



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

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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JUNE WORSHIP SERVICES
THEME: PRAISE

10:00 am Family Service - June 5th
10:30 am Time for all ages followed by RE– June 12th
10:30 am Intergenerational Service– June 19th

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

June 5: Rainbow Sunday

We kick off Pride Month every year with Rainbow Sunday. Come to church in your solid color T-shirt today and help us represent the progress flag: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, white, brown, black, pink, or light blue. Today’s worship service will include a celebration of LGBTQ pride and a sermon on how our UU faith calls us to act for LGBTQ rights, particularly now when they are under attack across our nation. Rev. Jolie preaching.

**June 12: We Are Interdependent
UU Principles Series: 7th Principle**

Our 7th Principle is to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. In today’s worship service we will reflect on how one minister’s slight change in wording, proposed at the General Assembly almost 40 years ago, makes all the difference in how we are called to understand our 7th Principle today. Rev. Jolie preaching.

June 19: Flower Communion

20th century Czech Unitarian minister Rev. Norbert Čapek first developed the flower communion ritual in 1923, and many UU congregations continue to observe this ceremony of nature’s beauty and color to this day. We will also recognize our volunteers during this service. Bring a flower with you to church today. Rev. Jolie preaching. Father’s Day Picnic and end-of-church-year celebration to follow the service.

June 26: General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship

Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. This powerful, communal worship experience will stream on Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 9:30 Pacific / 10:30 Mountain / 11:30 Central / 12:30 Eastern. Worship will be led by Rev. Gretchen Haley Senior Minister of the Foothills Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Collins, CO. Find the livestream here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2022/sunday-worship>

From the Minister



COVID-19 has impacted our lives in so many ways, some of them easier to articulate than others. Just the other day I was talking to my downstairs neighbor, who teaches English to international students at UMass. She explained that this has been the hardest year she has ever had in her decades of teaching. Her students aren't coming to class, they aren't engaging much in class when they do come, and everyone is late on their deadlines or not doing the work. My neighbor decided to teach her English-language-learner students the word "malaise" to help everyone get a handle on what they were experiencing.

If this scenario sounds familiar, if you feel like you need a good understanding of the word "malaise" to describe what you, your family, your coworkers, or your fellow church members are going through, please know you are not alone. Many of us are looking around, wondering where everyone went, wondering when we are going to feel like ourselves again, wondering when things will get back to the way they were.

I have talked about ambiguous loss a few times now: the idea developed by therapist Dr. Pauline Boss about losses that remain unclear and thus leave us without closure. A lack of closure can make it hard to grieve. This pandemic has ushered in an era of collective ambiguous loss. As much as we may wish we could put the pandemic behind us, we are still experiencing the changes it has wrought in our lives, not all of which we can even fully articulate. New Yorker cartoonist Roz Chast depicted this perfectly in a February 2022 cartoon about the "weird feeling at the bottom layer" of everything. In one panel about how we feel underneath it all, she writes, "Things feel unusually... I don't even know what." Her illustration is of a woman sitting dumbstruck in an armchair next to a clock whose hands have fallen onto the floor.

Pauline Boss suggests that it can help us not to seek closure on this pandemic but rather to search for a sense of meaning about our pandemic experiences. What have we learned? What are we ready to change or let go of? When have we shown resilience, in our communities and in our church? For anyone who is curious to learn more about ambiguous loss, how it relates to our pandemic experiences, and how we can make sense of our losses, I recommend her book: *The Myth of Closure: Ambiguous Loss in a Time of Pandemic and Change*.

And here at church, we can continue showing up for each other and our great faith. Through changes large and small, personal and societal, our covenantal community can continue to be a source of spiritual nourishment, connection, and support. May it be so.

In peace and hope,
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



June – New Beginnings for a Learned Person

I always looked forward to the end of the school year with a sense of accomplishment. Another year of learning was under the belt. I might say the same as my president's term wraps up. The church closed its doors in March of 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. My time in office started 3 months later. My memory recalls a lot of isolation and uncertainty. Nobody had a road map for how life might return to normal. Learning for our youth involved school zoom sessions that left much to be desired. Then the vaccines became available in 2021. Schools gradually resumed in-person classes. But Covid was not going away. We learned safety precautions that could keep us healthy and allow social contact at the same time. The church reopened in late September 2021 only to close again in January 2022 due to the Omicron wave. After infection rates subsided, we resumed in-person events at church in late March 2022. Here we are in the middle of another Covid wave, but we did not close this time. So much has happened. I am quite knowledgeable after all this.

One big thing that I learned during all this was to trust the health professionals in our church community. Rev Jolie and former UCS president Susan Drisko put a team together as soon as Covid became THE national topic. As incoming president, I inherited the Task Force on Safe Reopening led by Linda Godfrey-Bailey. What a god-send! We had medical expertise in our very ranks to navigate the choppy waters of best practices for outdoor and indoor gatherings. It may be hard to believe, but we closed our church building to indoor gatherings for a year and a half – March 2020 to September 2021! (It gave me an eerie feeling for what the plagues might have been like during the Middle Ages in Europe.) With careful thought they outlined basic precautions that would allow members and friends to gather again for worship in the sanctuary and RE classes to resume. The process for proposing recommendations was open and comprehensive! Committee chairs participated in Task Force meetings because they had responsibility for pre-

paring the rooms for in-person use.

Next on the docket for this learned ex-president is getting the McGregor family situated at 52 Upland Road. Amanda's family relocates from Somerville to occupy the main residence in late July. The Carriage House where we park our vehicles will be renovated to provide ground floor living space for Beth and me. The live-in apartment that already exists in the CH has bedroom with bath on the second floor which will become Madeleine's home when she visits from Manhattan. While the renovation proceeds, Beth and I will be living in the Wilber School apartments in the center of town. What do you know – I'll be back in school again! The student lockers are part of the décor in the corridors of the "old" part of the Wilber School building. Come check it out if curious. And my walk to the church is even easier – no hills!

Rory McGregor



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

From the DRE

I just finished writing up the annual report for Religious Education and what a year it was! Roller coaster comes to mind, as does the image of small plant growing up through a crack in the pavement. Our programming went from in-person outdoors, to indoors, to fully remote, back indoors and now, with the current infection rates, back outdoors. Except during the midwinter spike, OWL programs maintained consistent indoor classes and we are so grateful to the team of OWL facilitators for steering the ship, to caregivers for supporting their youth to attend. This really goes for all of our volunteers and families and to all who helped keep our program participants safe from the spread of Covid within our walls.

Despite the complexity imposed by the pandemic on the lives of our families this year (or perhaps because of it), there was regular attendance by several families. Although we had fewer participants than in years past, especially in the younger grades, RE served 31 families and 48 children and youth in six different programs this year! That is a healthy number considering the times! We had three wonderful services: Revels, the Youth-led service, and RE Sunday. We not only brought OWL to 18 young people, but also revised some structure and content of an outdated curriculum to better meet the needs of our young people. We created a new Montessori-style classroom for Sunday morning RE in anticipation of launching "SpiritPlay" a UU religious education program based on story, ritual, play and creativity.

Thank you all for a wonderful year!

Christine



Will you help raise the next generation of UUs?

Many of the youth who recently "bridged" stated the impact that some of our religious education programs had on their formation. These same programs are in danger of not being able to run due to the added stress that pandemic has put on our personal and professional lives, and the subsequent lack of volunteerism. There are a few programs in the offing for next year, including Coming of Age and Crossing Paths, provided we have people to lead them. One or two folks have stepped up

already - thank you to Mike Quinn for volunteering to facilitate Crossing Paths with middle schoolers and to Kristen Hoemke for getting trained in the SpiritPlay model. Now they need co-facilitators! I hope you will consider this as a rewarding opportunity for you to give back next year. Training and support are provided. Christine will be working this summer and hoping to establish a volunteer schedule for next year, so June is not too late or too early to sign up to help! Working with kids not your thing? Can't commit to a whole program? There are lots of other ways to help. Check it out on the sign-up below!

[Sign-up Genius to support the RE program](#)

Thank you Staff and Volunteers!



Sadie Dussault and Jenny Thieler: weekly RE
 Rebecca Kinraide, Kristen Hoemke, Chloe Klien: **Revels**
 Mike Quinn and Christian Rouleau: **Middle School**
 Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks, Chloe Klien, Elizabeth Maranzano, Chloe Klien, Kristen Hoemke, Jean Fox, Kate Barber, Beth McGregor, Audrey Trivedi and Johanna Barber: **Indoor and Outdoor RE**
 Glenn Rivard, Jon Slavin, Janet Schmidt, Chris Raskin, Sue Mooney, Gare Reid: **OWL**
 Jessica and Andrew Plumridge, Gare Reid (and others already mentioned): **Father Bills Bagged Lunches**
 Rory McGregor, Forbes Russel, Lauren Grasso, Rebecca Reid: **Youth Advisors**
 Christian Rouleau, Chloe Klien, Jessica Plumridge, Rebecca Kinraide, Mike Quinn, Nick Giammaria: **RE Committee**

Thank you to Nursery staff Mary Baker who served as a teacher in regular RE this year - we could not have done it without you Mary!! Mary was there every Sunday providing consistent and loving care, set up, clean up and follow up. Thank you Mary! Thanks also to her daughter Annalee for joining us as we re-opened the nursery this spring!

Thanks also to Kate Oldshue who was an incredible asset to the program this year, running several high quality youth programs during a year with so many challenges. We are sorry to see her go and appreciate how far she brought SYG out of pandemic mode and toward a balanced web of youth ministry. Thank you Kate!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, continued

Youth programing

May has been a packed month for both Junior Youth Fellowship and SYG! Junior Youth Fellowship had an awesome taco eating and sunflower planting party. SYG organized and hosted a game night for the 8th graders who will be bridging into SYG next year. Everyone went to Boda Borg!



We have also been working in SYG to get ready for Bridging which will be happening on May 22nd during RE Sunday. *Please join us in celebrating the amazing Seniors who are a part of our congregation.*

Have an opportunity for Senior Youth? Post it here!

[Youth Opportunities Bulletin Board](#)



RE Calendar

June 5

Last Family Service of the year 10am - A Time for Peace
 RE Grades K- 6 10:30am - Gardening/ Playground work
 SYG 5:00 - 6:30 pm

June 12

Time for All ages at the 10:30 service.
 RE Grades K- 6: Gardening/Playground work
 Jr & Sr. youth meeting with a Youth Ministry Co-ordinator Candidate: 1:00pm
 SYG 5:00 - 6:30 pm - Final meeting; dinner night out!

June 19

Intergenerational Flower Communion
 Childcare available
 Final Sunday of the Church year

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



The April Brown Envelope collection of \$1894 went 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** which was attended by a number of UCS members; this year our May fundraising focused on their vital work. There is still time to make a contribution via direct pledges of support on the Institute website under the banner of our own team "5 Points Cluster UU's" ([5-Points-Cluster-UUs](https://5-Points-Cluster-UUs.org/)). As of mid-May, we have already raised over \$2500 for the Peace Institute.

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. Please help us support their work.

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 \$53,750 in over 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 endure 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!

Indigenous Peoples' Day vote in Sharon: delayed

A proposal at the Sharon Spring Town Meeting to rename Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day was tabled due to a missed technicality, but will likely return at the next town meeting.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

FT Marketplace – Wednesday, 15 June, 4-6pm

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 is exploring ways to continue to offer our monthly Marketplace for pre-ordered coffee, chocolates, other special food items, as well as S4J grocery cards. For June, 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 June for details about what, when and how to order, and then stop by the church on 15 May between 4-6pm to gather your goods.



Sunday, June 5: Rainbow Sunday! Come to church with a solid color shirt from the progress rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, brown, white, light blue, or pink. Let's take our rainbow picture on the front steps for the first time in years!

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 Main-Spring House homeless shelter in Brockton each month.

SJC Meeting for June: the monthly SJC meeting will be on a zoom gathering, on Sunday, June 5th at 12:15pm; look for the link in the UCS Calendar this month.

8th Principle



LEARN, REFLECT, VOTE

The Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) continues to encourage you to:

LEARN about the 8th Principle - Check [THE 8TH PRINCIPLE WEBPAGE](#) for important information related to what the principle says, why it was proposed and how it can help us move forward as Unitarian Universalists. Note that new information is often added to the webpage.

REFLECT on the intention of the 8th Principle - As you reflect on its messages and why it was called for, we invite you to go deeper and consider what it might mean for us as Unitarian Universalists to adopt the principle both here at UCS and at General Assembly in 2023.

VOTE at our annual meeting on Friday, June 10th- Be ready for the vote at our annual June meeting as the Warrant will include a motion to adopt the 8th Principle here at UCS.

YOUR thoughts, questions and opinions about the 8th Principle are important to us, so prior to the June 10th Annual Meeting, we will be providing opportunities for sharing. Mark the dates on your calendar now. No registration required.

- Thursday, June 2nd from 7-8pm. Virtual - Zoom Link provided on church calendar
- Sunday, June 5th after Coffee Hour. In Person
- Tuesday, June 7th from 10-11am. Virtual – Zoom Link provided on church calendar.

You can also let us know what you're thinking by filling out this [INQUIRY FORM](#).

Thank you for your engagement.

CHURCH NEWS

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



Save the Date! Midsummer Sabbath at UCS Sunday, August 7

Join us at church on Sunday, August 7 for a day of spiritual replenishment led by Rev. Jolie. We will gather in the morning, eat lunch together, and continue into the early afternoon. The day will include drumming, worship, and artistic explorations. Full schedule to be included in the summer newsletter. Don't miss it!

Linden Fingerson's Memorial

June 18 2:30 PM

On the church grounds. Rain Date: June 19.

Enjoy the play **Blithe Spirit** with fellow UU's on **Friday, June 3 at 8:00pm** at the [Mass Art Center in Mansfield](#).

Tickets are \$32pp nonrefundable. We now pick our own seats so don't wait to purchase. If we have enough people we will resume our private reception upstairs prior to the show. For more information contact Pat McDougal @ mcdougal.pat@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS, cont

Note from Glenn Rivard:

For the past year I've had the privilege of co-teaching the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for 7th graders. We collaborated with the First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF), a collaboration brought about by Christine Bulman, our DRE, and the DRE at FUSF.

I was honored to be asked by Chrisitne to share some thoughts during the RE Sunday service last week to reflect on the challenges and triumphs of this collaboration. In preparing to speak for RE Sunday, I mentally put myself back in the classroom in September to capture and convey some of those early challenges. My intent was to provide a view into the growth of individuals and to share what made me feel such pride in all of the OWL participants.

In my remarks during the RE Sunday service, regretfully, I failed to follow covenantal agreements; rules that I myself had helped instill in the class. In my attempt to share my joy with the congregation, I lost sight of some of the core tenets of OWL; namely confidentiality and respect for gender expression and gender identity. I used binary language when referring to gender within the class, I shared information regarding one of the anonymous "question box" comments, and shared some details of an email a parent sent to myself and my co-teacher.

I am sorry for what I said.

With any RE class there are challenges, and an OWL class brings its own set of additional challenges. Add to that a new collaborative OWL approach with FUSF and a difficult COVID year, and we had our work cut out for us.

I am immensely proud of each of the 7th graders who participated in the program this year. There were many moments when individual youths rose above challenges of the day, and the class as a whole grew to become a cohesive group who learned together, laughed together, and made strong connections between the two churches.

Sincerely,
Glenn Rivard

As worship leaders that day, Christine and I take responsibility for not giving Glenn a sufficiently clear directive for his speech, nor taking the time to review what he had planned to say. We are sorry for the harm we have caused. In the future we will be sure to more carefully check in with lay leaders about what they plan to share from the pulpit.

If anyone needs to talk about this, please know all three of us (Christine, Rev. Jolie, or Glenn) are available, and feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,
Rev. Jolie Olivetti
Christine Bulman

CHURCH NEWS, continued

The Not Boring Book Group

The Not Boring Book Group has selected *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*, by Robert Dugoni, as our next read.

The most recent Sharon One Book One Town selection, it is the story of a boy born with ocular albinism (red pupils), who is tormented by classmates and grows up to be an ophthalmologist. (At least one member of our book group has read the book and strongly endorsed it.)

We meet via Zoom at 7pm in the Virtual Library on the first Wednesday of the month (June 1st in this case).

Everyone's invited, whether or not you've finished the book, because the conversations are always interesting.

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

Father's Day BBQ June 19th @ 12



PIC-COLLAGE

The Father's Day BBQ is BACK, please join us on-grounds **Sunday June 19th**. You may be celebrating with a special dad in your life, you may have a heavy heart, or maybe you don't even have a father at all. All are welcome, Dad's are not required, this is a day of celebration for our entire community.

Conversations at the Meetinghouse

No Conversations in June

Men's Discussion Group

Purpose:

Topical discussion group for men. Group is currently open.

When: 7:30pm 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month

Where: UUC Sharon Library

Questions? Contact Gary Webber @ gwebbaker@comcast.net

From Worship:

Are you looking to becoming involved with the planning and implementation of UCS Worship Services? If so, you are invited to join our dynamic committee!

We are currently seeking three (3) new members and one (1) Senior Youth for our new church year! We will meet for our annual retreat in August to engage in fellowship, lively discussion and the planning of our calendar.

Worship meets on the third Sunday of each month at 12:30. This year we would like to encourage our Senior Youth to sign-up as "Worship Associate" which entails acting as Worship Coordinator at the pulpit, meetings are not mandatory although strongly encouraged if/and when your schedules allow. This is a unique opportunity to further develop your public speaking skills, and to add your engagement in committee work before heading off to college!

Please reach out directly to myself: jmfoxden@verizon.net, or chat with me during coffee hour!

With gratitude to all!

Jean Fox, Worship Chair

CHURCH NEWS, continued

YARD SALE RESULTS – SATURDAY MAY 21st

We filled the entire circular driveway with tables of merchandise organized by categories – toys, kitchen, décor, jewelry, appliances, sports equipment, fabrics, luggage, tools, artwork etc. Dozens of church members helped customers make their purchases from 9am to 12 noon. A cloudy morning sky saved us from overheating and getting sunburned. Cleanup started as the sun broke through and church grounds were back to normal by mid-afternoon.



There was a higher revenue total than expected for this event with over \$1,600 in cash coming in. We had thought \$1,000 would be a good target to set since another Covid infection wave was building and might limit customer turnout. The yard sale gods smiled on us and gave an extra financial windfall that was very nice!



The photos give you an idea of the Yard Sale set up. It's likely that half our church community was involved in some way – making donations, transporting goods, working the event. Some members and friends that we had not seen during Covid showed up and easily won smiles/hugs from everyone who saw them.

Thanks to all who contributed and made this a successful team event after a 3-year hiatus!

Rory McGregor

