

the chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
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MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: THRESHOLDS

Services are online on Zoom
10 Family Service and 10:30pm Adult Service

May 3 We Are Many, We Are One

Us UU's value our freedom as individual thinkers and believers. And yet we know that we must not only think of ourselves but also of the interdependent whole. We will begin reflecting on our May worship theme of "Thresholds" with this service on how to cross the threshold into community. We will also welcome new members who have recently joined our congregation during our worship service today.

May 10 The Myths of Not Enough

There is a lot of pressure on mothers in our society under normal circumstances, and even more given pandemic. Today on Mother's Day we will reflect on what it means to move from scarcity to abundance, to say to ourselves and one another: we are enough, and the saving power of this message whether or not we are mamas ourselves.

May 17 Finding the Sacred Within and Without

During this time that we cannot come together in our beloved church building, how can we continue to set aside sacred space and time? Our worship service today will include reflections on Ramadan, Islam's holy month of fasting and renewing religious commitments, as we approach the end of Ramadan.

May 24 Lest We Forget

In our lay-led service this Memorial Day, we both remember the terrible costs of war and honor the extraordinary service it has called forth from too many Americans. Valerie Vigoda will share her father's searing memories of World War II combat. Wilbur Edwards will honor his father's long military service through two wars and beyond as an African-American in an initially segregated and never fully equal Army. Rory McGregor will reflect on the struggles of those called to serve in the Vietnam War. Beth McGregor, worship leader. We are welcoming members of the other Five Point Cluster congregations to join us.

May 31 Coming of Age

The search for truth and meaning is at the center of Unitarian Universalist practice. Since last October, eight youth from this congregation have been questing for truth with the guidance of a mentor. As our youth share their credos, we will celebrate their coming of age as Unitarian Universalists.

From the Minister



The day and date don't mean so much lately. Days blur together with their cycles of meals, Zoom calls, and walks in the park. This time of pandemic reminds us there are vastly more important things than the difference between Wednesday and Thursday. We miss our extended families, our

friends, our congregation, and much more. We rage against and lament the inequalities laid bare and exacerbated by coronavirus, we recommit ourselves to the struggle for human dignity and the flourishing of all life on our planet. We grieve our losses, personal and global. We keep trying to take care of ourselves and one another as best we can.

Social distancing bends time: one moment, it feels like the last month and a half has passed lightning-quick; the next, sharing handshakes and hugs with all of you feels like a distant memory. Every now and then, I catch myself picking up my phone to scroll on news feeds searching for an answer to this question: When will this be over? As if my phone is a fortune-teller, as if there is a definitive answer to that question.

It's alluring, trying to peer into the future. I need to keep pulling myself back to right now: I do what I can, with what I have, where I am. I have been looking to nature for guidance on staying present. The trees outside my window do not try to predict the future. The spider crawling across my community garden plot does not count the days. From one moment to the next, all these living things arrive in the present. May we all arrive in the present too, and keep trying to do what we can, with what we have, where we are.

I am wondering: how are your hearts these days? I am thinking about our people who are health care workers, our people who are multitasking with kids and work at home, our people who may be feeling isolated or lonely, our people who are navigating changes and uncertainties of all kinds. I am thinking about all of you, however you are making it through this time, whether it be heavy or light or somewhere in between for you.

On another note, did you know I am in an evaluation period? As I am a minister in Preliminary Fellowship with our Unitarian Universalist Association, our congregation will be submitting evaluations this year and next to the UUA to help me progress to Final Fellowship. Our UCS Board of Trustees and our Committee on Ministry are both responsible for evaluating me. Please take a moment to fill out this [survey](#) and help our Committee on Ministry craft an informed evaluation. Your feedback will help strengthen my service to this congregation.

Sending love to each and every one of you.

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Jolie

From the President



The Board recently discussed our next steps, given the Governor's decision to close Massachusetts schools until June 29, 2020, closing all but essential services and continuing the stay at home advisory. The Board agreed to mirror the plan for the schools and remain a virtual

church until June 29, 2020.

This date brings us to the end of our church year. It means that our annual meeting on June 12th will be held via Zoom. The Board and Finance Committee are working on a final budget to present to our members in early June. We have made a decision to increase the hours of a new and interim Religious Education Director - demonstrating our continued commitment to religious education, our families and our youth. We will also continue to compensate our staff equitably and within the guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We have continued to pay all our staff during this pandemic as part of our principles of fairness and equity. Your continued support in pledges and donations is critical to the church and our mission now and in the future.

The Worship Committee is beginning to work on our summer services, but whether they will be in person or via Zoom (or both) has not been determined.

The Board has created a Safe Church Re-Open Task Force to formulate a plan to safely re-open the church building once it is determined by the Governor and the Board that it is safe to do so. The Task Force, which will be chaired by me, includes Linda Godfrey-Bailey, Amy Taylor, Janet Limke, Erin Cassidy-Lunman, Elizabeth Maranzano and Reverend Jolie.

The Board has also decided to form a Fellowship Committee to intentionally enhance fellowship and community within the Church by providing oversight, line of communication and support to existing programs and to determine what additional programming may be needed to enhance fellowship within the congregation. We are in the process of recruiting members for this committee. If you are interested in enhancing joining the committee please email me at president@uusharon.org.

We are acutely aware of the changes social distancing has wrought in our congregation and community. We are also grateful for the efforts being made by our minister, staff and members to find ways to stay connected.

We hope to return to regular operations on Monday, June 29th. Because of the evolving nature of COVID19, the Board will continue to meet regularly (via Zoom) to review our current situation and will notify you of any changes.

Susan Olson Drisko

President

Connection Circle Reminder



Everyone should have received an invitation to a "Connection Circle" from one of our facilitators (Brad Larson, Glenn Rivard, Alison Reid, Jon Slavin, Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks, Ivy Krull, Mare Parker-O'Toole, Lauren Grasso, Margaret Berges, and Elaine Price). The

goal of these groups is to stay connected to our church community during this time of social distancing. If you missed your invite and wish to participate, please let Rev. Jolie know: minister@uusharon.org.

INTERIM DRE SEARCH UPDATE

A brief update on our Interim DRE Search: we had many great applicants for this position. The Interim DRE Search Team (Andrea Pannone, Christian Roulleau, Marcia Tranavitch, and I) have narrowed the field to our top candidates and plan to make an offer very soon. We will keep you posted.

Thank you—Noah Rivard

Thank you to Noah Rivard for editing the content developed by the children in Grades 3-6 to create the video "To Dwell Together in Peace" for RE Sunday.



Your Donations by Check or Paypal

So many of you have made generous donations to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, to the Food Pantries program, to our Brown Envelope collections and other Social Justice programs. Thank you!

Save our amazing Congregational Administrator Linda Cveckova from endless hunting and digging to properly account for these donations: please write a separate check for each donation and pay attention to the memo lines on your checks and the notations on PayPal. It would be wonderful if we all use consistent check memo lines:

"Food Pantry"

"Groc. Cards"

"Fair Trade"

"BE - (the service date)"

Thank you so much for your cooperation!

Rev. Jolie and Linda Cveckova

All services on Zoom

All the May services are going to be virtual using the Zoom application. The Zoom link will be sent to you Friday or Saturday prior to the service. We recommend that you download the Zoom application on your computer, iPad or smart phone prior to the meeting and dial in 10 minutes in advance waiting for Rev. Jolie to start the meeting. For the best experience you should have a microphone and a camera on your device and consider a set of headphones. Alternatively, you can call into the meeting using the phone number provided in the email. For more information about Zoom go to [Useful things to know about Zoom](#)

If you have not received an email from Rev. Jolie last weeks with the Zoom details, please let Linda Cveckova at admin@uusharon.org know. If you have any questions about the Zoom setup, please email Leslie at adminassist@uusharon.org for assistance.

Linda Cveckova, Congregational Administrator



"Fun"draiser Update

The Auction Will Go On!!!

We just don't know when....

But we do want to keep up the chatter with everyone and remind you that the success of the auction depends on having really cool, nice, useful, interesting and helpful things for people to bid on. See below for a few ideas:

- Does the company you work for have cool things they give to customers say, sports tickets? Would the coordinator of those tickets like to make a contribution to a worthy organization?
- Specialty Gift Baskets - perhaps of your family's favorite things.
 - Do you play golf? Host a foursome!
- Do you have or know someone who has a pontoon boat on the lake? Sunset cruises are beautiful!

It's easy to make a donation on our [online form](#)

ANNUAL MEETING ON ZOOM

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH, 7PM

Please plan to attend and help us elect members to a variety of positions and to approve our annual budget. A quorum of at least 20% of members of record is required to approve all articles. The Warrant and the Annual Report will be sent to you in an email at least one week prior to the meeting.

Committee on Ministry

Focus Groups and Survey

As we approach the end of Rev. Jolie's first year with us, we are required by the UUA to conduct an evaluation for her that is informed from the congregation. As such, the committee on ministry asks you to complete an online survey and share your thoughts with us. The link to the survey is www.surveymonkey.com/r/XSGXQSC. We want as much input from our UCS members and friends as possible, so please complete this survey before May 25th. Note that the previously scheduled focus group meetings have all been canceled.

Annual Pledge Campaign Update

Your Stewardship Committee is pleased to report \$260K in pledges toward our goal of \$300K. We are still in discussion with 16 individuals and families who are evaluating what they will be able to pledge. We feel fortunate and thankful that general response has been so positive. We note that one member donated their \$1200 Federal stimulus check to increase their pledge over last year. Thoughtfulness like this speaks to the caring and support that members and friends generally contribute to our vibrant church community.

Your Stewardship Team

Rory McGregor, Fred Bramhall, Pat McDougal, Peter Raskin, David Schoenfeld, Colleen Tuck, Lisa Yeransian

Summer Worship:

Looking for Lay Speakers

Due to the Board's decision to extend the closure of our Church building through the end of June and the uncertainty about when we will be opening our doors again, the status of summer worship services remains unknown. It is our hope that we will be able to provide some summer services, whether in person or virtually. Based on this hope, the Worship Committee invites lay speakers to participate during the summer services as we share our reflections of themes throughout this past church year. We would love to hear from you! Typically, there are two speakers each Sunday, sharing for ten minutes each. Our first service will be July 5th. Please contact a member of the Worship Committee for sign-ups or worship@uusharon.org

(Deadline: June 22nd).

What has resonated with you?

Expectation, Belonging, Attention, Awe, Integrity, Resilience, Wisdom, Liberation, Thresholds, Compassion

Worship Committee



Religious Education News

From the Director of Religious Education



All in for RE!

The RE program needs you. It needs your curiosity. It needs your desire to be part of a vibrant community. It needs your sense of humor and your capacity for joy.

And it needs the rest of this congregation, as well.

Religious education is one way that we build the community we dream about. Person by person, group by group, we build a collective understanding of how we can be together. We explore how each of us can live into our wholeness. We celebrate ourselves and one another. And we challenge ourselves and each other to grow.

This month, the RE Committee and I will be asking you to volunteer to be part of next year's religious education program. We have developed a plan -- including curricula, groupings, and a schedule. And we need you to say that you're all in for RE! "All in" for religious education -- for that larger vision of building community and living into wholeness. Because, as we have experienced in the past two months, even the best-thought-out plans need to change when the world goes topsy-turvy. Things change. We find a new way. Flexibility is a critical part of being all in for RE.

All in for RE -- ready to partner with your Interim Director of Religious Education and embark on a journey together which will take this church to new heights!

You've got this, folks. Just say yes. Sign up here!

Blessings,

Louise

May in RE

What's Happening in RE in May

Lunchtime RE continues each Sunday at noon! The emphasis of these meetings is on connection and fun. See your weekly newsblasts for Zoom links and lesson details.

On May 3, the Grades 7-8 group will meet with guests Sanjay and Bali Krishnan to learn more about Hinduism as they wrap up their year of studying World Religions.

Leslie Cox, Administrative Assistant

Tidying Up

It turns out that a miracle was not required. Or maybe it's that Leslie Cox is a miracle worker? At any rate, the floor of the RE Office is fully visible. The RE Storage Closet is fully stocked. And we have extra supplies (donated to the church) to give away. If you know of anyone who is interested in receiving random art supplies, please encourage them to reach out to dre@uusharon.org by May 10.

Volunteer: Teach RE

What's involved in teaching? [Here](#) are the details. Volunteers teach with a partner. Volunteers choose which 7 or 8 Sundays they teach (between September and June). Orientation and training are provided. Please say yes to teaching next year. [Click here!](#)

Register for next year's Religious Education Program

The Religious Education Committee asks all families to register their children (ages 1 month-18 years) for next year's RE program. Next year's program plans include: Children's Religious Education Classes (details below), Our Whole Lives for Grades 5-6, Our Whole Lives for Grades 7-8, Junior Youth Fellowship Group, Senior Youth Group.

Next year's groupings:

Preschool-Kindergarten: Celebrating Me and My World (introduction to church life)

Grades 1-3: Creating Home (Introduction to spirituality)

Grades 4-6: Sing to the Power (Spiritual values underlying social justice)

Grades 7-8: Our Whole Lives (Comprehensive sexuality education)

Fee is \$40 for one child; \$60 max per family. Families who register prior to June 30 receive a \$10 discount. Scholarships are available by speaking with Louise Marcoux (dre@uusharon.org), Christian Roulleau (christian.roulleau@gmail.com), Andrea Pannone (andreampannone@gmail.com) or Rev. Jolie Olivetti (minister@uusharon.org).

[Register here!](#)

Thanks! Your prompt response helps us get all our ducks in a row before our new DRE arrives!

Religious Education News, contd

YOUTH GROUPS

Senior Youth Group

Meets on Sundays from 5-6:30pm over Zoom. Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 12 and folks are encouraged invite friends! SYG Zoom meetings have involved watching videos, celebrating quarantine birthdays, and playing a lot of games together!



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Junior Youth Fellowship Group

JYFG meets once a month and is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in our congregation. Our April check-in consisted of sharing plants, pets, and games. We will be having another virtual meeting this month to check in with one another and play some games.

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

Coming of Age meetings in May

THE THEME: **Coming of Age**

Tuesday, May 5: Youth only
Tuesday, May 19: Youth, Mentors, and Parents
Sunday, May 31: the whole congregation
Please bring your journal to every meeting!



Seeing White: This discussion group meets on Sunday, May 24, at 7:30 pm. Please listen to [Scene on Radio, Seeing White, Episode 13](#): White Affirmative Action, prior to our meeting.

WELCOME TO VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020!

The UUA Board, GA Planning Committee and Staff held off a decision on a 'live' General Assembly in Providence as long as they could, but finally concluded that it just isn't responsible or feasible to bring thousands of UUs from all around the country together in crowded spaces in Providence on June 24-28.



But there will be a General Assembly, with extensive program offerings and interactive participation. UUA staff and committee members are busily scaling up the already robust technology for offsite participation that has worked effectively for several years now. While we will miss the fun and excitement of being together physically, there are actually some advantages to taking it all online:

- It will cost only \$150 to register, not \$400. And there's no travel, saving both money and carbon footprint.
- Registrants will have access to a rich and wide variety of programs. And unlike at a live GA, you won't have to choose among multiple offerings occurring in one time slot. One will be livestreamed and the others available to you later on demand.
- Many of the sessions will be interactive, with opportunity to offer questions and comments, and there will chat rooms set up to continue discussion in smaller groups.
- Delegates will be able to join fully in debating and voting on UUA initiatives and policies.

While most of the programming is open only to registrants, the big worship services will be broadcast to all, and we can enjoy and be inspired by them together in whatever size groups we feel comfortable gathering in by late June.

I encourage you to go to www.uua.org/ga to read about the theme and some of the program highlights, and to register for this June's General Assembly. I'll be there (virtually), and I hope many of you will be also. Need to know more? I'm happy to answer any questions I can..

Beth McGregor

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Another month of challenges for everyone, but also opportunities for all of us to remain connected and engaged in the work of Social Justice along with all the rest. Of course we need to look after our neighbors, our families and ourselves, but we can also

find ways to reach out to others in need. Let's continue to work together to find ways to make the best of these troubled times.

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. This month, while we gather together electronically from our homes, we ask that you consider making a Brown Envelope donation by other means, either with a check mailed to the church with "Brown E donation & Date" in the memo line, via PayPal, or directly online with our chosen recipient. Thank you for keeping others in mind while we all adjust to these uncertain times.

The **March Brown Envelope** was split: the first 4 weeks of the month supported the work of **GLSEN** (glsen.org), the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. GLSEN is an organization of educators creating safe and affirming environments in schools for LGBTQ students, through training for faculty and the formation of Gay-Straight Alliances. Donations sent through the mail, via PayPal (and perhaps more given directly online), plus a modest transfer of the profits from our Fair Trade sales at Coffee Hour, allowed us to send GLSEN a check for \$1000.

On the **final Sunday of March**, the Brown Envelope collection was for **UU the Vote**, (UUtheVote.org) a non-partisan faith initiative to engage our neighbors, educate our communities, mobilize voters, and rally around key ballot initiatives. All through 2020 the UUA is supporting congregations and UU organizations in activating thousands of Unitarian Universalists to mobilize for electoral justice at the local, state and national levels. Donations, plus a share of our Fair Trade profits, permitted us to send UU the Vote a check for \$354 (plus other potential gifts given directly online). Thank you for your generosity.

April has been a bit different for donations: Our recipient is the **Louise D. Brown Peace Institute** (ldbpeaceinstitute.org). We had hoped to be a presence at their Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace in May, and our Brown E donations in April are given in support of their programs. The Walk has now been recrafted as a virtual event on May 10th (more about that below), but our goal remains unchanged: to continue to ask for donations during our April services and beyond, via online donations through a special fundraising sponsorship page at the Institute, by PayPal, or by checks mailed sent to the church, your own friends and connections. Please visit the **Sharon Walks for Peace** site for details and updates, and to donate: (<https://ldbpeace.z2systems.com/Sharon2020>). Our goal is to exceed our giving from last year, and to build a relationship with the Peace Institute for the years ahead. See more information below.

The May Brown Envelope recipient will be **ACE**: the **Alternatives for Community and Environment** (ace-ej.org). "ACE builds the power of communities of color and lower income communities in New England to eradicate environmental racism and classism and achieve environmental justice. We believe that everyone has the right to a healthy environment and to be decision-makers in issues affecting our communities." Donations by check, PayPal or online are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.



Mother's Day Walk-a-thon for Peace:

**A Virtual Event
Sunday, May 10
9:00 - 9:45 am**

www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Mother's Day Walk for Peace will be a virtual event. The event will be live and hosted by NBC Boston. Our team name is **Sharon Walks for Peace** (an interfaith effort with support from other Houses of Worship).

1. Join us online with your team - Sharon Walks for Peace <https://ldbpeace.z2systems.com/Sharon2020>
2. Mark that you are attending the event on the Mother's Day Walk for Peace Facebook page.
3. During the LIVE event, share a comment, a photo, or a sign, and give a shout-out to our team - Sharon Walks for Peace
4. Wear purple and have fun!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Additional funding opportunities

(Unsure what to do with your Stimulus Check?
Consider donating some or all to these causes):

Special Food Pantry donations via Shopping for Justice grocery cards

During this prolonged health crisis, the SJC is asking for help to support our 5 local food pantries by means other than staples and canned goods: we are accepting monetary donations, either mailed to the church or via PayPal, so that we can send Shopping for Justice grocery cards to support the pantry programs in our neighborhoods. Called "A bucket brigade on a 5-alarm fire" by TIME, the demands on food pantries have soared. Your donations will be converted into grocery cards that will be delivered to the pantries in Norwood, Walpole, Canton, Foxboro, as well as the Sharon/Stoughton pantry. We have already raised over \$9000 to support this critical need. Thank you for your generosity, both now and in the weeks and months ahead.

BIC Emergency COVID/19 Fund

Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA) and Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) announce the **BIC Emergency COVID-19 Fund** which is seeking donations to be earmarked specifically to support Brockton residents in need of emergency assistance. BIC has worked hard to build the kind of community that sees every person as an integral part of the success of the whole. This is our time to prove to the world that there is more than enough if we go from thinking about our resources as "mine," and move our minds to say "ours." We can change the world, if we first live into who we truly are. We are good. We are love. We are who we have been waiting for. If you are able, please donate to this fund and spread the word to other potential donors in your communities. All donations are greatly appreciated: checks, PayPal, or use this link to donate:

<https://mcan.salsalabs.org/biccovid19emergencyfund/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=dd2f61a3-fa2b-468d-bbbf-29877a1ba15e>

Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) is a multi-faith, multi-ethnic non-profit organization from the greater Brockton area which was founded in 1990. BIC's mission is to work collaboratively on issues chosen together to promote racial and economic justice through prophetic, faith-rooted community organizing. In addition to this Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund, BIC is also collaborating with local agencies and organiza-

tions to respond to the urgent needs of Brockton residents. [The SJC is planning to allocate a gift from our Fair Trade fund to support this effort - please add to this cause whatever you are able to share.]

Brockton Hospital ER doctors and nurses need your help.



Urgent need for surgical caps, gowns and masks at Brockton ER—We are hearing distressing news directly from the medical staff in Brockton: "We are running out of masks, including homemade masks for patients to minimize spread of the virus....now, EVERY patient coming in is COVID-19 and there were three deaths on my shift. Also, we need gowns and surgical caps, some with buttons for hold straps of masks and some with tie for holding buns. WE HAVE NO MORE AT ALL. These things can be made. Please ask your networks for help!" If you are able to help with this effort, consider these steps:

- 1) donate elastic material from you sewing closet, or purchase if you are able;
- 2) donate fabrics for masks, caps and gowns (100% cotton);
- 3) break out your sewing machine and join the effort.

<https://www.simplemost.com/face-masks-more-comfortable-this-easy-hack/>

<https://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-SurgicalScrub-Hat/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-HOSXIZUcw>

Elizabeth Siftar is coordinating this work, call or write:
esiftar@gmail.com
(302) 354-1809 [



The SJC has allocated a donation of \$500 from our Fair Trade fund to support the purchasing of supplies to help with this urgent project.]

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Transgender Inclusion Workshops



Our Transgender Inclusion in Congregations webinar screenings and discussions continue, with a number of Zoom gather-

ings scheduled in May for Sessions 5 and the final session, number 6. We are delighted that a core group of congregants will have completed the series before Zr. Alex Kapitan will be "coming" to church on **June 7th** to participate in our worship service and to provide a VIRTUAL workshop in the afternoon (see below for more information about the workshop).

We invite you to take a moment to respond to this form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JT8ryChdu4s5yoU51Mq40vOzFP1UoaFPTE7lf25_62o/edit

- ...to request the Access Code to watch the videos on your own or
- ...to express interest in starting a Session 1 group or
- ...to register for a Zoom gathering scheduled for May (page 2 of the Form).

If you have already responded to the form, we would appreciate your responding again to register for the newly added sessions.

SAVE THE DATE – AFTERNOON ON SUNDAY

JUNE 7, 2020

(TENTATIVE TIME: 1:00-3:00PM)

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP WITH ZR. ALEX KAPITAN

**TRANSGENDER INCLUSION
IN CONGREGATIONS**

We are delighted to have Zr. Alex Kapitan, one of the founders of the Transforming Hearts Collective, and a lecturer on the video series, Transgender Inclusion in Congregations, joining us virtually on JUNE 7TH both for our morning worship services and for an afternoon workshop. The Workshop will allow for a deep dive into the concept of "Radical Welcome" and how we as a congregation can practice Beloved Community and create a truly inclusive environment for folks who identify as trans or non-binary. The workshop will also be an opportunity to bring your questions to Alex in what we hope to be a safe and nurturing space. Be sure to check out the June Newsletter for more details about the workshop and use Section 3 of this [Form](#) to register and share with us -your questions. . We are very excited to have Alex join us on June 7th and we welcome and encourage ALL of you to attend the afternoon workshop, whether or not you have watched any of the videos.

SUNRISE Movement

Over the past several months the Social Justice Committee has provided support to the **Blue Hills chapter of the Sunrise Movement**, <https://www.sunrisemovement.org/>, a national youth-led organization working to stop climate change, create new jobs, and promote environmental justice. The group has held monthly meetings at the UCS church building, with participation from adult allies from our congregation and community.

Since schools have been shut down due to COVID-19, the Blue Hills chapter members have shown their dedication by moving meetings from a monthly basis in person to a weekly basis via Zoom. Chapter members have also begun attending Sunrise School, <https://www.sunrisemovement.org/sunrise-school> a national program intended to "seize this moment" of quarantine to create stronger connections, learn about climate issues, and determine ways to act locally while social distancing. This most recent crisis has shown just how seriously these youth are taking the climate crisis and their commitment to a better future, and we are proud to be allies in their efforts. [A donation of \$200 from the Social Justice Fair Trade Fund has been made to support their vital work.]

MainSpring House Lunch Making update:

While we are unable to join together during Coffee Hour after services, please know that our monthly project to assemble 100 bag lunches for the guests of MSH continues without missing a beat. SJC members are assembling the meals at home and delivering them in Brockton where they are desperately needed and appreciated. In addition, through an ongoing effort to



expand our Shopping for Justice program with the UUs in Foxboro, their members are also sending 100 bag lunches to MSH each month.

MainSpring House: Our own staff member Leslie Cox, member of UU Foxboro, assembles lunches for MSH. UCS is doing similar 'at-home' lunch making, but her picture turned out better!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Green Team update:

One new project under consideration by your Green Team is a vision for how we might coordinate a 2020 version of a 'Victory Garden' to support local food needs. Ideas worth exploring include a plot of land on the church grounds dedicated to growing healthy food, adding donation rows to existing family gardens, coordinating with local CSA programs and Community Gardens for plots and supplies, and other brainstorming spin-offs. Interested in getting involved? Contact a member of the Green Team to share your ideas and passions. Working together, we can accomplish amazing things!

Green Tips from the last month:

April 26 -Earth Day-

Green Tips will now become Project Drawdown Solutions which will feature larger more systemic climate mitigations as outlined by Project Drawdown, a non-profit group that is researching solutions that can potentially reduce or "draw down" the carbon from the atmosphere. Each week, we will include a short description of various solutions here in the OOS. To get started this week, we direct you to the main webpage where you can learn more about the organization. <https://www.drawdown.org>



(Roll out of Project Drawdown climate solutions)

Green Tips will now become Climate Solutions which will feature larger more systemic climate mitigations as outlined by Project Drawdown, a non-profit group that is researching solutions that can potentially reduce or draw down the carbon from the atmosphere. Each week, we will include a short description of various solutions here in the OOS, and will also have a scrolling screen with additional information located in the vestry during the coffee hour. Please ask a Green Team Member for more information about each week's solution or visit the Project Drawdown website for more detailed information. <https://www.drawdown.org> Also, there will be a Project Drawdown book in the library for check out, and a copy to browse through during coffee hour.

April 19 Green Tip: Did you know that toxic chemicals released from your yard into storm drains can pollute our local watersheds and water supplies? Please consult the following websites to learn about how to properly dispose of pet and yard wastes; how to best manage lawn care chemical use and lawn watering; as well as how to prevent car, pool, and household chemicals from making it into the water supply. yourcleanwater.org/residents/ & <https://www.thinkbluemassachusetts.org/for-residents>

www.thinkbluemassachusetts.org/for-residents

A special thanks to Janet Limke for this tip.

April 12 Green Tip: Did you know that planting native plants can reduce your need for watering during dry periods, and they are more attractive to bees and beneficial insects which has an impact upon the health of our local bird population? Consider planting natives rather than non-natives this spring. https://nationalzoo.si.edu/news/new-smithsonian-study-links-declines-suburban-backyard-birds-presence-nonnative-plants?fbclid=IwAR2EwG8m3GFH0Sndb5PqCIU1zDx3_gaTFpKi4Hd1OSwHxpnVfv-Xxx7eegc

April 5 Green Tip: Did you know that most of the plastic bags and pots you get at the garden store are not recyclable? Please have mulch, compost, and other products delivered in bulk, and look for plants in compostable containers when possible. Alternatively, ask at the store if they have a program for returning unrecyclable pots and bags. <http://www.joenesgarden.com/garden-related-plastic-waste-reuse-recycle/>

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

Special One-Day Sale of Fair Trade Inventory

During our extended closure, we were concerned that our inventory of Fair Trade items, as well as Shopping for Justice grocery cards, was sitting idle, and we all know how UUs crave their caffeine and chocolates (!). So, with the blessing of the Board of Trustees, we offered a one-time-only, drive-by sale of pre-ordered goods. In addition, folks could add funds to our Food Pantry drive. We sold 78 chocolate bars, 47 bags of coffee, over \$2000 in Shopping for Justice cards (5% of which supports our MSH lunch making program), and



Your friendly neighborhood Fair Trade clerk, ready to deliver pre-ordered goods through your car window; and no, we did not offer fries with your order....

raised over \$1600 in donations for worthy causes. Thanks to all who participated.



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