

the chalice

Published by the
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**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
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**OCTOBER NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

Wednesday, October 23

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SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 am Family Service

10:30 am Adult Service

(Unless noted otherwise)

September 1: Trying to Make a Difference

10:15am (the last summer service)

This is our last lay-led summer service led by Mel and Alice Springer. The service will include a time of congregational sharing followed by a time of fellowship afterwards. Mel Springer, our Music Director, is also providing the music for the services. Please note childcare is not available.

September 8: Ingathering and Water Ceremony

10:15am Service (No RE classes)

We celebrate the beginning of a new church year and the arrival of our newly settled minister, Rev. Jolie Olivetti, with our annual intergenerational water communion service. You are invited to bring a small portion of water with you to pour into a common bowl, and to share about an important place or event from your summer. Water will also be provided. At the end of the service we will use the collected water to bless each other and our spiritual community.

September 15: Expect to Connect

Religious Education classes are starting

Have you ever arrived in a new place, begun a new project, or been introduced to a new person and felt impatient for great things to start happening right away? If you're like me, you may be excited for this new ministerial settlement to bear fruits, fast! In this sermon we'll consider how it takes slowing down for the truly deep connections to grow. Also, please join us at the family service today if you weren't already planning to be there. We will be commissioning the RE teachers for the year and we need the congregation to participate in asking this blessing and making this agreement with our teachers!

September 22: Praise of Not Knowing

My fingers itch to pull up Google on my phone if someone asks something I can't answer. What happens when we prefer questions to answers, or even questions without answers? This morning's service will invite us to take a break from expecting answers all the time and to celebrate a little uncertainty.

September 29: Raise a Noise

This evening at sundown is the Jewish New Year; with the turning of the year comes a chance for renewal. Let us renew our commitment to hope, however hopeless we may feel. This paradox calls us: we work for the common good regardless of any expectation of a good outcome, and in so doing we can find our way to flourishing.

From the Minister



Dear congregation,

Welcome back to the church year! I am glad to be here with you as your newly settled minister. I do hope we can connect soon; over the course of my first year here I would love to get to know all of you. So let's get together! Let's do lunch or coffee,

have me over for dinner before an evening meeting sometime, or we can sit by the lake, do crafts in my office... Regardless of what we do, I'm curious what matters to you as a person and as a member of this congregation. One of my primary goals for the beginning of my ministry with you will be to listen to you, hear your stories, and learn about you and this amazing community you have been building together. For starters, I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Bean Supper on Saturday, September 7.

Beginning this month, we are going to try monthly themes for our worship services. The themes come from Soul Matters Sharing Circle, a program for UU religious leaders to share resources such as readings and ideas for worship. Thus, we will be in good company as many other UU's across the country will also consider each monthly theme. The Worship Committee and I are excited to try this and find out how it lands, what you notice, and whether the themes move you – or not! Our September theme will be "Expectation."

Save the date for our Open House on Sunday, September 29 from 3 pm – 5 pm. This will be a fun event for newcomers to connect more with the church, for long-timers to extend a hand of welcome, for people to meet me if they haven't already, and for the general public to visit our church... and for everyone to have a great time! Be in touch if you would like to help out at the event. And a note about scheduling: unfortunately, the best date we could choose for this event is right before Rosh Hashana begins at sundown on the 29th. We hope that if you will be celebrating with an evening meal, attending services, or observing the Jewish New Year in some other way, that – if you want – you may still have time and feel welcome to stop by the Open House in the afternoon. Feel free to call or email if you would like to talk about this with me.

And finally, a note about my office hours. I will be in the office and available for appointments Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 am to 4 pm, and Thursdays from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm. I value your time, so it helps if you can let me know if you're coming. That way if someone has already signed up to talk with me when you're thinking of coming, we can avoid being double-booked. Also, if none of those times work, just let me know and we can arrange a time.

Rev. Jolie Olivetti

From the President



Welcome back! I hope all of you had a wonderful summer! I am looking forward to the new church year. Our new settled minister, Jolie Olivetti, started on August first. Our new Youth Coordinator, Katie Byron, started on August 26th. We had our first board meeting of the

new church year on August 7th and welcomed new board members; Susan Allison, Treasurer, Andrew Plumridge, At Large member and Glenn Rivard, At Large member. The board will hold a retreat on September 8th to set our goals for 2019-2020, develop a process determine how to promote safety in our congregation while continuing to be a welcoming congregation; responding to the report generated last spring from the Armed Intruder Task Force. We will also be responding to the recommendations of the Web Presence Task Force. Finally, we want to ensure we meet the fundraising goal in our budget, ensuring that a fundraising event is created to help us balance our budget this year.

I want to thank Karen MacKinnon for her work as our administrative assistant supporting the religious education program and some on our office functions. Karen has taken a full time job in Mansfield. We have posted the position and hope to fill it as soon as possible.

As the church year begins, I hope you will join me to renew our commitment to community, supporting each other and upholding our mission to "gather as a liberal religious community, honoring our differences, to support one another as we grow in mind and spirit and reach out to serve the world."

Susan Olson Drisko
President

Goodbye and Thank You, Karen MacKinnon!

All good things must come to an end. Karen MacKinnon has been writing emails and newsletter columns about what everyone is doing in RE classes – as well as updating the RE parts of the website AND keeping track of registration, attendance, who has a key, and a million other RE details – for the past 6 years. For the past year, she also supported our Office Manager, Linda Cveckova, by putting together the Order of Service every Friday. Karen even served as a back-up nursery provider when a member of our team called in sick.

We wish Karen the best as she moves into a full-time administrative support position at Mansfield High School (they are lucky ducks). We will miss her steadfast presence and the twinkle in her eye.



Our Board and Committees for 2019 / 2020

Our Board of Trustees for 2019– 2020:

President	Susan Olson Drisko
Vice President	Brenda Wilbur
Clerk	Brian Cook
Treasurer	Susan Allison (serving first year only)
Trustee	Andrew Plumridge
Trustee	Glenn Rivard
Trustee	Barbara Rose

To email the Board write to board@uusharon.org

Please find below the list of the Committees and Committee Chairs for the new church year 2019/20. If you are interested to find out more about a committee or to volunteer, please contact the Committee Chairs. For an updated list of our committees, including the email addresses please go to our website: <https://www.uusharon.org/about/committees/>

If you have any general questions, feel free to contact Linda Cveckova at admin@uusharon.org

Committee or Group	Committee Chair (s)
AIM II	Jack Armstrong
Beyond our walls	Jim Mullin
Buildings & Grounds (B&G)	Lindsay Drisko
B&G - Memorial Garden	Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks
Caring Committee	Joyce Bramhall and Ivy Krull
Choir – Adult	Valerie White
Choir - Children	Forbesy Russell
Endowment Fund Board	Pam Baker Webber
Finance Committee	Susan Allison
Hospitality	Ken Zaniewski
IT	Jeff Rose
Membership	Jean Zaniewski and Terry Fitzgerald
Nominating Committee	Julie Armstrong
Personnel	Colleen Tuck
Religious Education	Andrea Pannone/ Christian Roulleau
Rental Committee	Colleen Tuck
Social Justice	Gare Reid and Elizabeth Siftar
Stewardship	Rory McGregor
Web Committee	Jeff Rose
Worship	Jean Fox



You can help UCS:

Spread the word about a job posting!

The UCS needs you to help spread the word in your local networks about our open Administrative Assistant position.



The church is now hiring. The ideal candidate will have strong written communication skills plus mastery of Microsoft Word. **You** can help us find the right person by **sharing information about the job opening with people you know and through your local organizations and social media.** Please post the attached image in email or on social media -- and please include this link: <http://bit.ly/UCSadmin> in your email or social media posting. The link provides direct access to the job posting.

Our Support for the Partner Church

Our Partner Church in Gyulakuta is a very small, aging congregation. We support its members by paying for a subscription for each family to the Romanian Unitarian magazine and for an organist to provide music for their monthly service.

Secondary education in Romania is very poor, and there is no high school in their small village. So for the past four years, we have also given a scholarship to David Nagy, a youth from the congregation, enabling him to attend a private high school. The modest amount of \$600 a year has gone a long way towards expenses for

tuition, uniforms, boarding and the bus trip home each week-end. Our support was especially valuable this year. His mother, Izabella, has been battling breast cancer. This, in addition to a stroke 3 years ago, has meant she is not able to work. This June, David graduated from high school. He is now taking tests to see if he can further his education, especially in computers and IT.

Here is a photo of David, now quite grown up from the boy the McGregors, David Nelson, and the Tucks met when they visited Romania in 2012. He is pictured while on a short trip to one of the country's picturesque villages on a trip he and Izabella took after his graduation.



David Nagy: youth from our Partner Church in Romania

Colleen Tuck

To learn more about our support go to the [Brown Envelope article](#) in SJC section.

Buildings & Grounds

Many people help to maintain our building and grounds. Each July, we have all the floors thoroughly washed and all the carpeting shampooed. This requires a great deal of furniture moving, first to clear the floors, then the carpets, and finally to put it all back. We are very grateful this year to hard-working volunteers Andrea Pannone, Christian Roulleau, Susan Drisko, Lili Taylor, and Nolan Howard; and we're especially thankful for Gare Reid and Maria DiBattista, who each spent a lot of time on their own making much lighter work for the rest of us. Thank you all!

A big thank you to Gary Webber, who has agreed to coordinate on steeple issues with T-Mobile and the experts who have done work on our steeple. Thanks also to Gare Reid, who made repairs to our granite and iron fence facing Norwood Street.

The church has a contract with a refuse firm to empty our dumpster once a month. This service does not include recycling; but we do recycle, thanks to some dedicated volunteers. Every week, blue recycling containers are taken home and their contents added to individuals' home recycling bins. We thank these dedicated volunteers, and encourage you to join this band of elves who help us to live up to our environmental principles.

A reminder: tutorials available:

There are three steps to activate and deactivate the automatic door opener; to avoid damaging the mechanism it's important to do all three in the correct sequence. Directions are on the wall next to the On-Off switch, but any B&G member will be happy to provide a demonstration.

It is equally important to open and close the folding wall between Rooms A and B correctly. The folding wall can be easily damaged if not done right. Gare Reid will be happy to show you how to do this. It's easy, but please don't try unless you've had a quick lesson with him.

Volunteer opportunity:

Keep an eye out and ear open for announcements about our September "Blue Jeans Saturday", date TBD. We begin at 9:00 and end at noon working on accumulated projects and chores. It is a great time to be together, socialize and perform much needed work. Hope to see you there!!

B&G usually meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00. Join us!

Lindsay Drisko, B&G Chair

Circle Suppers



circle suppers

Join us this year for Circle Suppers, the potluck dinners held monthly at the homes of members and friends of the church. Newcomers welcome. Not ready to commit? Put your name on a list of alternates to be called by hosts seeking additional guests. The

small casual dinners are a great way to meet other church goers.

The dinners are held on the second Saturday of the month, October through May (except December). Dates this season are Oct. 12 and Nov. 9, and next year on Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14, April 11, and May 9, 2020.

The dinners rotate between the homes of church members and friends. Sign-up takes place in September (for the fall) and again in December for changes or additions to the Jan-May 2019 season. The calendar of fall hosts and guests will be issued at the beginning of October. Participants can commit to a dinner every month, or just an occasional month, depending on your schedule.

Organizers will designate hosts and guests. Hosts provide the main course. Guests bring appetizers, desserts and salads. If you are unsure of your schedule or unable to host, you may also sign up as an alternate.

Please provide the following information: Name(s), telephone number, email address, street address. Also, let us know the number of people in your household who will participate (used for counting guests) and the number of people you can accommodate for a meal (not including the hosts). Let us know which months you will participate or if you want to be an alternate.

Call or email this information to Allison Jones and Jack Gregory by Sunday, September 22.

Office Manager

Please note the new office hours for the Office Manager, Linda Cveckova, are:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

9:30 to 2pm

Religious Education News

From the Director of Religious Education

A Fresh Start

There's a lot of fresh energy in the RE program this year. Please check out the articles in this edition of the Chalice about (1) our new Youth Coordinator, Katie Byron, and (2) our new Grades 1-4 configuration on Sunday morning. In addition, we anticipate hiring a new Administrative Assistant in September – and are seeking your help in spreading word about this job opening. The RE Committee also features two new members: Jessica Plumridge and Chris Just.



I'm excited about where we might go together with all this new energy. What are your hopes and dreams? How might we go there together? I'm looking forward to the journey.

Blessings,

Louise

Big news for RE teachers and families of GRADES 1 thru 4

After reviewing the kid's survey results, the attendance logs, and some reflection, the RE Committee is approaching this group differently this year! Beginning in September, the grades 1/2 and 3/4 will meet together for a combined class of (approximately) 12 students within the welcoming space of the library. Through the survey, our kids told us they really like "playing games and seeing friends". This combination will make it possible for us to give them more of what they like about RE!

We hope that your 1st thru 4th graders will find RE more enjoyable with this structure. We're excited to have numbers that facilitate group activities and games during their RE time. However, please feel free to reach out to the RE Committee with *any* questions or concerns: re@uusharon.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Andrea Pannone, co-chair RE Committee

September in RE

The Religious Education Department is ready to begin classes on Sunday September 15th. We extend a warm welcome to new students as well as those returning for another year of RE. Week one will include getting to know you activities as well as creating name tags and discussing class covenants.

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** class will be using the Chalice Children curriculum which begins with getting to know our church home. Their sessions will include a church tour and both indoor and outdoor exploration to help them learn what it means to be a part of our faith community.

The **Grades 1 through 4** class will follow the Love Will Guide Us curriculum. September will include an introduction to the Sources of UU faith with an emphasis on love. They will explore the Jewish and Christian teaching to love all others as you love yourself, and participate in a human sculpture activity.

The **Grades 5-6** group will explore the Sing to the Power curriculum. They will begin the year using water as an example of the power of flexibility, creativity and perseverance. The students will learn how the Grand Canyon came to be, hear about a Universalist minister who fought for women's suffrage, and create soap carvings.

The **Grade 7-8** Junior Youth group will begin the year with the Crossing Paths curriculum. They will explore aspects of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths. September's sessions will prepare the students for their first house of worship visit.

Limited time? Want to make a difference?

Join the RE TEAM!

If you find you have space in your busy schedule for a single one-off commitment, please consider sharing your talents with the RE TEAM. Whether it's driving the Senior Youth Group to the grocery store in preparation for the PanWaff breakfast, helping out for an afternoon at the retreat, setting up the teacher appreciation luncheon, or cutting large animal shapes out of cardboard, there's a just-right job here for you that will make a huge difference to your community.

Please speak to Louise Marcoux, Katie Byron, or any member of the Religious Education Committee to find out more.

Religious Education News, continued

Meet Katie Byron

We're thrilled to introduce you to our new Youth Coordinator, Katie Byron. Katie's pronouns are they/them/their. A graduate student at Boston University in Theology and Social Work (2021) AND a candidate for the UU ministry, Katie is working toward a career in hospital chaplaincy as a UU Community Minister Affiliated. In their limited spare time, they enjoy "crafty stuff" like embroidery and can often be found dancing. They live in Boston with their two cats, Turnip and Truffle.



Katie is thrilled about this opportunity to work with UU youth. They bring to us a passion for working with young people, a deep love of Unitarian Universalism, and well-developed group work skills. They are looking forward to getting to know everyone and "watching what we build together." Welcome Katie!

YOUTH GROUPS

Welcome back from summertime adventures! Our Senior Youth and Junior Youth Fellowship groups will be gearing up for a fun-filled year. If you are interested in being on the email threads for youth activities, or just have general questions and want more info, send a note to Youth Coordinator Katie Byron at yc@uusharon.org.

SAVE THE DATE for **upcoming retreats** at **Cedar Hill** in Duxbury.

JYFG: Friday, October 4-Saturday, October 5

SYG: Saturday, October 5-Sunday, October 6

We'll be planning our retreat when we meet in September.

Attention high school students

The church occasionally hires youth to provide childcare at events. If you are interested in being contacted about childcare opportunities at church, please contact Louise Marcoux at dre@uusharon.org. Once you have completed the background check paperwork, you will be added to the list of occasional childcare providers. The church pays \$18 per hour for occasional childcare.

Teaching Team Meetings:

PreK - K	Sep 7, noon-2:45
Grades 1-4	Sep 6, 7-8:30 pm
Grades 5-6	Sep 13, 7-8:45 pm
Grades 7-8	Sep 8, 7-8:45 pm

Should I register my children in the RE program?

If you are new to the church, please feel free to come with your family a few times to make sure that you feel comfortable here. Please fill out a visitor form so that we know if your child has allergies and so that we can send you an email warning about upcoming paint activities in your child's class. All children and youth ages 0-18 should register (eventually).

If you are not sure whether you have registered yet, please check the RE bulletin board for the list of registered families. If you don't see your name, please grab a registration form from the rack outside the RE office and turn your completed form to the Administrative Office after church. Or register on the church website.

Registration costs \$40 for one child, \$60 for two or more. If your high school student volunteers in RE, the fee is waived. Scholarships are available: please contact Christian Roulleau, Andrea Pannone, Louise Marcoux, or the Rev. Jolie Olivetti in order to request a scholarship.

UCS has a Children's Library?

Indeed we do – in Program C. And, thanks to an heroic volunteer effort by Evan Spencer, it organized and labeled by category (color-coded even!). **Thank you, Evan, for making this happen!** Whether you're looking for a book about religion or nature, myths or how to be a human being, there is something here for you. And now it's a lot easier to find what you're looking for. And it's clear where to put books back.

Grades 1-4 – Fairy House homework

Each participant in the Grades 1-4 RE group is asked to fill a shoe box with things they find in the natural world: pebbles, sticks, moss, lichen, leaves, seed pods, husks, dried up bugs or insect exoskeletons, snake skins, acorns, dried grasses, reeds, shells, etc. We ask that the boxes arrive back at church no later than October 6, because that's the day we will start building our fairy houses with the construction materials in our shoeboxes. This project will continue on October 13.



Religious Education Dates:

Sep 16, 10 am Teacher Dedication
Sep 16, 10:30 am First Day of Classes

September Programs

Music and Arts

Not Just Another Coffeehouse

Krisanthi Pappas

Saturday, September 21

7pm, doors open 6:30pm



Please join vocalist Krisanthi Pappas for an evening of original songs as well as hits by Carole King, Carly Simon and Karen Carpenter. Krisanthi is a Billboard® award-winning singer/songwriter who has been compared to Norah Jones and Diana Krall by JazzTimes Magazine, and to Karen Carpenter and Carole King by All Music Guide.

As a retro pop singer Krisanthi has performed pre-shows for Sheryl Crow, Heart, Queen with Adam Lambert, The Doobie Brothers, Steely Dan, The B-52s, Chicago and REO Speedwagon. As a jazz singer she has opened for Branford Marsalis, Chuck Mangione, The Yellowjackets, Manhattan Transfer's Cheryl Bentyne, Kevin Mahogany, Gary Burton and Makoto Ozone. Her original songs have been aired on national television shows and in independent films. More information is available at krisanthi.com.

During intermission enjoy our homemade desserts and fair trade beverages. Hope to see you there!



The 2019 UU Theater Nights

The first UU Theatre night of the season at Mass Music Arts Society (MMAS) is on **Saturday, September 14** for **Crimes of the Heart!**

We have reserved a limited number of tickets. Our pot-luck reception will start at 7:00pm (if we have enough attendees) and the show starts at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$28.00pp. Please invite and encourage new members to attend. Guests and non UU members are always welcome. It's a fun way to socialize and enjoy top quality community theater. If interested please email Pat McDougal at mcdougal.pat@gmail.com.

Here is the rest of the season:

BOEING, BOEING Sat. Nov 2

THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES Fri. Dec 6

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE Sat. Jan 25

NOISES OFF! Sat. Mar 21

SEUSSICAL Sat. Apr 25

BLITHE SPIRIT Fri. June 19

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 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.

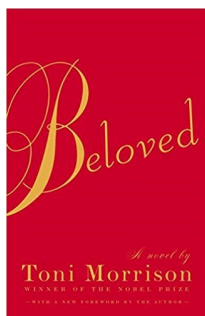
Men's Group is a group for men who are members and friends of UCS. We gather on the first and third Monday of each month at 8 pm to talk about our lives and topics of mutual interest. We are open to new members. If you're curious please feel free to drop in on one of our meetings. For more information ask Jon Slavin (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.

September Programs, continued

Interest and Discussion Groups

Book Group – The Book Group will skip September and meet next on Wednesday, **October 9th**, at 7pm, in the church library. This is an exception to our usual "first Wednesday" meetings.



Following on the death of author Toni Morrison, we have opted to read her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, **BeLoved**, as our October selection. Morrison was inspired by the story of an African-American slave who escaped to a free state, and was faced with a horrible choice years before the story opens in 1873.

We usually meet in the church library at 7pm on the first Wednesday of most months. You are welcome to join whether you've read (or finished) the book.

Let's Laugh Today— Let's Laugh Today Adds a Wednesday Evening Session!



You will now be able to get your giggle on twice a month as Let's Laugh Today has added a laughter session to the fourth Wednesday of every month by popular demand! Bring the whole family to one or both FREE laughter sessions in Program Rooms A/B from 11am to noon on Saturday, September 14th AND on Wednesday, September 25th from 7pm to 8pm. Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Every session is always different. 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. You can sit or stand. There are no postures or poses.

Please bring your water bottle because laughing can be dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Master Trainers, 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.

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.

Movie Group

Green Book

September 13 at 7pm

A working-class Italian-American bouncer becomes the driver of an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South.

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



Seeing White meets on fourth Sundays and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 pm. One group will be engaging with Robin DiAngelo's bestseller *White Fragility*, while the other will focus on the *Seeing White* podcasts from Scene on Radio. The groups are currently closed. If you are interested in joining, please contact Louise Marcoux first.

Writer's Group – Meets on second Sunday of the month, at noon 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.

Beware of Suspicious Emails!

Some people in the congregation have been getting emails that appear to be from the minister or other leaders of our community.

If you look closely, you'll see that it is a Gmail (or another email account) that somebody set up to trick people and not an email account ending in @uusharon.org

Please be aware of that you'll never be asked to buy gift cards for anyone at the Unitarian Church of Sharon.

If you have any questions, email the Office Manager.

Jeff Rose, IT and Linda Cveckova, Office Manager

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



A New Church Year is upon us, sure to be filled with challenges, opportunities, and unexpected turns as we navigate together our pathway forward. The Social Justice Committee invites all members and friends of the Congregation to learn more about the wide range of justice programs and offerings to be found here at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, and to join in wherever you feel called to service as we attempt to use our collective efforts to make positive changes in the world around us. This year, at the beginning of Rev. Jolie's ministry with us here in Sharon, we will be taking some time to reevaluate our various programs and goals in hopes of better aligning our efforts with the needs and values of the congregation. We will be asking you this fall to reflect and share what it is that motivates your dreams and aspirations for the social justice work of our community, and hopefully we will refocus our efforts by what we learn from each other. Please ask any member of the committee about where you can find your places to join in, or come to our monthly meetings to learn more, and to bring your own passionate ideas to the table. Stay tuned for what promises to be a busy year ahead!

Gare Reid, Social Justice co-chair

"We are here to awaken from the illusion of our separateness." Thich Nhat Hanh



Social justice work can strengthen and enlarge a congregation. It can build community, nourish the spiritual life of members, and shape public opinion and policy. We at the Unitarian Church of Sharon have been busy working for justice through numerous pathways - immigration, legislative advocacy, climate and environmental justice, racial justice, networking with other UU congregations and in the community, sermons, small groups, vigils, reflection and study. Our numbers of active social justice participants has grown, with members of our children, youth and young adult groups participating in direct action. But, this summer has not given us respite from the suffering and injustice in the world. I have felt called even more strongly to go out and work for justice - even as I sat enjoying the warm sun and blue water at the beach and lake. The call was there, in my heart and in my soul. And, now, we are beginning a new church year. I am feeling a great need to understand better how we, as a congregation, can continue the work with greater understanding, vision,

commitment and energy, as well as with open minds and hearts. So, I am sharing some of the questions that are in my heart and asking that we as a congregation take some time to think about how we might answer the questions individually and as a congregation. But, as in all things involving growth, questions can be the foundation for forward movement. Questions for Reflection –

How might our congregation be a beacon of UU values for the larger world?

How do we understand suffering, oppression, and injustice in the light of our faith?

How does our faith ground us in social justice, theologically, historically, and through spiritual practices?

How does our faith hold brokenness, injustice, suffering?

How do we mend a broken world?

As we begin this new church year, I look forward to Reverend Joli's vision and leadership, along with engagement from each of you, as we find renewed purpose, with faith and commitment to continue the work of justice.

Elizabeth Siftar, Social Justice co-chair

Brown Envelope donations: For all of June, our Brown Envelope collection raised \$1,122.20 to further the work of **GLSEN**. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (glsen.org) is dedicated to ensuring that every member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

During our lay-led services in July and August, including Labor Day weekend, the Brown Envelope collections will support the Summer Youth Programs of the **UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury** (UUUM.org).

Our Brown Envelope collection in September will be directed to our **Partner Church in Gyulakuta**, Transylvania. During the Reformation/Inquisition, Unitarianism was ruthlessly extinguished throughout Europe. But in Transylvania, on the edge of the Ottoman Empire, it was able to survive under the protection of the sultans, who wanted trouble-free borders. After centuries, it gradually spread westward, reaching England, and then moved on to North America. One way we can recognize the contribution Romania has made to perpetuate freedom of religious thought is to help support the Unitarian churches there, which are often very small and struggling. For many years, our congregation has supported our Partner Church in Gyulakuta. The money we raise via our Brown Envelope Collection in September pays for a musician during their worship service and for a copy of the monthly Romanian Unitarian magazine for each family, as well as other urgent projects. They are enormously grateful for this support.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Walking the walk



Linda Fingerson

UCS member **Linda Fingerson**, will be traveling in September to Southern Arizona to volunteer in advocacy for Scott Warren, a volunteer with No More Deaths, who was arrested for leaving water for migrants crossing the Sonoran Desert. He was tried for harboring migrants; the jury was hung and the trial ended in a mistrial. The government is now attempting to try him again.

Apparently, giving water to a migrant is now a crime. Under new government policies, this action is punishable with a prison sentence for harboring fugitives. Linda will be working with UUSC to advocate for Scott and to learn more about the experiences of migrants crossing the Sonoran Desert. Here is last week's Democracy Now! segment on the work of No More Deaths and the upcoming trial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Acu7H0jwTeY>

To find out more about the work of No More Deaths, a program of the UU church in Tucson, AZ, visit: <https://www.uusc.org/initiatives/no-more-deaths/>

Linda will be learning more about the experiences of migrants crossing the Sonoran Desert by reading *The Devil's Highway* by Luis Urrea; <http://luisurrea.com/books/the-devils-highway/> Linda asks that we read the book in support of her advocacy, and the realities of what migrants experience in attempting to make the desert crossing. From *The Devil's Highway*: "They came down out of the screaming sun and broke onto the rough plains of the Cabeza Prieta wilderness, where the sun recommenced its burning. Cutting through this region, and lending its name to the terrible landscape, was the Devil's Highway, more death, another desert. They were in a vast trickery of sand. In many ancient religious texts, fallen angels were bound in chains and buried beneath a desert known only as Desolation. This could be the place."



Carbon Offsets

In an effort to offset the environmental impact of sending two delegates from the UCS to the annual General Assembly in Spokane, WA this past June, funds were raised to purchase **carbon offsets** on their behalf. We are sending \$125 to the Fair Climate Fund in the Netherlands to help purchase solar cookers for refugee families in Chad. [



African women using solar cookers

Ongoing Social Justice opportunities

Ongoing Social Justice opportunities: you can support social justice causes in other ways as well: 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 Shopping for Justice supermarket gift cards in various denominations for Shaws, Stop & Shop, and Big Y (+/-5% of the 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. Surely there is something related to social justice going on here at church that calls out to you – don't wait, jump right in!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Community Vigil

In response to mass shootings in El Paso, TX, Dayton, OH and Gilroy, CA, on [August 8, 2019](#) a community vigil was held at Sharon town center in front of our church. Then the group, including members of UCS led by Rev. Jolie Olivetti, were joined by Sharon Interfaith Action to share, pray, sing, grieve and remember those killed by senseless gun violence. Rev. Joli led songs, and members of the group shared their grief and sadness at the violence and loss of life.



August 8, 2019: Vigil in Response to Mass Shootings

Upcoming Dates:

- Sunday, 1 September** – MainSpring House lunch making, Vestry, following the service
- Sunday, 15 September** – SJC monthly meeting, noon, in the Library
- Sunday, 6 October** – SJC monthly meeting, noon, in the Library



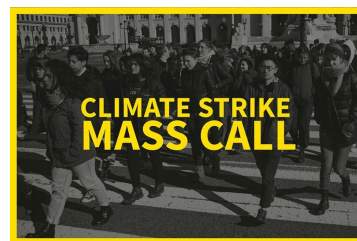
August 8, 2019: Vigil in Response to Mass Shoot-

GREEN RAFFLE at the Bean Supper on September 7th

When you head up to the church for this year's Bean Supper, on please consider bringing your own **reusable plates, cups, and cutlery** in order to reduce our collective carbon footprint. For each place setting your family brings, you will get a raffle ticket to win either a reusable shopping bag or stainless steel straw. But, if you forget, no worries: We will have **compostable** service items available for use for those who forget to bring along their own gear (you *will* remember next time, won't you?).

Climate Action Protest

On **September 20th**, millions of climate activists across the country will be walking out of their schools, homes, and work places to demand climate justice, and the [Sunrise Movement](#) & UUMass Action want you to join the protest! More details to follow, but you can register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sBU6Px6JTYmmeVs13iHX3Q



Community Closet

Saturday, 8/10 was another great day at the CommU-nity Closet, our 6 Church Cluster's free clothing distribution project in Brockton. We had many adults and children come by to select gently used items; and it was our Church's turn to staff the project. The CommU-nity Closet continues to need donations, which can be left under the table by the Social Justice Bulletin Board in the Vestry. With cooler weather coming the project can use coat and jackets. Infant and children's clothes are always in short supply. Because of the start of school backpacks in good shape would also be welcome. Questions? See Jim Mullin or Gare Reid .

67th Annual Bean Supper 2019



Please join us for our annual **Potluck Bean Supper** on **Saturday, September 7 from 5-7pm** on the Church Green. This is a long-standing tradition marking the beginning of a new church year to welcome our loving congregation (*and this year- a new Minister*). It is also an opportunity to bring the larger community together as it is open, once again, to the general public. So spread the word, bring your family and friends!

You can make your favorite bean dish/chili/casserole or if you'd rather bake- go ahead and whip up a tasty treat of brownies/preferred dessert or that winning bread of yours.

However, if you do not want to toil over a hot stove,

you can donate hot dogs, buns, drinks, ice-cream, condiments or a chopped salad of your choice.

A donation of \$7.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child is being suggested.

To sign up, go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F49A5AE2F4-bean5> Any questions please email Ken Zaniewski at zaniew@verizon.net or Rumni Saha at rumni.saha@gmail.com.

Also, please remember that this is a BYOB event (B=Bowl, not bubbly). To read more about the Green Raffle click [here](#).

Your commitment to this beloved Church event and efforts to make this a **Green** Bean Supper is much-appreciated!

Submitted by Rumni Saha



HAVE YOU ABANDONED US?

Waiting plaintively for someone who wants them are the following, from the collection in the Church's Lost & Found box: 2 umbrellas, an assortment of fleeces and jackets in a variety of sizes, several knitted items, a child's red long-sleeved T, glasses cases, water bottles, a jar of glass marbles, shopping bags, and 2 glass pie plates. If you are missing these or other assorted belongings, all of them want to go home with their owners. They will be attractively displayed during the Bean Supper and the next day in the vestry. After that, usable clothing items go in to the washer and then to the Community Closet; the rest will be introduced to the dumpster.

To see a picture of some of the items click below:

https://www.uusharon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/IMG_1607.jpg

Colleen Tuck and Linda Cveckova

The **First Parish Taunton Block Party** will take place on September 22nd, and it's a great chance for all of us UU neighbors to join our efforts and continue nurturing our relationships with one another and our communities. The Block Party will feature an afternoon of music, food, games, a bounce house and more.!

All UU churches in the area are invited and encouraged to organize/contribute activities like tie-dyeing, face-painting, lawn games, etc.--and coordinating an activity with friends from other churches!

Anyone in your congregation own a business? We're also looking for sponsors who are interested in supporting the Block Party. I've attached a flyer and a sponsorship form to this e-mail--please feel free to spread the word to your congregations, and don't hesitate to reach out to myself or April Rosario (dre@firstparishtaunton.org) with any questions or inquiries.

September 2019 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Summer Worship Service 10:15am	Women's Group I. (At Capacity) 7pm (LIB)			Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	Grades 1-4 Teaching Team Meeting 7pm (AB) Planning Classroom Set Up: Grades 1-4 7pm (LIB)	Bean Supper 5-7pm (OUT, VES) PreK-K Teaching Team Orientation and Planning 7pm (ABC)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Grades 7-8 Teaching Team 7pm (AB) Board Retreat 1-5pm (OFF)			Membership Committee 6:30pm (VES) Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB)	Women's Group II. 7:30pm (LIB)	Grades 5-6 Teaching Team 7pm (LIB) Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	Committee Chairs 9am (VES) Let's Laugh Today 11am – noon (A/B)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday Religious Education 10:30pm (multi) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR)	Women's Group I. (At Capacity) 7pm (LIB)		Caring Committee (Closed) 7pm (MIN)	Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) Seeing White I. 7:30pm (NUR)	Religious Education Committee 7pm (B)	Seeing White II. 7pm (NUR)	Let's Laugh Today 7pm (AB)	Women's Group II. 7:30pm (LIB)		
29	30					
Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR)						

CALENDAR

To view up to date calendar and to reserve a meeting space please go to

<http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/month/>



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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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