family Service 10:00 a.m. OWL Gr. 5-6 4:30pm (AB) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB) Seeing White I. 7:30pm (NUR)		Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Seeing White II. 7:30pm (NUR)	Endowment Committee 7pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB)		





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