

the chalice

Published by the
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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, January 24

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DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: AWE

10:00 am Family Service and 10:30 am Adult Service

(Unless noted otherwise)

December 1 Just As We Are

Our worship today will center on illness and wholeness. In honor of World AIDS Day, December 1, we will reflect on the history and present day realities of AIDS. How do shame and stigma get in the way of healing?

December 8 Things of Worth

The word "worship" comes from an Old English word that means acknowledgment of worth. How can we adequately pay homage to the worthy wonders that awaken awe within each of us and all around us? How do we show reverence for all that we love and hold most holy?

December 15 Revels 10:15 Service (No RE classes)

In this season of late sunrises and early sunsets, we celebrate the coming return of the light. Children and youth lead us in an appreciation of the many ways this season is observed: Yule, Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Santa Lucia Day. Our shadow story this year: the birth of Jesus. All are welcome for this special multigenerational celebration!

December 20 Solstice 7:00pm service (Childcare is not available.)

In one of the most moving services of our entire year, our choir will lead us in a celebration of the winter solstice. Through music, readings and the play of dark and light, we will enter into the heart of this ancient earth-based spiritual passage. Open to all.

December 22 Ordinary but Awesome

Tonight is the first night of Chanukah, the Jewish holiday of light and miracles. According to Albert Einstein, "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." In worship today we will reflect on the ordinary, everyday miracles that fill our lives with light.

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm Services

Join us as we sing Christmas carols, share passages from the Christian Bible that tell the story of Jesus' birth, and reflect on the spirit of Christmas from a Unitarian Universalist perspective.

December 29 New Year's Music Service 10:30am service in Easton (No service at UCS)

New Year's Music Service will be held at **Unity Church of North Easton**, 9 Main Street. The service will include a variety of music, spoken word and poetry, and there will be opportunities to sing and participate in the service. Following the service, Unity will be hosting a Coffee Hour.

From the Minister



I have some beautiful new decorations in my office, albeit temporarily. As part of some classroom reshuffling, some objects from the 7th-8th grade class are gracing my shelves for a few weeks: broken vessels that have been glued back together with gold glitter glue.

Our 7th-8th graders are doing a curriculum called “Crossing Paths” this year, learning about major religions of the world. As part of the unit on Judaism, they learned how the world shattered, and how it must be restored. Here is how Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen, a physician and writer, retells her grandfather’s version of this ancient Jewish story:

This is the story of the birthday of the world. In the beginning, there was only the holy darkness, the Ein Sof, the source of life. Then, in the course of history, at a moment in time, this world, the world of a thousand thousand things, emerged from the heart of the holy darkness as a great ray of light. And then, perhaps because this is a Jewish story, there was an accident. And the vessels containing the light of the world, the wholeness of the world, broke. And the wholeness in the world, the light of the world, was scattered into a thousand thousand fragments of light. And they fell into all events and all people, where they remain deeply hidden until this very day.

Now, according to my grandfather, the whole human race is a response to this accident. We are here because we are born with the capacity to find the hidden light in all events and all people; to lift it up and make it visible once again and, thereby, to restore the innate wholeness of the world. This is a very important story for our times — that we heal the world one heart at a time. This task is called “tikkun olam” in Hebrew, or “restoring the world.”

So, back to our middle schoolers: they smashed vases in their class. As they put them back together, they thought of how they offer kindness, repair, or healing to others and the world. The glitter glue represents the divine light that still emanates from these shards. The vases will soon migrate to the 7th-8th graders new classroom, the Library, so I hope you take a look at them sometime. They are beautiful in their brokenness. They tell a story of imperfection and healing, of our collective responsibility to be part of restoring the world. These times call us all to join in the sacred work of *tikkun olam*.

Our worship theme for December is Awe. I feel in awe of how laden with significance December is (not to

mention how busy and exhausting). Just as the dark spreads to its greatest length across our days and nights, the light promises to return. We continue our descent into the cold of winter, and the year turns new once again. Holidays like Advent, Solstice, Chanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa fill our calendars. December at UCS includes several special, awe-inspiring services: RE leads us in our annual celebration of Revels on the 15th, the choir leads us in a Solstice ritual of word and song on the 20th, and we’ll have our Christmas Eve candlelight services at 5 pm and 7 pm on the 24th. Hope to see you for these occasions and more.

We had such a good time at the “Brown Bag” in November, we decided to make it a regular thing. So any and all who can take their lunch break here at church on second Thursdays at noon, see you in the vestry! Also, beginning December 8th, I’m offering a program called “Starting Point,” on the journey of Unitarian Universalism and this church, and where you fit in. See details on [page 3](#). As always, I love hearing from you. Call or email: (617) 851-9356 (cell); (781) 784-3652 x2 (office); minister@uusharon.org [minis-ter@uusharon.org](mailto:minister@uusharon.org).

Warmly,

Rev. Jolie Olivetti

From the President



I hope all of you have a wonderful December and holidays. This is both a joyful and difficult time of year. It’s dark so early, the days are short and the list of things we want to do is often long. In addition, this is a time of remembering,

wishing and hoping. Missing loved ones who are no longer with us, welcoming new members to our family and spending time with friends. I hope all of you the best of times, wish you special moments with loved ones and quiet times to reflect on the past, the present and the future. Happy Holidays.

Susan Olson Drisko

President

Tim Theiler Memorial Service

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Tim Theiler, who died on November 9. He was an active and beloved member of this congregation, including serving as its President. Our hearts are with his family and all those who loved him. Please join us to remember Tim and celebrate his life at noon on Saturday, December 14 in our sanctuary. A reception with light refreshments will follow.



BEYOND OUR WALLS

Registration is open for the General Assembly at www.uua.org/ga. This time it will be in Providence RI, a short drive, on June 24-28th. This is a splendid opportunity for anyone who has been interested in attending but found the travel and lodging prohibitive. The GA, for those unfamiliar, is the UU Annual meeting with exhibits, workshops, and a moving closing service in addition to the actual meeting.

On December 29th at 10:30 AM, at the Unity Church in North Easton, there will be a shared service for all the churches in our cluster. It will be a musical service in a beautiful church and is worth attending, since we do not have a service on that Sunday at our church.

Contributions of good used clothing continues to be needed at the CommUnity Closet at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Brockton. Winter clothing and children's clothing are desirable. Put donations under the Social Justice Table in the Vestry. The Social Justice Committee is planning a coat drive for Main-Spring House in Brockton and you might want to give them your winter coats during that activity.

Finally, Kate Parker-O'Toole is making a new banner for the Cluster which is greatly appreciated. The Five Point Cluster, for new folks, is a way for the UU churches of Sharon, Foxboro, Canton, Stoughton, No. Easton, and Brockton to support each other and share activities.

Jim Mullin

DRE Job Opening in Stoughton

First Parish in Stoughton is hiring a Director of Religious Education! Do you have a friend of a friend who would be perfect for this? Perhaps someone who applied for another position in your church but wasn't the right fit? Please, share this opportunity far and wide!

This brand new position is 8 hours per week, September to June. The person in this role will plan lessons & activities for our small but growing children's Religious Education program, support our volunteers, and encourage multigenerational connections.

Here's a link to the job description: <https://tinyurl.com/fp-stoughton-dre>

Blessings,

– Rev. Sarah, First Parish in Stoughton

Greeters for Christmas Services Needed

The *Worship Committee* is seeking GREETERS this year for our two Christmas Eve Services: 5 & 7 p.m.

These have always been well attended, and to date, we have no "data" collected regarding numbers. Also, we are seeking a GREETER for the 7 o'clock service to assist with the counting of the collections. In the past, this responsibility has fallen upon the Minister, which does not allow them to leave prior to 9 o'clock. Please contact the Worship Chair, Jean Fox, @ jmfoxden@verizon.net if you are interested and able to assist. *We THANK YOU!*

A New Way to Holiday

Gather with friends and families for an enhanced coffee hour after services on **Sunday, Dec. 22**, when the Membership Committee will be hosting a potluck holiday brunch in the vestry starting at 11:30 a.m. Bring a favorite savory dish, Membership Committee will supply the

sweet dishes, or just bring yourself. No nuts please! Take a little time to savor the community that we all cherish (but sometimes may take for granted). The all-ages event will also feature Children Chorus led by Forbesy - so please plan to stick around and join the fun.



Buildings & Grounds

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS UPDATE

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: Automatic front door opener and A&B folding wall tutorials available:

There are three steps to activate and deactivate the front door 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 important for committee chairs and group organizers to ensure everyone is able to attend their meetings.

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.

Church Parking:

Eastern Bank's management is generous in allowing church parking during non-business hours, but they have asked that we leave some space for their customers who use the ATM when they are closed. Please leave the two spaces next to the HP spaces for bank customers. Thank you!

Say goodbye:

Two maple trees along Depot Street are dying and, before they fall, will need to be removed. For those who love to see them change with the seasons, this will be a sad goodbye, but they are increasingly a danger to passers-by.

Could B&G Call on You?

Do you have a particular skill that B & G might call on to address small issues that come up from time to time? Are you "handy", "semi handy" or would be willing to just help out here and there? If so, please let Lindsay Drisko know that you are willing. A strong list of volunteers that we can call on help share the load of being sure our buildings and grounds are maintained.

And finally, B&G usually meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30. Join us!

Lindsay Drisko, B&G Chair



Starting Point Program

On the journey of Unitarian Universalism

For newcomers, new members, and long-timers
2nd Sundays in Program A/B, beginning Dec 8,
12 pm to 2 pm.

Four sessions total: Dec 8, Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 8

Simple NUT FREE Lunch provided - please inform me of dietary restrictions. Childcare provided.

A few slots remain - RSVP to Rev. Jolie today!
(781) 784-3652 x2 or minister@uusharon.org

A little kid needs YOU!

A call for volunteers: Would it do your heart good to hold a baby every once in a while? Our nursery providers would appreciate the help of on-call volunteers to assist in the nursery when attendance is high. We've been blessed with a solid cohort of infants and toddlers -- and when numbers rise past 6, we like to have a third adult in the room. It's hard to predict when this will happen, but we want to be prepared when the time comes. We hope to develop a pool of on-call nursery volunteers. It's a once-in-a-while commitment that supports our growing congregation. Background check required. Safety training provided. Please contact, Louise Marcoux, if you are interested.



Religious Education News

From the Director of Religious Education



What is Revels?

Revels is telling story. In order to tell story, you have to let story dwell within you and dance with your imagination. And once story and imagination have danced together for a while, eyes and

hands get involved -- drawing and cutting and painting and gluing until story is made visible.

On December 15, children will tell story: the story of the baby born in the barn, the story of the sacred oil that kept holy lights ablaze far longer than it should have, the story of the shortest day. And then our youth will lead us in a ceremony of great beauty, solemnity, and joy -- and challenge us to notice all that stays the same as everything changes.

Please come to Revels and let your spirit be fed by the stories of the return of the light.

Blessings,

Louise

REVELS REHEARSALS:

Sunday, December 8, 11:40 am - 1 pm

Preschool/Kindergarten will be done by 12:10 pm

Grades 1-6 are needed from 11:40 am until 12:30 pm

Grades 7-8 will start rehearsing around 12:30

Sunday, December 15, 9 am-10am

Grades 1-8 (plus Villagers All and Yule Choir) in the Sanctuary and ready to rehearse at 9 am.

Preschool-Kindergarten ready to rehearse at 9:30 am.

- Program B and C will be available as play spaces where children can blow off steam under parental supervision.
- Program A will be a rehearsal space for Grades 5-6 (shadow puppeteers).
- Kitchen and Vestry will be work spaces for Grades 7-8.

December in RE

December is the time for Reveling in Religious Education!

The first two Sundays of the month will find the students busy making final preparations and rehearsing for our annual Revels celebration on December 15th. On December 22nd the Preschool-Kindergarten children will spend their class time making chalices, while the grades 1-8 students enjoy a Yule party complete with contra dancing, singing and other Yule traditions, such as the crowning of the "Yule King."

For Revels:

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** class will bring their barn and animals they have made into the sanctuary to share what they have learned about shelter, care and the nativity story.

The **Grade 1-4** students will share what they have learned about Hanukkah, the Solstice and Yule by lighting the Menorah, "raising the sun," and "Decking the Halls."

The **Grade 5-6** students will continue to create and collaborate together to share their shadow puppet story of the Nativity.

The **Grade 7-8** class will illuminate the sanctuary with the beauty of the Santa Lucia ceremony.

There will be no church or RE classes on December 29th. Classes will resume in the New Year on January 5th, 2020.

Leslie Cox, Administrative Assistant

Coming of Age meetings in December

THE THEME: **How Do You Know?**

Tuesday, Dec 3: Youth only

Tuesday, Dec 17: Youth and Mentors

Please bring your journal to every meeting!

Religious Education News, continued



Junior Youth Fellowship Group baking muffins and cookies together.

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! This past month we discussed coping with political debates, we made mason jar candle holders, and watched Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Upcoming in December are more games, celebrating the winter holidays, and trying to stay warm in the dark, cold nights.



Junior Youth Fellowship Group

In November, JYFG made cookies and muffins and collected donations for organizations that matter to JYFG members! We'll meet next on December 7th to get cozy and watch a movie! 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 Katie Byron at yc@uusharon.org.

Talking with Children about Bodies, Birth, and Babies

We launch the *Our Whole Lives* comprehensive sexuality education program for first and second graders on Sunday, January 5, with a parent-child orientation followed by 8 weeks of lessons on Sunday morning paired with family reading at home.

But you don't have to have a first or second grader to reap the benefits of this particular program. Everyone is invited to read along with the families who are participating. OWL recommends the following books:

What's the Big Secret: Talking about Sex with Girls and Boys by Laurie Krasny Brown with Marc Brown
What Makes A Baby by Cory Silverberg with Fiona Smith.

Our Whole Lives for Grades 1-2 starts in January

January 5: Parent-Child Orientation 12:30 - 3 pm. One parent must participate in this orientation to give informed consent. Childcare will be available for siblings.

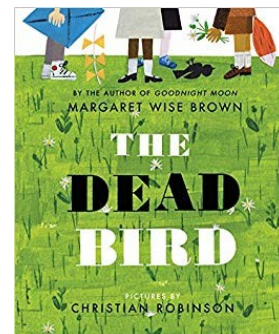
January 12, Our Wonderful Bodies 1: 10:30-11:30 am

January 26, Our Wonderful Bodies 2: 10:30-11:30 am

If you have questions about OWL, please contact Louise Marcoux.

Talking with Children about Death and Dying

The church offers *Our Whole Lives* to support a healthy conversation between parent and child about the place of sexuality in living. But we don't offer any similar curriculum about death and loss. Religious educators have been talking with one another about which resources they share with parents to promote a healthy conversation between parent and child about death. A compilation of their notes is available here: [Talking with children about death: Resources](#) A paper list is available from the literature rack outside the RE office.



December Programs

Music and Arts

The 2019 UU Theater Nights

Bring a friend and join us for one or all of these fun theater productions:

***Charles Dicken's The Christmas Carol** starring Doug McDougal as Scrooge with Roundabout Theater at the Norfolk Grange. Purchase tickets at <https://roundaboutproductions.org>.

***The Marvelous Wonderettes** on Friday Dec.13 at 8:00pm at MMAS. If we have enough attendees we will have a pot luck reception starting at 7:00pm. This 1999 musical uses pop songs from the 1950s and 1960s. Contact Pat McDougal for more information or tickets.

Our pot-luck reception will start at 7:00pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$28.00pp. New members and guests are welcome. Contact Pat McDougal for more information.

There are also **two tickets available for this show through the Caring Committee** – if you'd like to try out this fun event and cost is currently an issue keeping you from attending, please reach out to the MMAS-Caring Committee Liaison, Evelynne Swagerty, or let any member of the Caring Committee know. If we have more requests than tickets, we will randomly draw a ticket recipient and notify you in-person or via email.



Here is the rest of the season:

THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES Fri. Dec 13
A CHRISTMAS CAROL Sat. Dec. 7 at the Norfolk Grange (starring Doug McDougal as Scrooge!)

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE Sat. Jan 25

NOISES OFF! Sat. Mar 21

SEUSSICAL Sat. Apr 25 **CANCELLED**

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.

Not Just Another Coffeehouse

There is no Not Just Another Coffeehouse in December.

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.

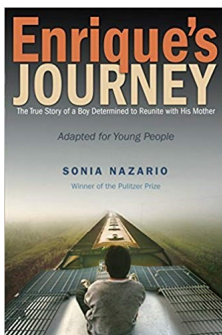
Women's Support Group II. – Meets on second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:30pm. New women are always welcome to join.



December Programs, continued

Interest and Discussion Groups

Book Group – We are skipping December and will meet again on January 8, 2020 (rather than New Year's Day) at 7pm to discuss **Enrique's Journey**, by **Sonia Nazario**, the true story of a Honduran teen who faces hardships and peril when he decides to try to find his mother, who migrated to the US 11 years earlier.



Because of the change of meeting day, we will get together in the Nursery rather than in the Library.

We usually meet at 7pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the church library. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you've read the book.

Let's Laugh Today: 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, **December 14th** (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. (No evening session this month because of Christmas, but usually on the 4th Wednesday evening.)



Please bring your water bottle because laughing can be dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Master Trainers and Laughter Ambassadors, 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 other opportunities to laugh at www.letslaughtoday.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.

Movie Group is not meeting in December.

Seeing White: Meets Sunday, December 22 at 7>30 pm in the Nursery. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Marcoux.

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.

Circle Suppers



Enjoy an evening of good food and conversation! Turn acquaintances into friends! Deepen your connection to the church community! Sign up for the UU of Sharon's famous potluck Circle Suppers!

Sign up by Dec. 21 for the new year. Dinners are held monthly. Newcomers welcome. Not ready to commit? Put your name on a list of alternates to receive occasional invitations. Dinners are on the second Saturday of the month and dates for 2020 are on Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14, April 11, and May 9. Commit to a dinner every month, or just an occasional month, depending on your schedule. You will be notified in early January of dinner locations.

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 Dec. 21.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Here is the latest news on what's happening in the area of social justice here at the UCS. We all participate in these efforts, one way or another, and working as a community, our impact ripples out into the pond.

Learn more about some of the current projects that you might want to keep an eye on this month:

Brown Envelope donations



Every month the SJC selects a program, cause or organization working towards social justice, and we offer congregants a chance to support their work via our Brown Envelope donations when we pass the plate during services. We attempt to reach out

to a range of recipients, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, on a wide range of topics.

Our Brown Envelope collections in October for the **Environmental Relief Fund** of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (www.uusc.org) raised \$839.55. By partnering with the UUSC, we know that critical needs will be responsibly met, thanks to their commitment to "help rebuild, provide resources, support families, and establish relationships with local groups that serve the communities that are often overlooked by mainstream relief efforts." A primary emphasis is currently on the devastation brought to the Bahamas by this season's hurricanes.

For November, the Brown Envelope collection is going to **BIJAN, the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network**, (www.beyondbondboston.org). *"We provide accompaniment, which can include support in court or at ICE check-ins, legal referrals, fundraising for bond or legal fees, letters of support from the community, rides for families to visit loved ones in detention, and logistical assistance with paperwork or bond payments. We also help with housing, transportation, and other immediate needs of people released on bond who have no other resources in the community."*

During December, we will once again support the **5 local food pantries** in our surrounding communities of Foxboro, Walpole, Norwood, Canton and Stoughton/Sharon through the Brown Envelope program. Our gifts, delivered after the holiday season, are especially appreciated as pantry staffs report that January is often a particularly lean donation period for them. And, as has been our tradition for many years,

the entire collection from our Christmas Eve services will be donated to the **Father Bill's & MainSpring House** program for the homeless in our area. Your support for these efforts is greatly appreciated.

Gifts for Kids 2019

Have you been dreaming about being an elf for the holidays? The Gifts for Kids Program, which began over 25 years ago by our own Pat McDougal, matches children in need with sponsors to provide gifts for the holidays. Over 1,200 children are on the list this year that were identified by social service agencies in 12 surrounding towns including Sharon, and we need your help. **Please note that the time frame this year is very short between Black Friday and the drop off date for collecting the holiday gifts for your designated child.** Please see Alison Reid during Coffee Hour at the Equal Exchange table or email her at areidgfk@gmail.com if you would like to obtain gifts for a child in need. You will be given the first name of a child, their size, and his or her wish list. We recommend including warm mittens, a hat, and a warm sweater or sweatshirt. Donations of any size by cash or check are also welcome. Your unwrapped, bagged gifts may be dropped off at church on Sunday, December 8th in the Vestry pantry, or you may drop them off at the VFW in Walpole on Tuesday, December 10th from 4-6pm, or at O'Connell Hall next to Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Sharon on Thursday, December 12th from 4-6 pm. Thanks so much for helping to make a child's holiday brighter!



Gifts for Kids 2018 Collection & Distribution Day: just a small part of the effort last year to coordinate holiday cheer for over 1200 local kids in need. You can be a part of this year's effort!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Transgender Inclusion Workshops

COMING SOON!

The UCS Social Justice Committee is excited to get going with creating ourselves as a community that welcomes and affirms people of all genders and of none; transgender, non-binary, and cis accomplices; and Black people and people of color who are trans. Much appreciation goes to Mia Joiner-Moore and Barbara Nelkin-Rose for arranging the reading commemorating Transgender Day of Remembrance that closed the November 17 Sunday service.

To the goal of learning more and growing together in fellowship with transgender people, we're enacting plans to share the course Transgender Inclusion in Congregations widely with UCS members. Taught jointly by Zr. Alex Kapitan and Rev. Mykal Slack, Transgender Inclusion in Congregations is a project of the Transforming Hearts Collective. The course, presented in six sessions, is geared toward people from generally LGBTQ-welcoming congregations or faith groups who want to deepen their understanding of gender and transgender identities. This course invites participants into a faith process grounded in the ideals and practices of Beloved Community as exemplified by the nonviolence work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The Transforming Hearts working group (Barbara Nelkin-Rose, Kate Parker-O'Toole, Christian Rouleau, Mia Joiner-Moore, and Linda Fingerson) is arranging group sessions for UCS members beginning in January to cover at least parts one and two of the series during the current church year. The best use of the course is in group processes, and we envision small- to medium-sized gatherings during the winter and the spring, facilitated (not taught) by the team. During our gathering time of about two hours, we plan to watch one of the 45-minute course video sessions together, engage in the self-reflection activities as described in the course, and then share our thoughts at will. The course is also available, right now, to any UCS member for individual study and reflection: please contact Gare Reid for the code needed to access the materials.

Look for us during Sunday services, at Coffee Hour and very soon, at the Do It Now Table, to coordinate group sign-ups. The Social Justice Committee is

working with Alex Kapitan to come and preach a Sunday service for us this March on this important topic.

Did you Know?

Mass RMV announces new non-binary gender coding

On November 12, 2019, the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) introduced a non-binary gender designation for identification documents it issues. The new non-binary gender code is represented by the letter "X." As a result, after November 12, 2019, you may receive information on a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) acknowledgement form or on a Massachusetts driver's license or state identification that may contain the non-binary gender code "X." ("Small steps forward" – SJC member)

Community Closet

The CommUnity Closet is a project of our Five Point Cluster of UU churches in the area. We collect donated clothing and other items and offer items for free to the community on the 2nd Saturday on most months, operating out of the UU Church of Brockton (325 West Elm Street). Donations of gently used and new clothing can be left at the Do It Now Table in the Vestry. The focus now is on winter items, as well as the ever-present need for new socks, underwear, diapers and sanitary items. Donations are greatly appreciated. See Jim Mullin or Gare Reid with questions or comments.



Thanks to donations and Fair Trade sales at Coffee Hour, we were able to collect over 5 dozen reading glasses to be distributed to in Brockton through out CommUnity Closet program (we got them 80% off on sale).

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

UUMass Action sponsors Climate Action Advocacy Day at the State House

Following on October's Climate Lobby Day, where a team of UCS members joined other UUs to inform legislators of the importance of upcoming environmental justice bills, on Tuesday, 17 December, another day of action will occur. From 10am-12:30pm roving teams of UUs will blanket the State House offices with information and conversations on critical environmental bills as they work their way through the session. Training and materials will be provided by UUMass Action – if you are interested in this effort, see Elizabeth Siftar for details.

Here's what David Schoenfeld said after his recent lobbying effort: "I had never been to the statehouse before, and after this experience I have much more respect for our hard working legislators. We first meet with the leaders of our delegation; there were 16 volunteers and we broke up into 8 teams of two. We were given complete instructions and information about the process. Did you know that there are 6000 bills before the legislature? We then were given a list of representatives to canvas and packets for them which had children art work as a cover. Our legislators aren't housed in luxury. Most of the offices had 3 or 4 representatives and their staff members working there.

"We spoke to the staff of quite a few representatives, and were finished in about an hour. Everyone was super friendly and supportive."

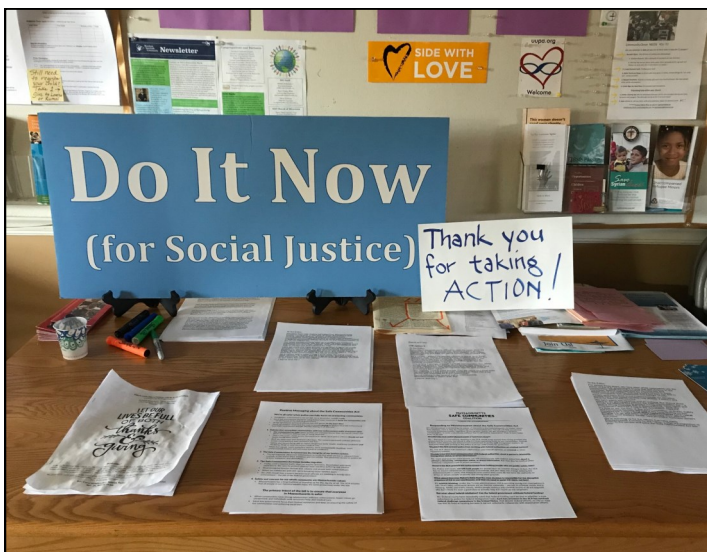
Update on the Safe Communities Act:

We are committed to protecting the safety of everyone in the Commonwealth, no matter where they are from. The **Safe Communities Act** will help ensure that everyone in Massachusetts, regardless of immigration status, can get emergency services, contact police, or enter a courtroom without fear it will lead to deportation. When communities have strong relationships with law enforcement, fewer crimes go unreported, and individuals seek necessary help and medical care. Law enforcement should focus their limited resources and time on ensuring the safety of our communities and enforcing local laws. Our communities are safer when victims and witnesses know they can report crimes and serve as witnesses without fear of being

deported. Massachusetts has a long tradition of standing up for the dignity of all. The Safe Communities Act ensures that all people in our Commonwealth enjoy the same protections under the law.

Working with guidance from UUMass Action (uumassaction.org), the UCS remains involved in this ongoing effort, including recently orchestrated letter writing and phone campaigns, and sending attendees to the legislative hearing on the Safe Communities Act on December 2 at the State House. Stay tuned for more information as this vital legislation moves forward. Thank you for supporting the Safe Communities Act!

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. Together, we can make real changes in this ailing world of ours!



SJ NEWS, continues

Green Tips from the last month:

This month we have focused on ways to reduce single-use plastics (plastic items that are designed to be thrown away after only one use).



November 24th: Plastic zip-lock bags are another common single-use plastic. Please consider washing and reusing bags for non-food uses, or consider reusing other food-grade plastic containers such as yogurt or take-out containers to store items instead of using new **bags**.

November 17th: Take-out containers at restaurants are another common single-use plastic. Please consider washing and reusing plastic take-out containers for restaurant leftovers. Keep several containers of different sizes in a small bag in your car for your convenience.

November 10th: Plastic cutlery is another common single-use plastic. Please consider investing in a set of stainless steel or bamboo cutlery to keep in your purse, backpack, car, or your desk at work.

November 3rd: Plastics are threatening our oceans, waterways, and soil because they are not properly disposed. If left exposed to the elements, they take hundreds of years to break down and when they do they photodegrade into small particles that we and animals are now regularly ingesting. Beverage bottles are the most common single-use plastic item. Please consider investing in a stainless steel insulated bottle that can be used for both hot and cold beverages.

If you have comments or suggestions please contact Tawnya Smith at createforpeace@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, 1 December – SJC monthly meeting, noon, in the Library

Monday, 2 December – Safe Communities Act hearing, 9:30am, State House, Boston

Sunday, 8 December – MainSpring House lunch making, Coffee Hour, Vestry

Sunday, 8 December – drop-off of Gifts for Kids donations, anytime, Vestry Pantry

Tuesday, 10 December – drop-off of Gifts for Kids donations, 4-6pm, Walpole VFW Hall

Thursday, 12 December – drop-off of Gifts for Kids donations, 4-6pm, Our Lady of Sorrows Hall, Sharon

Tuesday, 17 December – Climate Action Advocacy Day, 10am-12:30pm, State House, Boston



SIA Thanksgiving Service: Interfaith clergy

Sharon Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

On 24th November Sharon Interfaith held a Thanksgiving Service At Hope Church in Sharon. Multiple religious leaders spoke, including several community youth. Among the youth speakers was our own Julia Zelevinsky, and Reverend Jolie was the Keynote speaker. It was a wonderful service with a good attendance including a group from UCS.



SIA Thanksgiving Service: Three of our members joined the "Pick Up Bell Choir"

Conversations At the Meetinghouse



WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY CRAFT?

LAURA ROSENSPAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019, 7 PM

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

Join the discussion “What is Contemporary Craft?” A free PowerPoint presentation by Sharon resident and longtime museum educator, Laura Rosenspan, is sponsored by the Fuller Craft Museum of Brockton. In addition, Laura will bring her fun and interesting “Fuller Stuff” bag filled with items to be handled, examined, and discussed.



If you haven't been to the Fuller Craft Museum lately, you haven't been to the Fuller museum!

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

December 2019 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Religious Education 10:30am (multi) Family Service 10:00am (SAN) Adult Service 10:30am (SAN) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) AI-Anon 7:15pm (LIB) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES)	SUNRISE Movement 4pm (VES) Women's Group I. (At Capacity) 7pm (LIB) AIM II 7pm (B) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Coming of Age Youth 7:30pm (AB) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Board subcommittee 7pm (NUR) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	SUNRISE Movement 4pm (VES) ESL 6pm (LIB) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	Potluck Dinner 6pm (VES) Conversations 7pm (AB)	Committee Chair 9am (VES) JYFG Movie Day 3pm (AB)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Religious Education 10:30am (multi) Revels Rehearsal 8am (VES) Family Service 10:00am (SAN) Adult Service 10:30am (SAN) Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) Starting Point 12pm (AB) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) AI-Anon 7:15pm (LIB)		Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Membership Committee 7pm (VES)	Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Jolie 12pm (VES) ESL 6pm (LIB) Green Team Meeting 7pm (AB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (LIB)	Movie Night 7pm (A/B) UU Theater Night 8pm (OFF)	Let's Laugh Toda 11am – noon (A/E) Special Service 12pm (SAN)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Revels Rehearsal 9am (SAN) Revels Service 10:15am (SAN) Worship Committee 11:45am (LIB) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) AI-Anon 7:15pm (LIB) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES)	Religious Education Committee 7pm (B) Women's Group I. (At Capacity) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Coming of Age Youth and Mentors 7:30pm (multi) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Chalice DEADLINE SUNRISE Movement 5:30pm (AB) Caring Committee (Closed) 7pm (MIN) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (LIB)	ESL 6pm (LIB)	Solstice Service 7:30pm (SAN)	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Religious Education 10:30am (multi) Family Service 10:00am (SAN) Adult Service 10:30am (SAN) Holiday Brunch 11:30pm (VES) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) Seeing White I. 7:30pm (NUR) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) AI-Anon 7:15pm (LIB)				ESL 6pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (LIB)		
29	30	31				
Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) AI-Anon 7:15pm (LIB)						

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



*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