

# the chalice

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**For newsletter submission  
deadlines:** [Click here](#)

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## OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICES

### THEME: DEEP LISTENING

10am Family      10:30 Adult

For Zoom information [click here](#)  
For Order of Service available Friday before the service [click here](#)

We will focus on the theme of Deep Listening for the month of October. When we listen deeply, we find ourselves more connected to ourselves, one another, our earth, and, for some of us, to God. May our collective deep listening be an antidote to the anxiety and divisiveness of this presidential election season.

**Oct 4 "Deep Listening to Ourselves."** Parker Palmer writes, "We all have an inner teacher whose guidance is more reliable than anything we can get from a doctrine, ideology, collective belief system, institution, or leader." How do we get in touch with our inner wisdom?

**Oct 11 - "The Meaning of Home."** We are invited to listen to the stories of those whose homes are lost or endangered due to violence, oppression or climate change. The message is brought to us by the Rev. Laura Randall of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. We will hear about activists from Central America, Myanmar, the Marshall Islands and Louisiana who are working to save their homes and defend their human rights with support from the UUSC.

**Oct 18 - "Deep Listening to Each Other."** Audre Lorde wrote of the "uses of anger," and Maya Angelou spoke of the crucial difference between anger and bitterness. How can we lower our defenses and strengthen our capacity to hear one another, even when what we are hearing is anger?

**Oct 25 - "Deep Listening to the Earth."** Ted Chiang's short story "The Great Silence" is about the radio telescope at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, and it asks the question, why do we hunt for intelligent life beyond our earth while ignoring the intelligence of the creatures we share this earth with? We will make space for climate grief in our worship service today as we listen deeply to what our planet is telling us.

### UU the Vote Evening Worship Service

**October 16, 7-8 PM** Rev. Jolie will host an evening vespers service in our Virtual Sanctuary, with worship elements provided by [UU the Vote](#). Hear a homily from our UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray, listen to testimonials from UU the Vote volunteers, and learn about how to get involved in the weeks before the election. We will take a collection to support the work of UU the Vote.

### Guidance on Use of Church Buildings & Grounds

The church Task Force on Re-opening has recommended that our Buildings remain closed through **December 31st**. Our Board has approved this recommendation.

Use of church grounds should comply with State guidance on outdoor gatherings. We will not permit large gatherings, but are receptive to small group gatherings. We encourage you to schedule your event on the church calendar if more than a few people will be involved. Wearing of masks is requested. Access to church buildings is not allowed.

## From the Minister



Dear friends,  
Raise your hand if you're watching / scrolling through more news than ever? Raise your hand if you've sworn off news until after November 3? Raise your hand if you never watch the news, thank you very much? However we engage with the media coverage

around this tense and COVID-impacted election season, November 3 approacheth. I am inspired to know that our fellow UU's around the country, including I'm sure from our own UCS community, have been putting our belief in democracy into action, for instance, by helping protect voting rights in areas impacted by voter suppression and organizing around issues that our UU principles call us to care about. To learn more visit [uuthevote.org](http://uuthevote.org). We will host a special evening worship service in October (date TBA - stay tuned!) with elements from the UU the Vote team, including a homily from our UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray.

I have posted this elsewhere, and so even at the risk of repeating myself, I want to know something. **Are you looking for a Connection Circle?** Some of our Connection Circles are still ongoing, and may be accepting new members at this time. Given enough renewed interest, we could create new ones. Connection Circles are simply members and friends of our congregation who keep in touch on virtual platforms, through small social-distance gatherings, or through individual check-ins. The groups were started in the beginning of the pandemic to create more opportunities to participate in virtual church. The groups have facilitators who help everyone stay in touch and plan meetings. Please contact me if you wish to join a Connection Circle, or if your Circle never got off the ground and you want to try a new one.

At the excellent suggestion of our Interim DRE Christine Bulman, I wrote a special prayer this week. Christine is putting printed copies of "A Blessing For While We Are Apart" into our RE Families' Chalice Home care packages. But since this blessing is for all of us, I offer it here as well:

Since I cannot hold your hand right now,  
I hold my love for you in my heart.  
Since I cannot sing next to you in the pew right now,  
I sing to you in front of my computer screen and I hope you can tell I'm singing LOUD.  
Since we cannot all be together in person right now,  
we keep coming together online, and on the phone, and from a distance with our masks on,  
and **we know we are still connected.**

May our loneliness be eased by the knowledge that we are all in this together.

May our frustrations be eased by a good joke, a sunny day, a welcome surprise.

May our fears be eased by returning to the breath, the steady breath, the constant breath.

May our church community and the love that some call God continue to hold us and bless us all, even

now, especially now, while we are apart.  
Amen and blessed be.

With all my love,  
*Rev. Jolie*

p.s. Next month, you and your beloved animal companions can look forward to a virtual animal blessing service! And we will observe our annual All Souls worship service on Nov 1.

## From the President



### CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL UNREST

Summer's latest storm with high winds bent the towering locust tree next to our pool. Branches came crashing down to emphasize that it was not healthy. A noticeable crack about 12 feet above ground level gave fearful indication that this tree could topple. Emergency removal was essential for safety of all.

Maltby Tree Service from Stoughton recommended testing to identify other unhealthy trees. They used a small 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch diameter drill to penetrate the trunk and measure the resistance. Graphical output clearly illustrated weakness due to internal rot. Seven more trees warranted removal.

Earlier this year during the February 7<sup>th</sup> windstorm, a large pine tree struck the corner of our house. The living room and one of the upstairs bedrooms sustained damage. No one was hurt, but the event was terribly frightening. During that same storm, another tree on our property along Route 27 fell toward Liz and Mia's house. It took down a telephone pole and all the utility lines. Traffic was disrupted and electric power in the neighborhood was lost for 12 hours.

I have always believed that climate change is ongoing. Scientific data shows our atmosphere to be gradually warming. What I did not anticipate is the increased frequency of storms and their violent nature. Witness the devastation to Norwood Hospital during the torrential downpour earlier this summer! Fallen trees at 52 Upland bring the issue home in convincing fashion for our family.

Social unrest over climate change and its impacts has many of us worried about what to do. Fortunate for Massachusetts, many volunteer organizations and supportive state agencies are engaged in adaptive strategies that address climate issues. Three local organizations worth investigating include Sustainable Sharon Coalition, Neponset River Watershed Association, and Friends of Blue Hills. Within our own church we have the Green Team within Buildings & Grounds Committee espousing many simple contributions each person can make. Why not get started now. It's a life-long challenge!

*Rory McGregor*

UCS Parish President

## The UCS Stewardship Committee Presents: The Seven Principles Inspire and Stewardship is the Means to that End

Please join the Stewardship Committee Chair, Peter Raskin for an inspiring conversation with Reverend Jolie Olivetti on October 25th at Noon to 12:30.

This virtual gathering (via Zoom) will discuss Stewardship as a vital and aspirational congregational process that should be discussed throughout the year.

Peter and Jolie will define stewardship and how it can inspire our congregation to embrace our Seven Principles. While individuals may have finite or scarce resources, a community with a vision has plentiful resources and can make a significant difference in our congregational and community life. Please join us for a conversation after coffee on October 25th at Noon.

The Stewardship Committee will attempt to communicate these concepts to our congregation throughout the year. Please be on the lookout for monthly communications from the Committee.

*Submitted by Peter Raskin, Stewardship Chair*

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Sunday, Oct 18 7 - 8 pm

In the Virtual Library: <https://zoom.us/j/6525468701?pwd=b2JuMlI5TVJzWTNHZ2ZyUzVYcFh1dz09>

Topic: Deep listening for mindfulness and stress management.

RSVP to [minister@uusharon.org](mailto:minister@uusharon.org) or 781 784 3652

## Drop In! Zoom Chats with Rev. Jolie Thursdays 10 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98093769487?pwd=T3ZqM2NwQnVDd3RPYUIGLzFvSWZiUT09>

I will open up my "Virtual Minister's Study" every Thursday at 10 AM as I have been doing lately. We will chat about whatever's on our hearts and minds, and time permitting, we can share reflections on a discussion prompt. Drop in and say hi.

## Calendar Link

Check out our Calendar for online events happening this month: <https://www.uusharon.org/calendars/month/2020-10/>

## Book Group

Our Unitarian Church of Sharon adult book group invites you to join us as you like. Monthly Meetings on the first Wednesday of the month, 7 - 8t :30PM via zoom in the Virtual Library

We have selected the first three(3), reads to be discussed.

Come, invite a friend, share our link.

October 7th - American Wife, Curtis Sitterfeld

November 4th - Being Mortal - Atul Gawande

## 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.



## New Church Directory Coming Soon

The Membership Committee and the Congregational Administrator have started to work on refreshing our Church Directory. More information coming soon.



Trouble remembering how far to stand apart for social distancing? Try this!



## Religious Education News

### *From the Interim Director of Religious Education*



An elder in the congregation recently asked me “When does RE start?” My practical answer was that we aren’t having the usual start this year because we are choosing not to move religious education classes online during this time that is already heavy on Zoom. But my spiritual answer is that it has al-

ready begun. In fact, it never really stopped. The welcoming words on the Children and Youth pages of UCS website offer a community in which children’s spirits can grow. It acknowledges that parents are the primary religious educators for their children and aims to support them in this effort. It affirms that our interactions and relationships are what teach children our UU values. It thoughtfully invites children and youth to participate in Sunday worship and respects all levels of participation in it. Finally, it offers a “larger family” of congregation members who know them and care for them - on Sunday mornings and throughout the rest of the week.

Although it looks different this fall and we are not in the building joining in classes on Sunday mornings, the “program” is still there. We continue to support parents in their roles as the primary religious educators of their children, this year through the Chalice Home program and a small group ministry for parents. We continue to put lively effort into the messages and lessons of our Sunday family worship time, broadening this year the ways in which families can participate. And we continue to be an extended “family” who cares about the children in their absence. Hence the question from the elder, who likely asked because the children in this community are a natural extension of his awareness. Without a doubt, our beloved RE teachers will creatively find their way to the children and youth in the months to come.

What is essential to the RE program here at the Unitarian Church of Sharon - respect, safety, community, acceptance, trust, growth, service, curiosity, love, and learning – these values are all still present among us and I look forward to the new ways they will express through our programs this year. If you have ideas, questions, or needs, please reach out. We’ll get through this together.

In Faith,

*Christine*

[dre@uusharon.org](mailto:dre@uusharon.org)

If you’d like to schedule a time to talk with Christine during her virtual office hours, use this link: <https://ucsreligiouseducation.setmore.com>

## Religious Education Registration

Our usual classes are not meeting, but registration is still important. We’ll be experimenting with different ways to learn and connect this year and it’s important to know who wants in! Your registration fee helps us to offset the cost of the supplies it takes to run the program. Although we’re not in the building doing our usual creative projects, we hope to utilize the postal service this year to send some care packages home to the kids from time to time. You can find a link to register on the UCS website and also right [here](#).

## Soulful Home

**A monthly feature for families inspired by the Soul Matters themes we’re exploring at UCS this year.**

### October: Deep Listening

*“The first duty of love is to listen.” Paul Tillich*

What are the sounds around your own home? Which ones create feelings of comfort, security, and familiarity?

Try this: Using a smartphone, a laptop computer, or other recording equipment, and working as a family, create a recording of different sound clips that together make up the soundscape of your soulful home. Here are some ideas:

- The percolation of the coffee pot, or whistle of the tea kettle
- Laughing together
- A pet barking happily/purring
- A clock ticking
- A squeaky door opening
- Somebody running up or down stairs
- The sound of keys as a parent gets home
- Splashing in a bathtub
- What else?

Save the sound file someplace secure. What you’ve made is a kind of sound portrait of your life together in this moment in time, a family treasure to be enjoyed in the decades to come!

## Religious Education News, continued



### Chalice Home

#### Chalice Home:

Did you pick up your Chalice Home Box yet?

Carve out sacred space in your home! We're inviting all the families in our church to go on a unique adventure this year. It's called Chalice Home and we're using it to help all of us stay connected to our faith in this time. In this program you will be guided in constructing a home altar and provided with a worship guide each month which features words and ideas for worshipful moments as well and an invitation to add something special to your altar. We'll meet the first Sunday of the month on Zoom for 30 minutes to share our previous months' experiences and learn about the upcoming theme.

**Many Chalice Home Boxes were collected from the church foyer on September 27th but there are still more!** Regardless of if you want to participate in the program by jumping onto the zoom calls or receiving a monthly family worship guide, please accept this gift to help you create a sacred container in your home. Among its contents are the makings of a flower pot chalice, a battery operated flickering tea light, a satchel of hand picked beach stones for joys and concerns and an altar cloth. To find out what else is in the box, be sure to get your own! Additional pick-up day added: Sunday October 4. See weekly announcements on the website for details.



## YOUTH GROUPS

### Senior Youth Group

SYG meets on Sundays from 5-6:30pm over Zoom. This month we'll be planning a Zoom movie night, playing games, and continuing to navigate these changing times. Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 9



- 12 and folks are encouraged to invite friends! Past 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.

Our October meeting will be on October 18th from 1-2:30pm on zoom. We'll be playing games together and picking a movie for a November movie night!

### Call for Youth Advisors

Looking for something to do Sunday evenings? Want to bring some play into your week? Senior Youth Group depends on adult volunteers to serve as youth advisors. You do not need any special skills, just a willingness to come hang out with us on zoom one Sunday a month and play some games. If you might be interested in serving in this way, please email Katie at [yc@uusharon.org](mailto:yc@uusharon.org)

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



In an effort to streamline communications and be more efficient and current with ever changing details, we encourage you to visit the UCS website ([uusharon.org](http://uusharon.org)) for all the latest news and updates on what's happening at church. The Social

Justice pages are a great source for the most up to date information on events, opportunities to engage, resources, and for links to partner organizations and groups that we collaborate with in our work.

### Brown Envelope donations



The Brown Envelope collections from our summer lay-led services raised \$666.73 for the **Summer Youth Programs** at the **UU Urban Ministry** in Roxbury (additional funds may have been sent directly to the UUUM, so our

figure is inexact).

Our Brown Envelope collection for the last 3 Sundays in September are directed to our **Partner Church in Gyulakuta, Transylvania**. For many years, our congregation has supported our Partner Church there, with a number of visits by UCS members on occasion. The money we raise via our Brown Envelope Collection in September pays for a musician during their worship service, and for a copy of the monthly Romanian Unitarian magazine for each family, as well as other urgent projects. They are enormously grateful for this support.

The Social Justice Committee has selected the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)** as the Brown Envelope offering recipient for October ([uus.org](http://uus.org)). The UUSC, an independent nonprofit organization committed to defending human rights and working against injustice on a variety of fronts at home and abroad, collaborations with and supports an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. Founded 80 years ago as the Unitarian Service Committee in response to the horrors of the Nazi conquest of Europe, it has a long history of effective advocacy, education and action protecting and advancing the rights of migrants, women, indigenous peoples, religious and ethnic minorities, and those beset by natural and human-made disasters.

The UUSC's current immediate funding effort seeks to help deliver critically needed assistance to those in the Gulf Coast affected by Hurricane Laura and provide continued long-term support for climate emergencies throughout the Atlantic hurricane season.

Working with local partners, it goes beyond simple relief to support equitable recovery and build climate resilience. Other major current initiatives include supporting the persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar (Burma), indigenous communities suffering at the forefront of the climate crisis, and Central American migrants struggling to find a safe home in the face of oppression and hostility. The October 11th worship service, "The Meaning of Home," will highlight some of this work.

It will also introduce the **Guest at Your Table**, a UUSC program that puts a human face on the struggles of our time. It invites us to learn more about those suffering from injustice and to make a habit of small acts of generosity toward them. We'll be making collection boxes and background materials available starting in mid-October and leading up to Thanksgiving Day, when we hope every household in the congregation will welcome a 'guest' at their Thanksgiving table.

You can donate to the UUSC at any time, directly at <https://donate.uusc.org/>, by sending a check to the church (memo 'Brown E October'), or through our congregation's donation portal <https://www.uusharon.org/ucs-donations/>



From the UUSC *Guest at Your Table* calendar for your at home conversations about our common humanity.

(Also, please save the date of Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 21st (3:00-6:00pm) for a grand **Social Justice Marketplace**. We'll offer the usual Fair Trade goodies and shopping cards, plus *Guest at Your Table* materials, and a new initiative - a portable outdoor **Lending Library**, offering justice-related books to borrow from our church's Library collection. We'll also offer a Justice Book Swap, accepting relevant books that you've finished and would like to pass on to someone else in the congregation. More details to follow.)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

### Black Lives Matter & Racial Justice

Racial injustice is deeply rooted in our culture, and the ongoing work for social justice calls us to examine this problem in all its complexity. This fall Reverend Jolie, the SJC and the congregation are undertaking long hard looks, both within and beyond our doors, as we struggle to overcome racism on our path to building a Welcoming Congregation rooted in the concept of Beloved Community. The work is difficult, and progress will come in small steps, but we are working in collaboration with other like-minded organizations here in Sharon and beyond. Please check the church website ([uusharon.org](http://uusharon.org)) for the latest information about workshops, trainings, suggested readings and other opportunities to lean into this challenging topic.



### Donations to 5 local Food Pantries

Since the closure of the church building due to Covid-19, the congregation has supported the 5 local food pantries in Sharon and our surrounding towns. Instead of canned goods, we asked for monetary donations that have been converted into grocery cards via our Shopping for Justice program, and we have reached the \$20,000 level since the program was launched in April. Because of our bulk purchase discount from the grocery cards, we have been able to

add an additional 5% to that total, resulting in an additional \$1000 in support of our neighbors in need.

We have also recently resumed collection of canned goods for delivery to the Sharon/Stoughton food pantry, where we have had a long-standing relationship. A 24/7/365 collection bin now sits in the Patio to the left of the main entrance at church, and you are encouraged to drop off canned goods and staples there (or at our monthly Fair Trade pre-order event, 21 October this month). All of the pantries are very grateful for our donations of all types, as the need only continues to grow. Please consider a contribution now, and for perhaps many months ahead.



**Used Grocery Cards:** Here are some of the used grocery cards from our Shopping for Justice program that are sent out for recycling - you may sit on them at a park bench someday! Profits from S4J support our monthly 100 bag lunch program at MainSpring House in Brockton, as well as our local pantry donation ef-

### Projects & Opportunities

For the latest news about legislative projects, programs, and other social justice events and opportunities in our area, we recommend signing up for news and alerts from our fellow travelers in the work of social justice: visit UU Mass Action ([uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)), the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry ([uum.org](http://uum.org)), the Unitarian Universalist Association ([uua.org](http://uua.org)), the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee ([uusc.org](http://uusc.org)) and the Five Points Cluster, our local UU church group ([fivepointscluster.org](http://fivepointscluster.org)) to stay current on what other UU's are involved in that need your participation.

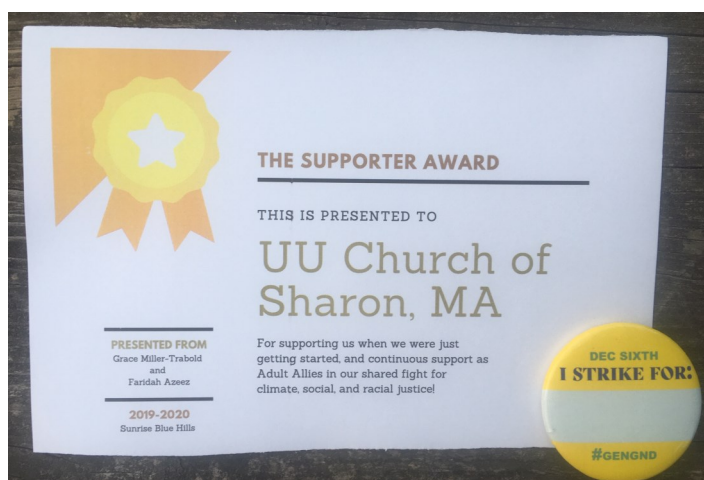


## SJ NEWS, continued

### Social Justice in Pictures



**RBG Vigil:** The community gathers for a vigil to honor the life and work of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who passed away on September 18th. "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." RBG



**Blue Hills SUNRISE** chapter celebrates 1 year anniversary with UCS sponsorship. Our church was acknowledged with "The Supporter Award" at a lakeside, socially distant picnic on September 25th.



Sharon gathers for a vigil in memory of **Breonna Taylor**

## Conversations At the Meetinghouse



## South Africa's Garden Route: An Exploration of Natural History and Culture

**JIM SWEENEY**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 7 PM**

FOR ZOOM LINK GO TO:

<https://www.uusharon.org/happenings/conversations-at-the-meetinghouse/>

In August of 2015, Jim visited South Africa's "Garden Route", a region with some of the world's greatest plant diversity, stunning scenery, and intriguing wildlife. This presentation will focus on the wildlife and natural history of the region with an emphasis on birds, plants, and mammals. While South Africa is home to iconic wildlife such as elephants, zebras and ostriches, it also hosts lesser known organisms like malachite sunbirds, crane flowers, bonteboks and rock hyraxes. Enjoy the evening exploring the breathtaking wildlife and natural settings of the garden route while learning about the fascinating cultural context that has given South Africa the nickname: Rainbow Nation.

Conversations at the Meetinghouse is a monthly program held on the first Friday of each month (November to June) at 7PM where members of the community share their expertise and experience about important issues of the day.

***Free and Open To Public***





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*A Welcoming  
Congregation of  
the UUA*

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