

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

Youth Ministry Coordinator
Caroline Dixon
yc@uusharon.org

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

Inside this issue

[From the Minister](#) 2

[From the President](#) 3

[RE News](#) 4

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 Family Service // 10:30am Adult Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

October 2 Everyday Pilgrimages

A pilgrimage is a sacred journey, like a prayer set in motion. To be a pilgrim is to put your faith in others, to believe in a generous and hospitable world. In today's worship service we will consider a few different kinds of pilgrimages and how we can bring this kind of journey into our everyday lives. Rev. Jolie Preaching.

October 9 Cluster Service in Canton:
Youth Ministry Coordinator
Per-

Caroline Dixon

yc@uusharon.org

In-
by
ist

The
sur-
re-
time

Can-
service in Program A/B at UCS for those who wish to gather together to watch it. Children and Families will meet at Mass Audubon's Moose Hill at 10:30 am today

tober 9 Cluster Service in Canton:
Discovering America Again-(In person in Canton or On Zoom at UCS) at 10:30 am

Indigenous Peoples Day is celebrated more and more Unitarian Universalist congregations. The Western Hemisphere was "discovered" by Europeans as a get rich colonial project. original people of these lands have lived and have a story to tell. Let us discover America again and this let it be life giving. Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs preaching. *In person in Canton or on Zoom. We will stream the*

October 16 Addiction and Compassion

Today's service will discuss addiction, which is devastatingly common across many communities. We will explore the spiritual aspects of both being in recovery and supporting people in recovery, and how compassion and self-compassion are so important for all those impacted. Rev. Jolie preaching.

October 23 No Time to Spare

Today's sermon title comes from the title of a book by author Ursula K. LeGuin, a collection of essays she wrote as an octogenarian. She writes, "*try not to diminish old age itself*. Let age be age. Let your old relative or old friend be who they are. Denial serves nothing, no one, no purpose." Our society carries a harsh stigma against aging and the elderly, and our worship today will be a counterpoint to that stigma. Rev. Jolie preaching.

From the Minister



Dear Ones,

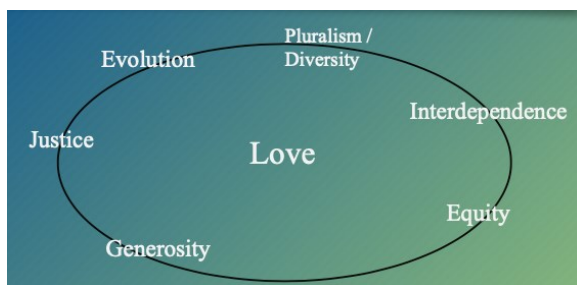
Have you seen the draft of the new Article II of our Unitarian Universalist Association's Bylaws? Article II is the section of the UUA's bylaws where our UU Principles are documented. As we speak, there is a committee of six UUs, the Article II Study Commission, working on completely rewriting that section. It's a historical moment for us as Unitarian Universalists! The committee was officially appointed by our UUA and has been engaged in this process for more than two years now. They have been collecting input from a long list of UU stakeholders including congregational leaders, professional associations, identity groups, philosophical and theological groups, and more. I wanted to offer a snapshot of two of the sections they have come up with so far, in the hopes of getting us more engaged in the process here at UCS.

At General Assembly back in June, the Commission presented two possible new versions of the UUA **Statement of Purpose**:

Draft Purpose A: The UU Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to equip congregations for vital ministry, to support and train leaders both lay and professional, to heal historic inequities, and to advance UU values in the world. We do all this consistent with our theological pluralism.

Draft Purpose B: The UUA's purpose is to grow and resource faith communities that support people through their lives' journeys and transform the world by liberating ourselves through love. We make that love real through care and justice for ourselves, for our communities, and for the larger web of existence that we are all in. We are called upon to risk ourselves for love.

The two drafts are so different from one another! I am drawn to Draft Purpose B. What about you? And here are the proposed Shared Values of Unitarian Universalism, a proposed new section of our Bylaws. They are intentionally arranged in a circle:



What do you think? I am amazed at how different this would be from our current list of Principles. I hope you save the date to reflect on the proposed changes: On October 30 after the worship service we will gather for a Cottage Meeting on Article II. I hope to see you there!

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

From the President



Hard to believe we're BACK IN CHURCH at long last . . . with some changes, of course. Some of us are wearing masks during worship. There aren't quite as many of us as there used to be of a Sunday, and some of us are joining by Zoom. But it is a continuing delight to see my co-religionists again. And choir practice is resuming!

There's a lot going on besides worship. But in a way everything we do as a beloved community is a kind of worship . . . a kind of ministry. There's the ministry of yard work, and of coffee making, and of (yes) choir practice, and committee meetings, and task forces . . .

Speaking of task forces, the Board is seeking one or two folks to lead a task force to fund-raise for the rest of the work needed for the playground renovation. If you have the time and the energy and the commitment to our kids' well-being, please reach out to a board member. We'd love to hear from you.

Along with several other UCS members, I attended (virtually) the meeting of our Five Points Cluster, and as we have been doing for a while we will be sharing services with other cluster congregations. Stay tuned!

And one of the most exciting returning things (to me!) is that we're starting to make plans for the Solstice Service, one of my favorite worship events.

Some years ago, the horse I was riding up on Morse St. was moved out of town, and then some months later returned so that I could ride her again. The lovely woman who lived there, where the barn was, greeted me as I turned into her driveway after my first ride after the mare came back. She smiled at me, and said words that I will never forget and for which I will always be grateful:

She said, "Welcome home!"

And I hear her wonderful New England tones in my head when I see people in church that I haven't seen for a while: "Welcome home!"

Valerie White

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A Note from the Interim Director of Religious Education

One of the things that make Unitarian Universalist communities a great place for children and youth is that they are valued just as they are. This is a place where they can return year after year, witnessed and companioned by a community of elders and peers who see and value them and create avenues for them to grow into their gifts and their contribution to the world. Foundational to UU community is the idea that....[\[read more\]](#)

We've Moved

Looking for Religious Education content? There is so much going on each month in RE, that we need to devote a whole newsletter to it! You can find that newsletter [here](#).

October Religious Education Calendar

Oct. 2 10:00am Family Service
10:30am SpiritPlay - elementary
Crossing Paths -middle school
12:30pm Coming of Age (CoA) Orientation for Youth and Families - Gr. 9 & 10

Oct. 4 7:00 pm CoA Mentor Reception and Orientation

Oct.9 10:30am
Families meet at Moose Hill
No family Service or RE classes

Oct. 11 7:00pm CoA Mentor-Youth first session

Oct.16 10:00am Family Service
10:30am SpiritPlay
Crossing Paths
12:30pm No Coming of Age

Oct.23 10:00am Family Service
10:30am SpiritPlay
Crossing Paths
12:30pm CoA Workshop

Oct.30 Intergenerational Worship
10:30am Worship service, all ages, no RE classes
Childcare ages 4 and under available

PARENTS AS SPIRITUAL GUIDES

Facilitated by Rev. Jolie Olivetti and Christine Bulman

**TUESDAYS OCT. 18, NOV. 1,15,29
6:30 - 8:00PM @ 4 N. MAIN ST.**

Scholar of mythology and religion Joseph Campbell was once asked, "Will our children have a spiritual life?" His answer: "If we do." We will explore how we cultivate a spiritual life as Unitarian Universalists, and how we pass that on to our children. In person.



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

As we had only infrequent and informal gatherings at church on Sunday mornings this summer, there was no regular Brown E collection for much of July and August. However, some funds were donated, and the **Minister's Discretionary Fund** was chosen as the recipient for this period. In addition, the SJC voted to seed the fund with \$1000 from our discretionary account (primarily our Fair Trade sales income). This fund allows Reverend Jolie to support various needs within the UCS community as well as special cases that come to her attention. Combined, a total of \$1,908 was raised for this important work.

Our Brown Envelope collection in September (starting the Sunday after Labor Day) was directed to our **Partner Church in Gyulakuta, Transylvania**. For many years, our congregation has supported fellow UUs in Romania. The money we raised via our Brown Envelope Collection in September pays for a musician during their worship service and for a copy of the monthly Romanian Unitarian magazine for each family, as well as other urgent projects. They are enormously grateful for this support.

In October the Brown E funds will support **UU The Vote** (uuthevote.org), a nation-wide effort by the UUA to register and educate voters on a broad range of important topics this election season. Focused on a numerous critical social justice ballot measures and combating voter sup-

pression laws that have made it more difficult for people to vote, organizers will host events across the country to engage and mobilize voters in key states. Working with UU State Action Networks and other partners, the goal is to reach 4 million voters before Election Day in November. (Note: in order to expedite our donations, we will make an initial contribution to the program by mid-October, and then follow up with the balance of our funds in early November after our collection is complete). Your generosity for this important work is greatly appreciated.



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 **\$56,270** in the 2 ½ 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, equaling more than a \$2,680 boost to date), 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 and related economic uncertainty, this ongoing effort by our community is making a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. Thank you for your generosity!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Hard Truths About Indigenous People of the Americas: a talk by Claudia Fox Tree, Thursday, 13 October, 7-8pm (on zoom).

What's it like to be invisible? What truths are missing from U.S. history? When stereotypes abound, how do we start to unlearn misinformation and develop awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Indigenous People and others? How do we dismantle the implicit bias we have grown up in? Join Claudia as she takes back the narrative and focuses on strategies to challenge bias and make contributions visible. Pre-register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hard-truths-about-indigenous-people-of-the-americas-tickets-423825492457> (Sponsored by Sharon Racial Equity Alliance (SREA), the Sharon Historical Society, Mass Audubon, and the SJC at UCS.)

Black Lives Matter Banner Re-Commitment Ceremony, following the worship service on 23 October; on the front steps of the church, led by Rev Jolie Olivetti and the Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG).



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

MainSpring House lunch making: join in for an intergenerational project on Sunday, 16 October during Coffee Hour as we assemble 90 brown bag lunches for the guests of MainSpring House in Brockton. Each month we send lunches to the shelter, and we need your help to put them together (and to deliver them). Want to help more? Contact Gare Reid (agreed@rcn.com) if you want to be a shopper, or to deliver the boxes of lunches. Do you and your household eat food too? We fundraise to do this with our **Shopping for Justice** program (S4J), where we ask you to purchase grocery cards from local chain stores for you personal shopping needs. We buy the cards in bulk, and get a 5% discount, which funds the lunch program (your grocery purchases are one-to-one, dollar for dollar, since the 5% donation comes from the stores). Stop by the Social Justice Table in the Vestry during Coffee Hours to learn more about this user-friendly program. And then wash your hands, grab a mask, and find your spot in the assembly line on the 16th!



FT Marketplace – Wednesday, 19 October, 4-6pm

In addition to our Social Justice Table during Coffee Hour each Sunday morning following the services, the SJC will continue to offer our monthly Marketplace for pre-ordered coffee, chocolates, other special food items, as well as S4J grocery cards. As fall arrives, with Halloween in the wings, we will offer pickups on the 3rd Wednesday afternoons each month. 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 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 October: the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, October 16th at 12:15pm. Look for the link in the UCS Calendar this month. We will continue to offer zoom participation, while some folx may be ready to resume gathering in the physical Library for masked face-to-face conversation. There are plenty of topics in the news and events at home and around the world that call for our attention – 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.

8th PRINCIPLE

8th Principle



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Ongoing: Wednesdays at 10 AM on Zoom in the [Virtual Library](#) - **8th Principle Reflection Hour**. Facilitated by Rev. Jolie

Reflecting on the messages contained within the 8th Principle, we will use our time together to seek deeper understanding of ourselves and one another, and explore ways to bring its messages of spiritual wholeness and anti-racist/anti-oppression work to life – as individuals, as a congregation and as members of the world community. This is a space for authentic conversation, shared concerns and troubling questions. We hope you will join us if you are available. If you are interested in participating in a group but can't attend Wednesday mornings, please contact Barbara Nelkin-Rose with your availability.

Sunday, October 23rd - Following Worship Service. Black Lives Matter Banner Re-Commitment Ceremony

Join us for a short ceremony led by the Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) and Rev. Jolie where we will acknowledge what it means for us to continue to hang the Black Lives Matter banner for another year in front of our church building and re-commit ourselves to the work of eradicating racism and bringing to life the messages within the 8th Principle, which was adopted at our annual meeting last June.

CONNECT WITH ARWG (Anti-Racism Working Group)

- Do you have questions for us?
 - Do you have ideas to share with us?
 - Are there specific action steps you would like to see taken?
- If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, *or would consider becoming a member of our group or you're interested in helping with a specific project you're passionate about, please contact Barbara Nelkin-Rose, ARWG Chair.*

REMINDER: To Learn More About The 8th Principle, check out our [website page](#). (We hope to be updating the page within the next month)

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

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



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022. Article II Study Commission Cottage Meeting led by Rev. Jolie.

Please join us as we consider the work the Article II Study Commission has been doing in drafting revisions to Article II, which contains our UU Bylaws, Principles and Purposes. This is a wonderful opportunity to share what it means to you to be a Unitarian Universalist and what you believe are the most important values and goals within our faith.

Coming in October/Early November. Feedback discussions with the Outreach Team of the Article II Study Commission.

Let your voice be heard and join a zoom feedback discussion on the proposed draft language to Article II. Specific dates in October/early November will be provided on the Article II Study Commission's [website page](#). Registration is required, upon which you will receive an email with the draft. The Commission is hoping for large participation in these sessions so that as UUs, we can "chart the future of our faith together." The Commission's proposal of the new Article II language will be sent to the UUA Board in early 2023 and it will then be considered in mini-assemblies before the vote at General Assembly 2023.

CHURCH NEWS



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

Art Wall

"Portraits" will continue through October. The theme for November will be "Water, Vegetation, Minerals."

All media welcome. Contact Dinah with any questions
Contact me at: drpa18@gmail.com. to contribute.

Dinah Altman

The Not Boring Book Group

The Not Boring Book Group meets on the first Wednesday of most months.

Our next conversation will be **at 7pm on Wednesday, October 5th**, in the Church Library. Whether that will be virtual, in person or hybrid is currently TBD.

We will discuss Jojo Moyes' *The Giver of Stars*, historical fiction about pack horse librarians in a remote area of Kentucky during the Great Depression. (Not without controversy, there is another version of the story, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* from which Moyes' version may have been derived.)

You're welcome to join us even if you haven't finished the book - or even started it! The themes often provoke spirited discussion, either way.