

the chalice

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

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JUNE WORSHIP SERVICES **THEME: COLOR AND BEAUTY**

10:00am Family 10:30am Adult Service
(unless noted otherwise)

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

June 6 Rainbow Sunday

****In Person Service on the UCS Grounds* (With a Virtual Option)***

Our annual Rainbow Sunday worship service is a celebration of LGBTQ pride, and a call to action because our work to build a just and free world is not done. We will have a HYBRID, OUTDOOR worship service on the grounds. "Hybrid" means you can still tune in with the same Zoom link as always if you need or prefer to stay home, because we will be broadcasting over Zoom from the church grounds. Bring your own chair if possible, and wear your solid color shirt - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, black, brown, pink, white, or light blue! This event is weather dependent. Look for an email the morning of the 6th if it's bad weather (we'll be fully virtual in case of bad weather).

June 13 RE Sunday

Intergenerational Service at 10:30 AM Virtual Service

Intergenerational service online. Our young people will lead us in worship today featuring music, reflections, and poetry. There will be a short reflection from your Interim DRE that speaks to the identity of the UCS religious education program.

June 20 Flower Communion, Bridging and Recognition

Intergenerational Service at 10:30 AM

****Possibly on the UCS Grounds* (With a Virtual Option)***

In addition to a congregational flower communion, this service will include a very special bridging ceremony for our high school seniors who are becoming young adults in this community. We'll also bridge 8th graders into senior youth, recognize this year's volunteers and pay tribute to Katie Byron as they finish out their service as Youth Coordinator here at UCS. Perhaps another hybrid service with the chance to be on the grounds! Stay tuned!

June 27 UCS Virtual Worship Circle

10:30 AM Followed by General Assembly Virtual Worship

Each year, at the annual meeting and conference of our Unitarian Universalist Association (called "General Assembly" or GA), there is a BIG Sunday service, a rare chance to worship with thousands of other UU's. UCS members and friends are invited to log onto our usual Zoom link at 10:30 to hold a sacred space together with joys and concerns and other familiar UCS worship elements, led by Rev. Jolie. Then people can either stay on and watch the GA service through our UCS Zoom or sign off and reconnect directly to the GA link. For more information:

<https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/sunday-morning-worship>

From the Minister



It is with a mixture of sadness and joy that we are saying goodbye to our Congregational Administrator, Linda Cveckova. The sadness we may be feeling is because it is hard to lose such a beloved and essential member of our community. Lin-

da, your warmth and generosity of spirit has always shined through. You excelled at your job - that would have been enough! - but you also always understood that our church is like a family, and we are here to love and support each other in our life journeys. So thank you for being a part of that. And at the same time, we may feel some joy for Linda, who will be in her homeland of Slovakia with her husband Juraj and their three kids for a whole year, immersed in their home culture and surrounded by extended family. Three cheers for Linda! We hope everyone joins us at the (weather-dependent) outdoor service on June 20, as Linda will attend the service that day and say goodbye to people in person, on our church grounds.

As you know, I am planning a four-month parental leave which will start at the end of July, when my baby is due. I will be on leave from July 25 (or so - we'll see what happens!) until the end of November, and will return to my role on December 1. We have contracted with Rev. Tricia Brennan, a former interim minister here at UCS, to provide part-time ministerial coverage for this leave. She will begin in August, working limited hours. During August she'll focus on getting oriented, meeting with lay leaders and staff, and planning. Beginning September 5, she will work 20 hours per week. Her duties will consist of: leading worship two to three times per month (depending on if it's a four-Sunday or five-Sunday month), supervising and supporting staff, advising our Board of Trustees, advising and supporting lay leaders, and pastoral care as needed. Her role will be limited as compared to the role I have as your solo minister. That said, her kind and spiritual presence, her decades of experience in UU churches, and her ministerial leadership and guidance, will be an enormous support to the congregation during the four months that I am focused on my family. It helps me prepare for my leave to know that this congregation will be in such good hands.

I wanted to add my heartfelt thanks to our Stewardship Committee for leading an enormously successful 2021 Stewardship Campaign. And to every-

one who pledged, thank you for your generosity. We are rounding out budget season, planning for our next church year and preparing for our Annual Meeting. It is a testament to the strength of this community that our BOT will be able to come before the congregation at the Annual Meeting with a budget proposal for next year that reflects our vision and values as well as your collective commitment to support this church.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Jolie

Committee Updates and Events

Worship Committee

Have you always wanted to join a committee, but unsure which one? The Worship Committee is seeking new members. We are currently seeking "one" new member. New members will be meeting in August to discuss and plan our new church year. 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, for further details. jmfoxden@verizon.net

We need you! Worship is looking for Lay Speakers for Summer Services. This year, we will be *broadcasting* live from the Sanctuary. Our theme? Memories, Doors, and Hope: On the Threshold

Dates are July 4th through September 5th. Please contact a Worship Committee member or Committee Chair, Jean Fox. jmfoxden@verizon.net

Fellowship Committee

Church Cheer Secret Pal Gift Exchange

Church Cheer SummerTime Themed Gift Exchange is coming! Join us to give and receive some SummerTime cheer! [Follow this link to fill out the sign-up form](#). Sign-ups close at midnight THIS monday, June 3rd, so don't miss out, go sign-up right now!

Need a little more specifics on what this is and how it works? [Details and frequently asked questions can be found here](#). If you need help with the sign-up form or have questions not covered in the FAQ please contact gift exchange coordinator Chelsea Gould at chelsea.c.gould@gmail.com or by phone at 203-240-5570.

From the President

The New Normal for Me

I spent 3 days in the hospital this past month to treat a sudden attack of anemia brought on by a stomach ulcer. Polyp removal in my stomach during a routine endoscopy procedure led to the ulcer. A fainting spell was the warning sign that internal bleeding was reducing my red cell count and not enough oxygen was getting to the brain.

Memory of my time at Beth Israel Needham had two distinct parts: anxiety in the ER while the medical team figured out my problem; starvation because I hadn't eaten in 48 hours. I realized that I was going to be ok after receiving a blood transfusion and IV fluids. But the hunger was going to be with me a while longer because they wanted to repeat the endoscopy and find the source of the bleeding.



I have always had a fear of being hungry and not having enough to eat. In this situation I knew the ordeal would end so best to tough it out even as my stomach grumbled more loudly. During my earliest years in grade-school I could barely wait for the lunch bell to ring. I worried that my mom's bag lunch might not be enough to fill me.

Even before the Covid pandemic I worried for many who might not have enough to eat. I know that the pandemic has exacerbated this problem for those who lost jobs.

I attended the recent Speak Out session sponsored by Sharon Pluralism Network and learned from social workers that families right here in Sharon are suffering from food shortages.

This fear of hunger has led me to always think of those less fortunate when food shopping and pick up items for

local food pantries. It's one small way that I can help. And I am thankful to our Social Justice Committee for making lunches for MainSpring House and providing "Shopping for Justice" food gift cards – both reminders that there are ways to help make a difference. There is no doubt in my mind that better food equity for all will make the world a happier place.

Rory McGregor

ANNUAL MEETING ON ZOOM

FRIDAY, JUNE 11TH, 7:30PM

Please plan to attend and help us elect members to a variety of positions and to approve our annual budget. A quorum of at least 20% of members of record is required to approve all articles. The Warrant and the Annual Report will be sent to you in an email at least one week prior to the meeting.

The annual report, proposed budget as well as the warrant will be emailed to you no later than Friday June 4th. If you do not receive this information, feel free to contact Linda Cveckova at admin@uusharon.org



Spring at UCS—photo credit: Forbesy Russell

Goodbye from Linda Cveckova, UCS Congregational Administrator



It is with a heavy heart that I have submitted my resignation last week. In July my husband's job is going to move our whole family to Slovakia for a year. This is the place where our kids have both sets of grandparents, cousins and family and where my husband and I grew up. We are very excited to have this unique opportunity and we just had to take it.

UCS has easily been the best place I have ever worked at and probably the best place I will ever work at as well. It did not even feel like work. I was privileged to be accepted to your big "UU family" that cares very deeply about their community and the church. We shared laughs, worked alongside each other and when I was in need, there was always someone who stepped up and land me a hand with a big smile on their face! I want to take this opportunity to thank a few key people without whom my job would be so much harder and this church would not run so smoothly. You have my deepest gratitude for the countless hours you worked with me and supported me:

Paul Tuck

Paul, I cannot imagine my 4 years at UCS without you. You were there the first day of my job and I am sure you will be helping me on the last day as well. You are the backbone of the accounting and finance at this church and since you are so modest people do not even know this about you. Not only you do monthly tasks for finance and solve our financial conundrums, but every month you come into the office and ask me what you can help with. During my vacations, you covered my job. When pandemic hit, you were right there with me helping me to stay on tasks while I juggled my kids' homeschooling. While I am very grateful for all your help at work, I am mostly thankful for our friendship. It has been four years of celebrating life milestones and donuts and laughs and sharing. Thank you, my friend.

Jeff Rose

Jeff, from the day of my interview with you until today you are always there to jump in and fix my computer problems, help me with a software, a report or just about anything admin related. I remember how your prompt response, the knowledge of everything and willingness to help made me feel more supported than working for a corporation with a whole IT department. While Paul covered my vacations from finance perspective, you were always there to help me on the admin side. I'll never forget when I was booking calendar entries from my summer vacation you switched off my access and left me a note that you are taking over and I need a break. :) You are a true professional who really wants to help and improve this organization anyway you can. The amount of work you put into this church is amazing. Thank you for

always being there for me and solving my problems. UCS is lucky to have you.

Gare Reid

Oh, Gare, my biggest customer ;) I loved working with you all these years. When I started at my job, you were my go to person on everything out of ordinary and you always knew either what to do or whom to talk to. This was the time when Rev. Jim Robinson left and Rev. Wendy Bell was just starting, so you and Louise were my "institutional knowledge people". I will be forever grateful for you answering my million questions. You are one of the kindest and big-hearted people I know. Your positive and action driven outlook on life is contagious. You were the one who got me excited about the UU church. I loved all of our conversations work and non-work related and I will forever treasure them. Thank you, Gare.

Past four Treasurers

Jim Schultz, my mentor and cheerleader. Thank you for your guidance and all the navy stories. Paul Tuck, the Treasurer in my second year. We were a dream team. ;) Susan Allison, the Treasurer in my third year, brought organization, proper accounting and great company. I loved our weekly Angel's lunches together. Thank you, Susan. And last but not least our current Treasurer, Karen Zelevinsky. UCS is so lucky to have you. You are so bright, creative and such an amazing team player, I am very grateful that I was able to work with you during this crazy Covid year.

Jolie and the staff

Rev. Jolie, is, and probably always will be, the best boss I ever had. She always has a heart of a minister in a role of a boss or a friend. So caring and understanding. Combine that with a sharp mind, resourcefulness and the tremendous life energy and you get a chief of staff who is an absolute joy to be with. Jolie, I am so thankful for our friendship during these past two years. Thank you for always supporting me. I am also grateful to work with very knowledge and thoughtful DREs, Louise Marcoux and Christine Bulman, over the years. Louise showed me the ropes when I started and I will be always grateful for our deep conversations. For 3 years Louise was always there to help and think about what is the right thing to do. I am thankful to all the RE/Admin Assistants I worked with over the years, Karen McKinnon and Leslie Cox, who were just a pure pleasure to have around. Finally, I will never forget my music and baseball conversations with Mel Springer every Friday before the pandemic hit. Thank you, Mel.

I could go on mentioning many people at the UU Church who made my days so enjoyable. Thank you all for being there for me. I will forever treasure my memories and friendships I made here. It is truly a bittersweet moment for me. I am planning to work until the end of June 2021. If you want to drop me a note or stop by the office on Mondays or Tuesdays, I would love to see you to say goodbye.

Linda Cveckova,

June Programs

Chat on the Grounds with Rev. Jolie

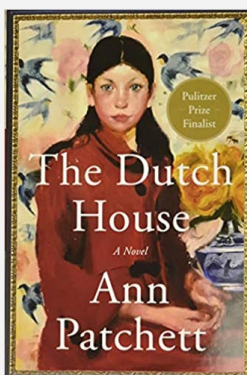
Every Thursday at 10AM, weather dependent

Two more weeks of Chat on the Grounds! We will gather at 10 am on Thursday, June 3 and then again at 10 am on Thursday, June 10. Weather-dependent. The 10th will be our last Thursday morning gathering for the church year.

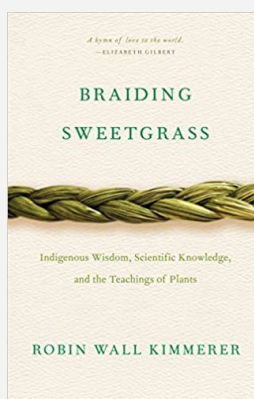
The Not Boring Book Group

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

On June 2nd at 7pm, we will discuss Pulitzer Prize finalist **The Dutch House: A Novel** by Anne Patchett. The novel follows a brother and sister who enjoy a fairy tale life despite their mother's having fled the pressures of managing the household when they were young. When their father dies and leaves his fortune to their stepmother, the kids are left to fend for themselves, going on to live a drastically different life than they had imagined. The house of their youth haunts them through adulthood, and they want revenge – in an unexpected way.



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 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 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.)



Everyone is welcome. Our discussions are lively and June 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!



Update on the Memory Tea

Since we aren't able to gather together and share food and tea at this time, we are going to postpone this year's Memory Tea event until it is safe to share a meal and memories together. The Caring Committee will be in touch with more details as we plan the next event.

Calendar Link

Check out our Calendar for online events happening this month: <https://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2021-06/>



Conversations
At the Meetinghouse



A Musical Conversation with Mel Springer

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 7 PM

ZOOM LINK:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6525468701?
pwd=b2JuMlI5TVJzWTNHZ2ZyUzVYcFh1dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6525468701?pwd=b2JuMlI5TVJzWTNHZ2ZyUzVYcFh1dz09)

Meeting ID: 652 546 8701 Password: 3652

Please join us for the final Conversation at the Meetinghouse of the church year. On Friday, June 4 at 7PM, through the magic of Zoom, our own Maestro, Mel Springer (assisted by the renowned technical doyenne Alice Springer), will provide a 'musical conversation' with selections of his choosing. Mel is working up his Play List even now, and, along with his commentary and musical asides, it is bound to be an event not to be



missed. Crank up the volume, sit back on the couch and enjoy an evening of music and song that is sure to please all generations. The best seats are selling out fast, so mark your calendars for the musical event of the summer!

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

Free and Open To Public

Religious Education News

From the Interim Director of Religious Education



As I write this, the state of Massachusetts prepares for an announcement from the governor that all industries in the state will be allowed to reopen as well as a significant lifting of the face covering mandate. While we were unsure last month what the timeline would be to resume regular church programming,

we are now preparing to run RE as close to "normal" as we can beginning in September! Because vaccination rates of children are uncertain, we plan to hold classes outdoors through October weather permitting.

The RE Committee has been planning some exciting offerings including a Montessori style program for kids K-2, a wizarding social justice class for grades 3-5 and some project based learning for grades 7-8. And OWL? Yes! But we need facilitators! As of this writing the UUA still has no training scheduled so we will need to run programs with volunteers who are already trained. If you know an OWL facilitator, please encourage them to help your child get this valuable class! We have an exciting year coming up for youth in the church as well as they work to settle a new Youth Ministry Coordinator who will focus on the youth ministry at UCS in perhaps some new ways!

Please stay tuned for some important weekly news announcements that will include not only a link to a brand new RE registration form but also an invitation to create your profile on Breeze, the church's new online directory platform. Breeze is more than just a directory though - for staff and committee members there are features that make running groups easy including event and class planning, volunteer management and attendance.

In faith,

Christine Bulman

We hope to run a robust OWL program next year!

But it depends in large part on the availability of facilitators. Churches all over the country face the same predicament, no OWL training, so no new OWL facilitators. If you are already trained, and you think you might be willing to teach OWL next year, please let Christine or someone on the RE Committee know as soon as possible! We'd like to run OWL for grades 1&2, 5&6, 7&8 and perhaps even a high school OWL.

RE CALENDAR

June 6

Rainbow Sunday: if your family is attending the service in person, there will be a time for all ages during the service followed by a "reunion" circle, and a gardening activity for children and youth.

SYG online

June 13

RE Sunday: Family service online. Our last family service of the year will feature elements of the service offered by children and youth including music, reflections, and art. There will be a short reflection from your Interim DRE about the identity of the UCS religious education program.

Father Bill's: The second Sunday of the month is when we make and deliver bagged lunches to Father Bills. See below for information about this month.

SYG Online

June 20

Perhaps another hybrid service with the chance to be on the grounds! In addition to a congregational flower communion, this service will include a very special bridging ceremony for our high school seniors who are becoming young adults in this community. We'll also bridge 8th graders into senior youth, recognize this year's volunteers and pay tribute to Katie Byron as they finish out their service as Youth Coordinator here at UCS.

Youth groups will be in person Sunday afternoon. We'll make a special artistic creation that will be split in two - one half will stay with the church, and the other half will go with Katie as a remembrance of their time here.

Father Bill's & Mainspring House Bagged Lunch program continues! If you would like to make or deliver bagged lunches this month, [sign up here!](#)



RE News / Youth Ministry



Some members of Junior Youth Fellowship Group shaking up dye bottles and getting ready to tie dye!



The Green Team kicked off the gardening program with the help of some children and their



Katie's Goodbye

This is my final Newsletter as your Youth Coordinator. Saying goodbyes is often hard to do and perhaps especially so after over a year of a global pandemic that has included far too many goodbyes. And, this has been a time that has taught me and I think a lot of us that goodbyes are precious, we don't always get a chance to say goodbye and so it is important to take the time to do it when we can.



On **June 20th**, Junior Youth Fellowship Group and Senior Youth Group will both have some time to meet on the church grounds to say goodbye to me and also to say goodbye to this year. There will be more details coming about that in the next couple of weeks but I can say we'll be making one last craft project together, part of which will stay at the church and another part that I'll bring with me, so that we can all keep a reminder of the time we spent together.

Senior Youth Group will also be meeting on zoom June 6th and 13th from 5-6:30pm for some games, silly youtube videos, or whatever other kind of study breaks folks need at the end of the school year.

I want to again state how grateful I am to have served in this role over the last two years. Thank you youth groups for playing, making, and building community with me both in-person and online! Thank you parents, youth advisors, RE Committee, Christine, Rev. Jolie, and everyone who has supported our youth and our youth programming for your trust, your vision, and your commitment to creating communities where young people can practice being in community and living out our UU values together. I look forward to hearing about how the program continues to grow under the new Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Re-imagining the Playground

As the time has come to remove the aging playground equipment, a vision has emerged from the perspectives of child development, community, religious education, and nature-based activity for all ages for a new play area. This is very exciting! A big thank you to those who have participated in the dreaming process so far. A proposed design is in the works. Stay tuned for more!

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, opportunities to engage, resources, and for links to

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

Brown Envelope Collections



For the April Brown E recipients, the SJC selected two organizations, both working in support of environmental justice and resource preservation, with donations being split between them: **Neponset River Watershed Association** (neponset.org), a grassroots, member-supported

conservation group, and **GreenRoots** (greenrootschelsea.org), working to achieve environmental justice and greater quality of life in Greater Boston. While some donations may have gone directly to the organizations, we raised \$488 in April, which the SJC rounded up to \$600 so that each group received \$300 of support.

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). Fundraising will continue until Father's Day at the Sharon Walks for Peace portal at the Peace Institute (<https://lbdpeace.z2systems.com/uusharon2021>), but to date we have already raised over \$1900, with an additional \$750 that resulted from a donor 1:1 match to early donations. Your support for this important effort is greatly appreciated.

The June Brown E recipient will be 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. There are 43 Chapters around the country doing this important work. Our chapter supports students and educators locally, organizes around LGBTQ-affirming public policy, plans teacher trainings, and hosts events for students, educators, parents, and allies.

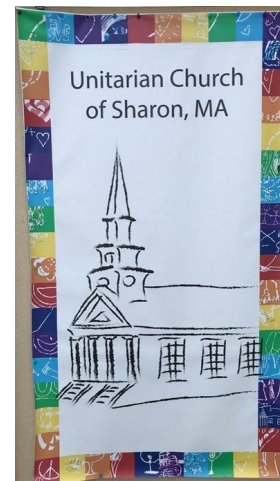
Donations to local food pantries over the past 14 months during the Covid crisis have now totaled over \$38,000, a remarkable effort that has benefited countless families in need throughout our neighborhoods. Sadly, the need continues, and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Rainbow Sunday and Pride Parade

Mark your calendars for **Rainbow Sunday** – 6 June. Weather permitting; this will be a hybrid service, with safe outdoor assembly on the church grounds along with zoom coverage thanks to the wizards of our multi-talented Zoom Task Force. As always, plan your wardrobe to feature your preferred color of the Rainbow, online or in person! Look for details in the e-blast on the Friday before the service.

Pride Boston is in transition this year, and has voted to delay the Pride Parade in Boston. As of this writing, the Arlington St UU Church has not identified an online Pride Celebration service (which has been a focal point for the UCS participation in Pride in past years); stay tuned for more details as we learn more.

A Second Annual **Sharon Pride Parade** is being planned for Sunday, 13 June; details t.b.d. by the event organizers; more when we know more!



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. 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 is to be 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.

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Stackable Garden Project Update

The towers are planted! Thanks to Alan Post for assembling the tower structure, to Bri McAlvery and Kathy Farrell for delivering soil, to Karin Hendricks and Tawnya Smith for placing wood chips under the towers, as well as to our growers: Charley and Lauren Grasso, The Quinns, Cooper and Karen Woods, Kate and Dave Slater, Jeff Rose and Barbara Nelkin-Rose, Elizabeth Siftar, and Rory and Beth McGregor. Also, thank you to those who have donated to the project and to Gare Reid and Christine Bulman for their wisdom and support.

Phase One includes the first 6 tower stacks, along with some sack plantings below, and an experiment in the Memorial Garden to raise a *Three Sister's* patch. Phase Two will explore the utilization of rainwater collected from the church roof instead of treated 'city' water, and a drip irrigation array powered by a solar panel for a sustainable footprint.

If you are still interested in participating or donating to the project, it is not too late. There are still opportunities to plant potato bags and to participate in developing the *Three Sister's* garden. Please contact Tawnya Smith at createforpeace@gmail.com for more information. Donations to cover the costs of the project are also welcome. Please send a check to the church (memo: Garden Project), or use Paypal and choose "Unitarian Church of Sharon".

Feel free to stop by the church grounds to see what is growing!



Stackable Gardens are up and running thanks to numerous volunteers and a sunny day!



On the other side of the building in the Memorial Garden, Ellen tends the 'Three Sisters' experimental plot (corn, beans and squash, growing in collaboration, with a touch of fish fertilizer below to get things going).



Garden Doyenne Tawnya inspects the top tier of plantings.



Beth & Rory find and fill their pod.



"Which side goes up on these seeds?"

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Green Energy at UCS and Climate Justice

Look for an online survey in June to explore next steps and congregational priorities as we continue to find ways to build a more sustainable community based on principles of climate justice. How might our decisions influence similar choices by other houses of worship, businesses, and residents of Sharon and other towns? Let's keep the conversation going!

Hold the date: Social Justice Fair Trade Marketplace

Wednesday, 16 June 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, 4-6pm on June 16th.

Update on Indigenous Peoples' Day Proposal for Sharon:



There was strong community support for Indigenous Peoples Day in Sharon at a spring Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC) meeting ([https://www.townofsharon.net/diversity](https://www.townofsharon.net/diversity-equity-inclusion-committee)

[-equity-inclusion-committee](https://www.townofsharon.net/diversity-equity-inclusion-committee)), and the Sharon Select Board is currently considering options for action on this topic. Since it will ultimately need to be brought to a Sharon Town Meeting to make a formal change of this nature, the DEIC had to decide whether they wanted to advise the Select Board on informally changing Columbus Day to Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples Day this year. The DEIC unanimously decided against advising the Select Board to do this, given the inherent harm involved in celebrating both holidays together. The DEIC then unanimously decided to advise the Select Board to (1) issue a resolution for October 11, 2021 that would solely recognize Indigenous Peoples Day and (2) to advise the Select Board to sponsor an article for the next town meeting to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day. 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.

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/
- Families for Justice as Healing: www.justiceashealing.org/
- The Building Up People Not Prisons coalition: www.proplenotprisons.org/about

MainSpring House Lunch Making rolls on:

While we begin to sort out how things will work as we



move out of Covid restrictions, our monthly commitment to provide bag lunches for MainSpring House remains strong. Currently family teams are signing up to assembling small batches of

lunches each month, with shopping for supplies and delivery of the 100+ lunches to Brockton covered by other volunteers. Want to get in on the action? Contact DRE Christine Bulman to sign up to help keep this commitment to our neighbors moving forward.

SJ NEWS, continued

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.



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NOTE FROM REV. JOLIE: We are seeking delegates to represent our congregation at General Assembly. If you'd like to serve as a delegate, please let me or our Board of Trustees know! Rev. Jolie

New Office Software:

Breeze and Quickbooks

In early Spring a New Business Software taskforce was formed headed by Rory McGregor and Jeff Rose with a primary focus to find a better IT solution for management of RE records. At the same time we decided to look at all the software solutions we are using in the office to see if we can find a better software to match all of our needs.

After a review we concluded that at the end of this fiscal year we will retire the infamous Church Windows software and RE excel spreadsheets and we will move to two new software packages: QuickBooks for accounting and finance, and Breeze to manage membership data, pledges and donations as well as RE data and class attendance.

Not only will the combinations of Breeze and Quickbooks provide much easier and efficient data management for the backoffice, Breeze will also serve as a front office application. That means with Breeze in place each member will be able to login online, use Breeze as an instant directory to lookup information about other congregants, update their contact information and view their pledges and contributions.

Stay tuned on more information on how to login and start using the new online Breeze software.

Linda Cveckova, Congregational Admin



Photo credit: Forbesy Russell