

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
Valerie White
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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JULY / AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES NO WORSHIP SERVICES



From the Minister



Dear Ones,

Summer is upon us! Some of you have been wondering, is Rev. Jolie off all summer? The answer is, no! Though I will not be leading regular Sunday morning worship until September 11, there are many weeks this summer when I will be working. During this time, I will be making plans for the upcoming year, meeting with staff and lay leaders, collaborating with Worship Chair Jean Fox on our special **Midsummer Sabbath** on August 7, and more. We have some fun events in the works for the summer, including an Ice Cream Social on August 6. I will be available for meetings and pastoral care as needed for most of the summer.

During the weeks when I will be at General Assembly or on vacation, I have arranged with our Caring Committee and trusted local colleagues to provide emergency pastoral care coverage. That information is as follows (this has also been sent out in an email blast to Members &

Friends including cell numbers for the on-call ministers):

June 20 - June 27

Rev. Beverly Waring, Canton (while I'm at GA), revbev@gmail.com or caringcommittee@uusharon.org

June 28 - July 9

Rev. Dave Egan, Medfield (I'm on vacation) minister@firstparishmedfield.org or caringcommittee@uusharon.org

August 14 - August 20

Rev. Dave Egan (I'm on vacation) See above for contact info.

As I write this column, I am preparing to head to Portland, Oregon for the aforementioned General Assembly. This year's theme is "Meet the Moment: Reimagining Radical Faith Community." I look forward to learning from colleagues and lay leaders from all over. I am particularly keen to learn about how our fellow UU congregations have responded to the changes that COVID-19 continues to render in the lives of our faith communities. I also intend to stock up on ideas for faith development across the lifespan, including ideas to support me and Christine's plans to offer a course on "Parents as Spiritual Caregivers," and ideas to kick off a new round of small group ministry and/or covenant groups here at UCS. I look forward to sharing my experiences and insights with you all upon my return from GA.

Wishing you a safe and blessed summer.

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



On July 1, I will begin my fourth term, and sixth year, as the president of this beloved community.

My first term taught me a lot, and brought home many lessons I learned in UU Leadership School. My second term contained the beginning of an avalanche of crises, changes and accomplishments: our long-time minister the Rev. Deborah Cayer announced her resignation. We embarked on the AIM project. We called the Rev. Patricia Brennan as our interim. In my third term, we began the search which culminated in our calling the Rev. Jim Robinson. I resigned after one year, so that my successor, Phil Connover, could have one year with Tricia before the new settled minister, Jim, arrived.

Now, after 13 years, I begin a new term as we wrestle with the stresses and opportunities occasioned by our commitment to preserving our covenant in a time of pandemic, to modernizing and making accessible our beloved sanctuary, and to hiring a new youth coordinator and a permanent director of religious education. There will doubtless be other challenges as yet unimagined.

I served on the search committee which called the Rev. Jolie Olivetti to our ministry, and I know she and I will work well together. I know the leadership and determination of outgoing president Rory McGregor has given me a path to follow. I know we have a strong and dedicated board. I look forward to working with them and with our staff and with all of you to build a future of growth, renewal, and promise.

Thank you for your trust in me. I shall strive to deserve it.

Valerie White

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education summer update:

In case you missed the news, Christine Bulman, our Interim Director of Religious Education will be serving a third year with UCS. The best way to reach her this summer at dre@uusharon as she will mostly be working remotely, however she is happy to meet up if you want to check in! Stay tuned for an online Religious Education Registration form to come your way in August for the 2022-2023 church year.

We are excited to launch several RE classes next year and still need a few assistant teachers. Please see this Sign-Up to find out how you can help (there are lots of ways to do so, not just teaching!)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D49AAAE2DA3FE3-dont>

Youth Ministry Coordinator Announcement!

We are happy to announce that Caroline Dixon has accepted the position of Youth Ministry Coordinator and will begin in mid-August! Caroline was raised as a youth in the Unitarian Church of Sharon where she was an active participant in Youth Group, Coming of Age, Our Whole Lives, and the volunteer program in Nicaragua. Since 2020, Caroline has been volunteering as a Youth Advisor with a regional UU youth group in addition to her full time job as Paralegal. She looks forward to helping facilitate a safe and encouraging environment where the youth make lasting friendships and get to know who they are, just as the adults did while she was a youth!



From left to right: Daphne Theiler, Kate Slater, Nolan Howard, Zoe Plumridge, Brandon Webber

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 June Brown E recipient is 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.

As we have only informal gatherings at church on Sunday mornings this summer, there will be no Brown E collection for July and August. We will restart the program in September when regular services resume. In the meantime, support your own causes and organizations this summer instead (and then tell us about what moved you when we gather again in the fall)!

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 \$54,500 in 2 1/2 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!

NOTE: Raccoons have found their way into the outdoor collection bin, with a passion for boxed cereal. Please leave only canned goods outdoors, with soft packaging donations left indoors (use the inside bin, or inside the vestibule please!).

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

MainSpring House lunch making this summer: even though we are on a break from regular Sunday services until September, the needs at the shelters in Brockton remain critical. The SJC will host two Sunday morning sessions for inter-generational lunch making to maintain our commitment to this work. Join us on 10 July and 14 August at 10:30 in the Vestry to do some hands-on social justice work; we'll add some music, maybe a Memorial Garden walk or a discussion circle following the lunch assembly line. All are welcome and encouraged to come!

special food items, as well as S4J grocery cards. For the summer months, we will offer pickups on the 3rd Wednesday afternoons. Look for an emails to the congregation for details about what, when and how to order, and then stop by the church on 3rd Wednesday afternoons between 4-6pm to gather your goods. 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 July: the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, July 10th at 12:15pm; for August, we will gather on the 7th at noon. Look for the link in the UCS Calendar this month. There are plenty of topics in the news and events at home and around the world that will call for our attention as we enter the new church year – please come to our meetings, bring your passion and energy, and help us chart a path forward as we work to help heal our ailing world.

FT Marketplace – Wednesday, 20 July & 17 August, 4-6pm

As we break from regular Sunday services for July and August, the SJC will continue to offer our monthly Marketplace for pre-ordered coffee, chocolates, other

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Rainbow Sunday

Our annual PRIDE celebration included Rainbow Sunday with an inspiring sermon from Reverend Jolie, a few modest decorations festooning the Sanctuary, support for GLSEN via the Brown Envelope collection, resumption of our Human Rainbow on the steps of the church, and a Coffee Hour cake! There was also a PRIDE car parade through Sharon to celebrate the day.

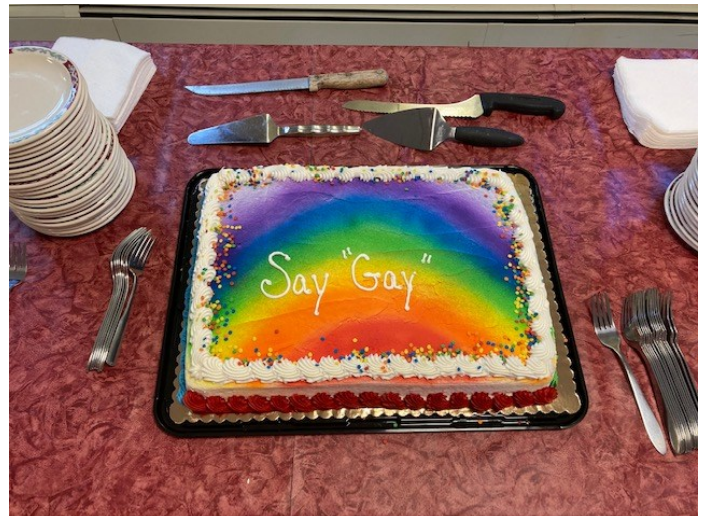


Have you noticed the new 'Progress' Rainbow flag in the photo on the steps? The SCIsC (that would be the Shimmer Curtain Installation sub-Committee) couldn't figure out how to add the new colors to the walls above the pulpit, but did you notice the extra colors above the doorway to the Sanctuary? Here is a bit of the history of the Progress Flag, with thoughts from Daniel Quasar who designed it (from vam.ac.uk/, the website for the Victoria and Albert Museum, "Friday Late – Highlighting the artists, designers, and performers questioning the norms of masculine and feminine identity").

Quasar resolved the design issue by placing the black, brown, light blue, pink and white stripes in the shape of an arrow, on the left of the Progress Pride flag. This solution not only sought to improve the flag's legibility, but also placed discriminated minorities at the forefront. *"The arrow points to the right to show forward movement [...] and illustrates that progress [towards inclusivity] still needs to be made"* (Quasar). From one flag reboot to another, the colored stripes are imbued with different meanings. For Quasar, the light blue, pink and

white stripes represent trans and non-binary individuals and the brown and black ones represent marginalized People of Color (POC) communities. The black stripe has a double meaning as it is also intended for *"those living with AIDS and the stigma and prejudice surrounding them, and those who have been lost to the disease"*.

Quasar plays with the idea of a diverse community, and states that the fight for inclusivity needs to come from both within and outside the LGBTQ community – from all spheres of society: *"This new design forces the viewer to reflect on their own feelings towards the original Pride Flag and its meaning, as well as the differing opinions on who that flag really represents, while also bringing into clear focus the current needs within our community"*. *"I love seeing anyone using the flag in a way that makes them happy and proud to be themselves"* (Quasar).



8th PRINCIPLE



IMPORTANT NEWS! The motion to adopt the 8th principle at UCS was adopted with an overwhelming majority at our Annual Meeting last Friday, June 10th. While this is an important step, it is only the first step in the congregation's ongoing journey to address and eradicate racism and other forms of oppression on both an individual and systemic level.

Specific information about upcoming meetings and activities to help the congregation move forward with this important and necessary work, will continue to be shared with you. For now, we want to inform you that we plan to hold sessions, starting in the Fall, inviting all interested congregants to become familiar with the report by the Commission on Institutional Change entitled **Widening the Circle of Concern** and to engage in their follow-up **Study/Action Guide**. These documents are based on the 2017 charge given to them by the UUA Board of Trustees which was "to conduct an audit of the power structures and analyze systemic racism and white supremacy culture within the Unitarian Universalist Association." More information and links to these documents can be found in the new **UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY** Section of this Newsletter.

The 8th Principle:

"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."

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

NEW SECTION: **UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022 – Submitted by Barbara Nelkin-Rose**



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

Your *congregational* delegates to UUA General Assembly (GA) this year, are: Beth McGregor, Gare Reid, Nolan Howard and myself - Barbara Nelkin-Rose. Along with Rev. Jolie as the *ministerial* delegate, the 5 of us will have voting rights during General Assembly.

As submissions for the Summer Newsletter were required prior to GA, we will unfortunately have to wait until the September Newsletter to share a written report of what happened. However, please know that if anyone would like to chat with Beth, Gare, Nolan or myself over the summer, we invite you to get in touch with us and we will be happy to connect with you.

From a personal perspective - as a delegate to this year's UUA General Assembly, serving in this role for the first time, I am very excited about what appears to be an all-encompassing review of the UUA's current governance structure, based on the commitment of Unitarian Universalism to be a LIVING religious organization that meets the current issues and challenges of our times and allows individual members to share their gifts more effectively. The first few paragraphs of **Business Resolution 1 – Renewing UUA Bylaws for Theologically Grounded and Mission-Focused Governance**¹, which are included below, clearly express this.

This Business Resolution is very much in keeping with the report entitled **Widening the Circle of Concern**², issued by the Commission on Institutional Change in June of 2020. The Commission was appointed by the UUA Board of Trustees in 2017 and given the following charge: “to conduct an audit of the power structures and analyze systemic racism and white supremacy culture within the Unitarian Universalist Association.” The Commission then created a **Study/Action Guide**³ to help those interested in participating in “Widening the Circle” to understand WHY the Report was needed and to take ACTION toward implementing the recommendations in the Report. We have our own plans here at UCS to hold sessions, starting in the Fall, inviting all interested congregants to engage in the **Widening the Circle of Concern Study/Action Guide** and to affirm our commitment to address racism and other forms of oppression as called for in the 8th Principle, just adopted at our annual meeting. More information about the Widening the Circle of Concern sessions will also be provided in the September Newsletter. I hope you will consider joining us.

NOTES:

1. Proposed Business Resolution 1 Renewing UUA Bylaws for Theologically Grounded and Mission-Focused Governance

“Against the backdrop of a looming ecological catastrophe a multiracial, multicultural democracy struggles to emerge and survive, in the face of ferocious resistance. Unitarian Universalism is called to more effective and powerful leadership to create spirit-filled, liberating, inclusive, and holistic communities that foreshadow the world of our dreams: communities that have dismantled white supremacy culture, and all forms of oppression, and communities where everyone can thrive.

To meet this moment, the UUA needs to be nimble, unified, innovative, and bold. But we are hampered by our overly complicated and inefficient governance, enshrined in our bylaws which date from our founding more than 60 years ago and have been patched and mended piecemeal ever since. This creates obstacles for meaningful participation in the UUA's governance. It diverts precious resources toward maintaining the structure that has been, rather than freeing our energies to live our mission in ways that meet today's need.”

2. Widening the Circle of Concern Report issued by the Commission on Institutional Change in June, 2020 - [CLICK HERE](#) to see the actual report.

3. Widening the Circle of Concern Study/Action Guide. Consider taking a look over the summer and then joining us in the Fall when we begin to dive in! [CLICKING HERE](#) will bring you to the Guide.

CHURCH NEWS



Midsummer Sabbath at UCS

Sunday, August 7 10:30 AM

Healing Drum Service led by Jean Fox
Meditation on the grounds (weather permitting)
With time for food and fellowship to follow. BYO bag lunch!

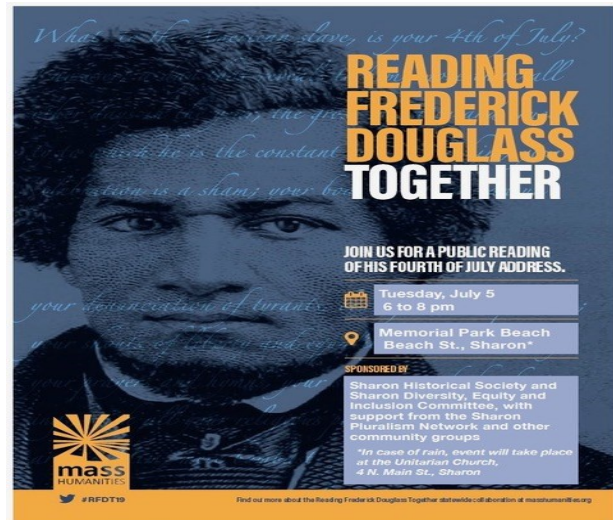
SHARON READS FREDERICK DOUGLASS TOGETHER ON JULY 5TH.

The Sharon Historical Society will again bring the words of the famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass to life and reflect on their relevance today on Tuesday evening, July 5th, 6-8 PM. Bring your lawn chair to Memorial Park Beach to hear his stirring speech, "What, to the American Slave, Is Your 4th of July?" read by members of our community, followed by a panel discussion of its ongoing relevance today, led by newly-elected Select Board member Kiana Pierre-Louis. After the fun, fireworks and cookouts are over, you can join in this new and meaningful way to honor and reflect on America's patriotic holiday. If you'd like to serve as a reader or volunteer in other ways, please contact Beth McGregor at epjmcbg@aol.com or Meg Winikates at mwinikates@gmail.com.

Douglass, self-educated and formerly enslaved, was a powerful figure in the Black struggle for liberation and equal rights. He had a strong influence on Abraham Lincoln and was a close ally of the Women's Suffrage movement, advocating equal rights and opportunity for all. On this July 5th, we honor the 170th anniversary of the speech first given on July 5th, 1852 to the Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Society.

"Reading Frederick Douglass Together," held in

towns around the Commonwealth, is funded in part by a grant to the Sharon Historical Society from Mass Humanities. Sharon's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Sharon Pluralism Network, and other community groups including our congregation are partnering with the Society as well. In case of rain, the program will be moved to our sanctuary, which fittingly also served as the Continental Congress hall setting for proclaiming the Declaration of Independence in the musical "1776." Douglass's speech reflects on both the promise and the incompleteness of the vision of democracy, equality and justice expressed in that founding document from his vantage point 76 years later. In 2022, it's time to reflect again on how far we've come and how far we need to go to realize that vision 170 years after that speech.



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

The Not Boring Book Group

The book group is on hiatus for the summer

CHURCH NEWS,continued

SHARON COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Mya Grossman's Eagle Project

JULY 9TH, 9:00 – 2:00
SHARON FIRE STATION



DONATE BLOOD, SAVE A LIFE

**HELP US COMBAT THE WORST
NATIONAL BLOOD SHORTAGE IN A
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ONLINE PRIOR TO DONATION!
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