

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

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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MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

10:30am Intergenerational Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

May 7 - Coming of Age - 10:30 Intergenerational Service

For the past eight months, several ninth and tenth graders have been exploring the spiritual dimension of their lives. This Sunday, they will share statements of who they are and what matters most in life – their credos and we will celebrate their “coming of age” as Unitarian Universalists. This service will include a "Time for All Ages" as well as a quiet activity area in the rear of the sanctuary.

May 14- Mothers Day Chalice Circle

Join us for a lay-led, interactive service on the theme of mothers, motherhood, and mother figures. We will include time to honor the mamas we mourn and miss. Jean Fox leading, Valerie White as Worship Associate.

May 21 - Milestones - 10:30 Intergenerational Service

In today's worship service we will reflect on why it's important to mark special occasions, and we will mark several special occasions! We will welcome another round of new members to our congregation. We will also celebrate the creation of a Little Free Diverse Library for the church grounds by RE children and an intrepid volunteer, and dedicate it during the service to beloved former DRE Louise Marcoux. And we will join the Senior Youth Group in bidding farewell to the Seniors as they bridge into the young adult UU community. Coffee hour reception follows

May 28 Special Guest Rev. Ethan Loewi

Guest Preacher, Rev. Ethan Loewi will share a message with us today. Rev. Ethan is a UU minister and a staff chaplain at MGH. Stay tuned for the sermon topic!

Bio:

Ethan Loewi is a Unitarian Universalist minister from Portland, Oregon, currently serving as a full-time staff chaplain at Massachusetts General Hospital. As a spiritual care provider, Ethan offers interfaith chaplaincy services to patients, families, and staff throughout the hospital. In his free time he enjoys playing board games, and following cute pigs on Instagram. Ethan is thrilled to be guest preaching at Sharon for the first time, and looking forward to meeting the congregation!

From the Minister



Dear Ones,

It's May, which means it's time for the [Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#) to support the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, which is a center for healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities dealing with murder, trauma, grief, and loss. I first came to know the Peace Institute as a member of a coalition of youth workers and young people organizing to address racial disparities in the juvenile justice system. We had some of our meetings at the Peace Institute, who was also a member of the coalition and donated meeting space for our work. Our campaign in those days was to pass a bill through the MA state legislature that would get municipalities to collect the demographic data they were federally required to collect and make public, but were by and large not collecting. Not having the data to show what we already knew - that young people of color are disproportionately criminalized and experience more harmful impacts from our juvenile justice system in our state - was a barrier to effective advocacy to reduce and eliminate racial disparities. So we needed the data.

How do you get teenagers excited about data collection, you ask? Well, for one thing, they did not need much convincing. The youth who worked on this campaign were the ones whose cousins, friends, siblings, or were the ones themselves who knew what it felt like to be over-policed, and to get harsher treatment once in contact with the juvenile court and detention system. They knew how unfair it was, and how hard it is to convince those who don't experience these impacts first-hand - that is, most of those who are in positions of power - without the data to "prove" it. How else? Food. I ate lots of greasy (and delicious) takeout around that Peace Institute conference table. And the other feature of all youth-led anti-racist organizing I've been part of is creativity. One of the youth leaders at the time was a huge Michael Jackson fan, believe it or not, and so wrote a song for our campaign to the tune of "Black or White:" "we're collecting data, 'cause it matters if you're black or white!" By the way, thanks in part to the advocacy of this group and others like Citizens for Juvenile Justice, more than a decade after this campaign was most active, we have readily available [data](#) on juvenile justice in Massachusetts.

I'm telling you this story because this experience is one of the many reasons that I am called to support the Peace Institute, and to follow their lead in our shared work to build a better world. I asked myself, why was the Peace Institute, whose primary focus is supporting families in the aftermath of a homicide, hosting us and participating in this data collection campaign? In other words, what do racial disparities in our juvenile justice system have to do with community violence? The answer is, everything. The Peace Institute has taught me over and over again that if we want to heal our world, we have to look for root causes, we have to listen to the voices of those most impacted by injustice, and we have to organize for systemic change.

You are invited to join me and our Social Justice Committee in supporting the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute this May. You can [walk with us on Mother's Day](#) (when you register, choose "Sharon Walks for Peace" from the menu of teams) and you can donate to support our team, [Sharon Walks for Peace](#). Hope to see you there!

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

You can now book appointments with me at www.calendly.com/revjolie. I look forward to meeting with you!

From the President



What's in a name?

Some years ago, at a congregational meeting, we voted about whether to change our name. The article, if I remember correctly, proposed adding "Universalist" and changing the noun from "church" to "congregation". Those for the change reasoned that we are a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and that "congregation" would be comfortable for both Christian and non-Christian UUs. But there were some older members (sadly, no longer with us) who opposed the change, one arguing vehemently, "I'm a Unitarian. I'm not a Universalist. I'll never be a Universalist." The article was defeated. There's sentiment on the board of trustees that it may be time to revisit this issue.

So what is a Unitarian? Originally, someone who believes in the unity of the divine, who rejects the trinity. What's a Universalist? Someone who rejects the idea of damnation, believing that salvation is universal. While I honor the history, for me personally, Unitarian Universalism suggests that all beings are one living family, and part of the universe.

What do you think? Are you a U or a U or a UU? Are we a church, a congregation, a fellowship, a center, a society, a meetinghouse?

There's another issue that it may be time to revisit. We had a capital fund drive and a major expansion project to build the new wing, make the sanctuary accessible and renovate the vestry and kitchen. Since 2010, we've enjoyed the fruits of this project, called "AIM", Accessibility and Improvements to the Meetinghouse.

We thought we might work on an "AIM 2", to preserve the historic meetinghouse structure and improve the sanctuary, getting rid of the allergy-inducing horsehair cushions, adding audiovisual tech, maybe replacing the pews with moveable seating. We had an architect's proposal, but we weren't satisfied, we were brainstorming . . . then we had a pandemic. Is it time to revive this dream? The board of trustees is considering how to proceed. It seems likely we will plan some cottage meetings to let you know what experts think must be done as preservation, and what's possible for improvement, and learn what you all think about an AIM 2. I would welcome your ideas!

Valerie White

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A note from the Interim Director of Religious Education:

In mid-April there was a happy turn of events! I had been planning to move out of state, and as those plans changed, I began to consider if, in good conscience, I could apply for the settled Director of Religious Education position here at UCS. I say "in good conscience" because for an interim professional whose work is to shepherd a congregation through a transitional time in their religious education ministry and move on, this would be counter to my training. After all, if every interim professional decided to stay on, what would that do to the field of transitional ministry? That said, there is wide consensus that every settled religious education professional would benefit from training in the dynamics of transition, so there's that. Still, because I respect the best practices asserted by the UUA, my interim colleagues, and this congregation, there was some discernment involved in this decision. I'm grateful for the candid and thoughtful conversations afforded by Rev. Jolie, the DRE Search Committee and the Board.

It is not that this kind of thing never happens. There are best practices and then there are people's lives and distinct circumstances. What's important here, aside from a good fit, is that we affirm, together and with intention, the transitional work we have done together as it draws to a formal close. Likewise, we ought to acknowledge the shift in our relationship that will take place with me moving into a settled position here at UCS and explore the opportunities this may open up. I'm happy to report that it seems we have met all of the intended goals of the interim period (more on that in another post!) and that the congregation is well poised to move into its future. I'm excited to partner with you in bringing new ideas to life and evolving existing programs to meet the ever changing needs of families and young people seeking meaning, a sense of belonging and a place to grow their faith.

In faith,
Christine

Religious Education

Our last RE sessions for grades K-8 and Family Service of the year occurred on April 23rd - but that doesn't mean the fun is over! There is a Little Free Diverse Library to install and celebrate and plenty of opportunity to come together for services in May and June (not to mention enjoying the playground afterward!). The remaining services this year will be intergenerational and will include a "Time for All Ages" as well as a quiet activity area in the rear of the sanctuary. Stay tuned for special family activities in June.

For more details, check out the May RE Newsletter [here](#)

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.



Ricky Stern shares thoughts on our Commitment to Climate Justice at the Earth Day service in April (visit her sermon on the church website). She left us 'homework', in the form of challenges to engage (full notes available in the Vestry at the SJ Table):

1. Jettison Plastic Forever
2. Get Mad and Get Organized
3. Consider Rewilding and Caring for Some Local Land
4. Learn About One Animal Anywhere in the World, and then Help to Protect It
5. Grow your own Food



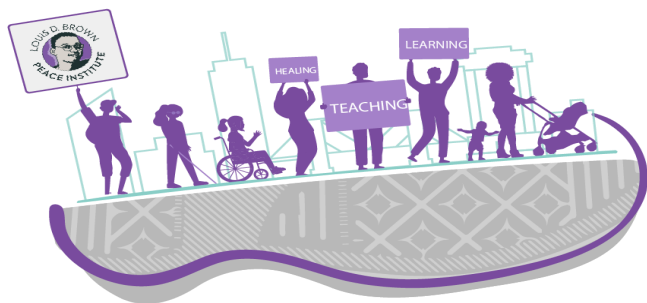
Brown Envelope Collections

The March Brown Envelope donations raised \$1049 to 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." Thank you for your support.

The April Brown Envelope donations will be split between two organizations supporting Climate Justice efforts: the **Sustainable Sharon Coalition** (sustainablesharon.org) works to "inspire, educate, connect, and catalyze our community to protect the planet [and] to make Sharon a leading sustainable community." We also ask for support for the **Neponset River Watershed Association** (neponset.org), whose mission focus includes "Climate change as it affects Neponset land, water, people and wildlife." Your donations are greatly appreciated.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

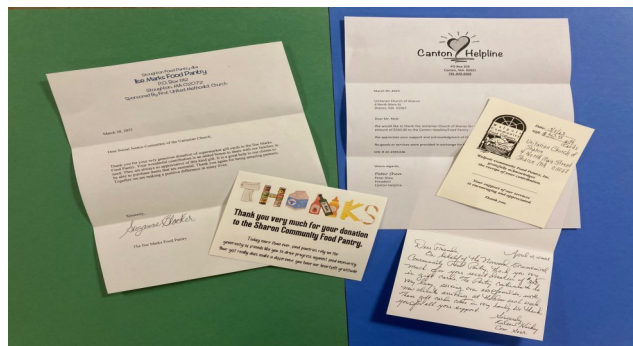


The May Brown Envelope donations will once again support the **Louise D. Brown Peace Institute** (<https://ldbpeaceinstitute.org>) and their 27th annual **Mother's Day Walk for Peace** on Sunday, 14 May. Several options exist to make donations: via our usual Brown Envelope collections (in person on Sunday mornings or online throughout May), as well as direct pledges of support on the Institute website under the banner of our own team "**Sharon Walks for Peace**" where you can register to walk as well as make donations. We are hoping for a strong contingent of walkers to join Reverend Jolie for the program and walk starting in Dorchester on Sunday, 8 May. Details on timing, transportation, and the walking route can be found on this [page](#); look for carpool and train transportation options to follow. Click [here](#) to register to walk or make a direct donation and select "**Sharon Walks for Peace**" from the team menu. Please consider making this event a part of your Mother's Day plans this year. (A lay-led service will happen in Sharon for those unable to travel to Boston that morning.)



The Easter Bunny's van filled to the brim bringing donations to the Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry following the Can Hunt this year.

Food Pantry Donations: A shout out to the youth of the church for finding 179 canned goods out on the grounds during our Annual Easter Can Hunt in April (they even found 2 cans 'missed' from a prior year's hunt!). All the goods, plus additional donations, filled the car making the delivery the following Tuesday. Well done all!



Thanks arrive from the many food pantries that we support throughout the year: they are posted in the Vestry for you to read.

MainSpring House lunch making: join in for an intergenerational project on Sunday, May 21st (note, this is the 3rd Sunday this month, a week later than usual as we expect that 14 May with the Mothers' Day Walk for Peace will be too busy) 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 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 on the assembly line on the 21st!

SJC Meeting for May: the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, May 7th at 12:30pm. Look for the link in the UCS Calendar. We will continue to offer zoom participation, while some folks will resume gathering in the physical Library for face-to-face conversation. All are welcome; please join us as we look for opportunities and challenges to work together as we make a difference in the world.

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



Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) REPORT



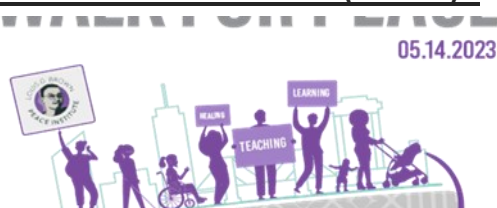
THURSDAY, MAY 4TH FROM 7:00-8:30pm: "Conversations with Black Men of Sharon"

This important event, co-sponsored by Sharon Racial Equity Alliance and Sharon's One Book One Town committee offers

attendees to hear first-hand the experiences of Black men living in Sharon. Panelists/Speakers: Michael Fergus, Clarence Mevs, and Daryl Brathwaite. Moderator: Kiana Pierre-Louis. This is a follow-up program to the One Book One Town book selection: The Violin Conspiracy.

WHERE: The event will be held at the Sharon Community Ed classroom at Sharon High School, 181 Pond St., (Entrance to Community Ed is next to the main entrance at 181 Pond Street)

SUNDAY, MAY 14TH From 7-10AM, Dorchester, MA: THE 27TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE (MDW4P) with the LOUIS D. BROWN PEACE INSTITUTE (LDBPI) -



Put on your walking shoes and join us for the LDBPI's largest yearly fundraiser, begun in 1996, by Chaplain Clementina Chéry, whose 15-year old son Louis, was murdered in December of 1993, when he was caught in a fatal crossfire shootout near his home in Dorchester, MA. As a

result of his murder and "in an effort to prevent other families from having to endure the same experience, Chéry created the LDBPI as a "Center of Healing, Teaching and Learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss." This year's theme is Cultivating Cycles of Peace: "In our society, we are constantly looped into cycles of violence that overshadow the transformative power of peace. Like a blooming flower, cycles of peace flourish when carefully cultivated."

Please visit <https://ldbpeaceinstitute.org/> for more information about the LDBPI

For details about the May 14th event and route, visit this [page](#).

To REGISTER for the Walk or to DONATE to our Team – Sharon Walks for Peace - [Click Here](#).

Why Participate: For those of you who joined us for any of the episodes of the documentary Race: the Power of an Illusion, it is clear that a society which cultivates and sustains true peace ensures that all people are treated with equity and fairness and provided with the opportunities to receive the basic resources they need. Supporting the MDW4P, whether through a donation and/or as a walker on May 14th, helps us

1. Bring alive the messages of the 8th Principle and our commitment to the social justice and anti-racism work we do at UCS,
2. Build connections which cross geography, race and class.
3. Celebrate the strength and hope of Chaplain Chéry and the folks at LDBPI.

ANTI-RACISM WORKING GROUP (ARWG) formerly 8th Principle, continued**LAST MONTH'S EVENTS:**

April 20th: Book Discussion: The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb. Though we were a small group the discussion was informative and gave us an opportunity to talk about how racial discrimination manifests in many different ways.

RECOMMENDED LINKS FROM ARWG MEMBERS

- National Museum of African American History & Culture <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>, offers many topics for exploration: Bias, Being Antiracist, Community Building, Self-Care, Race and Racial Identity, Social Identities and Systems of Oppression, Whiteness, Historical Foundations of Race. (Barbara)
- March 8, 2023 [ARTICLE](#) entitled: US Neighborhoods With More People Of Color Suffer Worse Air Pollution. This article demonstrates the clear and unbalanced climate impact on communities of color. (Patty)

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT

As always, 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, as together we work towards becoming an intentionally and proactively anti-racist and anti-oppressive faith community.

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.



Tai Chi Class Saturdays 8 - 9 AM at UCS.

Tai Chi classes continue on the **first and third Saturdays** of the month at 8 am; the next class will be on May 6. There will be no class on May 20 due to conflict with the upcoming yard sale. All are welcome to come and try the breathing and movement exercises of tai chi with Vince Jorales. A small monetary donation of \$3-7 is requested.

Please reach out to Dinah if you have questions.
drpa18@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

The Workshop Committee is seeking three new members and one Senior Youth to join our Committee for the upcoming new church year!

We would welcome anyone who wishes to join us as we continue to do this important work of the church. I have had the pleasure of being Worship Chair these last five years and will be stepping down after my involvement with Worship over several years. I am pleased to announce that Ellen Bordman will be acting in that role beginning July 1st. Please reach out to either one of us or any member on Worship.

The Committee will be meeting in August for their Annual Retreat and will be welcoming new members at that time as the new church year is planned.

With Gratitude,

Jean Fox,. Worship Chair

Art Wall

This May the art wall will introduce a new month-long Memorial exhibit in honor of members of our congregation who have left us. This year's exhibit will display the childhood artwork of Michael Stewart, dear son of Margaret Berges and Lauren Grasso and brother of Charley Grasso.

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

CHURCH NEWS, continued

The Nominating Committee is looking for members who would be willing to be candidates for several positions which will be voted on at the annual meeting in June for the 2023-2024 church year. We have seen a number of new faces attending and any of these positions might be a good way to participate in the business of the congregation and become involved.

Positions for which we are seeking candidate are as follows:

Board of Trustees

- Trustee at Large - 2-year term. A trustee participates in board meetings and votes on motions that relate to the operations and business of the church. Trustees are also generally assigned as a liaison to one or more committees. The Board typically meets once a month, currently by Zoom. This is a great role for someone who might want to step into a leadership position within the congregation. See Article 8 of the Church bylaws for more details.

Endowment Fund Board

- There are three (3) openings on the Endowment Fund Board. The Endowment Fund Board is charged with helping to encourage members and friends to include the Unitarian Church of Sharon in their estate planning and managing and approving expenditures from the Endowment Fund. Terms are 3 years but we have 1, 2 and 3 year terms available. See Article 15 of the bylaws for more information on the Endowment Fund.

Nominating Committee

- The Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying candidates for open positions on the Board of Trustees, the Endowment Fund Board and the Nominating Committee. There are three positions open for the Nominating Committee for next year including a 1-year, 2-year and 3-year term. The Nominating Committee is generally active for 2-3 months a year between March and the end of May to identify candidates for terms that are expiring. It is a great role for someone who is outgoing and would like to reach out to fellow members but who might have limited availability. Details about the Nominating Committee responsibilities can be found in Article 9, Section 9.5 of the bylaws.

The bylaws explain the roles in more detail and can be found at <http://www.uusharon.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ByLaws-as-Amended-thru-6-10-2016.doc>

If you have interest or would like to learn more, please reach out to Julie Armstrong or Susan Nichamoff or send an email to nominating@uusharon.org.

CHURCH NEWS, continued

UPCOMING EVENTS



Cinco De Mayo Potluck
May 5th @ 6PM



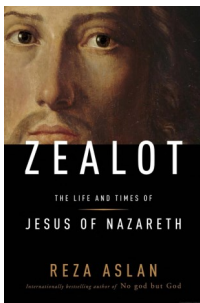
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON
MAY 20th at 9AM-12PM

NEED DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR CHURCH YARD SALE

Annual church yard sale is **Saturday May 20 from 9am to 12 noon**. Taking place the same day are the Used Book Sale at the Sharon Library and the Garden Club Plant Sale at the Congregational Church.

We have 1 month to prepare and organize. It's a natural community-building exercise with important financial benefit to the church treasury. Take a look in closets and storage areas as part of your Springtime cleaning for treasures to donate. **We cannot accept ELECTRONIC ITEMS, BOOKS (take to Library), CLOTHING.**

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. For assistance obtaining the book, contact Rev. Jolie.

Thursday, May 25 - Part III

Donations can be dropped off at church on the 3 days preceding the Yard Sale. Volunteers will organize and price items in the Vestry and Program Rooms A/B from 7 to 9pm every evening. The day of the Yard Sale requires our largest group of volunteers, beginning at 8am and running until 2pm to complete the cleanup. Call or email to sign up and volunteer.

Rory McGregor
508-400-4719
rmcgregor3@aol.com