

the chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association**
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JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: INTENTION

10:00 am Family Service - January 9th, & 23rd
10:30 am Adult Service every Sunday

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

January 2 Living with Intention -Online Service

In this Chalice Circle, Rev. Jolie will share a brief message on following the wise compass of our hearts' deepest intentions. There will also be time for congregational sharing on the theme in breakout rooms.

January 9 Living a Principled Life

UU Principles Sermon Series Introduction

Once or twice a month for the next several months, Rev. Jolie will preach on one of our UU principles. Today's worship will introduce the series. What is the history of our principles and purposes? How do we uphold shared values without introducing creedalism into our free faith movement? How do our Principles help us live a life of intention?

January 16 The Call of Beloved Community– Intergenerational Service

UU Principles Sermon Series: Eighth Principle

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives." What would it mean for us as Unitarian Universalists to take this charge into our lives and our souls by adopting the Eighth Principle, which calls us to build a diverse multicultural beloved community and to dismantle racism?

January 23 When Intentions Change

Many of us set intentions but what happens after they are set? Meg will share with us some of her thoughts about intentions that were held too tight and those that were never held at all.

January 30 Come As You Are, As You Wanted To Be

UU Principles Sermon Series: First Principle

Our First Principle calls us to believe that we are worthy regardless of how much we may fall short of our best intentions. How do we reconcile our conviction in the inherent goodness of humanity with the very real harm we are capable of?

From the Minister



New Year's greetings to you all. The new year can bring many different things: pressure to fix our lives with a series of resolutions, regret and satisfaction as we look back at another year gone by, hope for a fresh start. This year as we put up our new calendars, we also carry with us the heavy recognition that we are approaching two years in the throes of this global pandemic. We are still on this unprecedented journey, with its grief and losses, its acts of kindness and incredible endurance, its life-giving treatments and vaccines which offer us hope along the way.

Just a few weeks ago, several of us walked our labyrinth in the church parking lot. Flickering candles in glass jars and evergreens in spirals at our feet, flute music in our ears, we walked the meandering path which takes us in turns towards the center and away from the center. While we walked, the young people who had helped set it up enjoyed a fire and hot chocolate nearby on the grounds, and others of our community arrived to participate in or attend the choir's Solstice event. While we walked, we sometimes crossed paths with one another, squeezing around each other in the labyrinth's tight curves. We moved slow, we moved fast, we walked with hesitation, we walked with quiet confidence. Our movements were not perfect but they were beautiful. As we move into this new year, let us remember that, though sometimes we seem to be going away from our center and sometimes we stumble, we are always on the path together. Author Neil Gaiman said:

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something. So that's my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make New Mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life. Whatever it is you're scared of doing, Do it.

Make your mistakes, next year and forever.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

p.s. You can now book appointments with me at www.calendly.com/revjolie. I look forward to meeting with you!

From the President



A YEAR END LIKE NO OTHER

It is Christmas eve. The decorated tree in our living room awaits Santa's arrival. The grandsons are tucked in. They have hatched a scheme to get up in the middle of the night and peek at Santa during his visit to 52 Upland. Anxiety and

allergies keep them awake on and off through the night, but they fail to hear his whoosh down the chimney. Morning comes and they rush downstairs to the tree surrounded by colorfully wrapped gifts. Although they have missed their chance to see Santa, the scene does not disappoint. Among the first presents that they open are the heaviest. They turn out to be food items with a personal note from Santa directing them to help feed the hungry. They show me the stash of cans and boxes and insist that we go to the food pantry bin at church later that morning. This tradition started a year ago and seems to have taken hold.



Food items for donation to the Food Pantry.

positive. That discovery brought a quick end to the gathering as everyone packed up to go home and hopefully stay safe.

Our daughter's family scheduled PCR Covid tests the day after Christmas for the other three members. Results came within 24 hours and confirmed that she and the other grandson were also positive. Only her husband turned out negative. The obvious course of action was for all at the gathering to get the PCR test as soon as possible.

Our other daughter was familiar with a local organization called Project Beacon that was scheduling free PCR Covid tests in Framingham and New Bedford. Everyone was tested within the next day. I was the only one who turned out to be positive.

Sickness from Covid in our family, which is completely vaccinated, exhibits a mix of flu and cold-like symptoms. Appetites appear to be ok. The most difficult challenge in being Covid positive has been to work out self-isolation protocols to keep other family members safe.

The grandsons live in Somerville. They cannot return to school until they have completed a 10-day isolation period. Somerville has not adopted the new CDC recommendation for the shorter 5-day period. The rapid rate of infection spread will become a challenge for schools should teaching staffs fall victim. Data tells us that the contagious Omicron coupled with the lingering Delta make this a distinct possibility.

The extended McGregor family gathered for Christmas dinner at our house later that day. We all took rapid Covid tests in the morning to verify that everyone was healthy. One of the grandsons seemed a bit sniffly during the afternoon meal. We administered a new rapid test and, to our surprise, he was positive. We gave him a second rapid test, just to be sure, and it was also

Rory McGregor

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As I write this newsletter entry, I am reflecting on the Revels service that happened just this morning. A combination of interim staffing and a pandemic necessitated adaptations to this traditional UCS holiday service, but the service itself endured! The joyful feedback I heard was that it retained its flavor yet with a refreshing simplicity; and that it was a good balance “between thoughtful, inclusive, moving, and not overly stressful!”. I say this not to pat myself on the back, because that would be misdirected. It was together, through conversations and brainstorming, that several of us conceived of the 2021 Revels and worked to make it happen. This is your *holiday tradition*, and it was *re-invented this year, largely by you*. Although I made a mark here and there, I mainly coordinated it.

This is as it should be. I like to think of a DRE as someone who supports the vision of the congregation. Those who will reap the benefits of the programming decide what they want, and the DRE helps them achieve it. But not single handedly. They advise, coordinate, and lead efforts yet collaboration is the lifeblood of that which we bring to fruition. It was your voices in the room, your invested presence, your opinions, ideas and creativity that shaped this year's Revels service. The pandemic and interim staffing are going to necessitate continued adaptations to the religious education programming here at UCS. I have no idea what the winter will bring but I have every confidence that together we will navigate the adaptations we need to make. I hope that when we look back on the RE program in a few months, when winter eases its hold, that we see something representative of your values and vision and that the sentiments of meaning, inclusion, simplicity and ease are still with us!

In Faith,

Christine

Senior Youth Group



The Senior Youth Group did a lot in December! From Soul Collage Cards to a cookie decorating party (and competition), to building the Solstice labyrinth and having hot cocoa and s'mores around a fire we packed a lot into a month. It was wonderful to see new and returning faces!

ANNOUNCEMENT: January Pause for Religious Education

Due to the predicted disruptive nature of the Omicron variant, we have decided to pause indoor RE programming for the month of January. In addition to attempting to limit the spread of Covid-19, there are a number of other reasons why it makes sense to make this move, among them being that the predicted rise in cases and exposures will create a significant impact on attendance - both for participants and for staff and volunteers who facilitate the RE classes. Also, exposures in the form of close contact during RE time would be an added stress to staff and families during an already stressful time.

This applies to the following programs:

- Sunday morning RE
- Junior Youth Fellowship
- Senior Youth Group
- OWL 8/9 & 7/8

The first three could potentially meet outdoors on occasion in January, or on Zoom, but due to the nature of OWL, that program will simply pause. We will begin to reconsider in-person programming in late January. Check the weekly church news for updates!



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.

Brown Envelope Collections

Our Brown Envelope recipient during November was the **Gifts for Kids** program, an annual effort to support regional families in economic distress during the holiday season (www.giftsforkidsma.org). Donations collected here totaled \$1,361, but GFK has reported to us that an additional \$4,575 came directly to them from UCS members and friends, for a combined \$5,936 of support from our church this year - an amazing outpouring of loving support during these troubled times.

The Brown Envelope recipient for December is **NeighborWorks Housing Solutions** (www.nhsmass.org). Health and well-being start with having a safe and affordable home in a stable and opportunity-rich community, and NeighborWorks promotes these conditions by developing housing, and by providing housing resources and education in collaboration with partners in the public and private sectors.

During our Christmas Eve services this year, we once again devoted the entire collection to **Father Bill's & MainSpring House** in Brockton (<https://helpfbms.org>) to support their work on behalf of the homeless population in our region.

In January 2022, the Brown E recipient will be the **Eastern Massachusetts Abortion Fund** (emafund.org). EMA Fund envisions a world where every person has the right to bodily self determination including the means to access an abortion or carry a pregnancy to term without social or economic barriers. They envision a world where every person has the right to determine their own future. The EMA Fund is one of more than 100 abortion funds around the country, and is a member of the National Network of Abortion Funds. Donations will be collected in the Sanctuary during services, online at the UCS donation portal, or given directly to EMA Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

Food Pantry Donations:

Our ongoing special collection for the Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry, and 4 other local pantries in adjacent towns, has raised over \$48,475 to date. As the Covid pandemic continues to evolve, the needs at our local food pantries continue to expand, and they are grateful for our support. Donations by check to the church are converted to Shopping for Justice grocery cards (and that means that we can increase your donation by the 5% discount that we get from the stores), which the pantries then distribute to their guests. This effort for well over 1½ years has been truly astounding – thank you to all who have participated.

Martin Luther King Day: Monday, January 17th

We are hoping that you will find a way to honor MLK Day this year and reflect on the work that still lies ahead in creating a truly just, equitable and inclusive world in which oppression and systemic racism are demolished. Here are some ways and events to engage in as we go about this important work:

- 1) Town of Stoughton – Annual MLK Day Event (detailed information will be provided in the [Friday](#) Chalice once received)
- 2) View the recording of the 50-minute presentation provided last year by the Anti-Racism Working Group. There are a few technological glitches and some of the remarks may be a bit out of date yet the overall message still holds true: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pvNjE95MrqvS7aRVuXx90NtLGz4W8S44/view>
- 3) Read the Ware lecture delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the UUA General Assembly on [May 18](#), 1966 – Don't Sleep Through the Revolution: <https://www.uua.org/ga/past/1966/ware>
- 4) Watch a Worship Service by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson (UUFC) revolving around the MLK's 1966 Ware lecture to the UUA General Assembly <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAnKWcPLI3c>
- 5) We are also hoping to provide another program at 4pm on [January 17](#), 2022, which would be a time for gathering VIRTUALLY and honoring MLK's message of love and his call for action to abolish racism and all forms of oppression. It will likely include some worship elements along with time for sharing, based on MLK's 1966 Ware lecture - "Don't Sleep Through the Revolution" - given to the UUA. We will also explore how it ties into our calling, as UUs, to adopt the 8th Principle. (Watch for updates about this in the [Friday](#) Chalice.)

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

The 8th Principle - A challenge for our times

Below are some thoughts recently shared by Reverend Jolie Olivetti about the ongoing need for examining the principles of our faith, including a new effort by the UUA to commit to bringing forward a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community as we journey toward spiritual wholeness. The SJC looks to engage the entire congregation in this work in the coming months - stay tuned and lean in!

Dear Ones,

Ever since I was a UU kid, our Seven Principles have held special meaning for me. As a teen, I carried around a little card in my wallet with the Principles on it, ready to share our values with anyone who was curious or who tried to claim "Unitarians don't believe in anything." For all my attachment to our Seven Principles, I have to remember that they are not set in stone. When the Unitarian and Universalist denominations first consolidated in 1961, we had only six principles with very different words, including multiple mentions of "man" and "brotherhood." Largely thanks to the efforts of women in our movement such as the UU Women's Federation, the words were changed in 1984. At that time we also added our seventh principle which calls us to respect the interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part.

And now, almost 40 years later, the time has come yet again to revise our Principles and Purposes. A grassroots movement has been afoot since 2013 to adopt the Eighth Principle, which calls us 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." UU churches all over the country have voted to adopt this principle as autonomous congregations, and we have a Commission which has been charged with making a proposal for a formal change to our UUA Bylaws that includes the essence of the Eighth Principle in January 2023.

History buffs, policy wonks, and theologians alike all may find something exciting in the Eighth Principle Project. But above all, this process speaks to us as Unitarian Universalists, ever striving to live into the promise of an all-embracing love. Dear ones of the Unitarian Church of Sharon, will you join me in considering whether we will adopt the Eighth Principle as a congregation? Beginning in January 2022, I will offer a monthly sermon series on our Seven Principles, and I will include regular reflections on what the Eighth Principle can offer us as a faith community. Will you join the conversation?

Want to learn more right now? There are so many resources out there. Here's a selection from our UU World magazine, our UUA, and the Eighth Principle Project itself:

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/the-uuas-original-principles-1961>

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/how-uu-principles->

purposes-were-adopted

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/call-antiracist-commitment>

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/blog/8thprinciple-0>

<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background>

Yours in faith,

Rev. Jolie

Proposed UCS Restroom label changes:



The SJC continues to solicit feedback on the proposal to relabel the restroom facilities at our church to be more inclusive and welcoming. A recent unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees has approved the proposed changes, and after a period of time for congregational reflection and discussion, we anticipate making the change to gender-neutral signage for all of our restroom facilities.

Currently, there are two identical but separated 2-stall restrooms upstairs, one labeled for 'women', the other for 'men', along with two single stalls restrooms for anyone to use at the lower level. The proposed plan is to designate all restrooms for "all genders." The 2 bathrooms downstairs can also be used for people who prefer a private space or aren't ready yet for sharing facilities.

We understand that this change will be challenging for many of us, as it raises numerous issues and concerns. We hope to hear from congregants about their reactions, both pro and con, as we move toward this next phase of inclusivity. Our proposed changes will challenge the binary gender assumptions that so many of us have grown up with, and assert the respect for each individual to use our facilities equally.

The SJC is planning for a number of opportunities to discuss and reflect on this change in labeling, including online polling and a 'Response Box' for your reactions (anonymous if you prefer), learning from other UUs who have already taken this step, small group discussions, Sr and Jr Youth gatherings, and via existing church committees. Depending on what we hear from the congregation, we hope to install the new restroom labels in early 2022. We look forward to hearing everyone's thoughts and reactions to this plan.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued**CHURCH NEWS**

So, what does it take to keep this congregation going through a busy holiday season? Here's what went out the door at the December Fair Trade Marketplace! You can restock your shelves for 2022 on

FT Marketplace – Wednesday, 19 January, 3-5pm

Until Covid allows us to return to the Vestry for after-service Coffee Hour on a regular basis, the SJC will continue to offer our monthly Fair Trade Marketplace for pre-ordered coffee, chocolates, other special food items, as well as Shopping for Justice (S4J) grocery cards. Look for an email to the congregation in early January for details about what, when and how to order, and then stop by the church on 19 January between 3 & 5pm to gather your goods. Thanks for your patronage – all profits support various Social Justice projects and programs, and our S4J program funds the 120 bag lunches that we assemble and send to the MainSpring House homeless shelter in Brockton each month.

CommUnity Closet update:

Our 5 Point Cluster program for distributing donated clothing remains in limbo. Behind the scenes a team of volunteers from all of the churches continues to evaluate plans and scenarios for resuming the program, but for the time being, we are unable to accept clothing donations.

Breeze Reminder:

For members who haven't signed up for Breeze yet, you should use this link to create an account and select a password:

<https://unitarianchurchofsharon.breezechms.com/login/create>

You will see this page:

If you have trouble, you can send an email to membership@uusharon.org or itchair@uusharon.org

If you already have an account, you should use this link:

<https://unitarianchurchofsharon.breezechms.com>

If you already have an account but **forgot your password**, you should use this link:

<https://unitarianchurchofsharon.breezechms.com/login/password>

CHURCH NEWS, continued

UCS Room Reservation Procedure for Events and Meetings

Submit room reservation request on the church calendar. Person who submits the request will be responsible for compliance with the following guidelines.

Occupancy limits for rooms are listed here and posted outside the entrance to each room.

Program Room A – 14

Program Room B – 12

Program Room A & B – 22

Program Room C – 12

Vestry – 30

Nursery - 9

Library – 10

Sanctuary – 50

Masks are required.

Social distancing at 6 feet is required.

Window (s) open at least half-way. This is still under review by Buildings & Grounds.

No food or drink allowed, except bottled water.

Turn on air purifier. Set temperature for room thermostat. Turn off both before leaving.

List name of your event and all attendees with contact info (phone or email) and leave on Admin desk in church office. Use back side if additional space is needed.

NAME OF
EVENT _____

DATE _____

ATTENDEES listed below
CONTACT INFO listed below

Staying Connected!

When you're doing something or discovering something new that's particularly enjoyable, do you ever wish you could share it with fellow members?

If you would like to help keep people engaged during this challenging, and often isolating time, organizing or helping to organize an event, online or off, the Fellowship Committee is here to help!

While we would love to have new members, you do not have to join us to offer an event.

Just send an email to any one of these addresses to let us know!

Gautam Trivedi <gpatri2005@gmail.com>, Jennifer Theiler <jennytheiler29@gmail.com>, Kate Slater <kate.zlater@gmail.com>, Lauren Grasso <lkgrasso@gmail.com>, Nathaniel Plumridge <natplum@gmail.com>, Patty Fitzgerald <pmfitzie@gmail.com>, Rev. Jolie Olivetti <minister@uusharon.org>, sadie dussault <sadiedussault@gmail.com>, Susan Edinger <susanedinger@yahoo.com>.

Thanks!
Fellowship Committee, at your service

DID YOU KNOW?

There are TWO church email notification systems you can sign up for? The first is for official business and is only used by church administrators for important announcements, snow days, etc.

The OTHER is the Social List, where you get notified - or can notify others - of opportunities and fun events coming up

sooner than you might have thought, so they don't pass you by

in the crazy hubbub of life!

It's easy to join! Check it out here!

How do I sign up for the Social Discussion list?

Simply send an email to social-subscribe@lists.uusharon.org or [click this link](#) You will receive a confirmation e-mail and instructions for what to do.

CHURCH NEWS, continued

The Not Boring Book Group

The Not Boring Book Group will skip our January meeting and next convene via Zoom on Wednesday, February 2nd, in the Virtual Library.

Our read will be *All That She Carried*, by Tya Miles. In this National Book Award winner, a renowned historian traces the life of a single object handed down through three generations of Black women to craft an extraordinary testament to people who are left out of the archives.

As always, you're welcome to join us even if you haven't finished or even read the book; the themes will provoke lively discussion.

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

Conversations at the Meetinghouse

Friday January 7, 2022, 7PM

Let's Laugh in 2022 During These Challenging Times

Bill and Linda Hamaker, Certified Laughter Yoga Master Trainers,

Laughter Ambassadors and Members of UUSharon for 11 Years

Hosted by: Unitarian Church of Sharon

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

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

Meeting ID: 652 546 8701

Password: 3652

Bill and Linda Hamaker, Certified Laughter Yoga Master Trainers and the founders of

"Let's Laugh Today" (www.letslaughtoday.com) will show you tools for helping to cope in these challenging times and teach you how to bring more laughter into your life! Laughter Yoga combines guided laughter exercises with breathing exercises to bring more oxygen to the body's cells. This oxygen boost gives enhanced vitality, energy and a feeling of real well-being even after just one session. Any age and any level of physical ability can do these simple exercises. You can sit or stand in front of your computer in the comfort of your own home on Zoom! A pretend laugh even has all the same health benefits as a real one, but turns into a real laugh when practiced in a group. Laughing strengthens the immune system, unwinds the negative effects of stress, lowers blood pressure, lifts your spirits, improves mental alertness and much, much more.

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

Monthly Stewardship Meeting

Sunday January 23, 2022 @ 12:30 pm

Monthly Stewardship Gathering: Our Values and Our Budget with Karen Zelevinsky, Finance Chair

Please join the Stewardship Committee for a lively 30-minute discussion with Karen Zelevinsky, the Unitarian Church of Sharon's Finance Chair. Carl Jung famously said, "You are what you do, not what you say you'll do". In a similar way, we, (as in our UCS community) "are" what we spend money on. Our budget is an expression of our values. During this conversation we'll review our budget priorities and remind attendees about the budgetary process. Our annual budget isn't finalized until we complete our annual pledge campaign in March and April. Think of this meeting as a kick-off to our budget process. It will be a good review for long-time members and will help newer members appreciate how their annual pledge is spent.

<https://zoom.us/j/8492141385?pwd=c051YkIVUGtOOFN1V21MVXFBRXplQT09>

"Spirit of Life" Adult RE Class with Rev. Jolie
Six sessions, Alternating Sundays
January 30, February 13, Feb 27, March 13, March 27, April 10

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

In this class based on the Tapestry of Faith curriculum from our UUA, we will share space, time, and community to explore our Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each session will focus on a different aspect of spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade's song "Spirit of Life," a favorite of our UU hymns. Like the song, the workshops are designed to be welcoming to Unitarian Universalists of many spiritual and theological persuasions. Participants are invited to claim an inclusive definition of spirituality and recognize the spiritual aspects of their lives. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each workshop.

Would you like to be part of this class?

I will decide if we will meet ONLINE or IN PERSON with input from those interested. Please RSVP to minister@uusharon.org and express your needs and/or preferences.

SPACE IS LIMITED! RSVP TODAY!

Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions so we can build community as a small group exploring spirituality. That said, I welcome all registrants whether or not you can make it to every class.