

the chalice

Published by the
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deadlines: [Click here](#)**

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FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: BELOVED COMMUNITY

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, February 7

What Is Beloved Community?

Our UU Six Sources Series: Jewish and Christian Teachings

If we are to consider Beloved Community all month - more than that, if we are to strive to build Beloved Community - let us begin with understanding what it means. Jewish and Christian scripture both hold that we should love our neighbors as ourselves. In this service we'll dig deep into what it means for us as UU's that we count this specific teaching as one of the primary sources of our living tradition.

Sunday February 14

Love, Community, and Getting Free

Australian Indigenous activist Lilla Watson says, "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." Join our guest preacher, the Rev. Laura Randall of UUSC, as we explore the love and liberation being created by community-led justice movements today.

Bio: As the Associate Director for Congregation Relations at UUSC, the Reverend Laura Randall facilitates partnerships to strengthen the impact of UUSC and the social justice reach of UU communities. Prior to joining UUSC, Laura's ministry included serving as the Legacy Campaign Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association and hospice chaplaincy. She lives in Medford, Massachusetts with her spouse and their three dogs.



Sunday, February 21

Anti-Racism is for All Of Us

Part of building the Beloved Community is to resist oppression in all its forms. Throughout this church year we have been considering anti-racism in our worship services, inspired by our national reckoning with race and our Black Lives Matter banner that hangs on the front of our church. In this service we'll consider what UU organizer Chris Crass means when he calls us to "all get free together."

Sunday, February 28

How Do We Apologize?

The Universalist part of our UU identity roots us in a strong tradition of forgiveness, and offers us the promise that all of us are more than the worst thing we have ever done. But, of course, we do mess up from time to time. Part of building the Beloved Community is being able to offer one another a real apology. This sermon will build on disability justice activist Mia Mingus' framework of accountability: self reflection, apology, repair, and changed behavior.

From the Minister



Dear ones,

It's February! I'm a little late to the party, but I wanted to let you all know about a program I just learned about called "[30 Days of Love](#)." This is a program of Side With Love (SWL),

which is an interfaith public advocacy effort sponsored by our Unitarian Universalist Association; since 2008 SWL has organized around LGBTQ issues, immigration issues, racial justice issues, and more. Every year, Side With Love celebrates 30 Days of Love from MLK Day to Valentines Day. Thirty Days of Love points to our calendars and asks us to consider the connections between intersectional* (**intersectional, as in, not just race but also how race interacts with class, gender, ability, and more.*) racial justice and what Love calls us to do. There's stuff for kids, youth, adults, and multi-gen offerings as well! Check out the videos, articles, activities, [live virtual events](#) (may require pre-registration), and more.

One of the pieces on 30 Days with Love is a delightful [video](#) about Joys & Concerns by Lauren Wyeth, a religious educator in Minneapolis. Since beginning as your settled minister, I have noticed and appreciated the special sacredness of Joys & Concerns at UCS. There are many meaningful components to our Sunday services. For some, the music may be utmost, for others, it's the prayer time, for still others it's simply the moment when we say hi to one another. Maybe for you it changes week to week. Heck, it could even be the sermon! As for me, I believe that Joys & Concerns is often one of the spiritual centers of our communal worship experience. It can be tricky. I imagine many of you may be familiar with why some of my colleagues quake at the thought of an open-ended invitation to share: "what if it goes on too long?!" I have also heard the opinion that a particularly long and cozy Joys & Concerns session can make newcomers feel even more on-the-outside of the big group. And there is that pesky question of what kind of information belongs in announcements or coffee hour rather than in Joys & Concerns.

But in my mind, none of these concerns outweighs the power of sharing and listening to the joys and concerns of our hearts as a church community. I

love how Lauren Wyeth expresses the theology of Joys & Concerns in her video: "As UU's we have faith in the saving potential of our relationships with one another." When we share our joy, she remarks, it grows, and when we share our sorrow, others may help lessen the weight. Our worship theme for the month of February is "Beloved Community." All month we will consider different aspects of this idea during our Sunday services. But all year we practice Beloved Community when we hold one another's joys and concerns in worshipful reverence.

In case anyone missed the news I shared during worship on January 17, I wanted to share one particular joy with you all: Adam and I are expecting another child! This little one is due in late July. Thank you so much for all your kind words of support and congratulations. Our Board of Trustees and I, along with lay leaders from Committees across the church, will work out the plan for covering the parental leave I plan to take in late summer and fall. Stay tuned for those details.

Yours in love and faith,

Rev. Jolie

Spiritual Autobiography - this group is full. Our second session is Sunday, Feb 28, 2021. If you would have liked to join, please let Rev. Jolie know, so she can plan another round some time in the future: minister@uusharon.org.

Zoom Chats with Rev. Jolie Every Thursday at 10AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98093769487?pwd=T3ZqM2NwQnVDd3RPUIGLzFvSWZiUT09>
Thursdays at 10 AM. Log in and share whatever's on your hearts and minds. Join us for this relaxed, friendly, open chat time.

REMINDER:

**Church building is closed until
April 2021**

Committee Events and Updates

Stewardship Committee

Monthly Stewardship Gathering: UCS Giving History and the UUA Giving Guide

February 14 @ 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Please join the Stewardship Committee to review the Unitarian Church of Sharon's recent giving history. During last month's Stewardship Gathering, we had an interesting conversation about why UCS is so meaningful to many of us. Members and friends certainly donate time, talent and treasure to the Church. While time and talent gifts are vital to our community, treasure is necessary to keep lights on, maintain our historic building, educate our children and pay professional staff. Your annual pledge helps us maintain services but we also hope to inspire and thrive. This month's gathering will look at the current fiscal year's pledges. How much do families and individuals give? The UUA offers congregations the UUA Giving Guide which helps congregations and families think about financial stewardship from an aspirational perspective. We hope this conversation will inspire you to think a bit differently about your financial commitments to the UCS. Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/6525468701?pwd=b2JuMlI5TVJzWTNHZ2ZyUzVYcFh1dz09>

Meeting ID: 652 546 8701 Password: 3652

Stewardship Hosts Canvass Cottage Meetings: All In & All Together

The Stewardship Committee will kick-off the Annual Canvass for the July 2021-June 2022 Fiscal Year on **March 7, 2021**. This year's theme is "All In & All Together". Our objective is to ask members and friends to make a financial commitment to the Unitarian Church of Sharon for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. These commitments allow the Board to plan and budget for the next fiscal year. Since financial pledges are the UCS's most important source of income, this is a vital annual process. With that in mind, the Stewardship Committee will host a series of small group Canvass Cottage Meetings to discuss the following:

What Does Stewardship Mean to You? What Does the Unitarian Church of Sharon Mean to You? What Inspires You? What do You Aspire To? What is the Giving History at the UCS? What is the UUA's Giving Guide? How Can Your Financial Commitment Inspire and help us Aspire to What is Important and Vital?

We'll encourage you to pledge using the on-line form and we'll show you how.

Please join us at one of the six meetings on March 10th (11 am), 13th (9 am), 14th (noon), 17th (11 am), 20th (9 am) and 21st (noon). Each Zoom meeting will last 60 minutes. See the Church calendar at <http://www.uusharon.org> for the Zoom link.

Please RSVP to Peter Raskin at stewardship@uusharon.org.

Fellowship Committee

Virtual Game Night Saturday

February 6, 5:00 – 6:30 pm on Zoom

The youth of the Fellowship Committee invite you to another all-ages virtual game night! Fill out this form to help us choose a game and to tell us if you can make it (if you're not familiar with the games on the form, you can do a web search to check them out): [Game Night 2.0!](https://www.google.com) ([google.com](https://www.google.com)). Zoom link for the event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84598532915?pwd=dVlwN0lPNlU1TmV2RjMxWG9BTjNPZz09>

Church Cheer Gift Exchange

Join us for the first ever Church Cheer Gift Exchange! Do you like surprises? Do you like giving and receiving gifts? Then the Church Cheer Gift Exchange is for you! [Sign-up here](#) (google form link) **by February 8th**. This gift exchange is secret-santa style; Participants will be given the name of one other participant to anonymously give a gift to. The idea is everyone who signs up will give a gift and get a gift. [Follow this link for full details and answers to common questions](#). A few days after sign-ups close on Feb 8th we will email folks the name of who they are gifting to, and then gifts are expected to be sent **by March 6th**. There will be a socially distanced drop-off/pick-up event at Church as an alternative to mailing a gift, details will be sent to participants closer to that date.

If you need help with the online sign-up form, or have other questions, contact the exchange coordinator, Chelsea Gould. email: chelsea.c.gould@gmail.com or cell: 203-240-5570

There is no expectation for purchasing a gift - re-gifting and home/hand made options are encouraged - but if someone chooses to purchase there is a \$25 spending limit.

Storytellers

February 12, 7pm

Join Us via Zoom on Friday, Feb 12th at 7pm, when The Fellowship Committee will host UUS Sharon's answer to The Moth Story Hour, a popular NPR storytelling program. Our zoom version, StoryTellers, will feature 10 volunteer speakers sharing stories on the theme, "An Extraordinary Thing that Happened to Me" in no more than four minutes each. [Follow this link for speaker sign-ups](#) now to make sure you get a spot! No signup is required for audience members, the zoom link to attend can be found on the calendar event listing.

Chelsea Gould, Co-Chair

From the President



QUO VADIS?

For those of us who took Latin in school, this question was asked often. It means "Where are you going?" With the pandemic almost a year old, the question has relevance. Even with pending vaccination, I ask the same question. Where are you going? What will be different? Social distancing and masking up will still be required. What

about people who choose not to take the vaccine? There will still be lots of uncertainty.

This past year of isolation has allowed time for self-reflection. It has brought important life-altering choices into perspective. One major reawakening for me is our existential challenge called "climate change". "Quo vadis?"

What inspired me years ago during my senior year in college was a sudden concern for the environment. Atmospheric inversion layers over the Los Angeles metro area were trapping exhaust gases from automobiles to create a "smog bowl" causing serious human health problems. Other cities with daily traffic jams were suffering similarly. My long-standing love for car engines took a 180-degree turn as I started to focus on the exhaust gases coming out the tailpipe. I joined students across the country in a competition called the Clear Air Car Race. Our goal was to demonstrate engineering solutions to reduce vehicular emissions.



I feel that young people involved in the Sunrise movement are calling us to action just like the students in the Clean Air Car Race. Unwanted carbon in the atmosphere is the number one problem contributing to ozone depletion and warming temperatures. Their sense of urgency has motivated this senior citizen to seriously consider "Quo vadis"?

Dr Susan Solomon, MIT Professor of Environmental Studies, gave a recent talk about this very problem. She scientifically confirmed the inescapable truth that mankind is responsible for what's happened. A coordinated effort involving all nations, such as the Paris Climate Accords, is needed to reduce global dependence on fossil fuels for energy. Individual actions that we can all take include choosing wisely for vehicular transportation – hybrid or electric are the viable solutions! I find myself full circle in the days of the Clean Air Car Race.

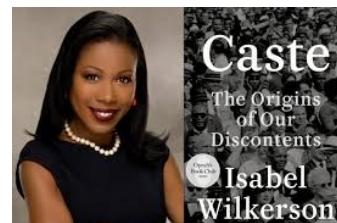
Rory McGregor

February Programs

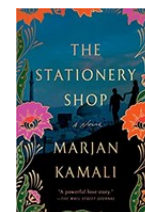
The Not Boring Book Group

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.



Our next Not Boring Book Group read is **The Stationery Shop** by Marjan Kamali the Sharon Public Library's One Book, One Town pick. We will be discussing on **March 3, Wednesday at 7PM**.



Let's Laugh Today

is **EVERY Wednesday at 7:30pm on ZOOM!**

Let's Laugh Today Laughter Club is on ZOOM for 45 minutes every Wednesday at 7:30pm! 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 this free ZOOM meeting and others. This is the perfect time to try something new in 2021!



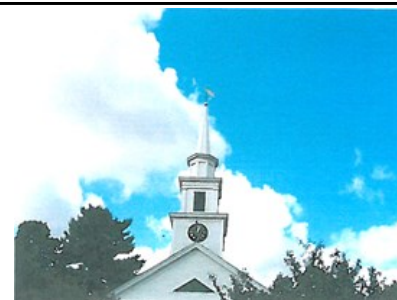
Calendar Link

Check out our Calendar for online events happening this month: <https://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2021-02/>

February Programs, continued

Conversations
At the Meetinghouse

Is This the Time for Racial Justice



DAVID NELSON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7 PM

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6525468701?pwd=b2JuMlI5TVJzWTNHZ2ZyUzVYcFh1dz09>

Meeting ID: 652 546 8701 Password: 3652

February's Conversation at the Meeting House will consider past attempts of remediating the legacy of slavery through a survey of American History. How are past failures to be understood? How is the present environment different? Or is it? James Baldwin said white America does not have a Negro problem. White America has a White American problem. What should we think about the events of January 6 and the Black Lives Matter movement this Black History month? Join us to share your thoughts.

"To celebrate freedom and democracy while forgetting America's origins in a slavery economy is patriotism a la carte."

Ta Nihisi Coates

David Nelson, a longtime member of the Unitarian Church of Sharon, is a student of American history and taught history at Sharon High School.

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

RE CALENDAR

(does not have youth dates - the JYFG is last minute rescheduling due to the Feb. 21 vision session)

February 14: 10:00 am Special Family Service

Don't miss this family service! Families have been asking for social justice projects to get involved with and here is the opportunity! Today we will welcome guest Patrick Ronan of Father Bill's & Mainspring House, a local organization whose mission is to end and prevent homelessness in Southern Massachusetts. Patrick will share about the organization, answer questions and offer some ways we can team up to make a difference.

JYFG @ 2-3:30 pm The Kinraide family will lead the group in a cooking class! Ingredient list coming soon!

February 21: 1:00 pm Creating a Collective Inter-generational Vision for Religious Education at UCS.

In this liminal time and space, the lines of "what was" have blurred, but our hopes and dreams for our children have not. For families, youth and elders, we come together to ask: "What brought you here? What has kept you here? What do you wish for?" We will explore whether our hopes and desires, our gifts and abilities intersect and where. What is the essence of the learning community here at UCS and how can it meet the unique needs of this time? Join us for this fun and interactive virtual program from 1-2:30 pm. Age 10 and up welcome and wanted! Parents, if virtual childcare would be helpful please reach out to Christine Bulman.

February 22: 7:30 pm Religious Education Committee meeting. Open house!

Sit in and check out the behind-the-scenes leadership that helps make the RE learning community here at UCS so special. We have openings on the committee and this is a great way to check it out!

February 28: 1pm Middle School Anti-racism Discussion Series This is a new offering for Middle School youth to engage in monthly discussions about the role of race, identity, and justice in living out our shared faith. We will discuss the call to anti-racism from within Unitarian Universalism, the histories of youth organizing for racial justice, and how our UU values can inform our approach to anti-racist work in the world today.

A Little Free Diverse Library

At a family service back in October, we heard about the new kind of Little Free Library - the Little Free Diverse Library - started by a woman named Sarah Kamya. If you have not heard about this yet, check out this video clip on Today.com: [Meet the founder of Little Free Diverse Libraries.](#)

These self-serve libraries are filled with books that represent people and characters that are historically underrepresented in books. This could include books featuring people with disabilities, people in the LGBTQ+ community, books that discuss and highlight different religions, ethnicities and cultures, and books featuring Black, Indigenous and People of Color.



After the service that day, a few different people had the same idea: "Wouldn't it be cool to have A Little Free Diverse Library at UCS!?" So the idea has been floating around through various committees and stakeholders and it seems like a good one! What's next? The project could benefit from a couple of people committed to seeing it come to fruition. We need to do a little more research and a little more networking within the church community and then we need to bring this idea officially to the Governing Board. Contact Christine Bulman if you have something to offer to this process!

Religious Education News, continued

YOUTH GROUPS

Middle School Anti-racism Discussion Series

This is a new offering for Middle School youth to engage in monthly discussions about the role of race, identity, and justice in living out our shared faith. We will discuss the call to anti-racism from within Unitarian Universalism, the histories of youth organizing for racial justice, and how our UU values can inform our approach to anti-racist work in the world today.

Our first meeting will take place Sunday, February 28th from 1-2:30pm.

Senior Youth Group

SYG meets weekly on Sundays from 5-6:30pm over Zoom. This month we'll keep checking-in with one another, playing games, beginning to plan for the Youth Led Worship Service 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 movies, 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, Shayak led us in a cooking class to make burritos and mug cakes. Next month, we'll be cooking together again. Stay tuned for more details!

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.

Registration and more information will be coming soon.

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.



Being a Parent

A Saturday morning series for UU parents of children and youth

2nd and 4th Saturdays 9:00 am – 10:00 am on Zoom
Extending deep gratitude for Kaite Byron and for those who have turned up in this highly supportive space to connect over some of the common threads for parents at this time. On February 13, we will visit some of the specific challenges of being a parent of a remote learner. This is intended to be the last of the series on **Parenting in Times of Trauma**. Barring a strong desire to continue, we will move into a series on **Parents and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators** led by Jon Slavin and Chris Raskin. We'll be polling to hone in on a handful of the following topics: communication, sexual identity, gender identity, consent, sexual health, social media, and decision-making. This series will seek to build comfort in talking about sexuality-related topics, explore our hopes and fears, and together seek accurate and current information on topics pertinent to sexuality and our children.

Hijab Day Celebration & ART CONTEST

SPS PTOs Alliance

WIN UP TO \$100

Create an artwork* that conveys unity and inclusion towards girls wearing hijab (head scarf) by 03/01/2021.
Learn more about the contest: <https://go.de/SPShijabcontest>

SCAN ME

Open for ALL SPS students

4 Categories - 3 Prizes for each category + 2 Random Draws/School
CATEGORIES:
High School, Middle School, Upper Elementary (GR3- GR5), Lower Elementary (KG- GR 2)

Hijab Day Celebration **FEB 1st - 7:30 PM**

Join all 5 SPS PTOs to celebrate and learn more about the girls and women who choose to wear hijab in our community. The Zoom meeting will include book reading, presentation from a high school student, Q&A session, and art contest kick-off.
Zoom link will be shared via your PTO.

Let us be Sharon strong, creative, and united!

* ARTWORK FORMATS:
Painting (wet, dry, or mixed), Calligraphy, Crafting, or Mandala Art

Questions? Email us at SPShijabday@gmail.com

Hijab Day Celebration is organized by Sharon Public Schools PTO Alliance.

Zoom Meeting

[https://sharonschools-net.zoom.us/j/86190523785?](https://sharonschools-net.zoom.us/j/86190523785?pwd=NW9iSXo5SmJSQ2swWTJqVDBqVGhiUT09)
[pwd=NW9iSXo5SmJSQ2swWTJqVDBqVGhiUT09](https://sharonschools-net.zoom.us/j/86190523785?pwd=NW9iSXo5SmJSQ2swWTJqVDBqVGhiUT09)
Meeting ID: 861 9052 3785 Passcode: 117039

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



links to partner organizations and groups that we collaborate with in our work.

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, opportunities to engage, resources, and for

Brown Envelope & Related Collections



Our year of social distancing and online connections continues, and the congregants of the Unitarian Church of Sharon have found endless ways to reach out and help

those less fortunate as we all struggle through the Covid pandemic. Here are updates of current social justice projects and opportunities:

The December Brown Envelope collection raised at least \$661 for **Sanctuary Boston**, (thesanctuaryboston.org), a program 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 is a powerful presence and they're contributing new music, new leaders, and new possibilities to Unitarian Universalism. Thank You for supporting their work, and please join their online services on the first and third Wednesdays every month at 6:30pm.

In keeping with our longstanding tradition, all donations collected during our **Christmas Eve** services this year were donated to **Father Bill's & MainSpring House** in Brockton to support the vital work for our regional homeless community. Over \$1215 was raised, and the SJC voted to add an additional \$910 from our hunger and homelessness reserve (funded by our sales of Shopping for Justice grocery cards). We are also happy to report that our combined donation of over \$2125 is eligible for a 1:1 corporate match by a FB&MSH sponsor, for a combined impact of over \$4250, thanks to your generosity.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Program on Sunday, January 17th included a call for donations to the Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry, both staple food items and cash donations, and the effort was quite successful. Additional donations came from the National Day of Service challenge in Sharon. The UCS offered to coordinate the drive, and a tidal wave of bagged items arrived (along with our own ongoing donations), in parallel with numerous monetary donations that were converted into

Shopping for Justice grocery cards for distribution to the clients of the pantry. To date, since the beginning of the Covid last spring, over \$33,000 has been raised in this effort (including the Interfaith Thanksgiving collection, and of course the ongoing month-to-month generosity of the UCS community). Donations have gone to both the Sharon/Stoughton pantry, as well as 4 additional pantries in the surrounding towns of

Canton, Norwood, Walpole and Foxboro. And of course our January Brown E collection supported the Fair Foods relief program in Greater Boston. This has been a truly remarkable outpouring of support for our neighbors in need during a most difficult year; sadly, the needs continue to grow, and we know that the UCS and the wider Sharon community will continue to answer the call.



THE COLLECTION: a mountain of food donated in response to the Interfaith MLK program and National Day of Service in Sharon. **THE DELIVERY:** everything has gone to the tables and tummies of our neighbors in need, along with a generous supply of Shopping for Justice grocery cards.

The January 2021 Brown E donations will go to support another program helping to feed communities in Boston suffering from economic distress: **Fair Foods** (fairfoods.org). For the past 32 years, Fair Foods has provided healthy produce to low income families in the greater Boston area with a unique \$2 Bag Program, which goes beyond emergency hunger relief by making an affordable diet of fresh fruits and vegetables a reality. Based throughout Boston, including a key distribution site at First Parish Roxbury (home of our UUUM programs), your support of Fair Foods will have a lasting impact on folks struggling to remain healthy and safe in these troubled times.

Ecumenical Community Food Pantry
of Norwood, Inc.
150 Chapel Street
Norwood, MA 02062

January 14, 2021
Dear Friends,
On behalf of the Norwood Ecumenical Community Food Pantry, thank you very much for the \$150 in gift cards. The Pantry continues to be busy, serving over 300 families, with new clients arriving at the door each week. We thank you for thinking of us and wish you a very Happy Healthy New Year.
Sincerely,
Eileen Hickey
Comm. Sec.

One of many 'thank you' notes from the staff at one of our local food pantries as they struggle, with our help, to supply the

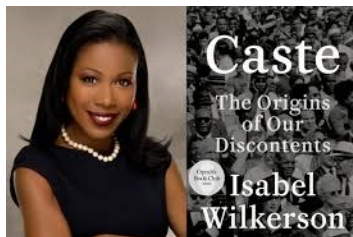


SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Anti-Racism Working Group offerings:

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 plans to continue offering opportunities to engage with this topic on an ongoing basis this year and in the years ahead, recognizing that this work requires a lifelong commitment.

Our current programs focus 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 began with a series of discussion groups in December and January, with a video interview of Isabel Wilkerson by the historian and author John Meacham. We 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 you may want to view it prior to joining the book group event. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvYzyqUdUfy>

Black History Month event: *The Impact of History Untold*, sponsored by the SREA

The Sharon Racial Equity Alliance invites everyone to join a panel of Black students, parents, and educators discussing the impact of the lack of Black history being taught in the US, on Tuesday, 2 February at 7pm. Register here:

<https://www.sharonracialequityalliance.org/post/the-impact-of-history-untold>

MainSpring House lunch making program is still a thing....

The SJC has maintained our monthly commitment of assembling and delivering **100 Brown Bag Lunches** to the **MainSpring House** homeless shelter in Brockton every month; that's over 1000 meals donated since we last worked together during Coffee Hour in the Vestry last spring. Now Christine Bulman, our Interim DRE, is working on coordinating family units to engage in this task for the coming months, and we are looking for shoppers, assembly teams and a delivery squad to keep this program humming. Interested? Go to the RE Calendar for details, or Contact Christine, or Gare Reid and we will see about bringing your talents into the mix. Assembling that 100th sandwich leaves you with quite a satisfying feeling of having done something meaningful for someone else during this most unusual year - let us know if you want to help.

Mother's Day Walk for Peace

May 9th, 2021

Join the Unitarian Church of Sharon Team -
A Virtual Event



The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a beloved tradition and celebration of our potential to create more peaceful communities. It is the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's (LDBPI) largest fundraising event to support their services, advocacy and training. We look forward to you joining us online as we continue to demand dignity and compassion for all families impacted by murder. Sunday, May 09, 2021.

Contact: Elizabeth Siftar to sign up
esiftar@gmail.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

The Green Team, RE and Everybody's New Gardening Project:

Stackable Planters

Want to learn how to grow healthy local food and reduce your carbon footprint? Adopt a stackable garden tower as a part of a collaborative church-wide growing activity.

We are looking for families, groups of friends, or individuals to fill, plant, and maintain one in a system of **stackable planters** to be located on the church grounds. Members of the Green Team will be on hand to help your group set up, plant, and hook your tower to the drip irrigation system. Ongoing maintenance will include checking on your plants from time to time and making certain the water reservoir is filled. We hope to celebrate our harvest together in the fall.

Not sure you have a green thumb but want to help out? We will happily accept donations for the upfront costs of the planters, soil, seeds and starts, as well as the irrigation system. For more information, please keep your eye on the chalice for an upcoming Zoom



information session that will be held in late February or early March or reach out to a Green Team member. [

Stackable Planters - note the overhead drip irrigation system, and the ability to expand upward as well as outward. Our UCS installation will be designed to fit on a small footprint, but also be expandable as our experiment evolves.

Hold the date: Social Justice Fair Trade Marketplace on 17 February 2021

Plan on picking up your pre-ordered Fair Trade chocolates and coffees, Shopping for Justice grocery cards, and dropping off Food Pantry donations at our monthly Fair Trade Marketplace in front of the church, 3-5pm on February 17th. (We are looking to consistently reserve the 3rd Wednesday of each month for this recurring event, so pencil in 17 March (Green Chocolates???) for stocking up on essentials.)



Fair Trade Marketplace in January with surprise home-made cookie samples baked by Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks using Fair Trade 'Total Eclipse' chocolates - what a treat!



Masked Elf guards the inventory prior to pick-ups on the January Fair Trade Marketplace day.

TOTAL ECLIPSE for the 46th Presidential Inaugural

2021 Oat Coconut Chocolate Chunk Cookies

375 degrees for 10 minutes

1 c Butter
1 1/4 c Brown Sugar
1/4 - 1/3 c White Sugar (use larger amount with unsweetened coconut)

2 Eggs + 1 T. Milk + 2 tsp Vanilla

1 c Flour
3/4 c Oat flour
1 tsp Soda
1/2 tsp Salt

2 1/4 c Old Fashioned Oats

1 Bar Fair Trade Total Eclipse, 2.8 oz, 92% cacao, chopped into 1/4-1/2 inch irregular pieces
(Start by breaking up chocolate in package by whacking on counter or cutting board. Remove from pkg. and finish breaking up chocolate with a sharp knife into irregular small pieces.)

3/4 c Bittersweet chocolate chips
1 c Nuts, walnuts or pecans, coarsely chopped
1 c Shredded coconut

Sparkling Sugar (Coarse sugar - the large size makes a good crunch)

Cream well butter and sugars. Add eggs one at a time and then milk and vanilla.

Mix together Dry Ingredients. Add to butter mixture and mix well but not long.

Add Old Fashioned Oats. Mix well but not long.

Add Total Eclipse & Bittersweet Chocolate, Nuts and Coconut. Mix well.

Refrigerate 1 hour or overnight. Scoop about 3 T. on to cookie sheet then press tops of each in Sparkling Sugar. Do not flatten. Bake just until you see faint browning. Do a trial bake of 3 cookies. After cooling on rack, check for softness and chewiness inside. Cooking too long makes them dry.

Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks

AVAILABLE AT Your FAVORITE LOCAL FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE ON THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH! PICK-UPS OF COFFEES, CHOCOLATES & OTHER TREATS!



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