

# the chalice

Published by the  
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**A Welcoming Congregation  
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## SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

**THEME: MEMORIES, DOORS, & HOPE:  
ON THE THRESHOLD**

10:30am Adult Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

Each Summer service is lay led and will include a time of congregational sharing. Our Music Director Mel Springer will be providing the music. A time of fellowship will follow each service. For Zoom information on the summer services [click here](#). Please note that there will be **no** services on July 4th and August 8th. All are invited to attend the Murray Church, Attleboro. <http://murrayuuchurch.org/> The new church year will start with an intergenerational service on **Sunday, September 12th** at 10:15am, led by parental leave minister, Tricia Brennan. We look forward to seeing you!

"Happy Summer" - Jean Fox, Worship Chair

Date	Speakers	Topic	Worship Coordinator
Jul 4	(No UCS Service Attend Murray UU Church)	"Freedom," Religious Services Committee <a href="#">More info on page 2</a>	
Jul 11	Barbara Nelkin-Rose	8th Principle	Barbara Nelkin-Rose
Jul 18	Susan & Tom Edinger	Hope	Jean Fox
Jul 25	Brad Larson & Jon Slavin	Doorways	Brad Larson
Aug 1	Laura Shea	Looking Back to Move Forward	Beth McGregor
	Erin Cassidy-Lunman	Reflections from the Frontline, and Lessons Learned: an ICU Nurse's Perspective	
Aug 8	(No UCS Service Attend Murray UU Church)	"Scheduling Joy," Marguerite MacLean <a href="#">More info on page 2</a>	
Aug 15	Karen Zelevinsky	Choosing the Path	Beth McGregor
Aug 22	Jean Fox	On the Threshold	Jean Fox
Aug 29	Karin Hendricks	Spiritual Homecomings	Beth Hoke
Sep 5	Wilbur Edward,s, Jr.	A Step Down From the Judicial Bench Into the Covid Crisis	Peter Raskin
	Collen Tuck	Trust	

## From the Minister



Even though it often feels like everything COVID is old hat by now, I have to keep reminding myself: we have never done this before. We now have months and months of virtual church under our belts. We now know what it's like to close our beloved

church building, to gather on the grounds or on Zoom for worship, to run our annual meetings and other business of the church entirely online. As we turn our hopes and our attention to how we may responsibly gather in person indoors once again as a church community, we once again find ourselves heading into uncharted territory. We don't know what it's like to come back together after observing social distancing during a global pandemic.

We dipped our toes into in-person worship during June with two outdoor services, and we're already starting to learn some things and to recognize that hybrid services present new challenges. We will keep working out the kinks with patience and good humor. We will remain rooted in our mission to support one another as we grow in mind and spirit. We will keep looking to the science to keep our community as safe as possible, while also recognizing that there are different variables and aspects of health and wellness to balance. I am immensely grateful to the members of our congregation who have donated their time and expertise as health care professionals on our Safe Re-Open Task Force. For well over a year, they have combined their professional perspectives with their love and care for the life of our church to offer guidance to our Board in creating COVID-related policies.

Our church community remains strong, loving, and dedicated to its members and friends and to serving the world. COVID has taught us many things, not the least of which being that, while we have sorely missed gathering in the sacred space of our church building, church is also much more than a building. After all, love is the doctrine of our church, the quest for truth is its sacrament, and service is its prayer. I am so proud of how we have made a way for love, truth, and service online, outdoors, over the phone, and in the community beyond our walls.

My parental leave will begin sometime during the last week of July, or before that if necessary. The baby is due July 27, but offers us no guarantees that it will stick to any schedule. In the event that there is a gap between when I go on leave and when Rev. Tricia begins, my trusted mentor and colleague Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper will be available for pastoral emergencies. She is located in Barnstable and, if needed, can help with a pastoral issue in person or over the

phone. Her number is (508) 479-3505. Reverend Tricia Brennan, our Parental Leave Minister, will begin serving our congregation on August 1. Between August 10 and August 27 she will be available for pastoral emergencies only. Otherwise during the month of August she will focus on meeting people, planning, and getting settled. Beginning the week of September 5, she will serve the congregation roughly 20 hours per week. She can be reached at [revtbrennan@gmail.com](mailto:revtbrennan@gmail.com), (617) 645-9681, or by leaving a message on the minister's voicemail at church (781) 784-3652 x2. Our Caring Committee is also available to help with any caring needs that may arise: [caringcommittee@uusharon.org](mailto:caringcommittee@uusharon.org). My email address - [minister@uusharon.org](mailto:minister@uusharon.org) - will generate an auto-reply during the course of my leave.

I will return to work on December 1. Oh, and I'll send an announcement when the baby arrives!

With love and blessings for your summer and fall,

Rev. Jolie

### SUMMER WORSHIP - UU Murray Church (online)

Two Sundays this summer we are invited to join Murray UU Church in Attleboro for virtual worship. See [page 1](#) for the full calendar of summer worship at UCS online.

#### July 4

*"Freedom," Religious Services Committee*

Nelson Mandela said, "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedoms of others." What does freedom mean to you? Join us on the Fourth of July for a discussion of different views of freedom

Murray Church Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96891956187?pwd=bWpTM3N4LzRBQk9oZUx2ZmhmJeXhIQ09>

#### August 8

*"Scheduling Joy," Marguerite MacLean*

Many of us have heard that finding moments of joy are not only good for our well being, but can actually be good for our overall health. I would like to suggest taking it to the next step and actually scheduling joy. I'll discuss a brief overview on the importance of having moments of joy and then give some examples on how you can actually create the habit of scheduling joy into your life

Murray Church Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96891956187?pwd=bWpTM3N4LzRBQk9oZUx2ZmhmJeXhIQ09>

## From the Parental Leave Minister

Greetings good people of the Unitarian Church of Sharon:

I'm looking forward to being your Parental Leave Minister soon!

It's been 11 years since I was the Interim Minister at UCS- my how the years fly by. I find myself thinking of that feeling one has sometimes when you go some place you like a lot- say Paris, for example- and you think, "*I'll come back some day*". But you hardly ever do. Well, I feel lucky that I get to come back to a congregation I really enjoyed! It's a rare experience. I look forward to seeing who you are now, knowing that neither you or I are the exactly the same and curious to see the growth and meet you as you are now.

The roles of Parental Leave Minister and Interim Minister couldn't be more different. The Interim Minister is a change agent serving a congregation in a time of transition, the Parental Leave Minister is a stable presence who steps in briefly while the Settled Minister is busy bringing new life into the world. Yet the four months I will be with you will hardly be a stagnant time! Much will happen, including the unforeseen. I hope to be a helpful ministerial presence and partner in this brief sojourn together.

May you know joy in these summer days, good health and spiritual stirrings.

See you in August.

Rev. Tricia



## Committee Updates and Events

### Worship Committee

Have you always wanted to join a committee, but unsure which one? The Worship Committee is seeking one (1) new member. New members will be meeting in August to discuss and plan our new church year with our parental leave minister, Tricia Brennan. Associates or Alums are also welcomed to act as Worship Coordinators, however, are not required to attend monthly meetings (third Sunday of each month). Please contact Worship Chair, Jean Fox, [jmfoxden@verizon.net](mailto:jmfoxden@verizon.net)

### Fellowship Committee

**Follow us on social media!** Our Fellowship Committee is livening up our social media presence! Fellowship Committee members will post upcoming church events, pictures (with people's permission), and more. Be sure to add us on Facebook if you haven't already: <https://www.facebook.com/UUSharonMA/> and find us on Instagram: @uuchurchofsharon

### The Not Boring Book Group

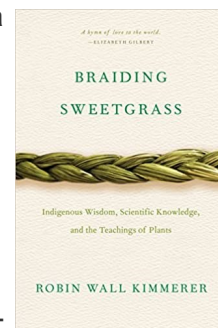
The Not Boring Book Group meets (via Zoom for now) at 7pm on the first Wednesday of most months.

We've decided to skip a July session to allow extra time to read our next selection, ***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants***, which we'll discuss at 7pm on Wednesday, August 4th. Botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer was trained to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. A member of the Citizen 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 7<sup>th</sup> Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.)

Everyone is welcome. Our discussions are lively and may spark a response even if you haven't finished – or even started – the book.

### Calendar Link

Check out our Calendar for online events happening this month: <https://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2021-07/>





## From the President



### Let's Call It a Wrap...It's Summer-time!!! But Wait....

One thing I always loved in the early days after joining UCS in 1976 was the formal end to the church year on Father's Day weekend followed by the summertime months. It coincided with end of the academic year which always makes me think of the schoolboy

chant "No more pencils, no more books, no more teacher's dirty looks!" Come this time of year, I was more than ready for a break, looking forward to fewer obligations, catching frogs (see photo) and more than excited about spending time playing softball.



Times have changed. UCS grew larger and decided that year-round programming was essential to keep people connected. We decided to mix it up a little, give the minister a well-deserved break, and hold informal lay-led services. Some could even be outdoors on our beautiful grounds beneath the glorious copper-beech trees. What a

delight! And members/friends of our congregation who led services gave engaging insights into lots of topics that piqued my interest.

The most important thing I learned during our transition over the years is that good planning for what lies ahead takes place in the summertime. Safe reopening of our church buildings is a major topic of discussion at our Board of Trustees meetings. We are still emerging from the pandemic and need to keep the needs of all in mind as we open our doors for services, religious education, meetings, and other events. Thankfully, we have our Task Force for Safe Reopening under Linda Godfrey-Bailey advising us on health concerns and UUA recommendations on best practices for gatherings during post-covid times.

At the recent Father's Day service outdoors on church grounds, we celebrated the lovely flower communion service that first started with a Unitarian congregation in Czechoslovakia in 1932. Rev Jolie also used the occasion to thank our wonderful Administrator Linda Cveckova for her dedication to running our business office so competently and wish her happy travels as she takes her family back to homeland Slovakia a year abroad. We are in search for Linda's

replacement, confident that the processes now in place will help our new Administrator with a smooth transition.

My final pitch this month focuses on our Religious Education program for the youth. DRE Christine Bulman has requested more teacher volunteers to prepare for the selection of Sunday school programs that our youth have come to appreciate and look forward to. Many hands make for light lifting. If you have the time and will consider a teaching role, please sign up. With strong community participation, we will make RE the meaningful experience that gets our youth excited and engaged.

*Rory McGregor*

### Our Board of Trustees for 2021– 2022:

<b>President</b>	Rory McGregor
<b>Vice President</b>	Chris Raskin
<b>Clerk</b>	Sylvia Mignon
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Zelevinsky
<b>Trustee</b>	Gautam Trivedi
<b>Trustee</b>	Jon Slavin
<b>Trustee</b>	David Nichamoff



**June 20:** Outdoor Flower Service

## Religious Education Summer Happenings

**Christine's summer hours:** Monday - Thursday 8-4 (with some variability and some vacation time in the mix). Reach her by email [dre@uusharon.org](mailto:dre@uusharon.org), but with urgent needs use mobile: (781) 291- 9162.

### Summer Crafting Nights for Religious Education

**Starts Wednesday June 30 at 6:00 pm**



Bring stories to life! Using felt, miniatures, polymer clay, laminated photos, artifacts and other props, we will create story baskets about Unitarian Universalism, our sources and principles, world religions, sacred places, beginnings and endings, and more. These will become the cornerstone of our SpiritPlay program, an exciting new learning experience for our younger

children. Story scripts, materials lists and supplies are provided and funded by UCS, all we need are helping hands! High level crafting skills not required! In fact, if you like to scavenge thrift shops for small props, that works, too! Our first story crafting event will be Wednesday **July 30 at 6pm**. We'll learn more about this process and start on some basics.

### RE Volunteer Team Shaping Up! Come join the crew!

Thanks to those who are either signed up or mulling: Lilly Zhou, Rory and Beth McGregor, Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks, Rebecca Kinraide, Glenn Rivard, Gare Reid, Barbara Nelkin-Rose, Mike Quinn, Peter and Chris Raskin, Janet Schmidt, Kristen Hayes Hoemke, Karen Woods, Sue Mooney. Woot! Please fill out [this form](#) if you have interest in helping out next year, we'll have a blast!

**RE Volunteers:** Get a jump on your fall schedule so you aren't scrambling in September.

Welcome to the volunteer teaching crew for 2021-2022! This summer, Christine will be working on the volunteer schedule for the year using our new church software called Breeze. If you are a volunteer, please create your Breeze profile using this [link](#) so that you can log in and access the volunteer invites to sign up for dates. Keep an eye on your email for an invitation

### Have you registered your children and youth for RE?

This is [a new form](#). Several people have submitted without a problem while a few have received unfounded error messages. If you have difficulty, let Christine know and she can send you the form in PDF to be filled out the old fashioned way.

### Youth Ministry Coordinator Announcement

We are excited to announce that our new Youth Ministry Coordinator has been hired! Welcome to *Kate Oldshue* who brings with her a background in youth empowerment and retreats. Her skill set includes a lens on race, class, gender, sexuality and organizing. Several youth have already had a chance to meet Kate as they participated in the interview process which included sample youth group sessions with two of the candidates. Special thanks goes out to the youth that made themselves available for several meetings and interviews as part of the search team: Gabby Pannone, Ena Boardman, Nolan Howard, Kate Slater, and Miles Clay.

Kate will begin in mid-August and her work will involve not only the junior and senior youth groups but also the coordination of adolescent programs such as OWL and Coming of Age with an overall eye on the youth ministry of UCS.

### Playground update

The design is shaping up and these are some of the things that are on the drawing board. The next couple of playground meetings will be critical - the plans will be finalized and prepared for Board approval. If you would like to take part in this process, now is the time! Stay tuned for dates in Christine's weekly RE news.





## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



The Social Justice Committee encourages you to visit the UCS website ([uusharon.org](http://uusharon.org)) for all the latest news and updates on what's happening at church. The Social Justice pages are a great source for the most up to date information on events, opportunities to engage, resources, and for links to

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

### Brown Envelope Collections



During May, we again supported the **Louis D. Brown Mother's Day Walk for Peace**, which this year was a virtual event (Visit [here](#) to view the broadcast), and we raised over \$2,115, with an additional \$750 that resulted from an Institute donor's 1:1

match for early donations. Your support for this important effort is greatly appreciated.

The June Brown E recipient is the Massachusetts chapter of **GLSEN** (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, <https://www.glsen.org/chapter/massachusetts>). GLSEN Massachusetts is a grassroots initiative, working locally in our communities to ensure safe schools for all students, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Throughout the summer break, our Brown Envelope collection during our Lay Led services will again go to support the Summer Youth Programs of the UU Urban Ministry ([uum.org](http://uum.org)). You can send in a check to the UCS church with a memo BE Summer 2021, or donate via [our website](#), or pay directly to the Urban Ministry at their [website](#).

Donations to local food pantries over the past 15 months during the Covid crisis have now totaled over \$41,000, a remarkable effort that has benefited countless families in need throughout our neighborhoods. Sadly, the need continues, and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.



Sharon-Stoughton Food Pantry where hundred of our neighbors turn to us for help.



BLM Banner and Progress Rainbow Flag remind our community about the work that remains to be done.

### A CONGREGATIONAL INQUIRY

***Dismantling racism and other forms of oppression and creating justice and equity for all***

The Anti-Racism Working Group is committed to the ongoing work of creating racial justice and practicing Beloved Community here at the Unitarian Church of Sharon and beyond. To help us plan for future conversations, events and action regarding the dismantling of racism and other forms of oppression, we have created an [Inquiry Form](#) to find out what types of future activities you would be most interested in attending. It consists of a few multiple-choice questions, followed by questions allowing for longer responses. ***There is still time to have your voice be heard as we gage the pulse of the congregation, and we hope that you will all take a few moments to respond to at least the multiple-choice questions. The questions mainly focus on 2 topics: 1) the Black Lives Matter banner hung outside our church AND 2) a proposed 8th Principle, first called for by the Black Lives of UU Organizing Collective, which was discussed at this year's General Assembly in June. There is much work that lies ahead and we look forward to collaborating with the congregation on these important issues. 100% participation in the polling is within reach, if everyone agrees to weigh in on this important topic – so please lean in on this one!***

Click [here](#) to begin the inquiry. (You may choose to include your name, or you may answer anonymously.)

What's the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle all about you ask? Here is the current version being discussed at GA 2021, with over 100 UU congregations across the country already endorsing some version of this commitment within their own church communities:

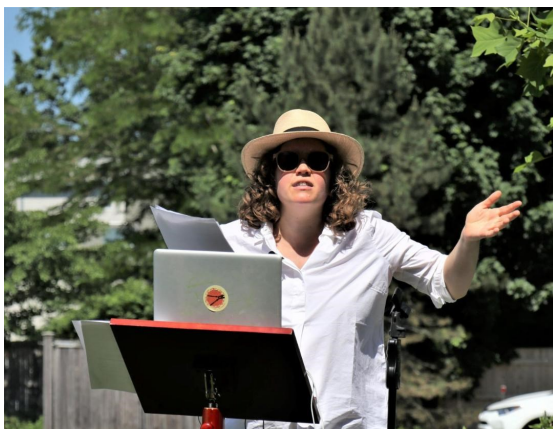
*"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."*



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

### Rainbow Sunday

We tried our first hybrid Sunday Service on 6 June, with some folx on the lawn in the shade, some online (and some doing both for optimal participation!), and everybody managing the sunshine, heat and humidity to mark our annual Pride celebration on Rainbow Sunday.



Rev Jolie leads the celebration.



Cool hats and hot rainbow colored shirts ruled the day.



That might be Mia Joner-Moore, who coordinated the service, behind a great mask!



Hybrid Rainbow experiment on the lawn, with Mel & Alice on the sun/shade border.

### Pride Parade and Car Parade in Sharon

Scouts BSA Troop 164 raised the American Flag and the Pride Progress Flag at the Sharon Pride event on Sunday June 6th at the Memorial Park Bandstand, followed by a Car Parade throughout the town. The participation of a Scouts BSA troop in raising the pride flag with the full endorsement of the Mayflower Council is, we believe, the first of its kind in the nation. Leading the troop are Scoutmaster Mark Hogan and Assistant Scoutmaster Rebecca Kinraide.



BSA Troop 164 raises the American Flag and Progress Rainbow Flag at Sharon Memorial Park. Rainbow flags were also displayed at the Sharon Public Schools.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

### Juneteenth Celebrations



Juneteenth celebration in Stoughton



Walpole and surrounding towns celebrate Juneteenth



Steve Tapper & Friends set the mood for Juneteenth



Everybody dance!

*What then, to a Slave, is your 4th of July?*

# READING FREDERICK DOUGLASS TOGETHER

JOIN US FOR A PUBLIC READING  
OF HIS FOURTH OF JULY ADDRESS.

Sat., July 3 at 7 pm

Memorial Park Beach

SPONSORED BY

Sharon Historical Society  
and Sharon DEIC  
with support from the  
Sharon Pluralism Network  
and other  
community groups

mass HUMANITIES

#RFD19

Find out more about the Reading Frederick Douglass Together statewide collaboration at [masshumanities.org](http://masshumanities.org)

Has our understanding of the Declaration of Independence evolved since 1776? How are its promises being fulfilled now, or not? Join the Sharon Historical Society, the Sharon Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and your community in a round-robin reading of Frederick Douglass's speech, **"What then, to a Slave, is the Fourth of July?"** followed by a discussion with faith community and civic leaders on Douglass' resonance in national history and Sharon today. Saturday, 3 July, 7pm, Memorial Beach Park at Massapoag Lake, Sharon.

Bring your blanket, chair, and snacks, and enjoy an evening of celebration and civic engagement on the 4th of July weekend! Print copies in English, Spanish, and Haitian Kreyol will be available for the audience to follow along.

This program is funded by a Mass Humanities grant. Thanks to them and to our community partners!



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

### Stackable Garden Project Update

The Stackable Garden is growing! We have already harvested some kale and Bok Choi. Recently, we added potato bags, and we hope to add drip irrigation soon. Alan Post and Gare Reid are also working on a plan to set up two rain barrels to collect rainwater to replenish our future solar-powered drip irrigation system. Thank you to all who are participating in this collaborative project. Stop by the church grounds to see what's growing!



Luscious plants benefit from T.L.C. by our Green Thumb Crews



Potato sack experiment gets underway.



Our Stackable Garden takes the hot summer days in stride

### Green Energy at UCS and Climate Justice

Time for a Green Celebration! At our annual meeting in June, the congregation voted for UCS to purchase 100% renewable electricity for the coming year. Yippee! The Green Team will be back in action in the fall, helping UCS continue on our eco-responsible path. In the meantime, please review your own household's commitment to achieving a sustainable planet, and together we can work to move the needle on climate change.



100% Green electrical power now ours by choice at UCS

Hold the date:

**Social Justice Fair Trade Marketplace**

Wednesday, 14 July 2021, 4-6pm.



Plan on picking up your pre-ordered Fair Trade chocolates and coffees, Shopping for Justice grocery cards, and dropping off Food Pantry donations, Brown Envelope contributions, and Stackable Garden support at our monthly Fair Trade Marketplace in front of the church.

### Update on Indigenous Peoples' Day proposal for Sharon:



There is strong community support for recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day in Sharon, with the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC), the School Committee, and the Select

Board all voting to support the change. However, it will ultimately need to be brought to a Sharon Town Meeting to make a formal change of this nature, which should now happen before October of 2022. There are currently Massachusetts House and Senate bills pending to accomplish this step at the state level.

Please find a few resources below if you would like more information about *Indigenous Peoples Day* and *organizing efforts across the state*.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/346079613179128>

<https://italiansforipd.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ItalianAmericansforIndigenousPeoplesDay/>

Thank you all for your energy and commitment to honoring Indigenous Peoples Day in Sharon.

## ***SJ NEWS, continued***

### **Building Up People Not Prisons Update:**

Interest remains strong for the reevaluation of the proposed \$50 million women's prison in Norfolk County. Numerous groups are working to organize for racial justice, including 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. There are complications and differing views on the best outcome of these efforts, and the SJC and the Anti-Racism Working Group will remain connected to the work in the months ahead as groups look to demonstrate how the funding for the prison could be put to much better and long-lasting results if the money went directly into creating safe and productive communities.

Should you wish to learn more and get involved in supporting this movement 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:

- SURJBoston: [www.surjboston.org/](http://www.surjboston.org/)
- Families for Justice as Healing: [www.justiceashealing.org/](http://www.justiceashealing.org/)
- The Building Up People Not Prisons coalition: [www.proplenotprisons.org/about](http://www.proplenotprisons.org/about)



**MainSpring House Lunch Making** will continue during the summer months. Contact Gare Reid ([agreid@rcn.com](mailto:agreid@rcn.com)), if you are interested in lending a hand.

### **CommUnity Closet update:**

An abundance of caution continues to keep the doors of our free clothing pantry in Brockton closed. Our 5 Point Cluster of UU churches is examining possible plans for reopening in the fall, but for now we remain unable to collect you gently used clothing for distribution. Hopefully, this will not remain the case for too much longer. Stay tuned.



### **Admin Office - Summer**

As you probably know Linda Cveckova's last day in the office is Monday June 28, 2021. While the hiring team is diligently interviewing and looking for the new Congregational Administrator, if you have any administrative inquiries before the new Admin starts, please reach out to these wonderful volunteers:

**Finance** - Karen Zelevinsky

**Rentals** - Colleen Tuck

**Calendar** - Julie Armstrong

**All other admin inquiries** - Jeff Rose

If you have a specific question, you can also consult our very capable Committee Chairs. See the list of [Committees here](#).

As a reminder, there is no newsletter coming out at the end of July. The next newsletter deadline will be sometime at the end of August, determined by the new Admin.

Thank you all for your time and willingness to help during this transition.

