

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 Faith Development
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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OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00am Family Service

10:30am Worship Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

October 1

10:00 AM, Family Worship: UU History in Ten Minutes! Join us as we try to sum up 2000, 500, or 200 years of history (depending on how you define the origin of our UU faith tradition) in only ten minutes. Think we can do it? Knowing where we came from can help us be clear about who we are today.

10:30 AM, Worship: The Humanist and the Evangelist Today's sermon will offer snapshots of our Unitarian and Universalist histories with stories from the lives of two very different ministers. One is Quillen Shinn, the 19th-century Universalist circuit rider who preached in every state as well as Mexico and Canada over the course of his life, sometimes giving a sermon every day for months at a time. The other is John Dietrich, one of the founders of 20th century Humanism. What does it reveal about our UU tradition that both of these people count as among our religious forebears, even with their very divergent beliefs? Rev. Jolie preaching.

October 8

10:30 AM, Worship: Guest Speaker :Rev. Danielle Di Bona An Indian in King Arthur's Court Indigenous Peoples Day is a fairly new concept, as it has always been Columbus Day. And not every community celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day. What does this naming and name changing mean? How do we understand the "why" behind the name change? Is this a spiritual issue? Let's talk!

October 15

10:00 AM, Family Worship: UCS History in Ten Minutes! Remember how last week we squashed hundreds of years of history into ten minutes? Let's do it again, but this time with a focus right here in our own congregation. How does telling the stories of yesterday help us be the congregation we want to be today?

10:30 AM, Worship: What Are UU Values, Anyway? Article II Sermon Series Introduction You may have heard of our Seven Principles, but have you heard of Article II, where they are documented in our UUA bylaws? We are in the midst of a process to revise this document, with a proposal on the table to focus on values instead of principles. In this sermon, Rev. Jolie will make the case for why taking this multi-year, wonky parliamentary procedure seriously is good for our UU souls.

October 22

10:00 AM, Family Worship: Change is in the Air How do you feel about change? Do you find it hard, or exciting, or both? In today's service, we will talk about how change is a part of all of our lives, and how we can deal with it.

10:30 AM, Worship: Service is Our Prayer Each week we say "service is our prayer" as part of the words of our covenant. Today, we will delve deeper into what that means, both in terms of what we understand prayer to be, and also what service is. Rev. Jolie preaching.

October 29

10:30 AM, Intergenerational Worship: All Souls Join us for our traditional service in honor of All Souls Day. We will light candles and join in remembering our ancestors, loved ones, all our beloveds who have died. We will seek solace and seek to be inspired by their lives, all within the sacred space of our community. Rev. Jolie will lead the service today.

From the Minister



Dear Ones,

Ah, fall. The air gets crisper, the leaves get redder, the sweaters get cozier, the allergies get sneezier. With its shortening days and increasing chill, fall is like the twilight of the year.

Twilight is beautiful, but it can also be tinged with sadness. I often feel a bit down in the evening, especially these autumn evenings. I remember during my first year as an undergraduate at BU, my homesickness was most likely to surface after my afternoon classes, as I stepped out onto Comm Ave under the setting sun. Heading back to my small dorm room, I would feel very alone in a big world, especially during that first semester before I had made any real friends. I'd listen to sad music and sip mint tea that I'd heated up in my little micro-

wave that sat atop my mini-fridge, feeling lonely but somehow also feeling a little better once I'd admitted to myself that I was homesick.

Regardless of if we live alone, or in a house full of people, we all feel lonely from time to time. Our Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, has declared that we have an epidemic of isolation, loneliness, and lack of connection in our country, so we can be assured we are not alone in our loneliness. What can we do about this?

For one thing, it's good to talk about it with each other. It's not easy to tell the people in our lives if we're feeling disconnected, but when we take that risk we might be surprised to find we're not the only ones feeling this way. It's hard to make and maintain meaningful friendships as adults, and we hope that one of the things our congregation can do is offer a place for people to actually connect with one another in a spirit of mutual support and care. This happens in a somewhat organized fashion in the handful of support groups we have at this congregation, including one for caregivers, a men's group (currently accepting new members), a women's group (currently closed to new members), and I am gathering interest in a support group for parents and guardians of adolescents. What other kinds of support groups would you like our congregation to offer? Get in touch with me to discuss your ideas.

But it's not just support groups that offer connection here in our congregation. There are SO many ways to get closer: you can join the choir, you can help our Fellowship Committee organize fun activities like crafting and doing puzzles, you can come to our Tai Chi class, you can come to the monthly Casual Music Jam... the list goes on. If you need more information about any of these opportunities, just drop me a line.

One last note on sadness and loneliness. October is National Depression and Mental Health Screening Month. If you or a loved one are struggling with mental health, reach out to me, or talk to a healthcare provider about getting screened. We can reduce the stigma when we talk about mental health with each other, openly and in a spirit of love and care.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

From the President



I've never been sure why we call sessions intended to explore possibilities "Cottage Meetings"—there's no cottage involved—but we've been calling them that for a while, so that's what we're calling them this time, too. This time, these meetings, to which you're all invited to RSVP, are intended to address three issues:

1. Should we change the name of the organization to add "Universalist", since we're a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association? Should we change the name to something besides "church"? (Your board and your minister think so.)

2. Should we honor three beloved religious professionals who served us with dedication for years (the Rev. Deborah Cayer, the Rev. Jim Robinson, and Louise Marcoux, former director of Religious Education) with the title "emeritus"? (Naming

a departed minister "emeritus" is a title, not a paid slot.) (Your board and your minister think so.)

3. Is it time for a new capital campaign (AIM2) to raise funds to renovate the sanctuary? To make permanent repairs to the ceiling, to bring the sanctuary up to code regarding accessibility, to modernize our audio-visual systems, to make the sanctuary greener with better insulation and maybe windows, to replace the dilapidated horse-hair cushioned pews with moveable seating? Is this the right time to try to raise big money for improvements when we are already operating with a deficit budget?

Please sign up for one of these meetings, learn the pro's and con's of the issues, and help decide whether to put any or all of them to a vote at a congregational meeting. [Click Here](#) to sign up.

Tuesday 10/3 6 - 8 PM

Thursday 10/5 6 - 8 PM

Saturday 10/14 10 AM - 12 PM

Wednesday 10/18 6 - 8 PM

Sunday 10/22 12 - 2 PM

Monday 10/23 6 - 8 PM

In the interests of transparency, I'll tell you that I would like us to become the "Unitarian Universalist Congregation of (or in) Sharon". I'm all for the emeriti. And I'm on the fence about AIM2. What do you think?

Valerie White

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Guest Column by Faith Development Committee (aka RE Committee) Member Alisha Sarang-Sieminski. *On why I'm a fan of Faith Development*

This year, we're trying out some new language to describe what we do in "RE." As someone who spent time in the UU church as a child, RE is its own word in my brain, no longer an acronym.

Sometimes I forget what the two words making up RE are. The invitation to consider Faith Development made me pause to remember them. And reflect on my reluctance to talk about "RE" outside the UU community because I don't like saying Religious Education (also my reluctance to talk about going to "church", which is maybe another ball of wax). We often use the phrase "spiritual education" or "children's program" when talking to others. But now that we've started talking about Faith Development, I'm really warming to it.

In thinking about my reaction to both of these words, *Faith and Development*, it is hard to not come from a place of reacting to Christian hegemony. "Religious" has never sat well with me as someone who is not religious. While, in a classically UU way, I am not precisely sure what I believe in, but I do identify with the word faith. A few weeks ago, I was chatting with Christine in the pew on a Sunday and we were discussing the multiple meanings of the word faith.

Faith:

1. complete trust or confidence in someone or something.
2. strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof.

This raised the idea of the many ways we might need faith and want our children to engage in the idea of faith. Not only in a spirituality context, but also faith in oneself, faith in the community, faith in the world. So, while I may have started from a place of lesser of two evils and faith-is-better-than-religious-so-lets-do-it, I am moving to a place of actively advocating for the word Faith. And, as with everything, it's not just a word that we will leave to be passive, it is a word we will discuss and grapple with, regardless of what faith means to us.

And then there is Development. I'm an educator so my educator brain really likes development over education. Often, the connotation of education is a pouring of knowledge into the brain in a hierarchical kind of way. Whereas development feels more collaborative, and, again, like it captures the many forms of development we are scaffolding for the youth in our congregation.

Thank you for letting me share some thoughts, which were modified from an email sent to the Faith Development Committee, which was modified from thoughts dictated into my phone, my favorite way of thinking out loud. I look forward to our ongoing conversation about how to describe the important work we do with the youth of our congregation.

Signed by

Alisha Sarang-Sieminski, Faith Development Committee aka RE Committee

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

Over the summer break there were no regular services, and thus no announced formal Brown E collections. There are however several donors who make standing monthly BE contributions, resulting in \$580 raised, and the SJC voted to evenly divide those donations to the work of the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury (UUUM Youth Programming) and our ongoing support of local food pantries. Even when we stop to breath as a congregation, the work goes on!

Our Brown Envelope collection in September will be sent to our **Partner Church in Gyulakuta, Transylvania**. For many years, our congregation has supported fellow UUs in Romania. The money we raise via our Brown Envelope Collection pays for a musician during their worship service and for a copy of the monthly Romanian Unitarian magazine for each family, as well as other urgent projects. They are enormously grateful for this support.

In October, the Brown E collection will be reserved to support a local immigrant family in transition, currently living with Janet Limke and Rob Scott in Norwood. Numbering 5 in total, the parents and eldest child all have found meaningful employment, while the two youngest are well established in local schooling. Their goal is to achieve independent housing by November, and our support will be put toward that end via the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Check in with Janet, Rev. Jolie or Gare Reid for more details, and to learn more about ways that we can support this wonderful family in need (let's think about how we might help outfit a new, empty apartment, and prepare them for the winter ahead...). Thank you for your generous donations and support.

From the September *Chalice*, Janet reports:

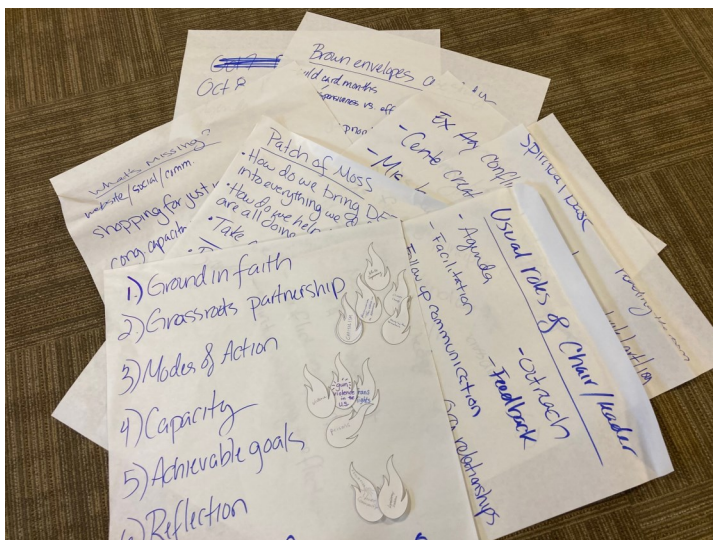
I was picking up Caribbean Food in Norwood in mid July, when I heard about this family from the restaurant owner.

Within a couple weeks, the Limke/Scott household grew to include an additional family of 5 including 2 children ages 3 and 9, a 21 year old male, and a mother and father from Port au Prince, Haiti. The family is appreciative, kind, resourceful and connected with people in the Haitian community. Several from the church have already offered expertise, language translation, and logistical advice. It is expected that the Depre/Jerome family will appreciate donations of household items in a couple months, when the time comes to move into a place of their own. Stay tuned for other ways that we as a congregation can support this family.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

MainSpring House lunch making: Our new approach to assembling 75 brown bag lunches for the guest of MainSpring House in Brockton is underway! In conjunction with the FD (formerly known as RE...) program, several youth of the church are taking responsibility for this vital social justice program, and will be assembling the lunches in the Vestry during the second service upstairs. Depending on how many youth volunteers roll in each month, they may or may not need a hand to finish up as Coffee Hour commences, so be on the lookout for ways to support this **experiment in social justice action**. And take a minute to **thank those hard working youth** for taking the lead on behalf of all of us at UCS as we work to help our neighbors in need. It happens on the second Sunday every month (unless scheduling conflicts arise...).

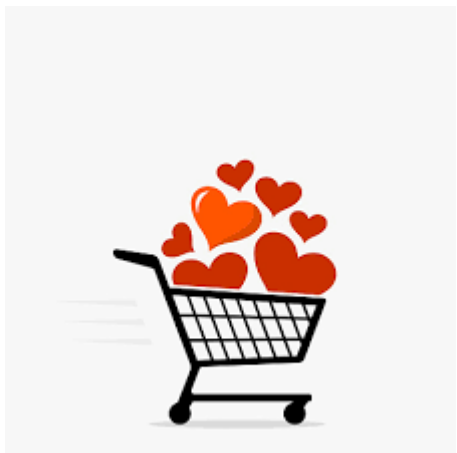
the 5% donation comes from the stores). Stop by the Social Justice Table in the Vestry during Coffee Hour to learn more about this user-friendly program. The more of us who



make this commitment to 'Shopping for Justice', the more hunger and homelessness programs we can engage with during these troubled times. And besides, **the grapes just taste better** when you purchase them with a S4J grocery card

Plenty of coffee, good food, and flip charts make for a productive SJC Retreat!

SJC retreat: on Saturday, 23rd, a dozen social justice practitioners gathered to reflect, recharge and engage with the results of the Committee on Ministry's congregational evaluation from last spring. Thanks to the expansive work of the CoM and their offer to help each of the committees of the church undergo an evaluation and church-wide reflection on our work, the SJC had valuable material to explore at our retreat. With the help of Heather Vickery of the UUSC (who shared a service and workshop for us all last winter), we have begun a process of restructuring and refocusing the social justice work of the church. We can all expect a renewed and reinvigorated SJC as we move forward into the new year. With your help, there is so much that we can accomplish – Stay tuned!



Do you and your household eat food? If so, you can help make the MSH lunch program a success when you shop for your own groceries. 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

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Disaster Relief & Brown Envelope planning:

One area of concern that has been raised is the unending stream of disasters of all types that are befalling communities around the world, and how & when our monthly Brown Envelope donations can or should reflect these needs. The SJC is exploring new ways to focus on areas where our financial donations and social justice activism can have the greatest impacts, while acknowledging that needs will always outpace our ability to respond. With this in mind, we encourage individuals and families to consider direct donations to agencies focused on disaster relief when the unexpected happens; we have found that the UU Service Committee (uusc.org) is typically engaging with overlooked and underserved communities when emergencies strike.

SJC Meeting for October: the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, October 8th at 12:00pm. Note that this is earlier than our meeting times last year. We will continue to offer hybrid-zoom participation, with some gathering in the physical Library for face-to-face conversation, and others are on the small screen. 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.

Fair Warning: **Fair Trade Table prices** are heading north. We are sad to report that the costs of coffees, chocolates and other fair trade items are rising, and that we will need to raise our prices at the F.T. Table at Coffee Hour accordingly. While we are still offering our inventory from this summer at lower prices from last year, starting November 1st we will need to bump up our price structure. This is a **good time to stock up** before we are forced to tweak our prices upwards. But remember, all profits support the various programs and efforts of the SJC doing the work that needs doing in the world, so that cup of coffee ought to taste a bit better knowing that it was harvested with fair compensation for the farmers, and that the modest profits gathered here will be put to good uses. Thank you for your continued support.

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



Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) REPORT

3rd Annual Black Lives Matter Banner Recommitment Ceremony – Sunday October 29th after Worship Service: While the banner is displayed outside our congregational building, we must give meaning to it both within and without our walls. This year, as we recommit ourselves to the work of abolishing racism and all forms of oppression, AND creating a world where everyone is treated equitably, respectfully and compassionately, we plan to extend an invitation to the larger Sharon community to attend the ceremony. We believe that in doing so, we take one more step in demonstrating how strongly we believe in our UU values and the directive of the 8th Principle.

Media Viewing/Discussion: Ted talk by Baratunde Rafiq Thurston, Tentative Date: Friday, October 27th @ 7:00pm

Our first *Media Viewing/Discussion* event offering this year is a repeat of last year's video viewing of a Ted Talk by Baratunde Rafiq Thurston entitled How to Deconstruct Racism, One Headline at a Time. In this 17-minute video, Thurston explores the phenomenon of white Americans calling the police on Black Americans who have committed the crimes of...eating, walking or generally "living while Black'." This video is both funny and deeply powerful and it provides an approach to help us move away from the violence of a white supremacist culture towards a culture of healing and non-violence.

Those who attended last year agreed that it was a powerful and important video and opened us up to some deep discussion. We hope those who attended last year will consider joining us again to see how things may have changed for you and that you personally invite and encourage others to attend as well.

Alcove Conversations (now known as AI-Con): The purpose of AI-Con is to provide a moment during coffee hour where we can connect over the 8th Principal mission to dismantle racism and other oppressions. It's a chance to share experiences, like, books we have enjoyed and perhaps have inspired us to learn more. We are curious here; we ask questions. We listen and share. Here are some recommended fiction books shared on, September 23rd:

The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb—What challenges does a Black classically trained musician face?

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray—What is given up and gained when passing as white?

Punch Me Up to the Gods, A memoir by Brian Broome, speaker at GA 2023 —A powerful book about growing up gay and dark-skinned in Ohio.

Horse by Geraldine Brooks—An enslaved groom and bay foal forge a bond in Kentucky in 1850.

****If you have questions you would like to explore with others during AI-Con, please contact Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks or Patty Fitzgerald****

As always, we want to hear from you! Please feel free to contact Barbara Nelkin-Rose with any questions, concerns or ideas regarding the work of the ARWG.

CHURCH NEWS

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee usually meets on the third Sunday of the month at noon. We are: Ellen Bordman (Chair), Beth Hoke, Peter Raskin, Tom D'Avanzo, Valerie Vigoda, Ashley Tsongas, Hema Sarang-Sieminski, and Gary Webber. If you have suggestions or questions about Sunday services, feel free to reach out to any of us.

If you are interested in joining us on the Worship Committee, please contact Ellen Bordman eesbordman@gmail.com

Tai Chi

Tai chi class first and third Saturdays, 8 to 9 am.

\$5-\$10 requested .

A moving meditation.

Rev Tricia Brennan, former Interim Minister at UCS 2008-2010 and Parental Leave Minister in fall of 2022 is co-leading two retreats on the island of Iona, Scotland next July 3-10 and 12-19, 2024, which are open to the public to register. She wanted our members to know about this opportunity for spiritual enrichment. Here's what she says about the program that she and colleague Rev. Jenny Rankin offer, with a link to the website.

Iona is a small island off the west coast of Scotland, part of the Inner Hebrides, and an ancient pilgrimage site, where thousands have sojourned over the centuries. Our program draws on the landscape, history and spiritual power of this place, connecting with the Iona Community and tapping the knowledge of local teachers. We invite you to experience this island for yourself, and allow it to become your teacher, as it has become ours.

More info and photos can be found at our website: <https://iona-pilgrimages.squarespace.com/>

You can also contact **Tricia** directly at revtbrennan@gmail.com with questions.

CHURCH NEWS

Art Wall

October's art wall will display photos by Elizabeth Siftar, inspired by street scenes and especially "pride" scenes that she witnessed this summer.



Stewardship Corner

DEVELOPING OUR CHURCH BUDGET

Sunday, October 15 after our worship service

Every June, at Annual Meeting, members are asked to vote on a proposed budget. Have you wondered how that recommendation is arrived at? Join the Stewardship Committee after Coffee Hour on **Sunday, October 15** to learn about our sources of revenue and the careful process of matching our dreams with our financial resources. **Treasurer David Nichamoff** will answer your questions about the many steps in the process of matching committee chairs' requests with expected income. **Personnel Committee Chair Susan Olson Drisko** will describe how the salary recommendations are developed.

Bring your coffee, enjoy some cookies, and learn how your generosity enables us to thoughtfully develop our budget.



Please join us in celebrating the dedication of the
Little Free Diverse Library in honor of Louise
Marcoux, our former DRE. Sunday, Oct. 1st: Light
luncheon and ceremony immediately following the
service.

*If you are able, please bring a dessert to share
that does not contain nuts, thank you*

CHURCH NEWS

The Five Points Cluster is trying to help with this effort. Could you list it in the weekly Chalice for the next two weeks, and if it's not too late the October monthly Chalice too?

Thanks! Beth McGregor

The OneFoxborough Donation Drive, aimed at supporting migrant and homeless families in Foxborough, is scheduled **for Saturday, October 14, 2023**, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Ahern Middle School on Mechanic St. We are in need of the following items: Diapers/Pull-ups, Baby Wipes, Formula (NIDO), Tampons/Pads, New Children's Underwear, New or Gently Worn Children's Clothes, New or Gently Worn Adult Clothes, New or Gently Worn Winter Coats, New Socks, and Sneakers.

OneFoxborough represents a collaborative team effort involving various Town departments, including Human Services, Public Health, Public Safety, and the School Department, as well as valued partners such as the Hockomock YMCA, local churches, nonprofit organizations, and Foxborough's state representatives. Together, we are committed to ensuring a coordinated response to support the migrant and homeless families placed in Foxborough.

As of September 20, there are 29 hotel rooms in use, accommodating a total of 107 individuals. According to the Governor's Office, additional families will be placed in the coming weeks. On Wednesday, September 13, members of the National Guard arrived in Foxborough to serve as onsite care coordinators, overseeing services such as food distribution, meeting basic needs, arranging transportation, and providing medical care. This temporary measure is in place as the state works towards finding a more permanent staffing solution. The National Guard will collaborate closely with the OneFoxborough team, as well as with the newly created state regional rapid response team, to facilitate information sharing and ensure coordinated services among all entities.

Also, our Fellowship Committee is organizing a Five Points Cluster **Games Night for All Ages at our church on Friday evening, Oct. 13 at 7 PM.** (Board games and light refreshments provided, additional contributions welcomed.) For those who can't make it to the Ahern Middle School on Saturday, we'll collect your items at the games night and deliver them for you the next day.

CHURCH NEWS

OUR ANNUAL BEAN SUPPER – SEPTEMBER 9TH

Following summer break UCS kicked off the church year the Saturday after Labor Day with our traditional Bean Supper. Members and friends prepared a variety of baked bean dishes and salads, enough to feed 150 people. The grilles were fired up to roast hot dogs of all types – beef, turkey, pork, vegetarian – and even a few sausages that magically appeared. Homemade breads complemented the main meal and brownies with vanilla ice cream put the finishing touch on a dinner that was hard to beat.

History shows that the sun almost always shines on The Bean Supper. Not this year! Mother Nature pulled a late afternoon surprise with light rain that forced the party inside. Sadly, the wet end-of-summer skewed the odds against us eating outdoors. Our able set-up team moved quickly to erect dining tables in the Vestry with enough places to seat 80. Buffet style service was ready to feed hungry customers by 5pm. This allowed families to eat as soon as they arrived and then take turns at various jobs, replacing those who had done the setup work.

Live folk and popular music by Glenn Rivard and Forbesy Russell entertained the diners. Talk and laughter filled the Vestry and, truth be told, the singers were probably not heard in the far reaches of the room. Everyone seemed to be having such a good time, including the youth who played hide and seek in the downstairs rooms adjacent to the Vestry. The photo of Rebecca Kinraide and daughter Eowyn shows two revelers who came to celebrate in colorful style.

Be sure to have fun next year when are back outside enjoying our Annual Bean Supper!

UCS Fellowship Committee

Chair – Lauren Grasso

Bean King – Ken Zaniewski



Most Colorful Hairstyle Combo at Bean Supper, Rebecca Kinraide with Daughter Eowyn

CHURCH NEWS



Upcoming Performances

Atwater-Donnelly trio. Saturday October 21, 2023

Doors open at 6:30 and concert starts at 7:00.

Suggested donation \$20

atwater-donnelly

Lara Herscovitch- Saturday November 11, 2023

Doors open at 6:30 and concert starts at 7:00.

Suggested donation \$20

Laraherscovitch.com

A green poster with yellow stars and text about a support group for parents of adolescents.

Are you the parent or guardian of a teenager?

Are you looking for a place to talk with your peers from our congregation about the experience of raising a teen?

**Support Group
for
Parents of Adolescents**

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

PIC•COLLAGE