

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

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MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

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

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

March 5 Growing Together Again

Our congregation runs on the generosity of its members, and it's time to pledge our support for the coming church year. We kick off our annual stewardship campaign today with a worship service that will offer us a chance to reflect on giving and receiving as spiritual practices. You may think you've heard all the metaphors for a church pledge drive already, but I (Rev. Jolie) might have a new one for you. Rev. Jolie preaching.

March 12 This I Believe

It's a beloved annual tradition here at UCS: our Credo service. With Credo statements delivered from the heart to us by UCS members Sue Mooney and Wilbur Edwards (yes, coming all the way from the Cape to share with us!). Rev. Jolie will lead the service, sharing the pulpit with Sue and Wilbur.

March 19 Guest Speaker: Deborah Weiner

Guest Speaker: Deborah Weiner, Senior Consultant, Guild of Interim Religious Educators will be joining us on March 19th.

March 26 Youth Sunday

The Senior Youth Group is putting on a service exploring the sorrows and the satisfactions of growing up and being a teenager in 2023.

From the Minister



Dear Ones,

Some of you have heard me talk about a daily spiritual practice I observe: my intentions and gratitudes. Every day I send a message to a friend of mine who has agreed to be on the receiving end of these texts. The messages are short and simple, and consist of something I'm grateful for, and something I intend for the day - that's it. She might respond, she might not. It's up to her. I'm satisfied just knowing that someone else knows what I'm feeling thankful for and what I intend each day.

The moment when I sit down to compose this message each day, any number of things can happen. I might draw a total blank. I might have a hundred thoughts scrambling for my attention. I only have two rules for myself: don't overthink it and be honest. I usually start with whichever one comes easiest. Sometimes my intention helps me find my gratitude, and vice versa. Sometimes my gratitudes are rather mundane, like, I am grateful for this yogurt I am eating right now. Sometimes they are huge, like, I am grateful for planet earth. As for my intentions, sometimes they read like a to-do list, while other times they are more along the lines of "I intend to be kind to myself." And then there are those times when my honest assessment is that I am not feeling grateful for anything and I don't care what happens. In such cases a few moments of mindfulness, paying attention to my breath, or to the sounds I'm hearing around me, can usually help me find my way back to the present, and back to some bit of real gratitude or quiet intention.

I got the idea for this in part from something I learned about in seminary: an Ignatian spiritual practice known as the Daily Examen. Based on the teachings of the 16th-century Spanish Saint Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order, the Examen is an exercise to prayerfully review one's thoughts, desires, and actions at the end of the day. Jesuits, and others who observe this practice, reflect on which moments of their days brought them closer to God, and which moments distanced them from God. I was intrigued when I learned about the Examen and tried something like it for one of my seminary classes. At the end of each day, I would ask myself: when was I aware of my part in the interdependent web, when did I feel my connection to the whole human family? When did I feel disconnected? It was very difficult to keep up such a practice. I could rarely remember moments that were usually quite fleeting, and the questions I was posing for myself were way too broad. I have found that, rather than looking back in search of something, to instead start my day with gratitude and intention has helped me cultivate more simple moments of connection on a daily basis.

I wanted to share this in some detail with you all because I know that it can be hard to find a meaningful daily practice that fits into our lives. I wonder, what have you tried? What would you like to try, to find your way to deeper connection?

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



What would you miss if there was no UCS?

Would you miss Sunday morning worship? Mel's piano, the choir, communal singing? Jolie's thoughtful and provoking sermons? Seeing the beloved faces of your pew-mates? The chance to multiply your joys and relieve your griefs by sharing during Joys and Concerns? Chatting during coffee hour? Replenishing your supply of dark chocolate and what my friend calls free range coffee at the social justice table in vestry? I would.

Would you miss the gratification of knowing that the social justice committee is organizing effective efforts to support causes you believe in? I would.

I would miss the excitement of renewing connections at the Bean Supper, the candles lit for the lost at the All Souls service. And speaking of candles, I would miss their light after the holy darkness at the Solstice service and the brightness of the Christmas Eve ones. The veggie burgers at the Fathers' Day picnic.

I would miss the sight of the kids trekking off to RE as we sing "Go Now in Peace", with Christine carrying the light from the chalice downstairs. I would miss what the children's choir recently called "old things" at the Yard Sale. I would miss the intense and dedicated faces of the board of trustees during our Zoom meetings. I would be really sorry that our kids didn't get to experience the sex-positive, responsible message of the Our Whole Lives human sexuality curriculum. I would miss Revels.

We know we would miss movie night and potlucks and Conversations at the Meeting-house because we DID miss them during the height of the pandemic. I know I would miss the affectionate smiles of Forbesy and Dinah and Ellen and Gary and Janet and Rory and John at choir practice and Jennifer's laugh and the frown on Colleen's face as she notices dust on the pulpit or a bit of fluff on the carpet. I would miss the sound of our Paul Revere bell and the sense of connection with history when I ring it and the delight on the faces of the children when I teach THEM to ring it. I would miss all of this and more.

If you, too, would miss these kinds of things and some I haven't even thought of, then let me remind you that it is YOU who make these things possible. It is your generous pledge during our stewardship campaign that underlies all the wonders that we would miss if there were no UCS.

Valerie White

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A message from the Interim Director of Religious Education

I'm in awe of the love and care folks at UCS for their RE program! A wonderful mix of folks came together to reflect on religious education past, present, and future here at UCS. Here is some of what's been explored:

- a brief history of Unitarian Universalist religious education locally and nationally.
- trends in family and cultural lifestyles and the effect on religious education.
- recognition of and gratitude for the loving community that forms around children and youth who participate in RE programs; as well as the positive impact on adults.
- acknowledgment of limitations in these times, a sincere desire to sustain the program, and efforts to seek generative solutions.

huddle to analyze and look creatively at traditional RE Committee roles

Some exciting new ideas are evolving and I'm looking forward to seeing how they shape up in the next session on March 5 @ noon.

Please come for this culmination of this exciting process of re-envisioning the work (aka love) that supports the RE program here at UCS! Participation in prior sessions is not required and your presence at this session does not behoove you to join the RE Committee. As an added bonus, the Coming of Age class will be joining in for some experiential learning in leadership and congregational life.

In Faith,
Christine Bulman

There is a lot going on this month in RE! To find out more, [follow this link](#) to the March Newsletter for Religious Education.

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

UPDATE: The December Brown E donations, reported last month as \$964 for the UU Urban Minis-

try (uum.org), has been corrected to the new tally of \$1,189 overall (a few quarters recently found under the sofa cushions...).

For the January 2023 Brown Envelope collection, the SJC chose World Central Kitchen (www.wck.org), with a focus on their efforts to feel those suffering in Ukraine; a total of \$1,712 was collected. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The February Brown Envelope donations joins 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.



:UCS food donations headed for the Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry]

Here is a Valentine's Day report from Ellen S-B on the delivery of your donations -

"They looked like about 7 volunteers today who whisked away the cereal, nuts, & Chef Boyardee from the back of my car; they are Always so Grateful to receive them - so I'm passing along their thanks - and the warm feeling I get just delivering what you've all placed in the food trunk at the Meetinghouse.

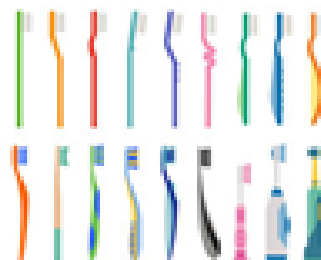
"I always ask staff about any special requests but this time I asked if we could bring in Toothbrushes.

So KIDS, if you get this message, please give a shout-out for toothbrushes at the next shopping trip!

As well as the usual: Cereals, including oats- Canned Stews and Soups, Healthy Children's Snacks- think granola bars, applesauce, etc.

Lastly, I took Mel to the Food Pantry as a gift to Hank! Well, actually, his CD.

Hank had spoken from the pulpit in February about her many years volunteering at the pantry. Afterwards she told me how much she loved hearing Mel play (join the Club!)"



Who knew? There is a special request for Toothbrushes please!]

Since the spring of 2020 when Covid first struck, our collective fundraising for local food pantries has resulted in over \$60,000 in donations. This amazing sum has had a tremendous impact on this crisis, but the need remains, and your donations are greatly appreciated.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Super Bowl Fundraising, UU style: If you were lucky enough to attend to the Big Party at the Olson-Drisko homestead in February (Kansas City vs. Philadelphia, not a Patriot to be seen on the field...), you know that there was spirited concern over the final digits of the score at the end of each quarter. Random betting squares for modest sums resulted in cash prizes for a few, and a generous donation of \$300 from the party planners to the **Shopping for Justice** program, which will be added to our ongoing support for food pantries in our area. Some of the individual winners have suggested that, thanks to the exciting outcome of the game, the entertaining commercials and half-time show, and the overall glamorous success of the party, they will also contribute some of their lucky haul to the food pantry collection. As for the forlorn members of Patriot Nation, there's always next year!



The March Brown Envelope donations will support the work of **UTEC** (United Teen Equality Center, utecinc.org), a youth empowerment program based in Lowell, MA. Their mission and promise is "to ignite and nurture the ambition of the most disconnected young people to trade violence and poverty for social and economic success. Today we serve Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill, MA, and are nationally recognized as a model agency serving justice-involved young adults." Your support will help young adults find solutions to life's challenges, and is greatly appreciated. We believe that peace is possible.



Photo of UTEC in action.

SJC Meeting : the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, March 5th 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. 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 March during Coffee Hour as we assemble 75 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 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 12th!

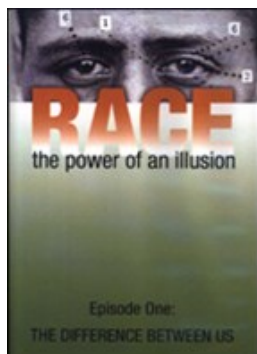
ANTI-RACISM WORKING GROUP (ARWG) formerly 8th Principle



Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) REPORT

MOVIE NIGHT - RACE: THE POWER OF AN ILLUSION – MARCH 3RD, 7-9PM

The last episode of the 3-part documentary *Race: The Power of an Illusion* will be shown Friday, evening, March 3rd from 7-9pm in-person in Program A/B. This 3-part award-winning [PBS documentary series](#) asks the overall question “What is this thing we call race?” Part 3, titled “The House We Live In,” focuses not on individual attitudes and behavior but on the ways our institutions and policies advantage some groups at the expense of others.” Even if you haven’t been able to attend the first 2 parts, please join us on March 3rd for a viewing of this last 1-hour episode, and a follow-up discussion, lightly facilitated by Rev. Jolie and the ARWG.



THE RACE CARD PROJECT

Whether or not you were able to attend any of the Friday evening movies nights for *Race: The Power Of An Illusion*, we hope you will take some time to consider this question: What does the word RACE mean to you? An interesting approach to this question is offered by the [RACE CARD PROJECT](#), which invites each of us to think about the word RACE and then distill our thoughts, experiences or observations into one sentence containing 6 words only! We hope to facilitate a future event where we can share with one another what we came up with. So stay tuned. If you’re feeling the need for a bit of inspiration, you can check out their [website](#) for some examples.

ALCO CONVOS DURING COFFEE

Remember to check to see if the Alco Convo Table is “open” during Coffee Hour. We have already had a number of folks stop by for some challenging, interesting, and thought-provoking conversations about racism, anti-racist work and how it ties into our faith as UUs. You can find us near the exit door to the Memorial Garden.

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT

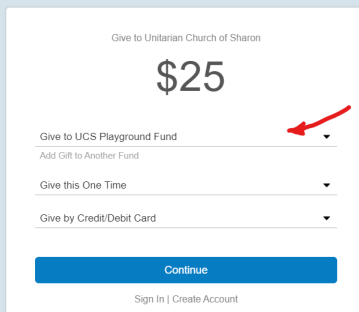
As we continue to plan events that will support UCS in becoming an intentionally and proactively anti-racist and anti-oppressive faith community, we seek and welcome your input. Please reach out to Barbara Nelkin-Rose with any thoughts or suggestions about future events you would like to see offered.

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

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News from the Worship Committee:

Several years ago, our friend Jim Mullin, offered his craftsmanship to the Worship Committee. Perhaps many of you remember the plastic planters, or were they gutters?

He built four of these sturdy wooden stands for candles for such services as All Souls over one summer. It is a small gesture of our gratitude to honor Jim in this special way!

With Gratitude,
Jean Fox, Worship Chair



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.



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!

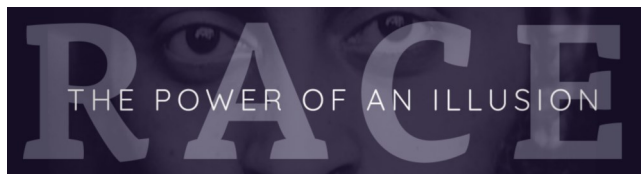
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4daba92ea2f49-coffeegreeterflo>

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.

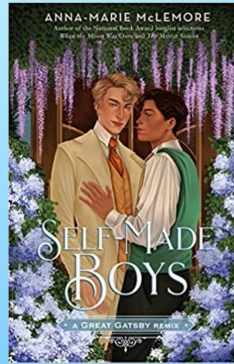


MOVIE NIGHT

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



Parents - Neighbors - Friends - Community Members



by Anna Marie McLemore

You are invited to join a Community Book Group

discussing
Self-Made Boys

Tues, March 28

7-8:30 pm
on Zoom

Register by taking a picture of this QR code with your phone:

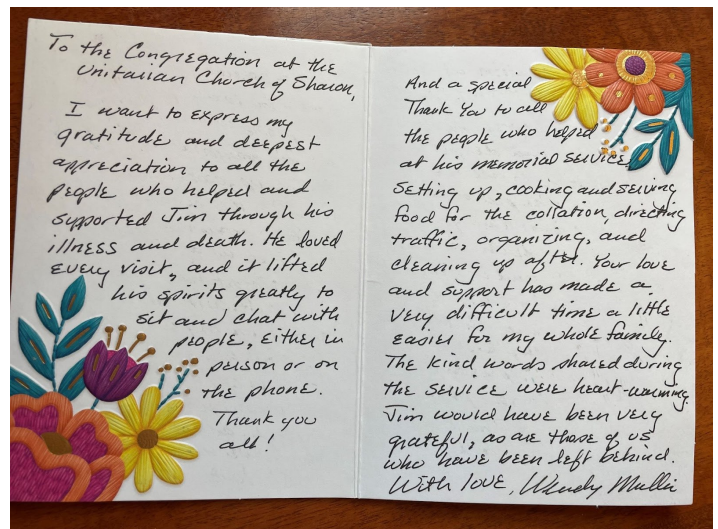


A reimagining of The Great Gatsby

The exquisite slow-burn gay romance... giv(es) authentic representation of queer lives in the 1920s ~Kirkus Reviews



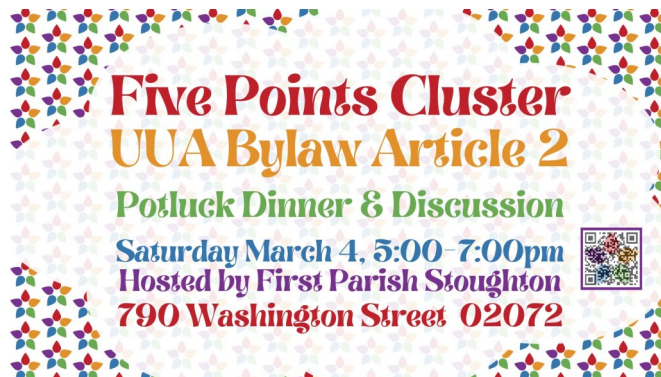
Sponsored by the **Sharon Pride Steering Committee**



Wendy Mullin, widow of our beloved UCS member Jim Mullin who died on December 25, 2022, sent us this note of appreciation.

CHURCH NEWS

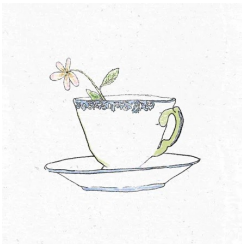
UPCOMING EVENTS



Exploring Transcendentalism with Courtney Hopkins and Rev. Jolie

March 12 12:00 - 1:30 PM, Program A/B. BYO lunch. Light snacks provided.
(Rescheduled from February 12)

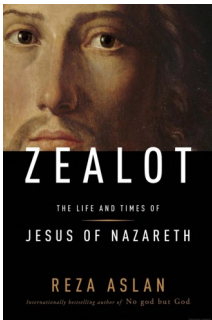
Please RSVP to minister@uusharon.org by March 5.



Memory Tea March 26, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Library

Join us for a time of remembrance as we share solace and refreshments, and spend some time together to honor our dearly departed. Hosted by our Caring Committee and Rev. Jolie.



Book Study!

Join Rev. Jolie for a book study of *Zealot: the Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by internationally acclaimed writer and religious scholar Reza Aslan. We will discuss the book in three parts, meeting on fourth Thursdays. In person in the UCS Library, but can be hybrid if anyone wants to participate remotely. **Each meeting is 7-8 PM.**

Please RSVP to minister@uusharon.org by March 9. For assistance obtaining the book, contact Rev. Jolie.

Thursday, March 26 - introductory material and Part I

Thursday, April 27 - Part II

Thursday, May 25 - Part III