

the chalice

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

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

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

February 5 The Blessing of Enough

"All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us" (from a reading in our hymnal by George E. Odell). Rev. Jolie will share the pulpit this week with guests from the Ilse Marks food pantry, and we will dig deep into how sharing doesn't just help those we share with, it nourishes our own spirits as well.

February 12 The Principled Life

Our Seven Principles have helped us understand and explain our faith for the last 40 years. They are up for revision, and the new draft has been presented to the Board of our Unitarian Universalist Association and to the public. What might be lost, and what might we gain from these changes? **Rev. Jolie preaching**

February 19 Beginner's Mind

Our worship today is inspired by shoshin, a concept from Zen Buddhism, made popular outside of Japan by Shunryu Suzuki (1904-1971), the Zen monk and teacher who founded the first Zen Buddhist monastery outside Asia. Shoshin means "beginner's mind" and it encourages us to approach our undertakings with the same openness and enthusiasm that a beginner would, even if we have been at it - whatever it is - for ages. What happens when we stop expecting perfection and instead start hoping for discovery? **Rev. Jolie preaching, hosting Five Points Cluster**

February 26 Building the Beloved Community Together

As UUs, we believe that all people have inherent worth and dignity and that we are all connected by a web of mutuality that calls us toward creating the beloved community here and now. Practicing solidarity with directly impacted communities is an important part of that building process. How can we, and how are we already, doing this faithful and vital work?

Heather's Bio: Heather Vickery is the Coordinator for Congregational Activism at the UU Service Committee - responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with UU congregations, State Action Networks, past College of Social Justice program participants and regional staff in order to expand engagement in UUSC and CSJ's work. Heather is also an aspirant to UU Ministry and student at Starr King School for the Ministry as well as an active member of the First Parish in Malden and a core team member of the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network. Outside of her paid work, church responsibilities and activism, she is a dedicated dog mom to 2-year-old rescue pup Nova and finds spiritual sustenance in taking walks with her in nature.



From the Minister



Dear ones,

It's Black History Month! Let's have some Black UU History, shall we? I'll start with the towering figure of **Frances Ellen Watkins Harper** (1825-1911). She was born to free Black parents in the slave state of Maryland. She grew up to be a prolific writer, a renowned public speaker, and a passionate supporter of many of the causes of her day: abolitionism, the Underground Railroad, suffrage, temperance, and children's rights. She became one of the first Black women to earn a living from her published writings, and counted among her friends Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, and John Brown and his wife. A lifelong member of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church, she became acquainted with Unitarians through her involvement with abolitionism and the Underground Railroad. Subsequently she maintained religious affiliation in both worlds, and was a member of the First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia from 1870 until her death in 1911. Scholar and UU minister Rev. Dr. Qiyamah Rahman writes, "[Harper's] ability to build empathy utilizing Protestant rhetoric and biblical narratives to make linkages and connections in whites' lives demonstrated a rare creative gift. Her works, spanning more than six decades, have become required reading in literature and gender studies."

Next up on our extremely limited tour of Black UU History is **Rev. Joseph Jordan** (1842-1901). He was the first African American to be ordained by the Universalist denomination. He was born free in the Norfolk VA. area and felt a calling to the ministry while working as a successful carpenter. He was first ordained as a Baptist minister. However, some time in the early 1880s, a colleague gave him a book: *The Plain Guide to Universalism* by *Thomas Whittemore*, which professed that God's love and the promise of salvation is extended to all. That book had such a powerful effect on him that he could no longer in good conscience preach the Baptist faith. Some years later he went to Philadelphia where he studied with a Universalist named Rev. Edwin C. Sweetser. After seven months of study, he founded the First Universalist Church of Norfolk in Virginia, in 1887. He was ordained as a Universalist minister in 1889. His church soon went on to start a day school for Black children in Norfolk, as, to Jordan, church and education were both vital to living life with dignity, purpose, and personal and community empowerment. Sadly, he died of unknown causes at only 53 years old.

Let's squeeze in one more, from more recent times. Though not exactly from history, more from the present, **Melissa Harris-Perry** is a writer, professor, television host, and political commentator. She is currently the host of WNYC's *The Takeaway* and is the Maya Angelou Presidential Chair Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. She is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, and recently wrote the forward to the newest edition of our "Pocket Guide," one of the resources our UUA publishes as an introduction to Unitarian Universalism.

And finally, I'll lift up [BLUU](#) (Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism) who are making history with their commitments to expanding the power and capacity of Black UUs within Unitarian Universalism; providing support, information, and resources for Black Unitarian Universalists; and justice-making and liberation for Black people through our faith.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

p.s. You can now book appointments with me at www.calendly.com/revjolie. I look forward to meet-

From the President



Sometimes, when I'm sitting in my usual pew in the sanctuary, I look around at the objects I see there and think about their history. I wonder whether most people know the significance of these things.

We all have been thinking a lot lately about the embossed tin ceiling, because it was threatening to fall onto our heads. I look at it and I also remember once when David Nelson said that when HE looks at it he thinks, "Since before Appomattox."

I look at the cloth which sits under the flowers (or visual focus), and I understand that it came from our Partner Church in Transylvania. I look at the blue cloth with gold chalices on it that sits under the chalice, and I remember that it was woven for UCS by Susan Edinger.

I look at the Steinway grand piano and I remember that it used to belong to Phyllis Brookfield (Rebecca Kinraide's grandmother). I remember that before we had an elevator I helped carry Don Brookfield (her husband) in his wheelchair up the front steps into the sanctuary. I listen to the bell in the steeple and I marvel that it was made by Paul Revere.

I look at the chalice on Susan's beautiful blue fabric and I remember that I gave that chalice to our church in 2012 to celebrate my 50 years as a Unitarian Universalist.

Of course, not everything in the sanctuary is old. The pews and their horsehair (!) cushions are old. The pulpit and the chairs on the stage are old. The wavy glass in the windows is old. But the microphones and the laptop and the cameras we use for hybrid services are not old. They are providing a way for us to stay connected with folks who for some reason—distance, health—can't be physically present on Sunday mornings.

The air filtration devices are not old—and they are helping keep us healthy. The hearing assistive devices and the large-print hymnals aren't old. The grey hymnals aren't very old, but did you know we bought them to celebrate the Rev. Deborah Cayer's tenth anniversary as our minister?

Our congregation was founded in 1737. One of the founders of our congregation was Deborah Sampson Gannett, whose statue stands in front of the library. She's famous because, disguised as a man, she fought in the Revolutionary War. She lived in Sharon. You can see her signature on the founding document on one of the shelves in the library.

We have a lot of history to remember, and we should glory in it.

Valerie White

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education News:

By the time you are reading this, we will be celebrating the successful return of two beloved annual youth traditions that were put on hold indefinitely in late 2020: the Pancake Waffle Breakfast aka "The PanWaff" and the Cedar Hill Retreat in Duxbury. Thank you to all who came to and contributed to the PanWaff! We raised \$360 toward new comfy chairs for junior and senior youth meetings. At this writing, the plans for Cedar Hill are well underway and teens are looking forward to a visit to the Duxbury seaside, a cozy fire in the fireplace and lots of fun to be had!

Our children's programs are growing each week and we continue to develop new curricula to support the needs of active, curious, and thoughtful UU children on Sunday mornings. Get involved in this vibrant ministry of the church by volunteering on Sunday mornings, or serving a term on the Religious Education Committee which is actively looking for new members as current members approach the end of their service! If classroom facilitation is not your thing, the Religious Education Committee is a great way to contribute from behind the scenes. There are a variety of ways to fit your talents from spreadsheets and budgets to choosing curriculum and creating inviting spaces. Reach out either to Christine or to a current member if you are interested: Sean Bisson-Donohue, Chloe Kline, Mike Quinn, Nick Giammaria, and Jessica Plumridge.

For details on Religious Education programming, please see the weekly congregational emails as well as the [February RE Newsletter](#).

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



The Social Justice Committee encourages you to visit the UCS website (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

The December Brown E donations totaling \$964 went to support the **UU Urban Ministry** (uum.org), a social justice or-

ganization based in Roxbury, at the First Church Roxbury Meetinghouse.

During our single Christmas Eve service this year, all donations totaling \$377 were given to support the work of **Father Bills & MainSpring House**, offering shelter and resources to the homeless communities of Brockton and Quincy. The SJC voted to round up this amount to \$400 from our Shopping For Justice grocery card fund.

For the January 2023 Brown Envelope collection, the SJC chose to support **World Central Kitchen** (www.wck.org), with a focus on their efforts to feel those suffering in Ukraine. Established in 2010 by Jose Andres, WCK is first to the front-lines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. They build resilient food systems with locally led solutions.

The February Brown Envelope donations will join our ongoing commitment to support the work of **local food pantries** during this extended period of great food insecurity for many of our neighbors. With an emphasis on the **Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry**, serving clients in both towns,

and including additional pantries in **Foxboro, Walpole, Canton, Norwood** and another pantry based in the **Congregational Church in Sharon**, donations will be converted to grocery cards at local stores through our **Shopping for Justice** program.

Since the spring of 2020 when Covid first struck, our collective fundraising for local food pantries has raised over \$58,000. This amazing sum has had a tremendous impact on this crisis, but the need remains, and your donations are greatly appreciated.

SJC Meeting for February: the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, February 5th at 12:30pm. Look for the link in the UCS Calendar. We will continue to offer zoom participation, while some folks may be ready to resume gathering in the physical Library for face-to-face conversation. Please join us as we look for opportunities and challenges to work together as we make a difference in the world.

MainSpring House lunch making: join in for an intergenerational project on Sunday, 12 February 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. 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 purchase supplies for this effort 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 12th!

ANTI-RACISM WORKING GROUP (ARWG) formerly 8th Principle



Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) REPORT

While last month was an opportunity to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. and honor his life's work and the contributions he made to the world, it is clear that there is still much work to be done to achieve his vision of a "Beloved Community."

Systemic white supremacy and a culture of white dominance are still pervasive in this country and in fact, during the last few years, we have seen major setbacks in many areas, including voting rights, wealth distribution and access to health care, setbacks that disproportionately discriminate against those from marginalized communities, especially Black and Brown folks.

The call within the 8th Principle, which we overwhelmingly adopted at our annual meeting in June, echo MLK's call, "to dismantle racism and all forms of oppression," and bring life to the ideal of "Beloved Community." One of the core goals of the ARWG is to support the congregation in answering this call. While we too, as a congregation, have much work ahead of us to answer this call, happily, we have already seen some specific ways in which our congregation has started to do so:

The ARWG has been highlighting the need to bring more focus on anti-racism work into meetings held by the Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs and Leadership has responded by starting to have the issue of racism become a more intentional part of their conversations.

The Committee On Ministry (which our President, Valerie White wrote about in last month's newsletter) recently created a Self

-Assessment Form to be used by various church committees, designed to help committee members reflect on what they believe to be the committee's areas of strengths as well as those areas needing some improvement and/or support. Included in the form are some questions specifically related to the messages of inclusivity and diversity contained within the 8th Principle.

The Religious Education program, spearheaded by our Interim RE Director, Christine Bulman, has incorporated a focus on Anti-Racism work into the Coming of Age curriculum this year and Grades 3-5 are currently working on creating a Free Diverse Library.

Of course, there is still much more work to be done and the ARWG will continue to plan events that will support UCS in becoming an intentionally and proactively anti-racist faith community. We will seek a variety of ways for congregational participation and action, focused on having the hard and uncomfortable conversations about the impacts of racism and the pervasive nature and harm of white supremacy while also taking action to eradicate these current systems and replace them with systems that help create equitable and inclusive communities where everyone is treated with the same dignity and respect, regardless of skin color, wealth, gender identity and cultural background.

We encourage you to join us in as many of these events as you can AND

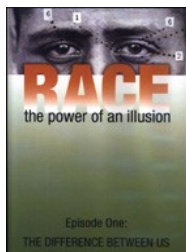
We welcome your suggestions and input as to the types of events you would like to be offered.

ANTI-RACISM WORKING GROUP (ARWG) formerly 8th Principle, continued

FEBRUARY – BLACK HISTORY MONTH: RACE THE POWER OF AN ILLUSION

In honor of Black History Month, Rev. Jolie, along with members of the ARWG, will be offering an opportunity to view and discuss the documentary series Race: The power of an Illusion. This 3-part documentary examines the origins, beliefs and consequences of what we call “race,” and debunks the assumption that, as Larry Adelman, the Executive Producer of the series writes: “the world’s peoples can be divided biologically along racial lines.” It asks questions such as: How did it all start? Why are we where we are now? What do people need to hear?

Mark Your Calendars for these 3 consecutive Friday evenings: February 17, February 24, March 3, from 7-9pm. In-Person only. More information will be provided in the Friday Chalice and the church calendar as we get closer to the event.



COFFEE HOUR OPPORTUNITIES – ALCO CONVOS and QUESTIONS TO PONDER

ARWG will continue to offer these opportunities on various Sundays during Coffee Hour as a way to encourage us to engage in the uncomfortable conversations about racism and the pervasive nature and harm of this country’s culture of white supremacy. We ask for your patience as we continue to work out the logistics for these opportunities and in the meantime, we encourage you to check the alcove near the exit door to the Memorial Garden to see if we’re there and/or to look for a posted Question to Ponder. We will let you know when they are available by either providing information in the Friday Chalice and/or by making an announcement that day.

WANT TO TAKE ACTION?

Check out the **SURJ** website (Showing Up For Racial Justice) <https://www.surjboston.org/>. Perhaps you can take some time to call or email your legislators and encourage them to pass the Prison and Jail Construction Moratorium. For more information click this [link](#) and scroll down to “Calls and Emails”

EVENTS HELD LAST MONTH - JANUARY

January 20th: ARWG: Viewing/Conversation of Baratunde Rafiq Thurston’s Ted Talk on How to Deconstruct Racism, One Headline at a Time.



Various Dates from January 15th – 31st: Sharon Interfaith Clergy Association– Nonviolence Awareness Month – There were a number of events facilitated through this project, including those below, and we hope you were able to attend at least one of them.

January 15th: Vigil and Speakers.

After a half hour of standing outside in the center of town with our signs conveying messages of nonviolence and the honoring of MLK, we moved into the UCS sanctuary to listen to speakers, including a number of Sharon clergy and the main speaker, Ruth Zakarin, Executive Director of the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, who provided a very informative and compelling talk.



January 19th: Nonviolent/Compassionate Communication Workshop led by Rabbi Kafka, Temple Kol Tikva

January 24th: Peace Play- A Community Workshop Presented by the Louis D. Brown Institute; Hosted by UCS

January 25th: Violence de-escalation Workshop hosted by the Sharon Police Dept.

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

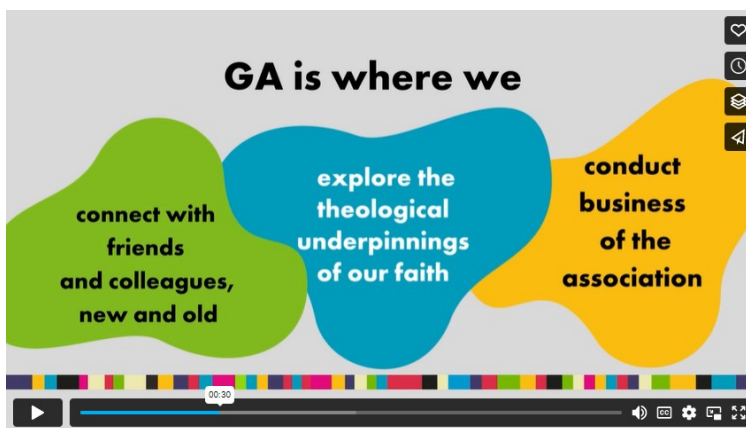
UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023– Submitted by Barbara Nelkin-Rose



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PITTSBURGH • JUNE 21 - 25, 2023

“General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. The theme for General Assembly 2023 is “Faithfully Becoming,” and promises to be an important and exciting event as UUs choose next steps forward, elect a new President to lead the Association and consider changes to Article II recently proposed by the Article II Study Commission. General Assembly is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of Unitarian Universalists and partners that attend each June. Attendees leave with a renewed sense of energy, inspiration, and innovative ideas to take back to their congregations and communities.” (Quoted from UUA websites on GA 2023)

OR CLICK [HERE](#) to watch the quick 2-minute video below, explaining what GA is:



It's not too early to think about whether **YOU** may want to attend GA this year! If you're considering attending GA 2023 either virtually or in-person, check out these website pages:

[Program Schedule](#)

[Registration Fees](#)

Note that there are 3 tiers of rates: 1) Cheapest rates through February 28th 2) Higher rates between March 1st - May 15th and 3) Highest rates after May 15th.

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

As you may know, one of the major issues to be addressed at this year's GA, in keeping with the tradition of reviewing the UUA Bylaws every 15 years or so, is the adoption of a new Article II. The Article II Study Commission has recently completed its two-year study and has submitted its report to the Board of Trustees with the Recommended Revisions. The report includes the CURRENT Article II (pp.17-18), which lists our current UUA 7 Principles and the Sources of our Living Tradition AS WELL AS the PROPOSED Article II (pp. 19-22). [Click Here](#) to see the FULL report.

Citing FROM THE CONCLUSION OF THE REPORT:

"We recognize the fact the proposed version of Article II we have presented is indeed a significant departure from our current version, just as past changes to Article II were significant changes from their predecessors. ...We are writing this in pencil, not etching it in stone."

"We knew that no matter what we produced there would be things people wished we had added, things people did not like, and things people appreciated. What we tried, and what we think we succeeded in doing, was to create an Article II that articulated our faith, today and in the near future. ... We honor the fact that there is a loss in changing what has become so familiar to us. We were also mindful that we need not lose everything. You may have noticed that many of the words and themes of our current principles remain in the new Article II, just in a new format."

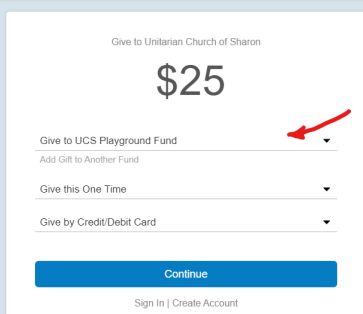
In a January 18th [letter](#) to the UUA community, UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray acknowledges the major changes being recommended by the Article II Study Commission, explains the process by which a new article is approved and encourages us to keep an open mind and heart in considering the proposed changes. Her letter concludes with these words: "May we enter into our conversations about the proposed revisions with a spirit of curiosity, holding off attachment to outcomes, and listen with our whole hearts and to the fullness and diversity of voices in our community. May the process itself deepen our understanding of and commitment to our faith."

CHURCH NEWS

Playground Fund

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

Continue

Sign In | Create Account

Art Wall

For our next art wall, please contribute drawings, paintings or photographs that convey a feeling or idea of yours. The depiction can be of a recognizable object or more abstract. The title you give it will help the viewer receive the underlying emotion or thought.

Any questions please contact Dinah Altman at drpa18@gmail.com or text 781-956-0238 or see me in person.

Exploring Transcendentalism Sunday, February 12, noon to 1:30 PM, Program A/B

Join Rev. Jolie and Courtney Hopkins for this two-part class on Transcendentalism. During the first session (Feb 12) we will discuss the history of the movement and reflect on how its theology lives on within our faith tradition today. The second session (March 12) we hope to take a field trip to a nearby Transcendentalist site of interest (there are many!).

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

CHURCH NEWS

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!

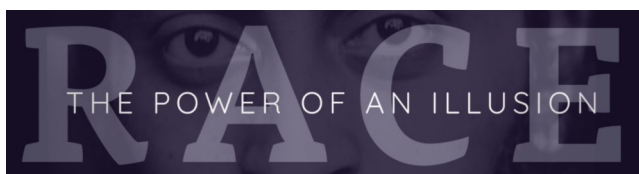
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4daba92ea2f49-coffeegreeterflo>

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.



MOVIE NIGHT

Friday February 17th, February 24th, and March 3rd
Film and Discussion 7-9PM
Unitarian Church of Sharon's Program A/B



Tiny Love Bonfire w/ S'mores

Saturday February 11th @ 6:30PM



Come gather around the bonfire on February 12 at 6:30 and share your TINY love stories!

Modeled on the NYT Modern Love "Tiny Love" series, we're inviting people to share stories of love and connection in 100 words or less! (Nobody is actually going to count, though, unlike the Times version.) First love, romantic love, love for a family member or friend, love of nature... it's all fair game. All ages are invited, s'mores will be served, and you don't have to share a story to come and listen!

Weather permitting of course! You can read some examples and find some inspiration here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/20/style/modern-love-the-best-of-tiny-love-stories.html>

CHURCH NEWS



Are you interested in learning how to meditate? Or hoping to improve your practice?

Did you know that with a commitment of just 15 minutes per day, you can improve the quality of your life through meditation? The investment of time is small, but the benefits are enormous.

Emotional benefits of meditation can include:

- Gaining new perspective on stressful situations
- Building skills to manage your stress
- Increasing self-awareness
- Focusing on the present
- Reducing negative emotions
- Increasing imagination and creativity
- Increasing patience and tolerance

The physical benefits are impressive as well.

According to the Mayo Clinic, research suggests that meditation may help people manage symptoms of conditions such as:

- Anxiety
- Asthma
- Chronic pain, depression
- Heart disease and high blood pressure
- Sleep problems
- Tension headaches and more

I'm Carol Abram, a Meditation Instructor and I will be offering FREE one hour group meditation and mindfulness discussion at your church on Thursdays from 7:00-8:00PM. This session is open to meditators at all levels including beginners. Please subscribe to my blog at: <https://www.wavesofcontentment.com/home> to be notified weekly about dates we will be meeting.

If you have any questions, please email me at: carol@abramdesign.com

New meditation group meets at UCS on Thursdays from 7 - 8 pm. Meeting in Program A.

If you're interested, please get on Carol Abram's mailing list to stay abreast of any changes to the schedule. Any questions, you can email her: carol@abramdesign.com

AROUND TOWN:

Rotary Club and **Lions Clubs of Sharon** and with the assistance of the **Sharon Scouts Troop 95** is engaged in a project to put Peace Poles up in Sharon. They offer this background info:

*Peace poles are (typically) **eight foot tall, white posts**, with the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," inscribed in eight languages on their four faces. They were first created in Japan by Masahisa Goi, who, affected by the violence he saw during World War II, spent his life spreading the message engraved on his posts. After he passed away in 1980 his posts have since been placed on every continent and almost every country in the world.*

They are asking for submissions from the general public as to **what languages** to include on our poles in Sharon. -- [Click Here for Submission](#) --

For more information on the project, -- [Click Here for Slideshow](#) --