

the chalice

Published by the
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of the Unitarian
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MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: PEACE

10:00 am Family Service - May 1st, 8th & 15th

10:30 am Adult Service every Sunday

5/22 Service is Intergenerational

For Zoom information [click here](#)

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

May 1 Peace is Possible

UU Principles Series: 6th Principle

What do the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, Mother's Day, and our 6th Principle have in common? They all stand for the belief that *peace is possible*. Join us in worship this Sunday as we prepare for the [Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#) and reflect on how the transformative work of the Peace Institute connects to our UU faith. Rev. Jolie will share the pulpit with a guest from the Peace Institute.

May 8 At Church: My Rollercoaster Faith Journey and Why It Matters Or: Join the Mother's Day Walk for Peace (Register [here](#))

UCS Member and BU School of Theology Seminarian Rumni Saha will lead our worship today on "My Rollercoaster Faith Journey and Why It Matters." Rev. Jolie will be at the [Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#) in support of the Peace Institute. Join her at the walk, or come to church and hear Rumni preach - it's a win-win!

May 15 Credo Service

UU Principles Series: 4th Principle

Each year we dedicate a worship service to hear the credo statements of some of our fellow church members. Courtney Hopkins and Mike Quinn will share their credos with us, and Rev. Jolie will offer a reflection on our 4th Principle: what it means that UU's are called to a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

May 22 Religious Education and Bridging Sunday

A special intergenerational service that celebrates those who participated in the religious education classes this year, from children in our indoor/outdoor programs to adolescents in the OWL program. Let us also join the Senior Youth Group in bidding farewell to the seniors as they bridge into the young adult UU community. Followed by a celebratory coffee hour.

May 29 Five Points Cluster Service in Canton and Moose Hill Family Sunday

This Memorial Day Weekend, UCS members and friends are invited to join with the other members of our Five Points Cluster to worship at FPUU Canton. No worship at UCS today. *RE Families will join Interim DRE Christine Bulman at Mass Audubon's Moose Hill from 10-11:30 today.*

From the Minister



At a worship service I once attended, UU religious educator Lauren Wyeth told the story of the time her preschool-aged son overheard her humming the tune of “On Top of Old Smokey.” He asked, “What song are you singing, mama?” Not knowing the words to Old Smokey, she sang the one about pasta: “On top of spaghetti, all covered in cheese, I lost my poor meatball, when somebody sneezed.” She sang as many verses as she knew about the saga of the lost meatball, and was surprised and concerned when he burst into tears. “Sing it again,” he insisted through sobs. Thinking he was crying that it was over, she obliged. But he kept on crying, and he asked her to sing it yet again. She asked him why he was crying, and his reply was, “the poor meatball.” “I won’t sing it anymore, then,” she said, hugging him close. She tried talking to him about why it was making him so sad. But he was having none of that. He needed her to sing it through several more times, and he needed to sit there and cry as she held him and sang to him. Finally he said, “ok, that’s enough.” His tears dried up, he took a deep breath, and went about his day.

This story has stuck with me since that day in worship because of what it says about grief. We often want to stop a loved one’s flow of tears. We grab the tissues, we offer consolation, we think we are supposed to help them hasten to the end of their sorrow. But grief doesn’t always need to be stopped. Rather, the story of this little kid and the meatball song suggests that sometimes we need an outlet for our grief. We need to know it’s OK to have difficult times, and we need to know it’s OK to just sit what we’re feeling or what our loved ones are feeling.

This pandemic has presented us with a whole spectrum of losses. We are reemerging into the lives we once knew, and at the same time we know that some things are forever changed. The grief we may feel about what we have been through and what we continue to go through can sneak up on us, surprising us amidst our days that continue to be hectic and breathless.

Seventeenth-century French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal said, “in difficult times, carry something beautiful in your heart.” The beautiful thing we carry can be the present moment itself. To return to the wisdom of preschoolers: I recently started doing a five senses meditation with my four-year-old daughter. Whether out on a walk, or in the middle of a difficult moment, it can be nourishing to pause and notice: *What do I hear? What do I see? What do I smell? What do I taste? And, what do I touch?* When we return to our bodies like this, it helps us find ourselves once again in the present. Then we can feel whatever it is we need to feel, and we may even discover something beautiful.

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



May – Month of Decisions

I know that our high school seniors are wrestling with decisions about what lies ahead after graduation. It takes me back to May 2001 when our daughter Madeleine had already been accepted into college at U Mass Amherst. She approached Beth and me to express her wish to postpone college and spend a year with an organization called City Year. Friends in the class ahead of her had joined the Boston chapter and encouraged her to do the same. The City Year mission at that time was to help inner-city public-school youth participate in after school and weekend programs that would keep them engaged in meaningful skill-development activities supporting their education.

The Boston Chapter of City Year had already achieved its quota of volunteers but recommended that she apply to the Providence Chapter where new corps members were still needed. Madeleine's determination to do a gap year introduced our family to the engaging City Year program and convinced us to become financial supporters and proactive cheerleaders encouraging young adults to consider this path of volunteering a year of their service. In reward for our involvement over the past 20 years, we have been awarded our own Red Jackets, the signature trademark of City Year corps members when you spot them on the streets of Boston and Providence.



The Red Jacket is awarded to supporters who have made significant contributions to the City Year program.

You may ask what does this have to do with us at UCS? May is the month when we need to make decisions about next year's church budget. Consumer costs have increased because of significant inflation driving most things up by more than 8%. At the same time worker wages have gone up as well! Our annual pledge campaign has raised enough dollars to equal where we were a year ago, but nothing more to deal with inflation. Where does that leave our church staff? Still waiting to know if we can raise additional pledges and give their salaries a boost.

What is your response to our Stewardship Chair's recent request for reconsidering whether to give a little extra? How about our members and friends on the sidelines during Covid who have been reluctant to connect with the church community? Now is a great time to let your voice be heard. It's our opportunity to support our hard-working professional staff and give them the raises that they have earned based on their performance during these difficult times. Rise to the challenge and respond positively to Peter Raskin's request that we compensate our staff fairly for services rendered.

I sincerely believe that the Red Jacket mentality is alive and well among our caring members and friends at UCS.

Rory McGregor

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Youth Programming

First and foremost I want to give another huge thank you to all the young people who participated in our Youth Led Worship Service at the end of March. We are so excited by the response the Youth Service received and all the meaningful conversations and ideas coming out of it. So grateful to be a part of a community that embraces change, and hard conversations!

May is going to be a really exciting month in both JYF and SYG. It has been a full year of programming and I am looking forward to celebrating with you all.

JYF had an awesome April meeting filled with tacos, seedlings, and planting for Spring! Thank you to everyone who joined us. For our May meeting we will be going to Boda Borg on May 15th from 3:00-5:00pm. Please fill out this form if your child plans to attend. 8th graders in JYF are also invited to a special welcoming event hosted by SYG on May 8th from 5:00-6:30 at UCS. This is a time to welcome all 8th graders into SYG for the coming year.

SYG also has A LOT planned for May including an outing to Boda Borg on May 15th from 4:00-6:00pm! Please fill out this form if your child plans to attend.

Please see the RE Calendar below for all SYG and JYF dates, meetings and information. It's going to be a packed month filled with lots of exciting events! Please reach out to Kate with any questions.

A message from Kate Oldshue:

Dear UCS community,

As I have shared with all the young people and adult volunteers who I work with here, I will not be continuing as the Youth Ministry Coordinator at UCS next Fall. I have been offered a full time job teaching by my other employer which will start September 2022. Teaching is my passion, and this feels like an opportunity I cannot pass up. However, I am sad to leave this role, and especially to no longer be working directly with all of the amazing young people who are a part of this community. It has truly been an honor to grow with and learn from everyone at UCS. While I will not be returning in the Fall, I am fully committed to seeing through this spring with commitment and rigor to both the young people and this community at large. Please reach out to me if you have any questions, or concerns or simply want to talk this through more with me.

With much care,
Kate

RE Calendar

May 1

Family Service 10am - A Time for Peace
RE Grades K- 6 10:30am - Special Guest Jean Fox
OWL Grade 7 12:30 - 3:30 at Sharon, final session!
OWL Grade 8/9 10:00 - 12:30am A/B
SYG 5:00 - 6:30 pm

May 8

Family Service 10am - Mothers
RE Grades K- 6 10:30am - Father Bill's Lunch Making
SYG 5:00 - 6:30 pm - welcoming event for 8th graders

May 15

Family Service 10am - 4th Principle
RE Grades K- 6 10:30am
Playground coffee hour 11:30am
JYFG 3:00 - 5:00pm Boda Borg!
SYG 4:00 - 6:00pm Boda Borg!

May 22

Intergenerational Service 10:30am - RE Sunday:
End of year celebration and Bridging Seniors
OWL Grade 8/9: 9:30 - 11:30 (second hour in the service)
Congregational Visioning with Childcare 12:00 - 2:00pm

May 29 Memorial Day Weekend

Faith Among the Trees for families
10:00 am Moose Hill
No SYG

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



For the March Brown E recipient, the SJC had chosen the program called UTEC, but after the March Chalice was published, the circumstances in Ukraine unfolded and

the decision was made to support the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Emergency Response Fund** focused on Ukrainian refugee relief (uusc.org). Generous donations totaling \$2,862.15 have been collected for this critical work; thank you for your generosity.

The April Brown Envelope collection will go to the environmental justice work of the **Neponset River Watershed Association** (Neponset.org). The NepWRA is a grassroots, member-supported conservation group working since 1967 to clean up and protect the Neponset River, its tributaries and surrounding watershed lands.

26th ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

05.08.2022



"Building Together for Generation Peace"

Again this spring the SJC has chosen to support the **Louise D. Brown Peace Institute** (<https://ldbpeaceinstitute.org/>) and their 26th annual **Mother's Day Walk for Peace**; this year our May fundraising will focus on their work. Several options exist to make donations: via our usual Brown Envelope collections, in person on Sunday mornings or online throughout

May, as well as direct pledges of support on the Institute website under the banner of our own team "5 Points Cluster UU's" where you can register to walk as well as make donations ([5-Points-Cluster-UUs](#)). We are hoping for a strong contingent of walkers to join Reverend Jolie and other Sharon Interfaith participants, along with members from our Cluster congregations for the program and walk starting in Dorchester on Sunday, 8 May. Details on timing, transportation, and the walking route can be found here: [Peace Walk 2022](#); look for carpool and train transportation options to follow. Please consider making this event a part of your Mother's Day plans this year. (A lay-led service will happen in Sharon for those unable to travel to Boston that morning.)

Food Pantry Donations:

Our ongoing special collection for the Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry (and now including the Community Food Pantry managed by the Congregational Church of Sharon) plus 4 other local pantries in adjacent towns, has raised over \$52,700 in the 2+ years since the economic impact of Covid began to take hold. As the pandemic evolves, the needs at our local food pantries continue, 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. And we of course continue to accept canned and other staple food items in the collection bins at church: kid snacks, canned soups and ready-to-eat cereal are especially requested. As we enter the 3rd year of the Covid pandemic, this ongoing effort by our community is making a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. Thank you for your generosity!



Ukrainian Easter Bread Raisin Babka – thanks to Elaine Price!

(Continued on next page)

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Food Pantry cont.,

UCS Bakers and others are supporting the Pantries too! Several of our fabulous UCS bakers are offering occasional fine baked goods in exchange for donations to the Food Pantry Project. As a means to highlight the need, and to build connections within our own congregation, they are offering baked goods on a "Claim it and it's yours for a Food Pantry donation" basis; look for email notices in the UCS Social list and make your commitment asap. We have also seen offers of high quality household items being offered in exchange for donations to the Pantries - what a creative bunch we are! Missed out on your chance for a cake or a loaf? Go ahead and make a donation anyway (checks mailed to the church, online portal donation, or actual food stuffs in the outdoor collection bin at the church entrance are all easy options), and try again in the weeks to come. Not on the email list? [Simply send an email to Social-subscribe@lists.uusharon.org](mailto:Social-subscribe@lists.uusharon.org) and you will receive a confirmation e-mail and instructions for what to do to join this fun effort to support our community members in need. It's fun, tasty, and a great way to support a very important cause!



Thanks to diligent hunting by our youngest congregants, many boxes of canned goods were recently sent to the Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry after our annual Easter Can Hunt on the church grounds. A big 'Thank You' to all who helped!

Give Light: Spiritual Support for Climate Activism- An interactive, multifait workshop led by Rev. Fred Small May 1st, 2-4 pm (in person):

As we come to understand the gravity of climate disruption, it's easy to become disheartened. How do we maintain equanimity and compassion for ourselves and others while sustaining effective activism? In this interactive workshop welcoming all faith traditions and spiritual orientations, Rev. Fred Small will invite us into guided meditation, reflection, conversation, and song, fortifying our spirits and deepening our resolve in the struggle for climate justice. All are encouraged to attend this exciting workshop!

FT Marketplace – Wednesday, 18 May, 4-6pm (2+ years and counting at this...!)

Now that we are getting used to a return to our traditional Coffee Hour in the Vestry after Sunday services, including our Social Justice Corner for Fair Trade goods and Shopping for Justice cards, the SJC will explore ways to continue to offer our monthly Marketplace for pre-ordered coffee, chocolates, other special food items, as well as S4J grocery cards. For May, we will once again offer pickups on the 3rd Wednesday afternoon. If you aren't back to doing your Social Justice purchases on Sunday mornings in the Vestry, look for an email to the congregation in early May for details about what, when and how to order, and then stop by the church on 18 May between 4-6pm to gather your goods.

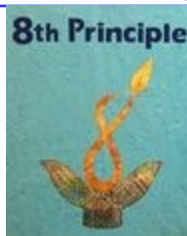
Concerned about how our Fair Trade sales have stood up during Covid? Not to worry – sales remained strong (everybody seems to need coffees, teas, chocolates and grocery cards!), and we were recently honored to be recognized by Equal Exchange as being in the **top 5% nationwide** of congregations who are "making big change for small farmers". Thank you to all of our patrons who help support this effort of economic and social justice work!



Sadly, after a long run of stable pricing for our Fair Trade products, we have been forced to recalibrate many of our prices this spring in response to a price increase from Equal Exchange, mostly for coffee and chocolates. We hope that this won't deter you from ordering these high quality products that are provided with principles of economic justice for the farmers and others in the supply chain. Thanks for your patronage – all profits support various Social Justice projects and programs, and our S4J program funds the 90 bag lunches that we assemble and send to the MainSpring House homeless shelter in Brockton each month.

SJC Meeting for May: the monthly SJC meeting will be on a zoom gathering, on Sunday, May 1st at 12:15pm; look for the link in the UCS Calendar this month.

8th Principle



LEARN, REFLECT, VOTE

As the UCS Board of Trustees has now officially approved inclusion of a warrant article to vote on adoption of the 8th principle at our annual meeting this coming June, the Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) wants to be sure we provide opportunities for the congregation to engage in learning more about the 8th Principle and consider what it would mean to adopt it here at UCS. Although a formal first vote on adopting the 8th Principle as part of the revisions proposed by the Article II Study Commission will not take place until the 2023 General Assembly, (GA) it will be a focus of discussion at this upcoming summer's GA. Additionally, as of April 11th of this year, 159 individual congregations have already adopted the 8th Principle, expressing their support for the GA to vote "YES" when the vote is formally taken. (For more info about Article II and the Study Commission, see below).

In keeping with the current discussions taking place on both a congregational and institutional level AND with our own potential vote this June, we have created a specific page on the UCS website to provide you with important information about the 8th Principle and keep you up-to date on important events. You can open the **NEW 8th PRINCIPLE WEB-SITE** page by [CLICKING HERE](#). We especially encourage you to check out the section titled **"Watch and Listen to Learn More"** –which provides links to some videos we believe you will find helpful and interesting.

We encourage you to take some time to familiarize yourself with this [New Website Page](#) and then fill out this [Inquiry Form](#) to share with us your thoughts and questions.

ARTICLE II AND THE ARTICLE II STUDY COMMISSION

The Article II Study Commission is a commission which is intended to be established at least every 15 years to review Article II of the UUA Bylaws, Principles and Purposes. Article II is considered to be "the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA." [<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>]

Our current Principles and Purposes were last revised in 1987 and at GA that same year, there were discussions around amending some additional principles as well as adding an 8th Principle to specifically address racism.

In 2020, a new Article II Study Commission was fully seated and convened with the instruction to review Article II and, as stated in their mission, to "propose any revisions that will enable our UUA, our member congregations, and our covenanted communities to be a relevant and powerful force for spiritual and moral growth, healing, and justice."

Since being appointed in 2020, the Article II Study Commission has been actively conducting its study, part of which has been to seek participation and input from individual congregations and individual UUs. The Commission is scheduled to present its recommendations to the Board of Trustees no later than January 2023 and an official vote is scheduled to occur at the 2023 General Assembly.

SOME HELPFUL UUA LINKS RELATED TO ARTICLE II AND THE 8TH PRINCIPLE:

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

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

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/charge>

CHURCH NEWS

YOU CAN JOIN OUR TEAM ON THE MOTHERS' DAY WALK FOR PEACE, WHETHER YOU WALK OR NOT

We have a team, **5 Points Cluster UUs**, in the Mothers' Day Walk for Peace this year, and you can be a part of it as a walker or as a team donor--See <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/159922/5-Points-Cluster-UUs>.

We've posted some information about the walk on the Social Justice bulletin board. For all the details, or to register as a walker, just go to www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org. Some walkers, including Rev. Jolie, will go the whole 7 miles, starting at the 8 AM opening ceremony in Dorchester; while some of us less hardy souls will take the 8:28 train from Sharon and join at the designated half-way entry point at Madison Park. But all of us can support the great work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, by a direct team donation or our May brown envelope offering, or both!

A Message from Worship Chair

Hello Friends!

Spring has finally arrived, yet I wonder how many of us are already anticipating the lazy days of summer? As I complete my fourth year as your Worship Chair, I find myself yearning for exactly that. I am happy to continue in this valuable and most rewarding role. Yet, I find that on a personal level, I am in need of a respite...how I long for a summer "off"!

In January, the committee discussed Summer Services for this year. I myself needed to decline my involvement with the planning and overseeing of what now has become a standard tradition. Following the review of extremely low attendance last year, we as a committee, agreed to forego Summer Services this year. I know there are a few who will be greatly disappointed with this news. Let us hope for its return next year!

I would like to thank *all* members of the committee for their support and engagement over these challenging past two years; without them, there wouldn't be Worship!

To the ZTF, Mel and Alice - *embrace* the summer off!

A special "thank you" to all those who have participated in the past as speakers...*you rock!*

With Gratitude,
Jean Fox
Worship Chair

Take Your Coffee Outside

Meetinghouse Memorial Garden-- May 15

During Coffee on May 15, we invite you to bring your cuppa out to the Memorial Garden. Come enjoy the spring garden and honor those who inspired its creation beginning in 1998 when the Memorial Garden was approved by Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Church of Sharon.

We hope you will join us to celebrate 24 years of a garden designed as a place for contemplation and of remembrance. Native plants support a habitat for wildlife and contribute to the well-being of ourselves and the earth. Enjoy!



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS COMING JUNE 22-26

There's a lot happening at General Assembly, and while it would be great to go in person and cheer Rev. Jolie as she receives full ministerial fellowship, we can be a part of it without traveling to Portland, Oregon. In a new form, it's truly "Multi-Platform," fully integrating virtual and in-person participation. Check out <https://www.uua.org/ga> to learn more about the opportunities, and to register to attend. If you're also interested in serving as one of our congregation's four delegates, and thus having a voice in shaping UUA policies and directions, please let our board and minister know. The UUA Board is providing some excellent online preparatory sessions for delegates that you can log onto as well.

Save the Date

Memorial Service for Linden Fingerson

Saturday, June 18 2:30 PM
UCS Meetinghouse Grounds
Rain date: Sunday, June 19

CHURCH NEWS, continued

The Not Boring Book Group

The Not Boring Book Group has selected ***The Honey Bus: A Memoir of Loss, Courage and a Girl Saved by Bees*** by Meredith May as our next read.

Part memoir, part beekeeping odyssey, it's a story about finding home in the most unusual of places. When Meredith May was five years old, her parents had recently split and she found herself in the care of her grandfather, an eccentric beekeeper who made honey in a rusty old military bus. (I can attest to its being an easy/enjoyable; I finished it in a single sitting.)

We meet via Zoom at 7pm in the Virtual Library on the first Wednesday of the month (May 4th in this case).

Everyone's invited, whether or not you've finished the book, because it's sure to provoke interesting conversation.

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

Art Wall

For those of us who have had the good fortune to nurture and develop some artistic skills, the two-year pandemic and lapse in our social routines, has afforded us more time and more need to express ourselves, creatively, in our own personal artistic languages. If from this has emerged a piece of art you can share, please contact me, Dinah Altman, the organizer of the "art wall." All styles, all ages, welcome.

drpa18@gmail.com

Conversations at the Meetinghouse

Friday, May 6, 2022 7 PM (Free to the Public)

"Meeting Bach" Bernard Greenberg

Bernie will introduce and explore the cosmos of Johann Sebastian Bach and provide examples and explanations of why he thinks Bach was the "Greatest Of All Time". He will touch on technical music, history, religion, and his own experience. This is to be contrasted with a 2018 presentation about how and why Bernie came to admire him. He intends to play live and recorded music.

Bernie Greenberg has played the organ and studied harmony, counterpoint, and the life and works of Bach in particular for over 50 years, and composed contrapuntal music for the last 40, some of which has been performed in churches, including here. Although he studied organ briefly at various times, he is largely self-taught. In the last decade, he has taught composition and counterpoint to willing students on musescore.com.

Conversations at the Meetinghouse is a monthly program held 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.

Hosted by: Unitarian Church of Sharon

CHURCH NEWS, continued



Storytelling For Our Future, Part 2

If you missed "Story Telling for Our Future", don't miss Part 2: "Looking Ahead" on Sunday, May 22, Noon - 2 in the Vestry. Childcare provided.

Please RSVP by May 15 to minister@uusharon.org

One of the most meaningful experiences offered at the Meetinghouse has been coming together to explore where we have been, what we find helpful, what we'd like to see more of. Over the years we have done this as a whole church several times, often on retreat! This year is a perfect year to do this again. We've been isolated, but we are still a community, "bigger than the sum of it's parts". The future beckons us. But into what and why? "Looking Ahead" will help us explore these ideas.

So.....We need you. We need you. We need all of you!

Besides, it was fun, just ask those folks in the pictures! And Rory bought us food! And there is childcare.