

the chalice

Published by the
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DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: STILLNESS

10am Family 10:30 Adult
(unless noted otherwise)

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

Sunday, December 6

Finding Stillness In The Storm

In our everyday lives and in these difficult times, "calm" can feel like a distant memory or a fantasy. How can we find stillness even amidst the tumult? And why does it matter?

Sunday Dec 13

Waiting For A Miracle

As our Jewish friends and co-belonging community members are celebrating Hannukah this week, we will take time to reflect on the miraculous.

Sunday, Dec 20 10:30 AM

Virtual Revels

Our annual [Revels](#) tradition stretches back many decades and has taken many different forms over the years - but never before has it been virtual! Join Rev. Jolie, Interim DRE Christine, children, youth, and adults from our congregation for this celebration of staying warm and glad in the cold and dark.

Sunday, Dec 20 7PM

Solstice Service

Church choir members led by Jennifer Spencer will conduct a condensed version of the traditional solstice service via Zoom. Celebrating the return of light as we think ahead to Spring and rebirth will lift our spirits at this dark time of year. The Zoom link will come to all members/friends the Friday before the service. Instructions on how to participate in the candle lighting will be included and guarantee to make the evening memorable, whether joining alone or with others.

Tuesday, Dec 22 6:30 PM

Blue Christmas

Christmas ain't all pretty bows and warm cookies, especially this year. Join us for an evening vespers service when we make some space for the hard feelings that this time of year can bring up. We will hear comforting music and readings and share in some sacred and love-filled time together. We'll collect an offering for our "grocery cards for food pantries" program.

Thursday, Dec 24 6:30PM

Christmas Eve Virtual Candlelight Service

Broadcasting on Zoom from our UCS Sanctuary! Bring a candle to your screen, turn off the lights, and sing Silent Night with us. Our flames will still burn bright even though we are apart.

Sunday, Dec 27 10:30AM

New Year's Music Service

Unity Church in North Easton is hosting our annual Five Points Cluster New Year's music service virtually. More information to follow.

From the Minister



Dear ones,

I wonder if, like me, you are tired. I wonder if, like me, you miss your loved ones. I wonder if, like me, you are sad. The ache of this time of pandemic and shutdown has been so prolonged, it has dulled over the

months. But still I miss laughing hard while holding onto a friend's arm, gasping and hollering at the movies, singing loud in church with you all, sharing hugs and shaking your hands. My longing for closeness with other humans is sharp. Our collective grief over the loss of more than a quarter million souls to coronavirus is almost unspeakable.

Back in the spring, a message went around our Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association mailing list with the subject header, "I Did Not Sign Up For This." The email was exactly what I needed to read at the time - a colleague's reflections on how she never planned to be an online minister, to have a church without a building, to be a working parent with no childcare or school. I was moaning on the phone with another minister, a dear friend of mine, about pandemic ministry, and mentioned that email. "It's so true!" I said, "I did not sign up for this!" My friend empathized with me, but then gave me a little nudge. "Didn't you, though?" he asked me. The implication being that, by signing up to be a minister, we never know exactly what we are signing up for, other than to serve the people and our faith through whatever life brings. True enough.

My friend went on to explain that, as a former community minister whose ministry used to be primarily with incarcerated people, he's pretty comfortable ministering "from afar." Visits constrained by being required to maintain a certain distance from the person you're talking to? Check. A monthly newsletter as a primary means to share ministerial reflections? Check. Phone calls and letters being the only way to connect, but we keep trying anyway? Check. Now he works at a church, except the church he serves is closed for almost all in-person activities, as ours is. So, he is back in familiar territory, tele-ministering, not holding people's hands, and everyone is just doing their best, as we are.

If the email about not signing up for this was what I thought I needed, then the conversation about facing reality and my friend's perspective about ministry with people in prison was what I actually needed. All of us have been impacted by this virus in countless ways, and all of us keep adapting as best we can.

I will be on vacation from December 25 through January 1, returning to work on January 2. With that in mind, I wanted everyone to be clear about what leave means in terms of getting in touch with me. **If I'm on leave, whether it's study leave or vacation time, there are still some instances when it is appropriate and important for you to contact me.** If anyone in our UCS community of members and friends is newly facing grave illness, death, fire, or some other serious event, please call me even if I am on leave. Also, if there is a memorial service scheduled for a member of our church, please call me even if I am on leave. I do not check emails or my church office voicemail when I am off, **so call my cell phone: (617) 851-9356.**

Yours in faith,

Rev. Jolie



Animal Blessing by Rev. Jolie

Zoom Chats with Rev. Jolie
Dec 3, 10, and 17 (Not Dec 24 or 31)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98093769487?pwd=T3ZqM2NwQnVDd3RPYUIGLzFvSWZiUT09>
Thursdays at 10 AM. Log in and share whatever's on your hearts and minds.

Candles, Labyrinth, and Song

Friday, December 18, 5 PM

(*inclement weather date: Saturday, December 19)
UCS Grounds

Join us for an evening of meditation and quiet Solstice observance on our church grounds. We will have a walking labyrinth, a fire pit, and music to accompany our journey towards the longest night. We will wear our masks and observe social distance precautions. A sign-up will go out prior to the event so we can ensure staggered attendance. All ages.

From the President



LUCKY STAR WATCHING OVER

Education for our nation's youth has been a huge challenge during the pandemic. Virtual learning became the approach in Massachusetts last March when the State shut down. Most schools have continued with online instruction programs in the current school year.

My daughter's family in Somerville struggled last Spring to coordinate virtual learning while working regular jobs. As grandparents, we lent support by working with the two boys on lessons at their home and monitoring online classes in case adult intervention was needed. We even experimented with having the boys live with us in Sharon since teaching was completely virtual. We all survived but admitted that it had been stressful and tiring.

During the summer, my nephew from Washington DC visited Sharon to play softball with my team in the Over 30 Men's League and tour Boston area sights. Our grandsons were also living with us and discovered that he was a wonderful playmate. Since he was without employment, we started to imagine that he could become the aux pair our grandsons needed. When he returned to DC in August, we continued to discuss this new job possibility.

Our offer to return to Sharon was more enticing than the boredom of waiting for new jobs in the moribund oil & gas market. He returned mid-September and has become one busy young man working with our grandsons on their education and coordinating outdoor recreation activity. We are no longer exhausted, our daughter is tending to her job without interruption, and the boys are happy campers.

Rory McGregor

UCS Parish President



Rory's nephew and grandson

CHARTER ORGANIZATION OPPORTUNITY for BSA TROOP 164

In September 2019 the first Boy Scouts of America troop for girls was founded in Sharon. Troop 164 currently has 7 youth members and an active adult leadership team. Rebecca Kinraide, a UCS member, serves as both the Assistant Scoutmaster and the Charter Organization representative. She has requested that UCS consider the opportunity to take over the Charter Organization responsibility. Providing meeting/storage space and leadership support are the primary requirements for the Charter Organization. Rebecca plans to continue her involvement with the Troop. The UCS Board of Trustees is currently discussing her request and soliciting your input before making a decision.

Here is the UUA's information about scouting: <https://www.uua.org/children/scouting/faq-boy-scouts>

If you have interest in or concerns about this proposal, please contact Rory McGregor: email rmcgregor3@aol.com or text/call 508-400-4719.



Committee Events and Updates

Monthly Stewardship Chat

Stewardship Committee's Monthly Zoom Gathering: What are the Unitarian Church of Sharon's Financial Priorities? (December 6th at Noon)

In an effort to actively engage our congregation in the responsibility of managing our resources, the Stewardship Committee is hosting monthly Zoom Meetings. So far, we've discussed the meaning of Stewardship and Legacy Planning. December's 30-minute meeting will help attendees appreciate the Unitarian Church of Sharon's financial priorities. How and where we spend our money is a good indicator of our values. Please join Peter Raskin, Stewardship Chair, and Karen Zelevinsky, Finance Chair, to review how we prioritize our spending. This will not be a detailed review of our budget but a review of what our community values.

We know everyone is so very busy and sitting in front of another Zoom call doesn't sound really exciting. Nevertheless, Stewardship is a shared value and we hope you will invest some of your time with us in order to learn how your time, talent and treasure is utilized. Also, you might win a delicious Fair Trade Chocolate Bar. Attendees will be entered into a drawing. Please review the weekly Order of Service or the Church's website for [Zoom Meeting details](#). We look forward to seeing you at Noon on December 6th.

Submitted by Peter Raskin, Chair

Beyond Our Walls

Things are busy in our Cluster of churches right now. Our contribution to the coat drive was great with over five 50-gallon bags and three 30-gallon bags of coats donated by all of you. If anyone missed this and wishes to donate coats, the Foxboro Universalist Church is collecting on December 5th, 11:00AM to 1:00PM at their church on the Foxboro Common.

Our Church doesn't meet on December 27th, the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's. The Unity Church of North Easton has invited us to their Musical Service on that day at 10:30AM. It is an enjoyable service in a beautiful building and worth seeing. The Zoom address will be available on their Facebook page. To get to that page, put "Unity Church of North Easton" in the Facebook search window.

Elizabeth Siftar (esiftar@gmail.com) and Carter Chamberlain (carterwilliamchamberlain@gmail.com) are making masks and other PPE to help during the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact them if you want to help sew or you can donate money to help defray the cost of materials. Make checks payable to Foxborough Universalist Church (6 Bird Street, Foxborough, MA 02035) or see Elizabeth.

-Jim Mullin, Chair

Buildings & Grounds

In the Gardens

What's unseen but anticipated, and tucked away in the garden? Bulbs! In a collaboration between Building and Grounds and RE (thanks to Christine Bullman, Interim DRE), families and individuals planted 500-700 bulbs. So many, we stopped counting. But, don't wait for spring to stroll the grounds, fall delights are in berries and bark, grasses and evergreens. You may even catch a glimpse of an unknown, yet-to-be-seen creature who has made a big hole near the North Fence to the right of the Yew!

Garden Request

B&G is looking for donations of sturdy, wooden benches for the garden. With or without backs (preferably with), long or short, a few benches or even a garden chair would add an inviting welcome to a wanderer! Contact Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks, if you can help.

Lindsay Drisko, B&G Chair

Update From the Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry was formed last year to oversee the evaluation process for Reverend Jolie and otherwise provide support for her ministry. The evaluation was one of three that are required of new ministers by the UUA. If successful, their ministries are then renewed for another year.

The Committee worked with Reverend Jolie to complete her evaluation last summer. The evaluation process included getting feedback from staff, from the Board, and from the Congregation in general. Not surprisingly the evaluation was very positive. It also included recommendations which stressed the importance of self-care.

The evaluation was submitted to the UUA in July, and Reverend Jolie recently got the news that her ministry was renewed for another year! This is the second evaluation she has gone through – the first was during her time as a hospital chaplain. She will need to have the third, and final, evaluation this coming summer.

The Committee recently met to discuss the timing and process for this third evaluation. As before, we will be soliciting comments from the Congregation next Spring. During our monthly meetings we also discuss other ways in which we can support her ministry.

The Committee welcomes any thoughts you have on this process. Its members are David Nichamoff (chair), Tom D'Avanzo, Ellen Davey Fleming, Kerstin Gallant, Mia Joiner-Moore, and Alison Reid

Submitted by Tom D'Avanzo.

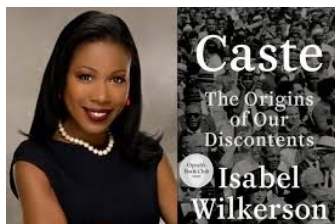
December Programs

The Not Boring Book Group

We will skip our December meeting and will come back together on **January 6th** at 7pm in the Virtual Library, to discuss the short stories of Alice Munro. The stories are available online [here](#).

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6525468701?pwd=b2JuMlI5TVJzWTNHZ2ZyUzVYcFh1dz09>

In collaboration with the racial justice work being done here at church, we have selected for our **February 3rd** discussion the book *Caste: The Origin of our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson. A few books will be available for loan through our church library. See the Social Justice Updates Page for more information.



We meet via zoom at 7pm on the first Wednesday of the month, in the Virtual Library, with occasional breaks for holidays. You don't need to have finished the book, or even started it, to join us - it's likely the discussion will be interesting. You can find the listing on the [calendar](#) as well. Please join us.

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 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.



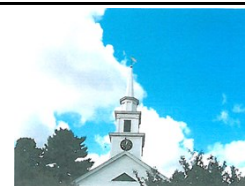
Theater: Christmas Carol with our own Doug McDougal

Roundabout Productions presents a 'virtual' Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens featuring Doug McDougal as Scrooge. The production is free and streaming on YouTube [here](#) on Dec. 17, 18 and 19 at 8:00pm.

Calendar Link

Check out our Calendar for online events happening this month: <https://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2020-12/>

Conversations At the Meetinghouse



Back to Vietnam

DAVID SCHOENFELD

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7 PM

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89724469293>

Meeting ID: 897 2446 9293 Password: 3652

The war in Vietnam was the most important historical event of my youth. I refused induction into the armed services, risked imprisonment, and spent a great deal of energy protesting the war in productive and sometimes unproductive ways. Last year I had a chance to visit Vietnam, and I was amazed at the beauty of the country and the spirit of the people. Several years earlier, I visited Cambodia as well. I will present my travelogue as well as my musings on war and peace and foreign policy illustrated by our history with Vietnam.



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

Free and Open To Public

Religious Education News



Multigenerational Virtual Revels 2020

This year we are adapting the tradition of Revels for the virtual format and inviting performers of all ages! In keeping with the theme of Winter Solstice and faith in the return of Light, the Revels service this year will feature some of our traditional elements and invite some new, musical ones.

Children have already begun to work on their special contribution to the service and now it's your turn! Calling all musicians, dancers, thespians...it is time for some holiday revelry!

Record yourself playing, singing, dancing or acting a short, joyous, winter-themed piece and submit it to be included in the Revels service on December 20th. Contact Rev. Jolie or Christine Bulman if you are interested and we will provide you with some tips and guidance. We are taking submissions until December 10th.

Religious Education Teachers, we need your voice!

During this in-between time we have a great opportunity to take stock of where the RE program has been, and to create a vision for the way forward. As someone who has taught RE classes in the past, you can play an important role in this process. Thanks to UCS member Brad Larson, we have a convenient way to share thoughts and offer feedback. Brad developed this platform in his work with museums and is generously donating it to our cause this month. Thanks Brad! If you have taught RE classes in the past, look for an email from Christine Bulman with a link to this fabulous story sharing platform complete with prompts and a way to record on your own device. Check it out!

Virtual Baking Party!

Save the date!

Saturday December 19, 2020

Time: TBA

Where: Zoom tba

Join the UCS Santa Lucia's on zoom for a live bake-along. There are three ways to participate:

1. Use our recipe and make your own Santa Lucia buns, just like the buns we normally sample during the Revels service
2. Use your own recipe, either for sweet buns or for your own treasured holiday baked good.
3. Don't bake at all, and just sign on to join in the fun and socialize!



A Special Advent Series for Children and Adults

All Creation Waits by Gayle Boss

For each day of Advent Christine Bulman will read one entry from this beautiful set of essays from December 1st through December 25th.

From Gayle's website: *Advent is the season of dwindling light and gathering cold – with a mystery at its core. Animals of the northern hemisphere enact that mystery. Watching them, we can find a way to face our primal fear of the dark and cold, a healthier way than falling into depression or spiraling into frenzied distraction.*

For each day of Advent, All Creation Waits opens a window onto the world of an animal amazingly, ingeniously adapting when darkness and cold descend. The animals show us in twenty-four different ways the deep mystery and abiding truth at the heart of the Christ story: The dark is not an end, but the way a new beginning comes.

Religious Education News, continued

Being a Parent

A Saturday morning series for UU parents of children and youth

2nd and 4th Saturdays 9:00 am - 10:00 am beginning December 12
(resumes January 9th) on Zoom (details in the online church calendar).

"Being" is a challenge during these times. Being a parent during these times is even more challenging than it normally is. Grab some coffee and join us for a series of drop-in, topical conversations led by various facilitators including Rev. Olivetti, Christine Bulman, Katie Byron, and members of the congregation with special interests. We hope that this will be the space where parents can connect with others, find support in the challenges and celebrations of parenting in these times, and perhaps find a pocket of quiet to reflect. Katie Byron kicks off the series with a winter segment on parenting in times of trauma. See below for details.

Parenting in Times of Trauma led by Interim Religious Education Assistant Katie Byron, LCSW

These are traumatizing times. And that trauma impacts our minds and our bodies in ways that make it extra hard to figure out how to support our children and ourselves. Join us for a conversation about how the trauma of this moment shows up for our kids and teens, as well as in adults. We'll also share strategies for parents to recognize, understand, and manage their own emotional and physiological responses and tips on supporting children in recognizing and accepting their own experiences in this time and empowering them in their resiliency. See the [church calendar](#) for the zoom link.

Katie Byron is the Youth Coordinator and Interim RE Assistant at UCS. They are also a social worker with experience supporting parents and families who have experienced domestic violence, community violence, and other forms of trauma. Katie brings knowledge from the Attachment, Regulation, and Competency (ARC) Framework, which was designed to support children who have experienced trauma and their caregivers, as well as a desire to build on the strengths that parents already have in supporting themselves and their families.

YOUTH GROUPS

Senior Youth Group

SYG meets on Sundays from 5-6:30pm over Zoom. This month we'll keep checking-in with one another, playing games, and continuing to support each other through 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. Last month, we watched The Secret of Kells together. Our December meeting will be on December 13th from 1-2:30pm on zoom.

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.

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.



Thanks to Bella and Cooper, the UCS office felt very festive this Thanksgiving season. Thank you!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



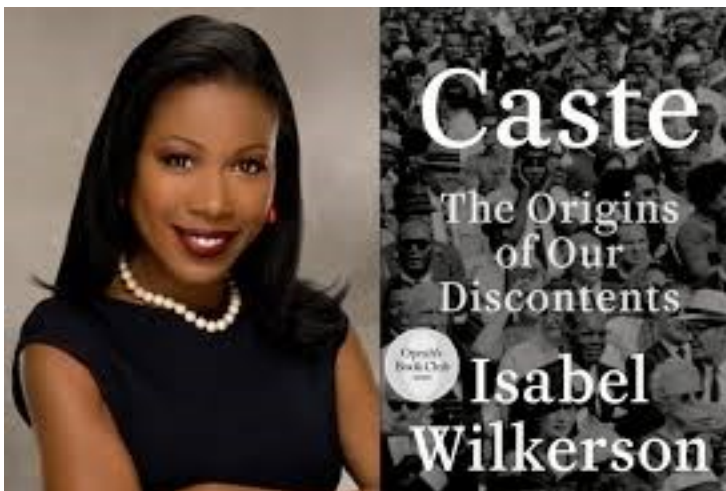
The Social Justice Committee encourages you to visit the UCS website (uusharon.org) for all the latest news and updates on what's happening at church. The Social Justice pages are a great source for the most up to date information on events, opportu-

nities to engage, resources, and for links to partner organizations and groups that we collaborate with in our work.

Anti-Racism Working Group

As stated in the November Newsletter, "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." The UCS Anti-Racism Working Group has recently facilitated two church-wide programs to assist in this endeavor, and plans to continue offering opportunities on an ongoing basis this year and in the years ahead, recognizing that this work requires a lifelong commitment.

Our next program focuses on the book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson. In the book, Wilkerson "gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings." (Source: *Politics and Prose*, an independent bookstore located in Chevy Chase, Washington, D.C.)



Dwight Garner, the chief critic of The New York Times, called *Caste* "an instant American classic and almost certainly the keynote nonfiction book of the American century thus far."

The program on *Caste* will start with a series of discussion groups, now pushed to December and January, on a video interview of Isabel Wilkerson by the historian and author John Meacham. We will

then have an opportunity for a congregational read of the book, with group discussion(S) available, including one by The Not Boring Book Group at its February 3rd meeting.

During the Meacham interview of Wilkerson, we hear Wilkerson's report that the U.S. is actually built on an unrecognized caste system which has created substantial barriers to those at the bottom of the system, with African Americans being the lowest caste. The video offers an important new perspective on American history, and we have broken it down into 3 separate sessions in order to provide more time for reflection and discussion of the information being provided. We will be offering a variety of dates and times to watch and discuss the video with other congregants, as provided below. We encourage you to attend all 3 sessions with the same group; however, we understand that there may be times you need to attend other dates. We also urge you to pre-register for the sessions if possible, using this [RESPONSE FORM](#):

The Not Boring Book Group

February Group Read

In collaboration with the racial justice work being done here at church, we have selected for our February 3rd discussion the book *Caste: The Origin of our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson.

A few books will be available for loan through our church library. If you plan on buying the book, we encourage you to make your purchase from Fru-

gal Bookstore, a Black-owned bookstore in Roxbury. [\[https://frugalbookstore.net\]](https://frugalbookstore.net). You can also purchase an [audiobook](#) – available through audiobooks.com and audible.com, both of which offer a free 30 day trial.

If there seems to be a large number of people who would like to engage in this book discussion, the Anti-Racism Working Group will be happy to offer additional discussion groups as well.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Brown Envelope Donations

The October Brown Envelope collection raised \$619.44 for the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's** disaster relief efforts (uusc.org), supporting grassroots partners and advocates responding to numerous climate emergencies.

Because of Covid limitations, we understand that additional funds were contributed directly to the UUSC.

A special Friday **Vote Love** worship service on 16 October raised a collection of \$381.83 in support of the UUA's campaign **UU the Vote**, designed to expand voter participation during this election year.

Throughout November UCS families have been encouraged to participate in the UUSC program **Guest at Your Table**, with home collection box kits and discussion materials meant to encourage conversation and reflection. Donations should be converted to checks made out to 'UCS' (memo: G@YT) and sent into the church in early December; they will then be bundled and forwarded to the UUSC.

The November Brown Envelope recipient is the **Gifts for Kids** program, an annual effort to support regional families in economic distress during the holiday season (www.giftsforkidsma.org). Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the tradition of sponsoring specific children and their wish lists has become a fundraising effort that will allow our community support agencies to help individual families shop for their children this holiday season. This year, please consider a donation to this worthy program, by either sending a check to the church, using our [PayPal portal](#), or sending a check directly to GKF. Thank you for your generosity. (We have already sent early donations of over \$500 to the GKF program to help with their early deadline for meeting regional needs; a final payment of additional funds will be sent in early December.)

Support for Local Food Pantries remains an ongoing effort, with more than \$22,600 raised since last April. In addition, in late November, the **Sharon Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** selected the **Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry** as the Offertory recipient, and the UCS was chosen to coordinate both the physical staple food collection as well as monetary donations from across Sharon. We will again use our Shopping for Justice grocery card program to donate the funds to the pantry, and the SJC will add the additional 5% that we thereby raise to the overall donation. A full report will follow next month once the dollars and pounds of food donated are tallied.

The December Brown E recipient will be **The Sanctuary Boston** (thesanctuaryboston.org). Sanctuary Boston was founded by UU young Adults who often find themselves without a spiritual home. Sanctuary is a contemporary worship community and is one of the largest ministries to UU Young Adults in the country. Sanctuary Boston has grown from a local community, to a regional ministry, to a national presence. They are not only ex-



A small portion of the Sharon Interfaith Thanksgiving Service **Food Pantry Collection** in November.

perimenting at the forefront of UU worship, but increasingly sharing their learnings with the wider UU movement. Sanctuary Boston contributes new music, new leaders, and new possibilities to Unitarian Universalism. Look to hear from several of our own UCS-raised Young Adult UUs who will share their stories about the role of The Sanctuary Boston in their lives during the Offertories in December. (To learn more, read the Sanctuary Boston article below.)

In keeping with our longstanding tradition, all donations collected during our **Christmas Eve** services this year will be donated to **Father Bill's & MainSpring House** in Brockton to support the vital work for our regional homeless community. You are encouraged to give generously to this cause, especially during this difficult year.

Sanctuary Boston

The Sanctuary Boston is a community of vibrant worship and real connection offering contemporary worship, grounded in the values of Unitarian Universalism and open to seekers of all kinds. Worship gatherings are centered in communal singing and shared ritual. They are multi-vocal, lifting up the many voices of our community.

Sanctuary Boston is like any other congregation in a number of ways, while at the same time, they are a Boston area ministry to young adults and other seekers. They are the largest UU ministry to young adults in the country, with 30-50 people attending regular services, more than 75% of whom are 18-35 years old.

The Sanctuary Boston is entering its 7th year as an emerging community and is in a time of transition. Startup funding grants have come to an end and they're in the process of putting together a plan for long term sustainability. While working to increase lay leadership and the financial commitments among participants, they won't be sustainable in the foreseeable future without significant support from the wider UU community. Your generosity on behalf of Sanctuary Boston and its programs is greatly appreciated.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Fair Trade Marketplace Holiday Stock-Up event -16th December

Since April and the closing of the church, the SJC has conducted monthly pre-order, drive-by pickup sales of Fair Trade goods, Shopping for Justice grocery cards, and donation drop-offs. Last month we included a winter coat drive for the currently closed CommUnity Closet, with direct distribution of coats to local service agencies. To date, we have sold 483 chocolate bars and 289 bags of coffee to keep the wheels of UCS congregants in high gear while Covid masticates our lives. Your next chance to stock up for the holiday season will be Wednesday afternoon, 16 December - look for an email with details.



November Fair Trade Marketplace, including fund-raising to support our ongoing monthly MainSpring House lunch making program via Shopping for Justice profits. Winter coat collection for Brockton too!

Sharon Interfaith Action & Public Education

Conversations on Race and Equity in Public Schools: Teachers, parents, students and all other concerned people — we would like to hear what concerns you about equity and justice in public schools, either in Sharon or the broader community. What do you see as a problem in the relationship between racism and schools? What are you most concerned about? Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA), an organization that promotes justice through grassroots organizing, has begun a Listening Campaign to hear from members of UCS. We invite you to reach out to Janet Schmidt or Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks or Kate Parker-O'Toole to arrange small group chats or one on ones. We value your input!

Covid-19 Mask-making Effort continues

Masks for adults and children are still needed in numerous locations. Requests are being filled for the Brockton schools and community, Nathan Hale School in Roxbury, Brockton Emergency Room, Pembroke Psychiatric Hospital, and some area nursing homes. Our Five Points Cluster mask-making team is deeply committed to this work, and needs more volunteers to make masks. Materials, instruction and a how-to video available. Contact Elizabeth Siftar to volunteer or for more information. esiftar@gmail.com

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), the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry (uuum.org), the Unitarian Universalist Association (uua.org), the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (uusc.org) and the Five Points Cluster, our local UU church group (fivepointscluster.org) to stay current on what other UU's are involved in that need your participation.



Rev. Jolie blessing Chipper and Giggles from the Hamaker family before the **Animal Blessing service** on November 15..



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