

# the chalice

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

10:30am Intergenerational Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

### June 4 Encountering Mysticism

Rabbi Lawrence Kushner wrote, "A mystic is anyone who has the gnawing suspicion that the apparent discord, brokenness, contradictions, and discontinuities that assault us every day might conceal a hidden unity." The insights of the mystics offer us the promise of direct experiences of that which is greater than ourselves, which call us to a life deeply lived. Rev. Jolie preaching.

### June 11 Rainbow Sunday

In honor of Pride, our worship today will focus on LGBTQ struggles and power. With trans rights under attack across the country, we explore how our Unitarian Universalist faith calls to support the autonomy and dignity of trans people. Rev Jolie preaching.

### June 18 100th Year of the Flower Ceremony

The ceremony of the flowers was first developed and led in 1923, by Rev. Norbert Čapek at the Unitarian congregation he founded in Prague. It has since become a meaningful part of the church year for many UU congregations around the US and internationally. For this ceremony, we bring a flower with us to church, join all our flowers together for the duration of the service, and we each go home with a different flower. The ritual is a beautiful and colorful enactment of our unity and diversity as people in community together. Rev. Jolie preaching.

### June 26 General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship

Thousands of Unitarian Universalists gather for the annual conference of our Unitarian Universalist Association each year during the third week of June. The conference ends with a big worship service on Sunday morning, we'll send the link around to watch the live stream as the date approaches. More information can be found [here](#). Rev. Jolie will be in attendance in Pittsburgh.

## From the Minister



Dear Ones,

Where do you keep your principles? If they aren't written down, are they still your principles? Do your principles have precise wording, or can they be expressed in different ways? These questions came to my mind during a recent discussion at a gathering of my local chapter of the UU Ministers Association. We were talking about the [proposed changes to Article II](#) of the bylaws of our Unitarian Universalist Association, where our Seven Principles reside. One of my colleagues objected to the notion that our Seven Principles are "going away." She said principles don't just "go away." The discussion moved on from there but I was left a bit confused. The thing is, the new version of Article II that has been put forth to be voted on at two consecutive General Assemblies (2023 and 2024), does not include Seven Principles. So, I wondered, how do you figure they're not going away?

Over the almost forty years since they were first adopted, our [Seven Principles](#) have helped many a UU understand and explain what it means to be UU. We have used our principles in our RE curricula, in our sermons, in our outreach materials, and, in at least one congregation, etched in stone around our church buildings. We have used them to make the case for what we believe is right and true as Unitarian Universalists. Through all this they have come to live in us, to be expressed in our words and actions, and will continue to do so, whether or not they are documented in some bylaws. I think this is what my colleague meant when she said our principles aren't "going away."

I plan to vote in support of the proposed revisions to Article II, and I don't say this lightly. I am from the first generation of Unitarian Universalists who grew up with our current Seven Principles, and I am rather attached to them. Though I have never actually memorized them, I do know parts by heart. The three key ideas that I understood best as a child, and so have shaped and guided me my whole life, are that Unitarian Universalists believe in "the free and responsible search for truth and meaning," "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," and "respect for the interdependent web of all existence." Though I know that these ideas will continue to be a part of me regardless of whether or not they are documented in the bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association, I am glad to know that all three of these ideas will still be part of our Article II.

But the revisions don't just have my support because my "favorite" parts of our Seven Principles are still in there. I also support the revisions because they are much more action-oriented than our Principles, and because they state our shared values in a way that will be much easier to know by heart than the rather wordy Principles. The new Article II names six values that are all centered around Love, and each value is defined and accompanied by a covenantal statement - what do we promise to do given that we hold that value. That's the action-oriented part. And the easy to know by heart part? The values are: Justice, Equity, Interdependence, Pluralism, Generosity, and Transformation. I can get behind those values, and I bet I can even remember all six of them. As one of my colleagues pointed out, the way they are arranged in a circle around Love would look beautiful on a T-shirt. ([Here's](#) the proposal in its entirety where you can see the circle I'm talking about.) I wonder: what do you think about the proposed revisions?

One more thing - about the process. Each year, UU congregations send delegates to vote at our General Assembly (GA), the annual conference and business meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Ministers, DREs, other religious professionals, and UUA staff also get a vote at GA. This year, from June 22 through 26, Gare Reid, Beth McGregor, Barbara Nelkin-Rose, and Tom D'Avanzo will be our delegates from the Unitarian Church of Sharon, and they will join with many thousands of others and vote according to their consciences on Article II (as well as other items on the business agenda). If it passes by a simple majority this year, then we'll have another year of learning and discernment, and Article II will go before GA again in 2024, and will require a 2/3 majority for the changes to be adopted. Phew!

Yours in faith,  
Rev. Jolie

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



June is upon us. Graduations, Fathers' Day, end of school, end of the church year, the annual congregational meeting. No more choir practice, beginning of General Assembly.

Speaking of the annual meeting, one of the pieces of business to be done there is the adoption of a budget for the upcoming fiscal year: July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. The board is proposing a deficit budget this year. The proposal that will be placed before you does not include any new funding, beyond increases in expenses which are beyond our control (like utilities and insurance) and staff salaries (cost of living raises and the full time salary of our new full-time settled RE director). So glad to be keeping you around, Christine!

The annual stewardship drive was successful—we raised more than last year—but the total is inadequate to cover the increased expenses above mentioned. If, having read this, you are moved to increase your pledge, you can readily do this in the Breeze section of the UCS website.

Deficit budgets are not sustainable in the long term, so we will need a different approach in future proposals.

You will also soon hear about cottage meetings to consider plans for upgrading the sanctuary, and whether it is time to think about a new name. The sense of the Board of Trustees is that it's past time to become "Unitarian Universalist", and there may be a better name than "church" for our diverse congregation.

See you at worship, at the annual meeting, and at the Fathers' Day picnic!

Oh, and please sign up for greeting and coffee!!

Valerie White

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

What an amazing year it has been! It has been so wonderful to get into full swing this year post-pandemic. We welcomed Caroline Dixon to the staff team for youth programs; we've had several new families join us this year to make for a bustling program on Sunday mornings; we built an amazing Little Free Diverse Library; we witnessed Coming of Age; we visited other houses of worship; we renewed the mission and membership of the RE Committee; and we have an inspired vision for the future that includes Christine as the settled DRE. And it's not over! There are events still to come and things to lean into for next year. Please see the June RE newsletter for details!

View the RE Sunday Slideshow here (private You Tube video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wd0eRh7dat8>

### **Please support the UCS ministry of children, youth and families:**

We are looking for two facilitators who are either trained or willing to be trained this fall in elementary OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality education) so that we can run a 5th and 6th grade OWL program next winter. We have 11 children ready for this class! Training to become a facilitator is online over several weeks or in person over a weekend. We need to identify these folks asap so that if training opens up we are ready to grab spots. Also, facilitators cannot be parents of the children so please consider giving families the gift of this valuable program next year!

Prefer to work with adolescents? There are several adolescent programs and events we'd like to run next year if we have adults to help us make them happen! See all volunteer opportunities in [June RE Newsletter](#) for more information.

### **RE Calendar**

#### **June 4: Dedication and Official Opening of the Little Free Library**

After a time for all ages during the service, children will be preparing books and signage for the opening of the library. We will hold a dedication ceremony for Louise Marcoux outdoors at the Little Free Library following the service.

#### **June 11: Pride Sunday and Youth Dinner**

After a time for all ages during the service children will make banners and signs to take to Sharon Pride this afternoon.

Senior Youth Group dinner at Bertucci's @ 5:00pm - this is also a welcome event for rising 9th graders.

#### **June 18: Flower Communion**

Intergenerational service. Childcare with free play provided.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, continued



The unveiling of the Little Free (Diverse) Library on May 21. It will be dedication in honor of Louise Marcoux on June 4.



Coming of Age participants and mentors (substitute Peter Raskin for Christine!).



Anna Nichamoff, Audrey Trivedi and Maria Gallant "bridge" and become young adult UU's.



## 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

The April Brown Envelope donations raised \$994, plus the donation of our Earth Day guest speaker Ricky Stern's honorarium, resulted in \$1294 to be shared between two organizations supporting Climate Justice efforts: the **Sustainable Sharon Coalition** ([sustainablesharon.org](http://sustainablesharon.org)) and the **Neponset River Watershed Association** ([neponset.org](http://neponset.org)).

The May Brown Envelope donations are supporting the **Louise D. Brown Peace Institute** (<https://ldbpeaceinstitute.org>) and their 27<sup>th</sup> annual **Mother's Day Walk for Peace**. Online donations at the Peace Institute for our team of walkers, *Sharon Walks for Peace*, have already exceeded our goal of \$1500, and the fundraising will continue there through Father's Day. In addition, BE donations at the UCS have raised more funds that will be added to the Institute tally by mid-June. Your donations for this important organization are greatly appreciated.



Team *Sharon Walks for Peace* gathers in Dorchester



Plenty of UU's Walking for Peace on Mother's Day



After the inspiring speeches, the Walk begins



Inspiring musicians entertain all along the Walk

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

In June, the BE donations will fund the Transgender Emergency Fund – MA ([transemergencyfund.org](http://transemergencyfund.org)). Founded in 2008 by Jesse Pack, and later joined by Chastity Bowick, the Transgender Emergency Fund is the only organization dedicated to supporting low income and homeless Transgender individuals in Massachusetts. The Transgender Emergency Fund assists with homelessness prevention, shelter assistance, nutrition assistance, prescription co-pay assistance, transportation and escort to medical appointments, etc.



**A Celebration of Pride 2023!** – Arlington Street Church service at 10am, June 10<sup>th</sup>, Boston Pride Parade to follow!

### **Arlington Street Church, 20 Arlington Street, Boston**

Come one, come all, to the annual pre-parade Pride service and celebration, featuring Jodi Pickle reflecting on her transition (while teaching high school); Wanda da Galaxy singing *Bathrooms are for Every Body*; Rev. Fred Small singing the new, inclusive version of *Everything Possible*; and the Mark David Buckles band! *All in!*

### **Sharon Pride**

Sharon will celebrate **Pride with a Car Parade**

**and Celebration** on Sunday, 11 June. Following our service, we will create signs and then gather on the corner to cheer as the parade goes by, then folx can head over to the Community Beach at Lake Massapaog to continue the celebration. (We will slip in MainSpring House lunch making amidst the celebrating!



### **Did You Know...? Equal Exchange Offers Ethically Produced Chocolate**

Equal Exchange, our fair trade partner, works with farmer cooperatives to bring the highest quality, organic products to congregations. By purchasing chocolate from a fair trade alternative supply chain, you're helping farmers to stay on their land, produce their crops, and plan for the future. Also importantly, you are purchasing chocolate that doesn't involve child labor in its production. Reports estimate that there are more than 2 million child laborers in the cacao sectors of the Ivory Coast and Ghana alone, countries that produce over 70% of the world's cacao. The root cause of this problem is poverty. Farm families make roughly \$2/day, which is not enough to sustain them. The Equal Exchange alternative trade system is a different model that helps small farmers continue to produce cacao crops so that they can provide for their families.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

### Grown by small farmer co-ops

Equal Exchange works with CONACADO, a farmer cooperative that produces organic cacao for its chocolate bars. Over the past 23 years CONACADO has grown from 700 members, organized in three locations, to over 9,500 members organized in 9 locations with 142 local community associations throughout the Dominican Republic. Each of the 9 groups has a similar organizational structure: an Assembly of Delegates, with two delegates per association, that meets once a month to report on work plan progress at the community level; a Governing Board that meets once a month to execute the work plan; and an Administrative Committee that meets once a week to follow up on the work plan to make sure it is going as it should. A General Assembly meets once a year to approve work plans and decide how fair trade premiums will be used. Today, CONACADO members produce approximately 25% of the cacao exported from the Dominican Republic and the organization has become a powerful alternative for small-scale producers.

### Supporting alternative trade

Equal Exchange works outside of the conventional system to build transparent and strong relationships with farmer cooperatives. They currently partner with four cacao co-ops in the Dominican Republic, Peru, Panama, and Togo. The sugar for the bars comes from co-ops in Paraguay and the vanilla from co-ops in Madagascar. Purchase and enjoy eating chocolate that reflects your values and provides farmers with a livable income.



Fair Trade Chocolate Partners

**MainSpring House** lunch making: join in for an intergenerational project on Sunday, June 11th during Coffee Hour as we assemble 75 brown bag lunches for the guests of MainSpring House in Brockton. (The Sharon Pride car parade and celebration will also be happening that day, but we can multitask, right?) 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](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 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 11th!

**SJC Meeting for June:** the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, June 4th at 12:30pm. Note that there are a lot of things happening that Sunday, including a GA/Article II information session, as well as the dedication of the Little Diverse Free Library following the service, so we will need to be nimble and flexible. We will continue to offer zoom participation, while some folks will resume gathering in the physical Library for face-to-face conversation. Look for the zoom link in the UCS Calendar. All are welcome; please join us as we look for opportunities and challenges to work together as we make a difference in the world.



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregation ('GA' for short) is happening this month, June 21-25 in Pittsburgh and online. GA is the annual business meeting of the UUA, where issues are debated and democratically decided by congregational delegates. But it's also much more--a veritable festival of educational programs, workshops, worship, and networking opportunities. While many of the programs and workshops are open only to conference registrants, you can log in to many of the main sessions and some wonderful worship services, like the Service of the Living Tradition at 7:30 Thursday evening the 22nd and the 11 AM Sunday morning worship on the 25th, where you can be part of a congregation of thousands.

While only delegates are authorized to speak and vote in the general sessions, everyone can tune in online and watch democracy at work ('see the sausage being made,' as it were). The biggest item on this year's agenda is the proposed rewrite of Article II of the UUA bylaws, containing the fundamental faith statements and covenants that bind us together and express our identity to the world. This is a big change, which has brought out many opinions and feelings among UU's throughout the country. As Rev. Jolie notes in her column, you're encouraged to check out the report of the Article II Commission at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

There will also be the election of a new UUA president, since the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray is ending her 6-year term. This year the election is uncontested (unlike the last Presidential election which featured three candidates), so the Assembly will elect the Rev. Sofie Betancourt by acclamation. All are welcome to hear from her and learn about her. (Personally, I think she'll be an impressive, kind and thoughtful leader.)

I'd encourage you to go to the UUA website at [uua.org/ga](https://www.uua.org/ga) and learn more about all the things you can see and hear even if you're not registered (or perhaps even be inspired to register--it's not too late!)

Our congregation is represented at General Assembly by one ministerial delegate, Rev. Jolie, and four lay delegates (based on congregation size) appointed by our board. This year they are Gare Reid, Barbara Nelkin-Rose, Tom D'Avanzo, and myself (Beth McGregor). Tom, Rev. Jolie and I will be in Pittsburgh and Barbara and Gare will be participating remotely.

We'd like to offer you a chance to discuss and ask questions about the proposed Article II revisions during coffee hour on June 4th. If there's sufficient interest, we'll repeat that informal gathering on the following Sunday, by which time we'll know what potential amendments to the Article II proposal have made it onto the GA agenda. As your delegates, we'd like to know your thoughts.

Offered as a veteran General Assembly enthusiast,  
Beth McGregor

## 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.



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### 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 classes will be on June 3 & June 17. Vestry or outdoors, depending on weather. All are welcome to come and try the breathing and movement exercises of tai chi with Vince Jorales. A small monetary donation of \$5-7 is requested.

Please reach out to Dinah if you have questions.  
[drpa18@gmail.com](mailto: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

The June art wall will display portraits and still lifes. Please, please, be brave and submit your art work.

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



## CHURCH NEWS, continued

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### ARTICLE II DISCUSSION

Sunday, June 4, during coffee hour

Join Rev. Jolie and your UCS delegates to General Assembly for a brief update on the proposed revisions to Article II and the process to adopt them.

#### UCS ANNUAL MEETING!

Members, join us for the annual meeting of our congregation, when we vote on important business of the church such as officers and our budget.

Friday, June 9, 7 PM  
Sanctuary/Hybrid



#### Summer Kickoff Cookout!

June 18, Join us to celebrate many things: Father's Day, the end of the church year, the beginning of summer, Juneteenth, and, of course, Mel Springer's Birthday! This is a long-held church tradition and everyone pitches in to make it happen. Look out for a signup sheet to help with grilling, bringing ingredients, setting up, and cleaning up. After worship on Sunday, June 18 on the church grounds.