

# the chalice

Published by the  
Unitarian Church of Sharon  
**A Welcoming Congregation  
of the Unitarian  
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## NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

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

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

### **Nov 6 Deeds Not Creeds**

You may have noticed our banner outside which proclaims, "Deeds Not Creeds." What does that mean? We'll explore examples of faith in action, from the Biblical text of James to the social gospel movement, and the history of community ministry within Unitarian Universalism. Rev. Jolie preaching.

### **Nov 13 The Message of Veterans For Peace**

Veterans For Peace is a global organization of military veterans and allies who advocate for peace. On November 11 each year, their members honor the original traditions of the day, formerly known as Armistice Day, by ringing bells and calling for peace. They say, "as veterans we know that a day that celebrates peace, not war, is the best way to honor the sacrifices of veterans." Our service today will reflect on this message. Rev. Jolie preaching.

### **Nov 20 Giving Thanks - One Service at 10:30 AM. RE starts after Time For All Ages. No Family Service today.**

We will gather as an intergenerational community for the first portion of our service today and hear a story of the first "Thanksgiving" from the Wampanoag perspective. Our worship will continue with a sermon on the meaning of land acknowledgments, and how honoring our relationship with the land and all its people can be a spiritual practice. Rev. Jolie preaching.

### **Nov 27 Gratitude Chalice Circle - Intergenerational Service at 10:30 AM. No Family Service today, no RE today.**

On this Sunday after Thanksgiving, we will reflect and share on the theme of gratitude in an interactive format we call a "chalice circle." UCS Member Val Vigoda will lead us in this holy conversation for all ages about what we are thankful for.

## From the Minister



I'm writing this column right in the thick of election season. I wonder, how are you doing this time around? On the one hand, election season might feel exciting; after all, voting is one of a small handful of means directly available to us to make decisions about our government. On the other hand, election season might feel like a whole lot of other things: stressful, polarizing, demoralizing, exasperating. I will certainly be voting on November 8; I plan to bring my five-year-old with me to my polling place at the high school down the block. We will surely have another one of our negotiations over who fills in the bubble with black marker and I will surely again lose that negotiation and just have to hope she stays in the lines. I hope all of you also plan to vote. When you do, you can think of

how you are living out your UU faith, one of our UU Principles being the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. Voting rights are precious, especially hard-won for women and people of color, and are not to be given up lightly.

But the thing is, it takes more than just voting to build a fair society. It takes staying engaged in the work of the elected officials after we elect them. It takes supporting professional journalism and a free press. It takes civic engagement at the local level. Of course we don't all have the time or energy to attend every community meeting, call every legislator, or join every PTA. That's OK - we are all called to different things in different seasons of our lives. Whether or not we are personally engaged in what democracy consists of beyond elections, it can help us make sense of how unsatisfying voting can be to know that democracy is about more than just voting. In fact, coalitions like [Democracy Beyond Elections](#) are responding to the failures of electoral politics by supporting efforts to expand public access to decision-making through community processes such as participatory budgeting and policy assemblies. The reality is that election season will once again pass and we will still be here, and we're gonna keep trying our best to create the world we wish to see, the world we all deserve, the world where everyone has the same chances to survive and thrive.

Yours in faith,  
Rev. Jolie

p.s. You can now book appointments with me at [www.calendly.com/revjolie](http://www.calendly.com/revjolie). I look forward to meeting with you!

## From the President



Wasn't it Humpty Dumpty who was supposed to be able to make words mean whatever he wanted? I was thinking about this during worship Sunday morning, because of the number of ways we UUs use words in what might seem unconventional ways. Take "flowers" for example. The worship coordinator made an announcement that we were looking for folks to sign up for greeting and coffee and flowers for Sunday mornings.

Well, "flowers" in this context doesn't actually mean the reproductive organs of green plants . . . it really means "visual focus" . . . that is, maybe some colorful leaves and branches, or a piece of art, or an interesting object. A globe, or a large vase. A wall hanging.

And then there's "worship". I used to tease Rev. Jim for the number of times he would start a sermon with a dictionary definition. But I think I have to copy him this time. Dictionary.com says of worship: reverent honor and homage paid to God or a sacred personage, or to any object regarded as sacred. Well, I don't think that's a very accurate description of what it is that we do on Sunday mornings. We gather on Sunday mornings for a lot of reasons—to experience our beloved community, to be reminded of our best selves, to learn, to reflect.

And what about "pray"? There was a cartoon once (I tried to Google it but failed) about a preacher at an interfaith service who said, "Let us pray, and you UUs do whatever it is you do."

Next Sunday afternoon the board of trustees will have an in-person meeting which we have called a "retreat". But I hope we'll advance instead.

Oh, and Jolie, I really was listening to the sermon . . .

*Valerie White*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### **A Note from the Interim Director of Religious Education**

#### Changes to religious education meeting locations

While we don't currently have a timeline for the repairs to the sanctuary, we can expect that worship will need to continue in A/B for several weeks. As such, we are adjusting some RE curricula and the locations we meet in. Beginning November 6 the middle school Crossing Paths class will meet in the library upstairs and the K-5 group will meet in Classroom C. If the latter group needs additional space over the coming weeks, we will use the Nursery as well.

Between now and Christmas there will be four regular RE sessions: the first two Sundays in November and the first two Sundays in December. Grades K-5 will use these four sessions to prepare for our annual holiday Revels service (we'll sneak in a fifth, shorter session after a "time for all ages" during the 10:30 service on Nov. 20). Middle schoolers will continue Crossing Paths during November and prepare for Revels in December.

[Click here](#) for the rest of the November RE Newsletter.

#### Revision of the Religious Education webpages

A huge thank you to Kadin Nestler, who volunteered his time and expertise to help Christine Bulman format revisions to the RE pages of the website. Kadin, who is the son of UCS member and Board Clerk Courtney Hopkins, is a digital consultant by trade. Christine went to him with two main goals: simplicity and ease of navigation. If you check out the RE landing page, you will see that the mission was achieved! Thank you Kadin!



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



The Social Justice Committee encourages you to visit the UCS website ([uusharon.org](http://uusharon.org)) for news and connections about what's happening for social justice at church. The Social Justice pages are a great source for information on events, opportunities to engage, resources, and links to partner organizations and groups that we collaborate with in our work.

### Brown Envelope Collections



Our Brown Envelope collection in September (starting the Sunday after Labor Day) was directed to our **Partner Church in Gyulakuta, Transylvania.**

Donations of \$682, plus an additional \$700 of support from the UCS annual budget, resulted in \$1382 being transferred this fall. For many years, our congregation has supported fellow UUs in Romania. The money we raise 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 are supporting **UU The Vote** ([uuthevote.org](http://uuthevote.org)), a nation-wide effort by the UUA to register and educate voters on a broad range of important topics this election season. Working with UU State Action Networks and other partners, the goal is to reach 4 million voters before Election Day in November.

The November Brown E donations will go to **Youth On Fire** ([aac.org/youth-on-fire/](http://aac.org/youth-on-fire/), a program of AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts), a drop-in center for homeless and street-involved youth, ages 14-24, located in Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA. Since opening its doors in 2000, over 3,000 youth have benefitted from YOF programs, including:

- Responses to the basic and urgent needs of homeless young adults at high risk of communicable diseases and victimization
- Connecting youth to services including behavioral health and medical care
- Creating safe and supportive relationships and community groups and events
- Partnering with community and civic organizations, local businesses and public officials to address youth homelessness

In the last two years, the number of clients served has doubled, while funding has decreased. Your support for their important work will be greatly appreciated.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

### 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 **\$56,850** in the over 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!

**An update** from our street reporter, **Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks**, while delivering food items to our Sharon/Stoughton pantry:

*One woman was walking out with her many bags filled to brim. She stopped me when she saw the huge packages of Raisin Bran I was carrying in. She wanted to know if she could have one. Since it isn't up to me to give anything directly, I said I had to check it into the pantry. She had already gone through the line, but she had too many bags to take to her car so she left one behind. This lady may have been the family with 4 children I had heard came to the pantry every 2 weeks. By the time she came back for her last bag, a jumbo package of Raisin Bran was hers. She was thrilled, and I carried her bag to the car. She thanked me, and told me her shoulder made it hard to carry bags. I was happy to help. We wished each other a great day. By the time I got to the car I was tearful. No one should need a food pantry. Too many do. Little things make such a big difference.*



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

**MainSpring House** lunch making: join in for an intergenerational project on Sunday, 13 November 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](mailto: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 your 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 13th!

### **FT Marketplace – Wednesday, 16 November, 4-6pm – time to stock up for the Holidays ahead!**

In addition to our Social Justice Table during Coffee Hour each Sunday morning following the services, the SJC will continue for at least one more month to offer our Marketplace for pre-ordered coffee, chocolates, other special food items, as well as S4J grocery cards. Look for an email to the congregation for details about what,

when and how to order, and then stop by the church on Wednesday afternoon 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.

*[Please note: This may be our **final month to offer this service**, as cold weather is approaching, and many of our customers are finding it easier to shop at the Fair Trade Table during Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings. If you are not yet ready to resume attending church in person, let us know, and we can find ways to get you pre-ordered Fair Trade goods and S4J grocery cards with Covid-safe pickups, perhaps outdoors on Sundays after the service. Smart UUs will figure this out!]*

**SJC Meeting for November:** the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, November 6th at 12:30pm. Look for the link in the UCS Calendar. We will continue to offer zoom participation, while some folx may be ready to resume gathering in the physical Library for face-to-face conversation. Lots of important work and potential projects are in the air, and we need your input and energy as we find the right levels of engagement for the UCS community.



## 8th PRINCIPLE

### 8th Principle



The 8th Principle, which was adopted by our congregation at our annual meeting in June of 2022 and the Black Lives Matter Banner, which has been displayed in front of our church for 2 years now, mean little if we don't commit ourselves to the constant and vigilant work of eradicating racism through our actions.

(ARWG) is to support the congregation in continually evolving into an intentionally and pro-actively anti-racist faith community through reflection, action, listening and learning; paying special attention to the voices of people of color in our own congregation and neighborhood. To that end, we continually discuss how we can best achieve that goal. While we are still in the planning stages, we intend on offering these types of future events:

### BLACK LIVES MATTER BANNER RE-COMMITMENT CEREMONY:



One way in which we sought to bring meaning to the Black Lives Matter Banner and the 8th Principle was by holding a Re-Commitment Ceremony after worship service on October 23rd. During the ceremony, we made the following commitments:

1. To raise anti-racist children and to encourage their involvement in the work of racial justice in an age-appropriate manner
2. To encourage one another in the on-going, sometimes painful work of seeing the racism that lives within us, within our walls and beyond our walls.
3. To practice Beloved Community within our congregation and beyond, inviting all voices to be heard, especially those from marginalized communities.

To work towards dismantling all systems of oppression that exist in our world and continually affirm that Black Lives Matter.

### FUTURE EVENTS BEING PLANNED:

The goal of the Anti-Racism Working Group

- A monthly "media" event using a movie, podcast or other type of media form to focus on the issue of racism, white supremacy and other forms of oppression.
- Coffee hour conversations. Members of the ARWG will make themselves available during coffee hour to speak one-on-one or in small groups with those interested in having deeper conversations about what it means that we have adopted the 8th Principle, how we can accountably take action to dismantle racism/other forms of oppression, and how this all relates to our "spiritual wholeness."

Guided meditations focused specifically on spiritual justice.

We hope to have specific details and dates about these upcoming events in the December Newsletter and in future Friday weekly emails, so be sure to check those out and please let us know if there's a specific type of event that you would like us to offer. You can do so by contacting Barbara Nelkin-Rose, Chair of ARWG.

### 8TH PRINCIPLE LEARNING COMMUNITY - VIRTUAL MEETING FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th

The 8th Principle Learning Community holds monthly virtual meetings led by Paula Cole Jones, one of the originators of the 8th Principle. These meetings, which have a specific theme each month, are open to anyone who wants to participate. November's meeting should be of particular interest, as the Article II Study Commissioners will be sharing changes to Article II that they will be proposing at the 2023 General Assembly. If you are interested in attending the November meeting, or any future monthly meeting, email Paula directly [[pcolejonesoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pcolejonesoffice@gmail.com)] and ask her to add you to the mailing list so that you can receive the Zoom Link.

### CONNECT WITH ARWG:

If you would like more information about the work and goals of the Anti-Racism Working Group, would like to share with us your suggestions or ideas, or are interested in having deeper, one-on-one conversations about creating racial justice and dismantling white supremacy, please feel free to contact Barbara Nelkin-Rose, Chair of ARWG.



## **UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023**

### **UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023 – Submitted by Barbara Nelkin-Rose**



The theme for General Assembly 2023 is "Faithfully Becoming." We continue to live in times of transition and change; so much is in flux. The COVID-19 pandemic upended our lives, our communities, and the world. It made clear the devastating and deadly impacts of longstanding racial and economic disparities. The ongoing losses and threats from climate change (of which the pandemic is not unrelated), growing authoritarian movements and the rolling back of fundamental human rights – these all present tremendous challenges for our lives, our children, and our future.

Many feel worn out and overwhelmed. But times of significant change can also be moments of opportunity and possibility. Major shifts are happening. Our theology and our values as Unitarian Universalists are needed.

This General Assembly will be an exciting moment demonstrating the ways we are called into Faithfully Becoming.

We are at a threshold moment for our faith, and will choose the next path in our journey. We will consider new articulations of Article II (including our Principles and Purpose) and elect a new President to lead our Association. These are decisions that will shape who we are and how we respond to and grow through these times. These changes offer us possibilities for becoming more connected, courageous, inclusive, generous, and continuing our ongoing journey of becoming Beloved Community.

The UUA is also inviting programming proposals for either virtual or in person programming. The deadline for the proposal is Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and all submissions should provide meaningful opportunities for learning and skill development, as well as address one or more of 4 focus areas as outlined [on this webpage](#).

## CHURCH NEWS

"Coming this holiday season: a CD (and digital download) of our longtime **Musical Director Mel Springer** at the piano. Mel recorded 17 songs in our sanctuary earlier this year, and we're delighted to make them available in the next several weeks, projecting release date around December 1st. Pricing is to be determined, but for more information please contact Jean Fox at [jmfoxden@versizon.net](mailto:jmfoxden@versizon.net)."



After many years of service, Ken Zaniewski is retiring from overseeing signups for Worship Greeters, Flowers, and Coffee Hour Hosts. Thank you for tending the hearth for so long, Ken! Our Congregational Administrator, De'En Tarkpor, is now overseeing the sign-up of Greeters, Flowers and Coffee via Sign-up Genius.

We could use a member to lend a hand with this as well. When De'En and our Worship Coordinators notice that there aren't a lot of signups happening, we need someone to help us find recruits.

This is where YOU come in! Your job would talk to people at church, at Coffee Hour, and other church events to ask people to sign up, make sure people know where to sign up, where to find instructions for these roles, and how to find a buddy if it's someone's first time.

**Talk to Rev. Jolie if you're interested or with any questions.**

### Art Wall

The Portrait wall was a success! Thanks to all. Our next show will include **depictions of animals and people together with such natural elements as water, vegetation,, minerals**. This will segue into the following show in December which will focus on the natural elements. All artists are welcome to contribute, all mediums that we can display are welcome.

Any questions please contact Dinah Altman at [drpa18@gmail.com](mailto:drpa18@gmail.com) or text 781-956-0238 or see me in person.

### The Not Boring Book Group

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

The Not Boring Book Group will next "meet" via Zoom on Wednesday, November 2nd, at 7pm. Everyone is invited to join the conversation, whether or not you've finished the book.

Our selection is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, historical fiction based on the life of Belle Marion Greener.

### 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](mailto:gwebbaker@comcast.net)

## CHURCH NEWS

New To UU Class  
Sunday, Nov. 13  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
lunch and childcare  
provided



For newcomers and  
not-so-newcomers  
who want a refresher

rsvp to  
minister@uusharon.org by  
Nov 6

PIC•COLLAGE

### Are you looking for a way to lend a hand?

We are in need of someone to take on the role of overseeing the sign-up of Greeters, Flowers and Coffee via Sign-up Genius. This would involve checking Sign-ups and sharing that information weekly with De'En. It would also involve direct outreach when slots are empty.

Thank you to Ken Zaniuski who attended the hearth for so many years!

Please contact Reverend Jolie for details.

////////////////////////////////////

Help spread the word about the [new sign up page for Greeters, Flowers and Coffee Hour at church](#). Ask a friend to be a greeter with you, or to make the coffee. new link!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4daba92ea2f49-coffeegreeterflo>

We need your help! Point your phone's camera at this QR code to sign up to be a greeter, bring flowers, or make coffee.



**Do you like the sound of children playing?** Do you like knowing that the children of this church have a safe and fun playground? Of course you do! Help us finish creating our new playground by contributing to the Playground Fund. Funds will go toward paying for the new equipment already installed as well as the very special two-story tower that will be the centerpiece of the playground. You can contribute through Breeze, or by sending a check to the church directly with Playground in the memo line.

Every cent is important to our mission so please only use online giving if you are able to cover the processing fees (2.9% + \$0.30/transaction for credit cards and 1% + \$0.25/transaction for bank transfers). Otherwise, dropping off the money or sending a check to the Unitarian Church of Sharon 4 N Main street will let us keep all of your donation. Thank you!

Give to Unitarian Church of Sharon

\$25

Give to UCS Playground Fund

Add Gift to Another Fund

Give this One Time

Give by Credit/Debit Card

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Caregivers  
Group

Are you or have you been a caretaker for someone? Would you like to join a small group ministry with others who have had similar experiences?

To express interest, contact Rev. Jolie:  
minister@uusharon.org

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## CHURCH NEWS

# *Town of Sharon Interfaith Thanksgiving Service*



**Sunday, November 20, 2022**

**7 pm at the First Congregational Church of Sharon  
29 North Main Street, Sharon MA 02067**

**Please bring a monetary donation by cash or paper check for the FCC's food pantry, and a potluck dessert will follow the service.**

Monetary donations are always needed to help keep the food pantry operating. Please make paper checks payable to "First Congregational Church of Sharon," write "Food Pantry" on the memo line. If you are unable to attend but want to send a contribution, please send it to FCC of Sharon, 29 No. Main St., Sharon MA 02067. All donations will go to the food pantry fund and are used to purchase food for the pantry shelves and refrigerator.

*Sharon's clergy are sponsoring this annual service.*

***All are welcome! Peace!***