

the chalice

Published by the
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APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: BECOMING

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

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

April 4 How Do We Forgive? Easter Sunday *10:30am Service only (intergenerational)*

Back in February, we reflected on what makes for a good apology. That service raised some questions about forgiveness: Do we need to get an apology in order to forgive, and what if we don't get one? Today is Easter, one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar, and forgiveness is a big part of the meaning of Easter. During worship we will consider Christian and Buddhist lessons on forgiveness and how we may find space in our hearts to forgive. What does forgiveness help us become?

April 11 Becoming Multicultural and Multireligious **Six Sources Series: World Religions**

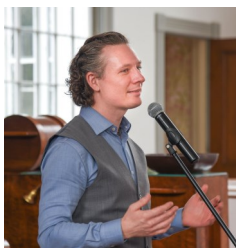
Today's sermon will draw from Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie's book, *Children of the Same God*, about the historic connections between Islam, Judaism, and Unitarianism. Ramadan begins tomorrow, on 4/12, a holy month of fasting and devotion in the Muslim faith. During worship today we will reflect on and celebrate the deep multireligious roots of our pluralistic faith tradition, with a particular focus on Islam.

April 18 Earth Day Worship Service **UCS Hosting Five Points Cluster Today!**

During today's service, Rev. Jolie will share the pulpit with UCS member Tom Yeransian, who will speak from his experience in the field of green energy. We will also hear readings and meditations from Sue Mooney and Barbara Nelkin-Rose as members of our Green Team. What is our moral responsibility to a sustainable energy future? How can we become better stewards of our planet? Our Family Service today will feature a blessing of our stackable garden pots and reflections on the power of gardening to heal ourselves and our Earth.

April 25 It Takes Practice

Our favorite songs, whoever the artist or whatever the style, were created in a strange alchemy of study and inspiration, of strict practice and of letting go. Spiritual Practice is a similar combination of dedication, muscle memory, and perhaps a little divine inspiration. Join us for a musical exploration of learning to risk, building the muscle memory of courage, and the spiritual practice of relationship when things around us are changing fast.



Matt is a musician and worship leader who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in hand drumming and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston.

From the Minister



It's spring! This year, spring's promise of abundance coincides with fasting traditions found in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. As we approach Easter on April 4, we are nearing the end of Lent. Many Christians observe Lent by giving something up for the forty days that span Ash Wednesday to Easter - not a traditional fast in that it's not always food or drink, but it is a practice reminiscent of fasting. It's also time for Passover, from March 27 through April 4. During Passover, many observant Jews will abstain from *hametz*, or fermented wheat and other grains; thus, they forgo any kind of leavened bread for eight days, along with other products that are not kosher for Passover. Ramadan 2021 will be from April 13 through May 12. Many Muslims avoid any food or drink every day from sunrise to sundown for the month of Ramadan.

In each of these traditions, fasting can bring the observer closer to that which is meaningful and important: closer to the experiences of the ancestors, closer to practices of faith, closer to God. I wonder, have you ever observed some kind of fast, have you ever given up something that you normally enjoy or count on? What was that experience like for you?

I was thinking about this whole pandemic year as a kind of fast. We have given up so much: gathering in person, school and work, hugging and handshaking, the bottom half of our faces. Our deprivation has been frustrating and exhausting, forced upon us by a terrible new virus. It has also been an expression of our faith in science and humanity, our love and care for our families and communities. And has it brought us closer to something meaningful or important?

Just the other day I visited with a dear friend who recently moved to the Midwest. He was in town for just a few days and I was not yet fully vaccinated, so our visit consisted of a brisk, masked walk around the pond. We did not hug or share a meal, and we only had about an hour to hang out. I was glowing with joy at the end of our brief time together, and I felt grateful to have shared his company and conversation. It occurred to me that before COVID I would have been annoyed and unsatisfied by such a cursory visit, I would have fretted and wished for more.

It's a lesson I've stumbled across over and over again during this time of pandemic-induced limitation. We can be present in this moment, and this moment, and also this moment. And we can feel gratitude for what we do have in this moment. And this moment. Also this one.

What are your COVID lessons? What will you bring with you from this prolonged fast into the post-pandemic world? I look forward to being with you on the journey.

With love,

Rev. Jolie

Steeple Blessing and Letter to our Future Selves

Last summer, we repaired our historic steeple. In the fall, we gathered wishes and blessings to place inside a 10-year "mini church" time capsule built for us by Jean Fox. At the very end of February, Rev. Jolie said a final blessing over the mini church and Gare Reid stashed it (carefully packaged by Alison Reid) underneath the old clock works at the top of the bell tower.

Let's all put a note in our calendars for 2031 to get it down and open it up! We added this letter to the time capsule:



13" model of our church created by Jean Fox

We, the 2021 Members and Friends of the Unitarian Church of Sharon, send this message to you, the 2031 Members and Friends of the Unitarian Church of Sharon, on the occasion of the repair of our historic steeple (completed in 2020), and during a year when we have been unable to gather physically within our church building (2020-2021).

This has been a strange and difficult time for our congregation and our world. The COVID-19 Pandemic has taken so much from us. Among the countless losses, it has kept us from coming together within the walls of our beloved church building. But we have stayed strong and kept hope alive as a community of love and faith. We hope you read through these notes, wishes, and blessings that we placed in this little church that our member Jean Fox made in celebration of our rebuilt steeple.

With love and hope for the future,

Reverend Jolie Olivetti, on behalf of the entire UCS Community.

February 28, 2021



From the President

March Madness



I am not referring to the NCAA basketball tournaments that started in March engaging the best men's and women's college teams throughout the country. March Madness for my generation in Massachusetts has been the challenge of scheduling our Covid vaccinations. When the governor gave the call for age 65 and older to sign up, you could hear sighs of relief from baby boomers thankful that

our time had come. But the nightmarish process of scheduling appointments turned anticipation into frustration and despair for many.

That ugliness is pretty much over for us old timers who by now have at least scheduled our first dose. Important to note is the offers of help provided by members and friends in our church community on ways to game the system and schedule appointments. CVS outlets also came online during this time providing vaccinations in local communities. I became aware of this via notification from a church member.

Reflecting on our good fortune in America during this worldwide pandemic, we are lucky to have the vaccine available to us period, regardless of problems with getting an appointment. However, I can't help but wonder why our teachers did not get put at the front of the line. With the national push to get students back into schools, the right strategy would put teachers among the primary candidates to receive the vaccination first. While lucky to have gotten the vaccine, I still worry for front-line workers who are much more exposed to the virus than senior citizens. In particular, I sympathize with teachers' anxiety about returning to the classroom and fully understand why their unions fight for personal safety first before reentering school buildings.

I have one comment about worldwide vaccine availability. Major industrial countries are at the front of the line while everyone else awaits their turn. If there were more fairness, the industrial countries would have agreed to share the vaccine formulae and related processing equipment to ensure equal access. Viruses left unchecked continue to evolve. With only a fraction of the world likely to be vaccinated this year, mutations may allow the pandemic to continue and eventually grow into a larger problem than what we know today. It is now clear to me that infectious disease presents as great a challenge as the climate crisis. Both have potential to inflict significant harm on the world population.

Rory McGregor

Life Updates and Milestones

Laurie & Ray Are Moving

Wishing Laurie and Ray Wallace the very best on their move to Westport, MA. We will miss you and we hope you know you will always have a home at the Unitarian Church of Sharon!



Wilbur P. Edwards, Jr., and Evelynne L. Swagerty Receive the 2020 Daniel G. Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

After a year delay due to the pandemic, church members Wilbur P. Edwards, Jr., and Evelynne L. Swagerty, will jointly receive from Boston College Law School the 2020 Daniel G. Holland Lifetime Achievement Award. Evelynne and Wilbur are both graduates of the Class of 1984 and were married on campus. The award represents special service to the Boston College Law School community and to the greater community as alumna, traits represented by Daniel G. Holland, also a graduate of Boston College Law who volunteered with Wilbur and Evelynne on the school's alumni association. While the award is usually presented at an in-person Law Day event sponsored by the school, this year it will be a virtual program on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. and free, though pre-registration is required. The link to the event is as follows: <https://alumni-events.bc.edu/events/law-day-2021/event-summary-11955f1b8372431290b5f55eeef9be6f.aspx> Further information available at bcclaw.alumni@bc.edu or bc.edu/lawday.



April Programs

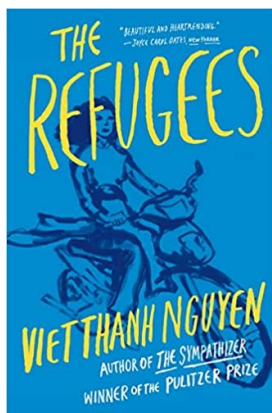
Zoom Chats with Rev. Jolie Every Thursday at 10AM

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

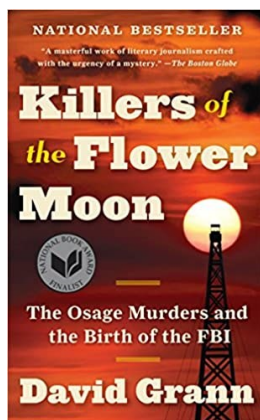
Thursdays at 10 AM. Log in and share whatever's on your hearts and minds. Join us for this relaxed, friendly, open chat time.

The Not Boring Book Group

The Not Boring Book Group will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, April 7th, at 7pm to discuss **The Refugees**, a book of short stories by Pulitzer Prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen. Here is the Goodreads Review: "From a young Vietnamese refugee who suffers profound culture shock when he comes to live with two gay men in San Francisco, to a woman whose husband is suffering from dementia and starts to confuse her for a former lover, to a girl living in Ho Chi Minh City whose older half-sister comes back from America having seemingly accomplished everything she never will, the stories are a captivating testament to the dreams and hardships of immigration."

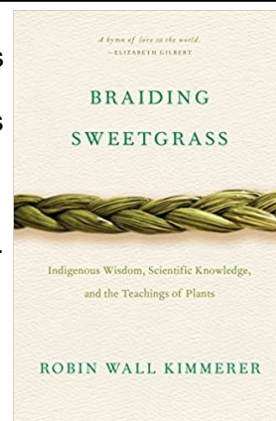


Our choice for May 7th (also at 7pm) is **Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the F.B.I.** by David Grann. In the 1920s, the richest people per capita were the members of the Osage Nation of Oklahoma, due to the discovery of oil on their land. Although it is nonfiction, the book, which addresses a series of murders of Osage tribe members (sometimes by white men who married and then killed their wives and other family members to get their tribal land rights), reads like a novel.



While the discussion date is TBD at this writing, we've decided to read **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants** as our summer selection. Botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer was trained to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. A member of the Citi-

zen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. Bringing these lenses of knowledge together, she shows that a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgement and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. (Think of the Unitarian Universalist 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.)



We meet at 7pm in the church library (virtually or literally), on the first Wednesday of most months. Everyone is welcome. Our discussions are lively and may spark a response even if you haven't finished – or even started – the book.

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/2021-04/>



Committee Events and Updates

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is wrapping up the Annual Pledge Campaign, All In, All Together. If you haven't yet made your pledge, please do this as soon as possible. The Board of Directors uses this information to build a balanced budget for the July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 Unitarian Church of Sharon Fiscal Year. Your pledge is vital to the budgeting process. If you can locate the Pledge Form, please return it to the Church. Or, please go to [UCS Annual Pledge Campaign](#) and make your pledge online.

We thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please email me at Stewardship@uusharon.org.

Peter Raskin, Stewardship Committee Chair

Fellowship Committee

Virtual Game Night

The youth of the Fellowship Committee invite you to our THIRD virtual game night! This is an ALL AGES event. Saturday, **April 10** from 5 to 6 pm on Zoom. We will play [skribl.io](#) again, kind of an online Pictionary game. [RSVP](#) to let us know if you want to attend! We had lots of fun last time – we hope you come again.

Storyteller Hour

Your Fellowship Committee has been busy indeed and has scheduled, by popular demand, another virtual Storyteller Hour, our version of the Moth Radio Hour, in which members graciously share a 5-minute (tops) piece of themselves with all of us! It must be a true, personal story, is all we ask.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and put on your thinking caps. The next one is Friday **April 23rd**, 7pm-8pm, and the signup link is <https://forms.gle/6djNQ65nRFHqrDvE7>, also found in the virtual weekly chalice. First come, first serve!!

THEME this time is "Something Wild!," to be interpreted any way you see fit!

As usual, audience members are enthusiastically encouraged!! Hope you'll join us!

*As this seems to be a popular addition to our smorgasbord of Fellowship offerings, we are looking for EMCEE volunteers for what we hope becomes a monthly event! That entails welcoming people, introducing the speakers and inviting discussion after, if the group desires. Participation is much appreciated!

Here is the signup link for that: <https://forms.gle/6dssvd788KDeBWnS7>.

Following are some comments from previous speakers:

"Sharing my story felt just like telling some friends about an experience I considered amazing. I didn't feel pressured to make a polished presentation, I suggest people just have fun with it. It is a nice way for us to get to know each other better." - Marsha Getter

"I prefer speaking from notes, not reading. For my talk, I listed all the scents, sounds, etc., then listed them in what seemed a logical order. Having a suggested theme helped me. I'm a talker and it's always good to limit the scope of what I'm going to say. I do think that people need to be very strongly encouraged to keep within the time limit. A couple of people talked quite a bit longer than the allowed time." - Colleen Tuck

"I really enjoyed sharing a story from my youth with people. I am an introvert by nature, so I really like it when I'm invited to share. I timed myself in preparation and then left another full minute, to take my time and not rush to get everything in in the allotted time. It worked out great! - Patty Fitzgerald

Church Cheer Secret Pal Gift Exchange

Join Fellowship Committee for a Summer-Themed Secret Pal Gift Exchange!

Our first Church Cheer Secret Pal Gift Exchange was such a hit, we're hosting another one! Join us to spread some cheer in our church community! In the month of May the Fellowship Committee is hosting a Summer-Themed Church Cheer, a secret-pal style gift exchange. You can [sign-up here](#) via google docs to participate, or, if you need help with the online form, contact the exchange coordinator, who can help sign you up.

Exchange coordinator:

Chelsea Gould 203-240-5570 or chelsea.c.gould@gmail.com

[More detailed information and FAQs is available here.](#)

Sign-up by May 3rd. 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.



From the Interim Director of Religious Education



Greetings!

We took a deep dive into values and tossed up far too many to mention here. I took the liberty of choosing some and making the word art that is pictured here.



a good sign. It means that your aspirations are rooted in things that you have already done, and done well; things that have spoken to who you are as a religious community for and with children and youth. This is a good place from which to step off. It is not so much “new” as it is “clarifying” and should guide you into programming that is ever more in alignment with your values, your UU identity and your strengths as a learning community.

I have attempted to synthesize what came out of the visioning session into a series of “guiding lights” in the form of an infographic that is named, for the time being, a roadmap. I present it to you not as a proclamation, or as an outside entity attempting to put words in your mouth, but as a series of questions:

This is what I heard, did I capture it accurately? Does it represent the core ideologies of the religious education program at UCS? Will this guide you into places you are eager to go? What would it be like to identify specific programs and initiatives that might fall into these categories?

Unitarian Church of Sharon RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ROADMAP



Register your thoughts on this [here](#).

You are getting closer to the heart-centered vision that will guide your programming choices in a post-pandemic world!

In Faith.

Christine Bulman

RE News, Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry at UCS Upcoming Staff Transition

This month, I bring the bitter-sweet news that I will be leaving my roles as Youth Coordinator and Interim RE Assistant at UCS at the end of this church year. I'll be graduating from my dual MDiv/MSW program in May and with that, I will be transitioning into a full-time position as a social worker and working toward my social work licensure. While I am excited for this next adventure, I am holding much sadness about leaving this role. It has been such a delight to work with the youth groups over these past two years, working together to adapt to online church and providing consistent space to support the incredible young people of this congregation. I know how difficult change is during this time and I know I feel many feelings about this transition and you might too. There will be opportunities for goodbyes as it gets closer and there will be a committee forming to hire a new Youth Ministry Coordinator who will nurture the new possibilities emerging in our youth programs.



Katie Byron, YC Coordinator

Youth Ministry Coordinator Position

In the process of exploring the vision for RE, some things emerged quite clearly. Among them a continued commitment to the Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education program including some calls for its expansion to include young adult and adult programs. Coming of Age programming emerges as highly meaningful as does youth empowerment and leadership development. This is likely why the board voted unanimously to expand the role of the Youth Coordinator to help implement the entire youth ministry of the church - including the adolescent OWL programs, Coming of Age, youth anti-oppression programming and junior and senior youth groups. This new position will be called the Youth Ministry Coordinator. Adolescent programming here at UCS is a strength and the commitment to its continuation is reflected in this staffing adjustment.

Though our current Youth Coordinator, Katie Byron clearly has the skills and personality to fill the shoes of the new Youth Ministry Coordinator, the time has come for them to move on. We are disappointed that they will not be returning to UCS in August but thrilled for them and their upcoming graduation from the BU School of Theology! Onward Katie! And we're happy that goodbye doesn't come until June.

YOUTH GROUPS

Senior Youth Group

SYG meets weekly on Sundays from 5-6:30pm over Zoom and is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12! This month we'll continue checking-in with one another, playing games, and continuing to support each other through these changing times.

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 joined in fellowship to play online games together! Our next meeting is April 18th from 1-2:30pm and we'll be checking-in with one another and playing games together!

Anti-Racism Learning and Discussion Group for people in grades 6-8

What is all this anti-racism talk and what does it mean to me? What's the difference between not being racist and being anti-racist? Why have people within Unitarian Universalism been calling on UUs specifically to engage in anti-racist work?

This group meets once a month and is a place for middle schoolers to talk, learn, and ask questions about race and racism in our UU faith and in the world and how we can build skills for anti-racist work. We'll talk and do activities together to learn about our various identities, the ways racism shows up in our communities and resistance against it, and how we can use our anti-racist lens and voice to make change.

4th Sundays 1-2:30pm: Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25, May 23, Jun 27

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.

Religious Education News, continued

RE CALENDAR

Sun. April 4

- Easter Can Hunt 12 and 1pm

Sat. April 10

- Caregivers as Sexuality Educators group 9 am

Sun. April 11

- Father Bill's & Mainspring Lunch-making 12:30 pm
- Senior Youth Group 5-6:30pm

Sun. April 18

- Family Service on the grounds @10 am: Nature Connection as a Spiritual Practice
- Junior Youth Fellowship Group 1-2:30pm
- Senior Youth Group 5-6:30pm

Sat. April 24

- Caregivers as Sexuality Educators group

Sun. April 25

- Anti-Racism Learning and Discussion Group for people in grades 6-8 1-2:30pm
- Senior Youth Group 5-6:30pm

The Annual Can Hunt is On! Sunday April 4, 12 and 1pm



We need your cans! Please bring canned goods to the big gray plastic bin outside our main entrance before Easter (Sunday, April 4).

Families with children in Grades 5 and Under:

Come to one of two can hunts: 12 pm or 1 pm. This is an outdoor, masked, socially distant event. In order to help us manage numbers, please sign up for a time slot here:

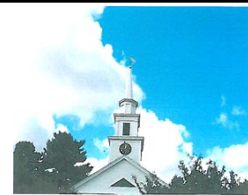
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D49AAAE2DA3FE3-easter>

Grade 6 and up

Help hide cans! Come at 11:30 or 12:30pm. Watch your email for a Sign-up genius

Please find alternate parking to keep our can-hunting children safe on the grounds of our church.

Conversations At the Meetinghouse



Pulling Back the Curtain on Parent Alienation

MARSHA L. GETTER, LICSW

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 7 PM

ZOOM LINK:

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

Meeting ID: 652 546 8701 Password: 3652

Divorce is all too common today. The amount of continued conflict between parents is the strongest indicator of the impact a divorce will have on the children. What is most harmful to children and a byproduct of high conflict divorce is parent alienation. Parental alienation is the process, and the result, of psychological manipulation of a child into showing unwarranted fear, disrespect or hostility towards a parent or other family members. Public and professional awareness and understanding of this phenomenon is severely lacking while early intervention is key to successful remediation. Teachers, medical, and legal professionals as well as friends and family members are in unique positions to recognize this process and suggest these so impacted families get help.

Marsha L. Getter, LICSW, is an experienced therapist who has dealt with a wide range of personal, couple, family, parenting, and co-parenting issues. She has been appointed to the Massachusetts Family Courts as a Guardian ad Litem, and is a trained mediator and parent coordinator with experience working with high conflict families and families impacted by parent alienation.

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

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.

Brown Envelope Collections



The February Brown E collection of \$1000 went to support the work of the **Equal Justice Initiative** (www.eji.org), an Alabama based organization led by Bryan Stephenson. EJI is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punish-

ment, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting the basic human rights of the most vulnerable people in America.

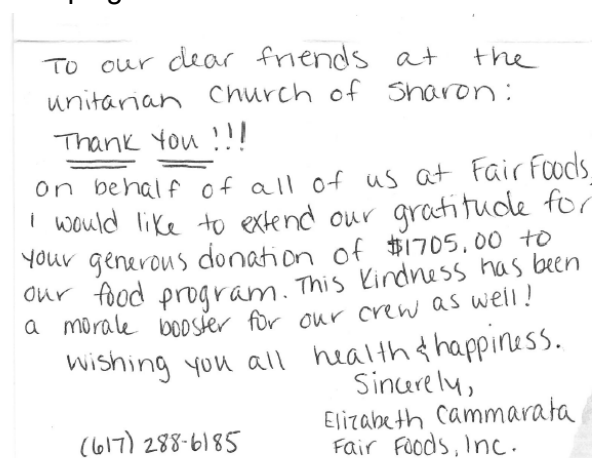
In March, the Brown E collection focused on two organizations working in support of migrant justice, with donations being split evenly between them:

- **Kino Border Initiative** - Nogales, AZ & Nogales, Mexico (kinoborderinitiative.org) Their Vision: Humane, just, workable migration between the U.S. and Mexico. Their Mission: To promote US/Mexico border and immigration policies that affirm the dignity of the human person and a spirit of binational solidarity.
- **No More Deaths** – a Ministry of the UU Church of Tucson (nomoredeaths.org) Their mission: to end death and suffering in the Mexico-US borderlands through a civil initiative of people of conscience working openly and in community to uphold fundamental human rights.

For April, the SJC again selected two organizations working in support of environmental justice, with donations being split between them:

- **Neponset River Watershed Association** (neponset.org), a grassroots, member-supported conservation group working since 1967 to clean up and protect the Neponset River, its tributaries and surrounding watershed landscapes. Their goal is a clean, healthy, accessible river and watershed, from the smallest headwater stream to the wide-open brackish water of the estuary.
- April support will also go to **GreenRoots**

(greenrootschelsea.org), working to achieve environmental justice and greater quality of life through collective action, unity, education and youth leadership across neighborhoods and communities. They work through deep community engagement and empowerment, youth leadership, and implementation of innovative projects and campaigns.



The January Brown Envelope donation was given to **Fair Foods** (fairfoods.org), a Boston based organization providing healthy produce to low-income families.

Donations to **local food pantries** over the past 12 months during the Covid crisis have now totaled over \$36,000, a remarkable effort that has supported countless families in need throughout our neighborhoods. Sadly, the need continues, and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.



Our generous holiday support for the **Gifts for Kids** program was acknowledged – and everyone is hoping for a return to personalized shopping for the 2021 holiday season, only 8 months away!



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Mothers' Day Walk for Peace 2021



The **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute** is a center for healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities dealing with murder, trauma, grief, and

loss. The annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace - May 9, 2021 - is the major way the Institute raises funds for its numerous and critical programs. This the third year that Sharon will participate in the Walk, which will again be virtual. And, this year, there will be many more opportunities to participate, share the stories of the Louis D. Brown Institute, and invite your friends and family to help reach the Institute's financial goal.

The Unitarian Church of Sharon is organizing a **Sharon Walks for Peace** team to participate in this year's Walk for Peace (which we'll observe as "25 Days of Walking" given the pandemic). Our team is open to all who are members and friends of any of our Sharon Houses of Worship.

Join our team! [register here](#). When you come to the pull-down menu, scroll down to Unitarian Church of Sharon/Sharon Walks for Peace. *(If you prefer to donate without doing the 25 Days of Walking, you can register here to donate only: <https://lbdpeace.z2systems.com/uusharon2021> This will also be the donation site for our May Brown Envelope donations to the Louis D. Brown Institute.)*

Upon registration, you will receive a calendar of weekly activities, starting Monday, April 4, that you and your team can do together. From mindfulness activities, physical activities, fundraising tips to pre-walk events, together we'll get our minds and bodies moving and honor lives impacted by homicide.

This year's walk is all about celebration and remembrance of our 25 years of walking for Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice and Forgiveness

Elizabeth Siftar, Team Coordinator.
esiftar@gmail.com, 302 354-1809

A Petition Calling for Cultural Competence and Antiracist Action in Sharon Public Schools

Janet Schmidt and Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks are excited to bring a petition to everyone at the UCS. Created by Sharon Interfaith Action, this document reflects the involvement of many activists from our congregation over the past 2 years – Linden Fingerson, Beth Hoke, Barbara Nelkin-Rose, Elizabeth Siftar, and Mare and Kate Parker-O'Toole. We encourage eve-

ryone to share this petition with neighbors, students and friends.

https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/SharonInterfaithAction?fbclid=IwAR1Y1oiYpRE582rUAhVRlaXd5ltmnUDhe-wr_8Y7Nbguf-Xkom_jcb9o3t0

We invite you to read it, and if you agree, sign it. You do not need to reside in Sharon to sign.

SAVE THE DATE for a School Committee Candidates Forum sponsored by SIA and SREA Sharon Racial Equity Alliance: Sunday, April 11 from 7–8:30.

Support for Indigenous Peoples' Day in Sharon

There is an effort in Sharon to make the change this year from **Columbus Day** to **Indigenous Peoples' Day** on a town level, especially since this change was recently passed by the Sharon School Committee. At this point, we are being asked to send letters in support of such a change to the Sharon Select Board and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEIC). To make this possible, there are letter templates on the SJC website pages that people can personalize and send to the Select Board and DEIC. Please note that there are two templates for the Select Board; one for people who identify as Italian American and another for those who do not. If folks have time to write personalized letters that can be helpful, but if not, people can feel free to use the templates to show their support.

<http://www.indigenouspeoplesdayma.org/>

Hold the date: Social Justice Fair Trade Marketplace on 21 April 2021

Plan on picking up your pre-ordered Fair Trade chocolates and coffees, Shopping for Justice grocery cards, and dropping off Food Pantry donations and Stackable Garden contributions at our monthly Fair Trade Marketplace in front of the church, 4-6pm on April 21st (NOTE THE LATER TIME FOR PICKUPS).

Curious about what we consumed during 12 months of Covid? UCS congregants fueled up on over 60 cases of chocolate bars (17% were Dark Crunch w/ Sea Salt, 15% Dark w/ Whole Almonds), 74 cases of coffee (54% drip, 46% whole bean; 80% high octane, only 20% decaf; ¼ French Roast, and ¼ Love Buzz; over \$7000 in Fair Trade purchases altogether!)



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Building Up People Not Prisons

At our February SJC meeting, a representative from the Boston chapter of SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice) informed us of the immediate need to build massive support to block a proposed \$50 million women's prison in Norfolk County. SURJ is a national network of groups and individuals organizing white people for racial justice, and one of the current projects of the Boston chapter is working with 2 organizations led by incarcerated women, formerly incarcerated women, and women with incarcerated loved ones - The *Building Up People Not Prisons (BUPNP) coalition* and *Families for Justice as Healing*.

As Architectural plans for the prison have already been submitted, the need to build up a critical mass of opposition to stop the prison from being built is urgent. A symposium facilitated by SURJ and the BUPNP Coalition was held on March 7th to address this urgency, to provide information about the proposed prison, and to demonstrate how the funding for the prison could be put to much better and long-lasting results if that money went directly into creating safe and productive communities. The Justice for Healing website identifies their approach as #Reimagining Communities and states: *"We don't need or want any new jails or prisons. Formerly incarcerated women have the solutions and expertise to address the root causes of incarceration. We are leading work to shift resources away from the criminal punishment system and into Black and Brown communities so we can have housing, healthcare, education, economic development, and community-led organizations."*



Should you wish to learn more and/or get involved in supporting this move-

ment to stop the building of prisons and, even more broadly, see a major transformation of the Criminal Legal system, here are some links that will be helpful:

SURJ Boston: <https://www.surjboston.org/>

Families for Justice as Healing: <https://justiceashealing.org/>

The Building Up People Not Prisons coalition: <https://www.peoplenotprisons.org/about>

If you wish to be informed of specific action you can take to support this mission visit: <https://www.peoplenotprisons.org/take-action> and then scroll down and click on the box "WEEK OF ACTION".



Rev. Jolie joined a protest on Thursday, March 25 at the offices of HDR Inc, the architecture firm slated to build the new women's prison. There were about 50 people at the peak of the event, gathered to protest a proposed \$50 million dollar women's prison at the former Bay State Correctional facility in Norfolk, MA. "We were spread out

across the four corners of this downtown Boston intersection, holding signs, chanting, and handing out informational flyers. The protest was to increase visibility and pressure after having sent a letter to HDR asking them to withdraw their bid but hearing no response." FJAH says, "We can close Framingham AND create alternatives for every single incarcerated woman without even changing any laws!"

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. Send a check to the church (memo: 'Stackable Gardens'), or go to the [PayPal donation page](#) for the 'Gardens' option. For more information, look for updates in the weekly Order of Service or reach out to a Green Team member.



The vertical, modular design of our multiple stacking planters will allow for a small footprint and efficient watering.



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.

Green Energy at UCS and Climate Justice: A 'Charged' Topic

The Green Team, the Board of Trustees, and numerous other stakeholders are currently involved in a far-ranging conversation about the nature of the electrical service provided to the church. Sharon has recently offered its residences and businesses an option for the level of renewable sourcing of the electrical power that we pay for, from an 18% Green Basic service, 38% Green Standard, or a 100% Power Choice Green level, each with its own price points. The **Earth Day Service**, on 18 April, will explore this topic in detail, with a chance for follow up discussion and sharing of our hopes, dreams, and concerns, followed by a possible congregational survey, as we explore this critical climate justice topic together. How do we decide to pay for our utilities and what defines our carbon footprint as we eye the future of the planet? How might our decision influence similar choices by other houses of worship, businesses, and residents of Sharon and other towns?



Environmental Legislative Update:

In case you missed it, the MA House recently passed the **Next Generation Climate Bill** (for the 4th time). The vote was overwhelmingly in favor: 146-13. It's now headed once again to Baker for a signature after previously moving forward in the MA Senate. It is expected that this will be the final passage and the bill will become law with or without the Governor's signature. This is a landmark bill and the most significant piece of climate legislation that's reached the Governor's desk in 13 years.


SUNRISE Blue Hills,

a local hub in the SUNRISE environmental justice movement, has been working on effective ways to educate the public about the **Green New Deal!** We spent time working on a brochure that lists the pros and addresses the misconceptions about the GND as well. We hope you learn some things and have fun doing so! Here is [the link to the brochure](#).



Social Justice News, continued


2021 INTERFAITH CLIMATE SUMMIT



Healing, Helping and Building Resilience

WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BE TOGETHER, BUT WE CAN HEAL TOGETHER!

Event date: Sunday, April 11th
 Event time: 2:00-4:00pm EST
 Zoom registration:
<https://bit.ly/3unW2ob>
 CREW website: www.climatecrew.org

 **CREW** | Communities Responding to Extreme Weather

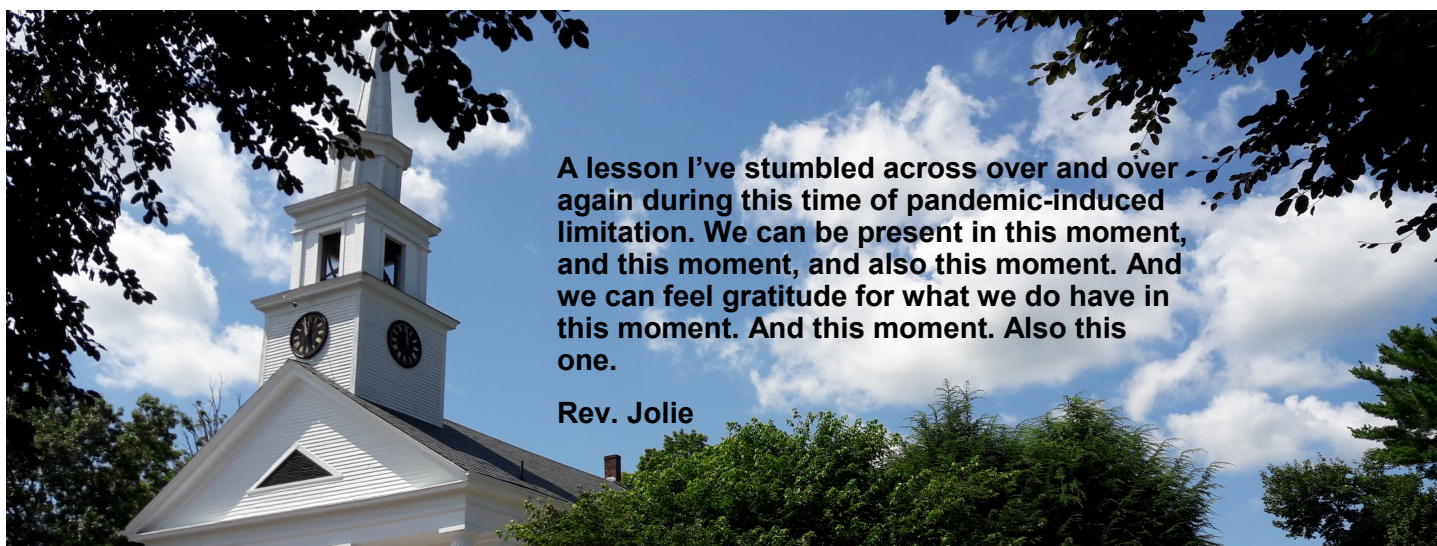
QUESTIONS? CONTACT VERNON@CLIMATECREW.ORG

An invite on behalf of **Communities Responding to Extreme Weather** (CREW) to the annual 2021 **Interfaith Climate Summit: Healing, Helping and Building Resilience** at 4/11/21 from 2pm-4pm. For the Summit, we are lucky to be joined in unity with several diverse faith leaders and community members representing many faith traditions in learning how to heal together. Visit the SJC Updates page for full details and links for registration and last year's summit on YouTube.

UU Mass Action Advocacy Day is April 13, the deadline to register is April 6, and optional training sessions are on April 7 and 8. See the [Social Justice Updates](#) page on our website for full details and



Sanctuary March 2021



A lesson I've stumbled across over and over again during this time of pandemic-induced limitation. We can be present in this moment, and this moment, and also this moment. And we can feel gratitude for what we do have in this moment. And this moment. Also this one.

Rev. Jolie