

the chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association**
4 North Main Street
Sharon, MA 02067
781/784-3652
www.uusharon.org

President
Rory McGregor
president@uusharon.org

Minister
Rev. Jolie Olivetti
781/784-3652 x2
minister@uusharon.org

Parental Leave Minister
Rev. Tricia Brennan
617/645-9681
revtbrennan@gmail.com

Interim Director of Religious Ed.
Christine Bulman
781/784-3652 x3
DRE@uusharon.org

Congregational Administrator
De'En Tarkpor
781/784-3652 x1
admin@uusharon.org

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OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME:

10:00 Family Service - October 10th, & 17th
10:30am Adult Service every Sunday

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

October 3: " ... the tender gravity of kindness"

Inspired by the poem *Kindness* by Naomo Shihab Nye, Rev. Tricia will preach on this elemental virtue, available to all and found in the ordinary corners of our lives.

Worship Coordinator: Valerie Vigoda

October 10: *Indigenous Peoples, The Land and Us*

Led by: Social Justice Committee

Description: This will be a Social Justice led worship service and will focus on how we as Unitarian Universalists are called to honor and celebrate Indigenous Peoples and their cultures, with special emphasis on their relationship to the land. In so honoring the culture of the Indigenous Peoples, we are reminded that their earth-centered traditions serve as one of the 6 sources of Unitarian Universalism and as a pathway to living our 7th Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

Worship Coordinator: Beth McGregor

October 17: *We Are Lifted As We Climb*

On this Sunday when the congregation rededicates the Black Lives Matter Banner after our worship service, let us pause to consider how joy and hope are embedded in the struggle for justice.

Worship Coordinator: Barbara Nelkin-Rose

October 24: *Defiant Joy*

Rabbi Joseph B. Meszler is the spiritual leader of Temple Sinai in Sharon, MA. He is a congregational rabbi, an educator, a passionate Zionist, and a human rights activist. Rabbi Meszler was a Brickner Fellow through the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and regularly participates in the RAC's lobbying efforts. He is a member and has served as organizer of the Sharon Interfaith Clergy Association, took part in AIPAC's Progressive Rabbis Mission to Israel (2018), belongs to the Hevra of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, and served as a Global Justice Fellow with American Jewish World Service in 2017-18. He was a contributor to the HuffPost Religion Blog, 2013-2018. Rabbi Meszler is also the founder and organizer of "Daf Yomi for Progressive Rabbis," a group of over 400 rabbis studying the daily Talmud page. He is the author of many books and included several anthologies.

Worship Coordinator: Peter Raskin

October 31 *All Souls Remembrance. An Intergenerational Service*

Many who touched our lives are gone now, on the other side of the veil. At mid-autumn, we stop to remember them, light candles in their memory, speak their names, and recall our love for them.

Worship Coordinator: Brad Larson

From the Parental Leave Minister



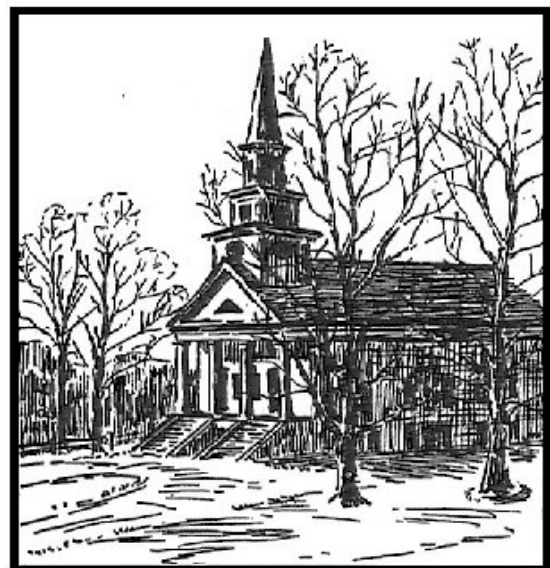
I was happy to see that Ibram X. Kendi, historian, social critic and the founding director of Boston University's Center for Anti Racist Research, was one of this year's MacArthur Fellowship winners. He is best known as the author of *Stamped from the Beginning: the Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, and *How to be an Anti-Racist*. In the latter book, Kendi argues that it's not possible to be non-racist, one must be clearly anti-racist, otherwise you are, in fact, perpetuating racism. "*The only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it- and then dismantle it,*" he writes. There is no sitting on the sidelines when it comes to creating a world where all can be free.

My own journey to be anti-racist has involved looking at my white privilege, my internal racism, and my fears of challenging whiteness, especially in my family. For me, the work has an inner focus- examining how has the world I've been raised in/ lived in has shaped my thinking in ways that are racist, and an outer focus- what actions can I take to combat racism in the world. I've been helping in doing this hard work by a group of friends- all white, all women, almost all mothers- who've met regularly to support each other. We came together in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder, moved in particular by his anguished call for his mother in his final moments.

On Sunday October 17, after service, the congregation will be rededicating the Black Lives Matter Banner that hangs on the front of the church. The very act of *re-dedicating* indicates that this work is ongoing and evolving, not just a "one and done" type of thing. A public banner is clearly anti-racism work with an outer, public focus. The Anti-Racism Working Group provides leadership here at UCS in the ongoing work of dismantling racism. They have compiled an impressive list of resources, found on the website, to support us individually and collectively in our ongoing inner and outer anti-racism work.

In acknowledging his award, Kendi spoke to the importance of a community in creating change. "*We are all creating, writing and functioning in communities where we create and work. We as individuals are nothing without the communities where we live and work.*" To that we can add, communities where we worship are in fellowship with each other. Let us be about this vital work together.

Rev. Tricia



From the President



Come From Away

These words are the title from the hit Canadian musical now playing in Boston and New York. The story is about passengers on airplanes en route to New York City on 09/11/01 who were diverted to Gander Newfoundland because air space throughout the USA

had been shut down. 7,000 anxious travelers had to figure out how to find their way home from Gander in the uncertain days following 9/11. As a frequent flyer during my business career, I could almost imagine having been on one of those planes.

I'm not sure why, but this musical popped into my mind this past month when we started planning for events and services at our church. The advent of Covid in March 2020 came in a dramatic way that I cannot forget. As host family to an international student at MIT from Berlin Germany, I received a panicked phone call from him asking for help. He had just been told to pack up his belongings and leave the country by end of week. Our daughter Madeleine called shortly after that from Manhattan and asked me to come get her because New York City was shutting down. The suddenness of these changes and the uncertain future of what life would be like is impossible to forget.

I have experienced a tremendous sense of relief and new-found purpose this past month as our church community has sprung back to life after a long period of closure due to Covid. The BYOB supper (Bring Your Own Beans) on the church lawn was the best icebreaker anyone could have asked for. It was like seeing family for the first time in a long time. Another outdoor gathering took place this past Saturday evening on church grounds to say farewell to several families moving away from the area. Just the opportunity to see them in person made the event a joyful occasion for all. And best of all has been the re-opening of our church building for worship services and outdoor religious education classes for our youth. It's like a reawakening after a long hibernation.

The anticipation of preparing for all these events has kept me busy and a little worried that all would turn out well. But looking back, why should I have ever been concerned that our community wouldn't rise to the occasion. We have a love for being together and sharing one another's company and conversation. Now that we have "come from away" and finally re-

turned to our church home, it's onward through our joint efforts to meet the many challenges of making the world a better place for all.

Rory McGregor

QUILTS FOR REV JOLIE'S DAUGHTERS

All About Quilts in Walpole Center has delivered two handmade quilts as promised before end of September – one for baby Margo, the other for 4-year-old June. Each girl's date and time of birth, weight at birth, and hospital (Brigham & Women's) are embroidered on the quilt.

Quilt #1 – Whimsical Birds

Margo Joanne Olivetti

August 4th 2021, 7:01am

7lbs 11oz

Brigham & Women's

Quilt #2 – Animals Galore

June Gertrude Olivetti

June 4th, 2017, 1:15am

6lbs 15oz

Brigham & Women's

These keepsakes for life are a gift from our congregation to Rev Jolie's family. Donations from members and friends at UCS helped pay for the handiwork. They will be displayed in the sanctuary for the first two Sundays in October if you would like a close-up look. The church building is now officially open, so stop by anytime and use your personal entry code to get in. Please wear a mask when in the building!



Quilts for Rev. Jolie's Daughters

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Calendar

Sunday October 3:

No Family Service or RE

Afternoon Family Outing: none scheduled. Want to lead? [Sign up here](#).

Parent and Caregiver 7th Grade OWL Orientation in Franklin

Tuesday October 5: Parent Orientation 8th & 9th Grade OWL 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday October 6: Parent Orientation 7th Grade OWL 7:30pm Zoom

Sunday October 10:

10:00am Family Service

10:30am Religious Education

12:30pm @ home Father Bill's Lunch Making: Families Sign up [here](#)! Note: We will also be making 20 bagged lunches on this day during RE.

Tuesday October 12:

RE Committee Meeting all welcome. 6:45pm
See church calendar for zoom link

Sunday October 17:

10:00am Family Service

10:30am Religious Education

12:30 - 2:30 Grade 7 OWL in Sharon

3:00 - 6:00pm JYG/SYG TreeTop Adventures.

[Parent Chaperone/Climbers needed.](#)

Sunday October 24:

No Family service or RE

10:00am - 1:30pm 8th & 9th Grade OWL

Afternoon Family Outing Sign up to lead [here](#)!

Sunday October 31

10:30am Intergenerational Service

[Click here](#) for additional information about Religious Education

October 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Welcome to Breeze!

We are now using Breeze, a multi-faceted church management software that not only serves as an online church directory but also allows church staff to organize and communicate with groups of people including scheduling events and volunteers and checking children into classes. Because this is such a powerful tool for religious education programming, we are inviting families to create their profiles first! Click this link to start the process. If you have questions or run into difficulty, contact Christine Bulman. See you on Breeze! <https://unitarianchurchofsharon.breezechms.com/login/create>

Register for Religious Education 2021- 2022

The new online registration form is a part of our new suite of tools through Breeze. Check it out and register your family now!

<https://unitarianchurchofsharon.breezechms.com/form/ff527d>

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 for social justice 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. The next meeting of the SJC will follow the Service on Sunday, October 3rd (still a zoom event, for now...). We'll gather at 12:15pm - all are welcome to attend.



Brown Envelope Collections

Throughout the past summer break, our Brown Envelope collection during our Lay Led services went to support the Summer Youth Programs of the UU

Urban Ministry (uumm.org). In addition to donations made directly to the Urban Ministry, we have sent in your donations totaling \$435; thank you for your generosity.

Our Brown Envelope collection in September (since the Ingathering service) has been directed to our **Partner Church in Gyulakuta**, Transylvania. For many years, our congregation has supported our Partner Church in Gyulakuta; the money we raise via our Brown Envelope Collection in September pays for a musician during their worship service and for a copy of the monthly Romanian Unitarian magazine for each family, as well as other urgent projects. They are enormously grateful for this support.

For October, the Brown Envelope donations will support the **Indigenous Environmental Network** (ienearth.org). IEN was formed by grassroots Indigenous Peoples and individuals to address environmental and economic justice issues. IEN's activities include building the capacity of Indigenous communities and tribal governments to develop mechanisms to protect our sacred sites, land, water, air, natural resources, health of both our people and all living things, and to build economically sustainable communities.



Public march in support of Treaties Not Tar Sands action to stop Line 3 (a petroleum transfer line threatening numerous natural resources in the upper Midwest, held at the Minnesota State Capitol this summer, attended by Christian Roulleau

Donations to **5 local food pantries** over the past 1½ years during the Covid crisis have now totaled over \$43,000, a remarkable effort that has benefited countless families in need throughout our neighborhoods. Sadly, the need continues, and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. Here is a letter from the Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry staff after a recent donation of food and grocery cards.

Stoughton Food Pantry dba
Ilse Marks Food Pantry
 P.O. Box 812
 Stoughton, MA 02072
 Sponsored By First United Methodist Church

September 14, 2021

Dear Unitarian Church of Sharon,

The Ilse Marks Food Pantry is sending a *huge* thank you for your extremely generous donation of grocery gift cards. Your wonderful contribution will help us to feed our families in need. It is great to be able to share these with our clients. We know how much they appreciate being able to shop for what they need. With your support we are making positive changes in many lives. Thank you again for always thinking of us.

Sincerely,

The Ilse Marks Food Pantry

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Black Lives Matter Banner update:

At the September Board of Trustees meeting, the SJC shared a synopsis of the history of the display of the Black Lives Matter message on the church grounds and building, and asked for an extension of another year to maintain the banner hanging high between the pillars of the church. The Board voted unanimously to support this important effort, a message both to the congregation as we continue to explore our commitment to racial justice and the 8th Principle, and to the world beyond our walls. We look forward to the ongoing examination of this difficult topic, working together as a community of faith.

The 8th Principle: Here is the current version as discussed at GA 2021, with well 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.

Stackable Garden Project

The Stackable Garden experiment has been a rich learning experience during this growing season. As we look forward to a final round of crop gatherings this fall, we are considering several options for a harvest celebration. Stay tuned for details of possible dates for a review what we have accomplished, and what we might add to the mix next year as we go about putting the towers to rest for the coming cold months. Thank you to all who have been participants in this collaborative project. Stop by the church grounds to see what's been growing!

Hold the date: **Social Justice Fair Trade Marketplace** on Wednesday, 20 October 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 dona-

tions, and Brown Envelope contributions at our monthly Fair Trade Marketplace in front of the church. Until we can resume Coffee Hour after Sunday services again, we will continue to offer this option on a monthly basis, to keep everyone in coffee and chocolates as needed. It's easier to put your shoulder to the wheel of justice if you have a cup of coffee in one hand....

MainSpring House Lunch Making:

We continue to assemble 120 lunches for the guests of Mainspring House in Brockton, and some additional sites supported by their programs. Until we can resume this monthly project in the Vestry after Sunday services, we encourage households to take home kits of supplies and assemble lunches; we need shoppers and delivery teams as well. Sign ups at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D49AAAE2DA3FE3-bagged>

Here is what one family's recent experience assembling the lunches felt like:



"[My son] celebrated his 11th birthday today. He really appreciated the chance to mark the occasion with this activity. We're all feeling a full heart and much gratitude after contributing to a cause that is deeply important to us... and him, in particular. Thanks for the opportunity!"

Can you help each month to maintain this longstanding effort to look after our neighbors?

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 later in the fall, but for now we remain unable to collect your gently used clothing for distribution. Hopefully, this will not remain the case for too much longer. Stay tuned.

CHURCH NEWS



WELCOME BACK!

Our church building is now OPEN!!!

During normal office hours, scheduled meetings and activities and Sunday Services.

Ring Bell or use personal access code to enter when door is locked.

WEAR MASK WHEN INSIDE BUILDING

NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED INSIDE

Except personal water bottle/cup

If you plan on attending worship services **IN-PERSON** you should [fill out this form](#) before Sunday.

The Not Boring Book Group will be discussing Cara Black's *Three Hours in Paris* at 7:30pm on Wednesday, October 6th. **The book reimagines the mystery of why, on a planned visit to Paris in June, 1940, Hitler left abruptly after three hours.**

The link to the virtual library session is <https://zoom.us/j/6525468701?pwd=b2JuMlI5TVJzWTNHZ2ZyUzVYcFh1dz09>

You're welcome to join us, whether or not you've finished (or even read) the book.

Vision for New Playground

by Sean Bisson-Donahue

I have spent the last 20 years in early childhood education, specializing in work with high-risk children who have experienced trauma. My jobs have included tens of thousands of hours in dozens of playgrounds in both California and Massachusetts.



During that time, I have been asked to help design a few playgrounds. I also attended seminary as a Master of Arts student at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley California where my colleagues were to become religious leaders in a vast variety of faiths and traditions. My strong devotion to social justice and equality has led me to become a member of the UU community.

Our church playground committee has spent the past few months developing a vision that is truly for everyone. We are confident that members, friends, and neighbors will feel welcome engaging with the new playground. In addition, it will likely attract new membership with its prime center-of-town location.

The new playground consists of 12 elements: a sluiceway (water element), a boat (blue boat home), log steps/barrier, monkey bars, 2 easels, a loom, a loose parts stage, a Rock River, 2 adult benches (with storage under the seats), an additional fence gate facing Main Street, 2 rocking benches (outside the fence), and a tree deck (with various climbing activities).

Our Board of Trustees has approved the project and appropriated a \$10,000 loan from the church Capital Reserve Fund to begin procurement of the play stations described above. A fund-raising effort will soon be under way to raise the \$15,000 needed for the total project.

We envision a future Barn Raising type effort to assemble the materials for our new playground. Families may help in some of the actual building of the playground to give children and parents a feeling of ownership and pride. It will be a very special moment in the future when a child who grew up in our church community will look upon the playground and say, "I helped build that!"