



Published by the  
Unitarian Church of Sharon  
**A Welcoming Congregation  
of the Unitarian  
Universalist Association**  
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## SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are held virtually on Zoom  
10:30pm Service

Each Summer service is lay led and will include a time of congregational sharing. Our Music Director Mel Springer will be providing the music. A time of fellowship will follow each service. For Zoom information on the summer services go to <https://www.uusharon.org/worship/services/>.

The new church year will start with an intergenerational service on Sunday September 13th at 10:15am, led by the our minister Rev. Jolie Olivetti.

Date	Speakers	Topic	Worship Coordinator
July 5	Laurie Wallace	Compassion and Authenticity: called by our Faith	Laurie Wallace
July 12	Susan Edinger & Tom D'Avanzo	Awe	Beth Hoke
July 19	Beth McGregor	Confessions of a slow learner	Peter Raskin
July 26	Laurie Wallace	Chalice Circle	Laurie Wallace
August 2	Beth McGregor, Gare Reid, Mia Joiner-Moore	The Faith We're a Part Of: Reflections on General Assembly.	Beth McGregor
August 9	Linda Fingerson and Janet Schmidt	Faith into action: Advocacy at the border	Brad Larson
August 16	Alan Post	Wisdom	Barbara Nelkin-Rose
August 23	Jean Zaniwski	Belonging	Valerie Vigoda
August 30	Kathleen Guilday	Thresholds	Meg Dussault
September 6	Barbara Nelkin-Rose	Liberation	Barbara Nelkin-Rose

## COVID-19 Update

# Building closed through the end of August.

June 12, 2020

The Board recently discussed our next steps and has voted to remain a virtual church until the end of August. 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 and staff to find ways to stay connected. Because of the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board will continue to meet regularly (via Zoom) to review our current situation. We want to thank the Safe Church ReOpen Task Force for their help and advice.

The Board has determined that the Church will continue with virtual services through the summer. We will not hold church-sponsored outside gatherings this summer. The Church building and grounds are closed to large gatherings (greater than 20 people) this summer. This decision is in keeping with what we believe is necessary for safe/healthy practices to cope during this type of pandemic.

An exception can be made for memorial services, which would be managed on a case-by-case basis with the Minister and Task Force. Weddings would be another exception handled case-by-case. These services would follow Massachusetts COVID-19 guidelines.

Church members can gather outside provided:

- Current Massachusetts guidelines for gathering size, social distancing (currently 6 feet), masks, and other relevant measures are followed.
- No entry into the church (bathrooms are closed, chairs must be brought from home ...)
- Anything brought onto the grounds be removed after the gathering (chairs, trash ...)
- For gatherings greater than 10 people that meet current Massachusetts guidelines for gathering size, please check the church calendar at [www.uusharon.org/calendars/month](http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/month) to see if the grounds are already booked for the date and time of your gathering. Once confirmed that the grounds are available, please use the "submit event" button on the top of the church calendar page to schedule the gathering, making sure to fill in all the required fields and choosing the venue "outdoor social distance event". In addition, please send the president, Rory McGregor, an

email about the gathering at [president@uusharon.org](mailto:president@uusharon.org).

- Impromptu meetings for coffee, garden walk throughs, and conversation are expected and fine as long as the gathering is small (less than 10 people) and social distancing, masks, and other guidelines are followed.

## REMOTE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Joining a virtual worship service from your home is so different than being in our sanctuary. There are some fun treats: we get to see each other's pets, little glimpses into each other's homes. And there are some things that may make it more difficult. We miss being together. And there may be distractions: the phone might ring, the kids might get tired of watching and prefer to go play, you might see that pile of dishes and wonder if you ought to go wash them. Please know it is OK to be distracted. Our virtual services are a big experiment for all of us! And our prayer is that our virtual services will allow us to be present for worship together as best as we can in these very unusual circumstances.

And: have a candle or chalice nearby if possible so you can light your own flame at home!

The order of service will be available on our website: [www.uusharon.org/oos](http://www.uusharon.org/oos)

And those joining us with video will be able to see the order of service displayed on slides as we go.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AND NOURISH OUR SPIRITS

**Let's take care of each other!** Please consider donating to our Ministers Discretionary Fund to help out members of our church community who need some extra assistance due to lost work. Checks can be made out to Ministers Discretionary Fund and mailed to the church. You can also donate using **PayPal** at <https://www.uusharon.org/ucs-donations/>

Interested in **meditation** as a way to find some stillness during this difficult time? Contact Ray Wallace to participate the Tuesday meditation group (which has moved to Zoom): [wallace.dl@gmail.com](mailto:wallace.dl@gmail.com). Brad Larson and Glenn Rivard are also developing additional meditation opportunities, contact either of them to participate: [glennrivard@hotmail.com](mailto:glennrivard@hotmail.com), [brad@bradlarson.com](mailto:brad@bradlarson.com).

Yours in faith, in service, and in hope,

Rev. Jolie Olivetti, Minister  
Board of Trustees, Unitarian Church of Sharon

## From the Minister



Dear Friends,

Our nationwide reckoning with racism continues to reverberate across the land. As many of you may be aware, one local development has been the formation of the Sharon Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, voted into

existence by the town Select Board on June 23. This Committee will include one representative from the Sharon Interfaith Clergy Council, of which I am a member. It will be good to have this connection to the work of this Committee in addition to the other ways I'm sure many of you will be connected. I hope the Committee can truly be part of the difficult work that this moment and this movement demands; more than just paying lip service to diversity, we need to dismantle institutionalized oppression at every level of our society, including right here in Sharon.

During the week I was preparing this column, virtual GA was in full swing! General Assembly, or GA, is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across the US, Canada, and the world. It is a conference with scores of workshops, worship services, keynotes, and sessions to conduct the business of our Unitarian Universalist Association's annual meeting. Because of COVID-19, GA was entirely virtual for the first time ever this year. As 2020 is the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower's landing on Wampanoag land, this year's GA wrestled with the legacy of settler colonialism in our country and in Unitarianism specifically. There is a direct link between the congregations founded by the Pilgrims and Puritans of the Mayflower and the Arbella (another ship that arrived in Massachusetts land ten years later) and Unitarianism. And there is a direct link between the religious conversions, commercial enterprises, and conquests of these colonizers and the centuries of policies and narratives that have supported Native genocide in this land. Acknowledging these hard truths is an important first step to heeding the calls of Indigenous people today: the call to recognize that Indigenous people are still here and still fighting for land and dignity. Among the opportunities to live into that call shared at GA was to #StandWithMashpee, as the Mashpee Wampanoag lands are currently under threat and there are many ways to lend support including through advocating for a bill that would reaffirm the status of the Mashpee reservation. For more information, visit: <https://mashpeewampanoagtribe-nsn.gov/standwithmashpee>.*

Another feature of virtual GA was a workshop that Louise Marcoux and I co-led on "Collaborative

Planning of Highly Interactive Family Worship." Our workshop had over 230 attendees and highlighted the unique model of multigenerational worship that Louise and Rev. Jim developed and that she has continued to refine with Rev. Wendy and me. We were proud to share our special approach which presents core worship themes in an interactive format where everyone's input is valued and the conversations can continue after the service to support the faith formation of people of all ages. I'm so grateful to have served alongside Louise during this first year of my settled ministry at UCS. I learned so much from you, Louise! We love you and we will miss you.

For more about GA I encourage you to attend our virtual worship service on August 2, as three of our UCS delegates (Gare Reid, Mia Joiner-Moore, and Beth McGregor) will lead a service on "The Faith We Are a Part Of: Reflections on General Assembly." And the rest of our lay-led summer services look fantastic too, for that matter! I will see you online for summer worship except for when I am off.

Speaking of, I am planning some time off this summer. I will be on vacation from July 12 through Aug 1, and then on study leave from August 2 through 15. The difference between the two is that vacation is simply a break whereas study leave is to plan, read, and delve deep into the spiritual practices that nurture and support my ministry. I will send an email reminder about my vacation and study leave with additional details and contact information for emergency pastoral care coverage before I am off.

And a final note: I hope you will join me in offering a warm welcome to our new Interim DRE, Christine Bulman! Christine's first official day with us is July 6. I am looking forward to the guidance and reflection Christine will offer our RE program during this two-year interim. Our congregation truly values religious education, and we will enter into this time of transition with our sleeves rolled up and our hearts open, so that RE at UCS may continue to shine!

In faith and love,

Rev. Jolie

### July and August Zoom Chats with Rev. Jolie

Thursday, July 2 10 AM

Thursday, July 9 10 AM

Thursday, August 20 10 AM

Thursday, August 27 10 AM



## From the President



### HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING

Susan Olson Drisko, our outgoing parish president, has made the transition to my tenure relatively smooth by involving me in board meetings during the past month. Notable accomplishments this past month as she wraps up two years in the Presidency have been receipt of the Payroll Protection Program loan from the Federal Small Business Administration for \$34K (thanks to Paul Tuck for doing all the work) and first-ever virtual annual meeting with no hiccups PLUS unanimous approvals on all articles. Since advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, she has worked with staff, board, and committees to keep the church running effectively as we all cope with the many life-style changes forced upon us. We thank her for the past 5 years she has spent on the board and wish her the best with her grandparenting responsibilities going forward. And knowing Susan, she will continue to be an engaged active church member, contributing her wisdom and experience where needed.

One issue that came up during June was a request from the Racial Equity Alliance at Sharon High to use our church grounds for their rally on Thursday afternoon June 18<sup>th</sup>. They had staged a meaningful impromptu evening gathering along Main Street two weeks earlier right after George Floyd's death that attracted 200 people. The board had already made the decision to keep church buildings and grounds closed through end of August. Given our record of

commitment to social justice and the history of allowing church facilities for all groups representing important human rights causes, would this important event not give us reason to make an exception? Our Committee to Re-Open the Church (all health professionals) had already expressed its opinion that best practice for public safety during the pandemic required no large organized gatherings of members or friends on church grounds. The board chose the need for public safety while promising the Racial Equity Alliance that we most assuredly support their cause and look forward to that future time when we can actively provide our facilities and join the cause in body as well as spirit.

The Racial Equity rally was held on the fields at Ames Street playground with more than 250 people in attendance. Social distancing was observed by those who wanted 6-foot separation; others chose to allow closer distancing. All wore protective face masks. The speakers were our Sharon High students who spoke passionately about systemic racial inequality, providing multiple personal examples within our education system and lovely community here in Sharon. Rebuilding our community with justice for all will be a challenge that deserves everyone's attention and commitment.

*Rory McGregor*

UCS Parish President

### Message from the Outgoing President



It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board for the last five years. While I am ready for the change, I am very grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this wonderful community. I know that I leave the Board in good hands, with strong

leadership and in strong financial shape. I will continue to participate on the Safe Re Open Task Force and Personnel Committee. You can find me in the Memorial Garden as well.

Have a great summer, be safe, healthy and kind.

*Susan Drisko*

Outgoing UCS President



**Speaker at the Racial Equity Rally - Gabriela Joy Skoko, Sharon High School student**

## What is an Installation Service?

For the past several months a small group of church members (including members of the Search Committee and the Transition Committee) have been meeting to plan a formal celebratory installation ceremony in recognition and reaffirmation of the new bond between Reverend Jolie Olivetti and the congregation of the Unitarian Church of Sharon. Tradition and UU rules dictates that an installation ceremony is a vital part of the process of bringing aboard a new minister, and signals to all that the new minister is now settled into and has become part of the family of the church and of the broader community. An Installation Ceremony is a much anticipated event when a new minister has been called by a church, and typically takes place about a year or so after the new minister's arrival.

Unfortunately, the events of the past few months related to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the uncertainty it has created for mass gatherings, has made it necessary for those of us here at the Unitarian Church of Sharon to alter our installation celebration planning and timing. Therefore, on Sunday, June 14, 2020, in a service that marked a number of different transitions within our church, we also marked our congregations first year with the Reverend Jolie Olivetti with what we called "an Affirmation of Mutual Ministry." At a future date, once social distancing is more relaxed, we will hold a formal Act of Installation Service, to be followed by a community-wide celebration in our beloved Sanctuary at the Unitarian Church of Sharon.

*Submitted by Joyce Bramhall*



The plants on this page are from the garden of the church.

## Our Board of Trustees for 2020– 2021:

<b>President</b>	Rory McGregor
<b>Vice President</b>	Brenda Wilbur
<b>Clerk</b>	Brian Cook
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Zelevinsky
<b>Trustee</b>	Andrew Plumridge
<b>Trustee</b>	Glenn Rivard
<b>Trustee</b>	Gautam Trivedi



## Summer hours for the Congregational Administrator

The UCS Congregational Administrator, Linda Cveckova, will work limited hours in July and August on as needed basis. The best way to reach Linda is to email her at [admin@uusharon.org](mailto:admin@uusharon.org).

## Let's Laugh Today

is EVERY Wednesday at 7:30pm on ZOOM!

Let's Laugh Today Laughter Club is on ZOOM! In these challenging times, there is nothing like a good belly laugh to help release stress and anxiety. These laughter exercises and deep breathing help to bring more fresh oxygen into the body and brain helping you feel more energetic and healthy. It's a great way to connect with other people through eye contact while remaining socially distant and it is thoroughly up-lifting and immunity-boosting! See [www.letslaughtoday.com](http://www.letslaughtoday.com) for link to the free ZOOM Meeting EVERY Wednesday at 7:30pm. This is the perfect time to try something new! Please check their website for updates.





## Religious Education News

Dear UCS Members and Friends,

It is with great joy that I introduce Christine Bulman as our incoming Interim DRE. Christine will begin her work with us on July 6. The Interim DRE Search Team (Marcia Tranavitch from the Personnel Committee, Andrea Pannone and Christian Rouleau as RE Committee Co-Chairs, and me, Rev. Jolie) conducted a thorough and thoughtful search and we are thrilled with this outcome. Here is an excerpt of the letter we wrote, formally recommending that our UCS Board of Trustees approve Christine's hire (which they did):

*Christine comes to us with seven years of experience as a DRE in area UU churches, a master's degree in education, and over 20 years of experience teaching in a variety of contexts. She began as a lay leader on the Religious Education Committee in her home congregation of Duxbury and served as DRE in Scituate, Cohasset, and Franklin. In each of these settings, she helped her constituencies navigate change, experience which will inform her role as our Interim DRE.*

*We as the Interim DRE Search Team were especially impressed by Christine's thoughtfulness and warmth, and her strong references, which highlighted her capacity to collaborate, to innovate, and to nurture trusting relationships in intergenerational communities through times of change and uncertainty.*

We look forward to the journey ahead! Please read on for a photo of Christine and her message introducing herself to our church community.

Rev. Jolie

### From the Interim Director of Religious Education



Dear UCS Community,

It is a pleasure to be introducing myself as the incoming Interim Director of Religious Education. Having served as a DRE in southeastern MA over the past decade, I have come to know Louise and her work with the religious education program at the Unitarian Church of Sharon

and it is truly an honor to step into this role, following such a bright individual who has led with integrity, creativity and dedication. I look forward to learning more fully about the work you have all been doing together!

A little about me: I'll be travelling to Sharon from Duxbury where I live on a peaceful wooded lot with the majority of my four young adult children along with two dogs, a cat and a half dozen chickens. I spend as much time as I can out in nature from gardening to backyard campfires to honing my naturalist skills. In addition to my work as a professional religious educator, I maintain

a private practice as a nature connection mentor and personal coach. To all of my work, I bring values deeply rooted in the notions of inherent worth, interdependence, reciprocity, and holism. I am committed, within my sphere of influence, to both the inner work and outward actions that seek to dismantle systems of power and oppression. It brings me joy to explore, through teaching and learning, how to bring our values to life and how to cultivate one another's gifts so that we can be a contribution to the systems in which we are embedded.

A little about our upcoming work together: After many years as a ship well-sailed, the religious education program at UCS enters this transitional time from a place of strength. I look forward to working with the RE committee and a cadre of volunteers to continue the provision of religious education programming at UCS, albeit creatively in these times. In addition, we will take time to reflect on where the religious education program has been, to discern the unique essence and identity of this program as it stands today, and to articulate a commitment to its health and vitality in the future. In short, we have work to do! Soon you will have information on my office hours and channels of communication. I'm looking forward to meeting you all and embarking on this journey together.

In faith,

*Christine Bulman*

she/her pronouns

Interim Director of Religious Education

## YOUTH GROUPS

### Senior Youth Group

For the summer, SYG is meeting twice a month on Sundays from 5-6:30pm over Zoom. Email Katie at [yc@uusharon.org](mailto:yc@uusharon.org) to get on the email list for updates. Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12 and folks are encouraged to invite friends! SYG Zoom meetings have involved watching videos, celebrating quarantine birthdays, and playing a lot of games together!



### Junior Youth Fellowship Group

JYFG meets once a month and is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in our congregation. JYFG is off for the summer and will resume in September.

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](mailto:yc@uusharon.org)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Our response to Covid-19 continues, as does our work for Social Justice. While we struggle to find ways to live safe, productive lives under these new constraints, let's also remember to find space to accomplish the work that is called for as we

strive for social justice. Here are some of the things that the church has been working on with your guidance, financial support and just plain hard work. We can't do it all, but we can be involved in making things better - thanks to your willing and enthusiastic engagement. "When the Service ends, the service begins!"

### 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 summer, while we continue to 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 our PayPal account <https://www.uusharon.org/ucs-donations/>, or directly online with a gift to our chosen recipient. Thank you for keeping others in mind while we all adjust to these uncertain times.

Our **April** recipient was the **Louise D. Brown Peace Institute** ([ldbpeaceinstitute.org](http://ldbpeaceinstitute.org)). We had hoped to be a presence at their Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace on May 10th, and our Brown E donations in April were given in support of their programs. The Walk was recrafted as a virtual event (to see the Walk-a-Thon for Peace program, visit [their Facebook page](#)), and our goal was to raise \$1400: by the end of May we had raised over \$3121 (including a 1:1 match of a \$563 portion of our donation), which is well beyond our giving from last year. We look forward to the work of building our relationship with the Peace Institute for many years to come.

The **May** Brown Envelope recipient was **ACE: the Alternatives for Community and Environment** ([ace-ej.org](http://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 arrived by check, through our PayPal account, and also direct-to-ACE online, so we are unable to report a true total for our giving, but a check for \$313.03 represents the funds that accumulated with us throughout May.

For **June**, the SCJ selected the Boston chapter of Black & Pink ([www.blackandpink.org/chapters/boston/](http://www.blackandpink.org/chapters/boston/)), an organization dedicated to prison reform and basic human rights for all, especially oppressed communities. Black & Pink was founded in 2005 on the principles of abolition to dismantle the criminal punishment system and to liberate LGBTQIA2S+ people/people living with HIV/AIDS who are affected by that system, through advocacy, support, and organizing. "We fight to abolish prisons. We fight for basic human rights."

(\*LGBTQIA2S+ is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, and the countless affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify.)

During our lay-led services in **July** and **August**, including Labor Day weekend, the Brown Envelope collections will go to the Summer Youth Programs of the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury ([UUUM.org](http://UUUM.org)). While Covid-19 has forced adjustments to all of the programming at the UUUM, their commitment to engaging the youth of Roxbury with summer programs remains strong, and your donations will support their ongoing work.

### Help make masks for critical needs in Brockton

Brockton Mutual Aid is working to get face masks to Brockton residents before the next COVID -19 surge. Homemade face masks are needed as part of the community education outreach program. The goal is to have the program completed by the end of July, with distributions every two weeks. A variety of steps are involved, so if you can help in any way to make masks for this effort, please contact Elizabeth Siftar @ [esiftar@gmail.com](mailto:esiftar@gmail.com) 302-354-1809, or Colleen Tuck @ [colleentuck@hotmail.com](mailto:colleentuck@hotmail.com).

Instructions for making masks:

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

Homemade Face Mask Instructions | Community Health Network



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

### Radical Welcome and the Transgender Inclusion in Congregations Series

### THANK YOU & EVALUATIONS



Alex Kapitan

We would like to once again extend our appreciation to those of you who engaged in the six-session online series *Transgender Inclusion in Congregations*, and to encourage each of you to fill out the Evaluation Form provided on the Transforming Hearts Collective website:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfo\\_AIYT1BxNCbV6udXFZqh-ig1K4n2P7DkuBKpELp10WNDg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfo_AIYT1BxNCbV6udXFZqh-ig1K4n2P7DkuBKpELp10WNDg/viewform)

### FOR THE SUMMER:

- While we will not be scheduling additional discussion groups until the fall, we want to remind you that you can view the series online either individually or perhaps with a family member, in the convenience of your own home. Should you wish to do so, please contact Barbara Nelkin-Rose to obtain the Access Code.
- We are looking into setting up a **book group** over the summer. We have asked Alex for some recommendations and once we hear back from per, we will let you know!

### LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR:

We have decided to broaden our focus and delve more deeply into what it means to be Radically Welcoming, not only for our trans and non-binary community but for other marginalized identities as well. Having learned that being a radically welcoming congregation is not a goal to be achieved, but an ongoing process focused on building relationships, we intend to provide different paths to learn more about Radical Welcome and explore different ways we can practice it in all aspects of our congregation.

- We will continue to offer ongoing group meetings to discuss the six-session series *Transgender Inclusion in Congregations*
- Rev. Jolie will be leading a book group either on the subject of the trans and non-binary experience OR the concept of Radical Welcome. Book still to be determined.
- We will provide Discussion Groups focused around some of the concepts introduced in the series and how they apply to UCS specifically. These include

discussion around

- **The Iceberg Model of Culture**, which acknowledges that, like an iceberg, there are things that can be seen above the water and those that are hidden below the surface. The things above the water are concrete things that can be experienced through the senses – the artifacts of a culture (Dress, Holidays, Arts, Rights of Passage, Symbolism, Expression.) The things that are below the surface (Beliefs, Values, Norms, Assumptions about how things should happen and how we should act) while not obvious to the eye are the things that drive what is happening above the water. Both need to be addressed and reflected upon.
- **The Bulls-eye Model** of culture shift, which helps us build relationships across lines of identity and lines of power, and work to lovingly support one another in embodying the best of what our community can be, listening to those who are most marginalized and/or have the least amount of power, and acting on their ideas and needs.
- We will have one-time Discussion Groups focused on discussing a specific article or resource provided by the Transforming Hearts Collective. No need to have viewed the online series.
- We will offer opportunities to practice Beloved Community around issues our congregation faces, using the approach of COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION and the “THINK” model, which asks us to reflect on these questions before responding: Is it Thoughtful? Is it Honest? Is it Inspirational? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? One issue of discussion is how we can be radically welcoming in making our bathrooms accessible to all. This includes looking at the way our bathrooms are set up and the signage displayed on the outside.

If you would like to help plan and implement the above activities or suggest others, we hope you will consider joining our working group. Your ideas, your energy, and your experiences will be welcome!

The Transgender Inclusion/Radical Welcome Working Group:

*Barbara Nelkin-Rose, Christian Roulleau, Mia Joiner-Moore*





## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

### Sharon Educators and Students Rally Against Racial Injustice

**June 18, 2020:** Over 250 participants of all ages stood and sat at Ames Street Field, with masks and proper social distancing, for 1½ hours as a number of youth and young adult speakers shared their views on the status of the culture of racism in Sharon. Many UCS members were in attendance, and Grace Miller-Trabold was a featured speaker.



#### DONATE:

**Special Food Pantry donations via Shopping for Justice grocery cards:** During this prolonged health crisis, the SJC is asking for your 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 \$16,500 to support this critical need. Thank you for your generosity, both now and in the weeks and months ahead.

**Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA) and Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) promote the BIC Emergency COVID-19 Fund** which is seeking donations to be earmarked specifically to support Brockton residents in need of emergency assistance. 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 the following link to donate: The need is great, the Mutual Aid Brockton team is small (but mighty!). To donate to the Brockton Interfaith Community's Emergency COVID-19 Fund:

Venmo: @BrocktonInterfaithCommunity  
 Cashapp: \$Bic1990  
 Online: <https://mcan.salsalabs.org/bicovid19emergencyfund>



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

### Green Team update:



### Harvest Produce to Help Combat Hunger in our Area

Food insecurity and food waste is on the rise. Fresh produce, so important in a healthy diet, is often unaffordable or simply out of reach for many in our region. We can help fill the fresh food gap and combat food waste by taking advantage of a well established successful gleaning opportunity in our area. **Gleaning** is the act of gathering crops left behind after a farm has done their last harvest. Literally tons of good nutritious produce is gleaned and distributed to food pantries and community kitchens in and around the region by Boston Area Gleaners (BAG). BAG partners with nearby farms. Sharon, Canton, North Easton, Wrentham, Sherborn, and Milton are just some of the dozens of towns where BAG gleaning opportunities exist. Plan to join us for an outdoor farm adventure to help stock the shelves of local food banks and community kitchens and prevent food waste. Sign-up with [Sign-up with BAG](#) to receive notifications of gleaning opportunities, participate as much or as little as you like. Let the Green Team ([brimcalevey@gmail.com](mailto:brimcalevey@gmail.com)) know you signed up and we can add you to our car-pool list-serve. Contact the Green Team for more information or to arrange carpool options.

### Green Tips/ Project Drawdown recap

Green Tips has now become Project Drawdown Solutions which is featuring 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 in the OOS. To get started, we direct you to the main webpage where you can learn more about the organization. <https://www.drawdown.org>

#### June 21: Project Drawdown Solution #8

##### *Solar Farms (Energy Sector)*

As compared to rooftop solar, solar farms enjoy lower installation costs and they are more efficient at producing energy. Rotating panels can increase efficiency up to 40%. If current levels of solar generation (0.4% of global electricity generation) were increased to 10% and

with installation and maintenance costs included, we could save \$81 billion as compared to fossil fuel plants and could avoid 36.9 gigatons of carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

<https://drawdowniitkgp.wordpress.com/2017/12/05/solar-farms-using-the-power-of-the-sun/>

#### June 14: Project Drawdown Solution #7

##### *Family Planning (Women and Girls Sector)*

Increased adoption of reproductive healthcare and family planning is an essential component to achieve the UN 2015 medium global population projection of 9.7 billion people by 2050. Without such mitigations the projection could be as high as 1 billion more people by that time which would have a dramatic impact upon how much energy, building space, food, waste, and transportation would be used in the world. If such a mitigation is realized, 59.6 gigatons of emissions could be reduced by 2050 (Note, the calculation for educating girls and family planning are both intertwined, so emissions reductions were calculated together [119.2 gigatons] and divided equally between each solution).

<https://drawdowniitkgp.wordpress.com/2017/12/05/family-planning/>

#### June 7: Project Drawdown Solution #6

##### *Educating Girls (Women and Girls Sector)*

Because educated women have fewer, healthier children, and manage their reproductive health, the education of girls (in places where girls are still denied an education) is an important factor in managing population growth, improving the health of women and children, local economic stability, and community resilience to climate change impacts. By ensuring that girls get 13 years of education, the impacts could result in 59.6 gigatons of emissions reduced by 2050.

<https://drawdowniitkgp.wordpress.com/2017/12/04/power-through-education-of-a-girl-child/>

If you have comments or suggestions please contact Tawnya Smith at [createforpeace@gmail.com](mailto:createforpeace@gmail.com)

**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 in Brockton 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. The lunches are 100% funded by your support of the Shopping for Justice grocery card program, where 5% of the value of the cards that you purchase is donated by the stores so that we can help end hunger and homelessness in our community.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

### Legislative Update:

*In order to stay connected with the ever changing world of legislative issues this summer, please check-in regularly with our colleagues at UU Mass Action ([uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)) for the latest news.*

### Emergency Legislation for a Statewide Right to Counsel Pilot Program

Unless the Governor extends the statewide eviction moratorium, it could end on August 18th. And when it ends, courts will be flooded with eviction cases. Landlord organizations estimate 15,000 new evictions will be filed. As part of a comprehensive response to the eviction tidal wave expected to hit when the moratorium lifts, Senator Sal DiDomenico has filed [SD 2971](#), emergency legislation to establish a statewide Right to Counsel Pilot project. The bill would protect low-income renters and owner-occupants facing eviction in areas of the Commonwealth hardest hit by COVID. Under SD 2971, projects would be established statewide within each of the Housing Court's six divisions. The pilot is consistent with principles and proposals adopted by the Massachusetts Right to Counsel Coalition. For more details see [SD 2971 Fact Sheet](#).

**Action Needed - Time is of the Essence:** Contact your Senator & Representative today and ask them to co-sponsor SD 2971 Emergency Right to Counsel Pilot

1. [Check](#) whether your Senator and Rep co-sponsored Right to Counsel bills earlier this year. If they did, thank them for their earlier support when you ask them to co-sponsor SD 2971.

2. Use the starter email below which includes links to a fact sheet and information about the coalition
3. Because elected officials get a lot of emails, follow-up with a phone call to ask whether the Senator or Rep will co-sponsor
4. Click [here](#) to find your Senator and Representative emails and phones

### Starter Email to Your Senator and Representative

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a Massachusetts resident from \_\_\_\_\_. I'm contacting you to ask that you co-sponsor Senate Docket 2971, a statewide right to counsel pilot program to respond to the COVID emergency. It is urgent that we advance this bill quickly to avert the coming eviction crisis. Landlord organizations estimate 15,000 new evictions will be filed when the eviction moratorium ends.

Over 90% of tenants face eviction without legal representation, while 70% of landlords have lawyers - an imbalance that may be felt even more when the moratorium ends. Massachusetts needs a comprehensive eviction prevention response that includes full legal representation in eviction cases to stabilize people's housing.

Over [130 organizations have joined together to support a right to counsel in Massachusetts](#). I hope you will join with others to co-sponsor SD 2971. Please see the [fact sheet](#) with more information about SD 2971. Thank you for all of your work to keep Massachusetts residents safe and housed.

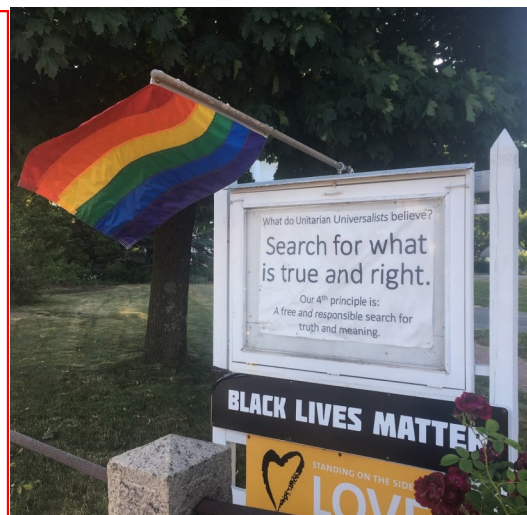
Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization/Contact Info

**CommUnity Closet:** During the Covid-19 period of reduced interactions, the 5 Point Cluster of UU churches has determined to keep closed our collective project to offer clothing for free to the greater Brockton community. While the CommUnity Closet remains shuttered, we are working on alternative ideas to support families in need, and hope to return to a form of new 'normal' operation of the CC at some point. Until then, please continue to stockpile your donations at home, or find alternative donation sites if storage becomes an issue. Thank you for your patience while we work to resolve this puzzle.



### Let's hope that the world is listening:

While our building may be closed for the moment (and even a bit longer), and our voices may not be ringing out across the Square from our pews and from the Pulpit of the Sanctuary proper, rest assured that in these troubled times our messages for social justice are still proclaimed to the world from the Wayside Pulpit on the Corner and from between the Pillars of the Church. The beautiful flowers and plants on the church grounds aren't the only things inspiring our community during these times of unrest!







RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



*A Welcoming  
Congregation of  
the UUA*

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES  
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

**781/784-3652**

SEND AN EMAIL TO

**ADMIN@UUSHARON.ORG**

OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT

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