

# The Chalice

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**A Welcoming Congregation  
of the Unitarian  
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## NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00am Family Service

10:30am Worship Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

### November 5

**10:00 AM, Family Worship:** All the Colors We Are In today's family service we will read a book on skin color called All The Colors We Are and discuss how skin color relates to discrimination in our country, which is called racism. As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to say NO to racism and work for a world where all are free.

**10:30 AM Worship:** Doing Our Soul Work More than 20 years ago, religious professionals from our UU faith movement came together for a series of dialogues on "anti-racist theologies." The talks were published in a book called Soul Work and it is still full of ringing insights that can speak to us today. But what is it about these conversations that is soulful, anyway? Rev. Jolie preaching.

### November 12

**10:00 AM Family Worship:** Diwali: Light in the Dark Today is Diwali, the largest and most important holiday in India, and many people celebrate it in other places around the world, including right here in Sharon! We will learn more about this celebration of good triumphing over evil and the light that shines in the darkness.

**10:30 AM Worship:** Generosity: Article II Sermon Series Our UUA is revising its bylaws! Rev. Jolie will dedicate one sermon a month to each of the values in the proposed new Article II, the place where our Seven Principles have been documented since 1984. The first is "Generosity: We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality." How do these words connect us to our UU faith?

### November 19

**10:00 AM Family Worship:** Generosity as a UU Value We will explore one of our UU values this week by kicking off a new project: a mitten tree to collect warm things like hats and scarves for those who need them most. How do you show generosity? How does generosity feel when you give it and receive it?

**10:30 AM Worship:** Feast For the Spirit As many of us prepare to share a meal for Thanksgiving, let us pause and consider what we can do to nourish our spirits this week as well. Rev. Jolie preaching.

### November 26

**10:30 AM Intergenerational Worship:** Offering of Gratitude Brad Larson and Gary Webber will guide us in co-creating an Offering of Gratitude. All ages are invited to come and reflect on moments when we felt grateful.

## CHURCH NEWS

### Tai Chi

Tai chi classes with Vince Jornales continue on the first and third Saturdays of the month. A voluntary contribution of \$5 to \$10 is requested. Classes are from 8 am to 9am; they are enjoyable and enlivening. If the weather is good enough, they are held outdoors; otherwise, in the Vestry. All are welcome, including newbies.

### Art Wall

We will continue into November with art work inspired by summer, into fall.; Into December, church-related and gratitude themes. In January we would like to hang people's haiku and pictures. If you have original art work to show, do talk with Dinah. New artists and new ideas are more than welcome.

**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](mailto:revtbrennan@gmail.com) with questions.

## CHURCH NEWS



### Stewardship Corner

**How has your talent and treasure made an impact to our Building & Grounds Committee?**

Like all of our committees, our B&G Committee is entirely driven by the time, talent, and treasure provided by our generous congregation. Your Treasurer has allowed the church to make major improvements over the years like repairing the falling ceiling in the sanctuary, updating our key system to electric, and completing phase 1 of the new playground plans. It also allows the church to maintain the less exciting but no less important requirements like heating, elevator maintenance, and cleaning. And the B&G Committee relies heavily on the time and talent of a few generous folks for all the responsibilities that more traditionally were handled by a sexton or church groundskeeper. So on behalf of the Stewardship Committee, a huge thanks to the congregation and these volunteers!

Would you like to know more about how your talents could be shared with B&G - maybe you have some plumbing, painting, handyman skills to share? Would you like to know more about how B&G prepares budget requests for building repairs and projects? Did you want to know the current status of the playground build? Or maybe just to hear the latest on the hawk that has generously solved the pigeon problem in the steeple? Then please join us for a Zoom call on Wednesday, November 15th at 7:00 pm.

Hope to see you then!

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **Worship Committee News for November**

The Worship Committee met with Faith Development Director Christine Bulman recently to discuss "when the service runs long". Going forward, if the service runs beyond 11:35am, an adult who is working with the children will communicate via text with that morning's Worship Coordinator. At an appropriate moment, the children will be brought up to the sanctuary. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please speak to Christine or a member of the worship committee.

The Worship Committee is planning a special worship circle for the 10:30am service on Sunday, November 26, Thanksgiving weekend. If you would like to contribute, please speak to Ellen Bordman or Gary Webber.


At our recent monthly meeting, the Land Acknowledgement was discussed. Inspired by guest minister Rev. Danielle DiBona, we want to make sure these words are not hollow. To that end, Rev. Jolie will be exploring new words to encourage a more thoughtful, meaningful, Land Acknowledgement.

On December 3rd, the Worship Committee will host coffee hour and be available to meet new members and old friends to hear about your worship experiences. We'd also like to tell you what we're working on and see if you'd like to join our 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.

See you in church!

## CHURCH NEWS


Parents - Neighbors - Friends - Community Members



You are invited to join a  
**Community Book Club**

**Wed, Nov 15**  
7-8:30 pm  
on Zoom

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



A bittersweet story of love and friendship that tackles big subjects like homophobia, social anxiety, and coming out with a touch of magic  
-K. M. Soehnlein

Sponsored by the **Sharon Pride Steering Committee**

Sharon Pride Steering Committee is fiscally sponsored by NPOI - Nonprofit Incubator, a program of NPOI INC, a Massachusetts nonprofit corporation and 501(c)(3) organization. EIN 01-5089505. Learn more at <https://sharonnc.org>

Sharon Pride Book Club read-together: *The Cleveland Heights LGBTQ Sci-Fi and Fantasy Role Playing Club* by Doug Henderson. We invite interested folks from Sharon to join the discussion on Zoom on Wednesday, November 15, from 7-8:30 pm. Participants must pre-register at <https://forms.gle/7AHRKU82n8bswqqa> in order to receive the Zoom link.

### Gifts for Kids article:



It's time again for the annual Gifts for Kids holiday drive. Established in 1990 by our own Pat McDougal, GFK ([GiftsforKidsMA.org](https://www.giftsforkidsma.org)) serves over 1150 youth in our area whose holidays are made brighter thanks to your support. Things are happening a bit differently this year, as you are asked to go directly to <https://bit.ly/sponsorGFK2023> to be connected to the child of your preference (first name, age, gender, clothing sizes, wish-list, etc.). Suggested commitment is \$125/child, or you may prefer to make a monetary donation and leave the shopping to a corp of volunteers who just love that task! Stop by the Fair Trade table at Coffee Hour to see Alison Reid with your questions and ideas, or email [sponsor@GiftsForKidsMA.org](mailto:sponsor@GiftsForKidsMA.org), or call 'Kate' at 781-784-4405 for details. (Matching of kids to donors begins on 15 November.)

Drop-off of gifts will be the same as in past years: unwrapped gifts, in bags with ID tags inside and out, wrapping paper and tape appreciated, two sessions:

Walpole on 12 December, 4-6pm, VFW Post #1588, 33 Robbins Road, and

Sharon on 14 December, 4-6pm, O'Connell Hall next to Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 59 Cottage St

Thanks for your generous commitment to help make the holidays brighter for youth and kids in our region!

## CHURCH NEWS



### Upcoming Performances

**Lara Herscovitch- Saturday November 11, 2023**

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

Suggested donation \$20

[Laraherscovitch.com](http://Laraherscovitch.com)

A green background with several yellow stars of various sizes.

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](mailto:minister@uusharon.org)

PIC•COLLAGE

## From the Minister



Dear Ones,

We had Rev. Danielle DiBona as a preaching guest here in October, for Indigenous Peoples' Day. She shared personal stories from her life, including the story of how, at age 12, her mother told her that she was Wampanoag. She explained to us that it was the stigma against her people which had kept that part of their identity hidden, which led her relatives to feel they must keep it a secret that they are Indian, for fear of losing their jobs, for fear of being mistreated. Rev. Danielle also challenged us to think about our land acknowledgment, which we have been saying at the beginning of our worship services for almost two years. She wondered aloud whether these words serve any purpose other than perhaps making us feel better about ourselves. She encouraged us to instead think of our land acknowledgment as one step in a journey of truly honoring and supporting Native sovereignty and dignity.

Our Worship Committee - which works with me to craft what we say in our opening words - has taken Rev. Danielle's message to heart. The Committee and I are grateful for the teachable moment she has given us. Several important points came up in our initial discussion since Rev. Danielle's sermon. People expressed reluctance to eliminate the land acknowledgement, because then we would lose the moment of remembering and reconnection it offers us. We reflected on the tradition of land acknowledgments in many Native cultures, which are meant to ground people in our relationship to the land, the sky, the sea, the plants and animals, the whole Earth and all its inhabitants. In many non-Native contexts, land acknowledgments are about the tribes whose homelands the event is taking place in. We asked ourselves, what does it offer us as people of faith to recognize both: the land, and the people whose homeland we occupy? And is there more we feel called to do as a congregation, in support of our Wampanoag and Massachusetts neighbors' sovereignty, dignity, and flourishing?

On another note, I wanted to give an update on the efforts to support the new families staying in temporary shelter at a hotel here in Sharon. We are still signed up to collect **toiletries** such as Nivea and Cocoa Butter lotions, toothpaste and toothbrushes, dental floss, body wash and bar soap, and shampoos and conditioners especially for Black hair. Please continue to bring your donations and put them in the big blue boxes in the Vestry. Going forward, specific clothing requests will be handled on a room-by-room basis, so we **are no longer being asked for underwear and bra donations**. For any changes to the list of donations we need please see your weekly newsletters as they come out each Friday. Thank you to all who have donated so far!

Yours in faith,  
Rev. Jolie

## From the President



My mother lived with me for the last 4 years of her life, and while that time was not without problems, it was wonderful having that closeness. Once, I was reading a biography of Eleanor Roosevelt, and I looked up from the book to ask my mother, “FDR died in office, didn’t he?”

She looked absolutely dumbfounded and ejaculated, “You mean you don’t remember that!?!?”

“Mother, I wasn’t BORN yet!” ( I was born in 1945.)

Taken aback, she did some mental calculations and said, “I guess that’s right.”

I have more sympathy with my mother’s mental arithmetic after this morning’s Cottage Meeting.

Most of the attendees were people who’ve been around for a while—even with my prosopagnosia (face blindness) I recognized all but one newer guy and knew all of their names. But I was about as dumbfounded as my mother when it came out that some of these folks had never known our meetinghouse without the “new” religious education wing and the elevator. Many of them don’t remember the old member-built cinder-block RE wing with the below-grade door which flooded during heavy rains. I was about as dumbfounded as my mother when it came out that some of these folks had never known our long-time minister the Rev. Deborah Cayer. Deb was called here after I started coming but before I was a member. She was minister through my first four years as your president.

When I did some mental arithmetic I realized that it’s been 13 plus years since we dedicated the new wing and 15 years since Deb was minister. So I guess I really can’t think of the folks who didn’t know her or remember the old addition as “newbies”.

Thanks to all of you who have been participating in these Cottage Meetings and, if you couldn’t come, taking the trouble to tell board members what you think. And all of you, please, complete the survey we’ll be sending out. The board needs to hear your ideas!

Valerie White



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT



### From the Director of Faith Development

As active and engaged Unitarian Universalists, we aspire to raise children who have compassion, respect for diversity and an understanding of our interconnectedness. In times of, political polarization, civil unrest, climate change, conflict and wars abroad, this endeavor can give us pause. In a media saturated world it's easy for headlines to make their way into the awareness of our young people, and therefore into their psyches.

From preschool to adolescence, perspective and perception differs; yet it is safe to say the common denominator can be an increase in worry, fear, and stress. As parents and caregivers concerned about the impact of conflict on our children, we may want to tease out what our children are feeling and how they are perceiving the situation. In turn, we can help clear up misunderstandings, and offer an extra dose of love, reassurance and comforting routine. This can be difficult to do if we ourselves are rattled, a signal to increase our own self-care.

As Unitarian Universalist parents we may also wonder if times like this are an opportunity to transmit our values by way of the real life examples of conflict that are before us. Let us remember first that teaching and learning in times of crisis are rarely effective and doing so should be tempered by the level of impact one's family is experiencing. Yet in some cases we may be confronted with questions from our children that necessarily lead us toward education. However we navigate the age and developmental needs of our children this can be a time regardless of stance, to lean into the values that we have been exploring throughout our time together on Sundays.

Respect for all life, kindness and compassion, even when we don't agree on things, is what we strive for. Fairness and equity are things we need to work toward, and sometimes, in some places this work is so hard and so deep that violence can result. Violence can be hard to fathom. Issues of justice are pervasive and complex and offer no easy answers. In times of difficulty it can be helpful to return to love. One Sunday during a family service, Rev. Jolie told a story about an ant invasion of friend's home and recounted her friend's effort to do no harm. What I loved about that story was her friend's wish of peace on those ants even as they disturbed her peace and as she worked toward a solution. Offering a loving-kindness meditation into the world can be a powerful way for children to participate in healing.

To paraphrase Lao-tse, "if there is to be peace in the world...there must be peace in the home, if there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart." So let us remember as parents to lean into our support networks and offer ourselves some extra care and compassion. Then we can cultivate in our own homes the spirit of love and the values we wish to see more of in the world. Blessings to you.

In Faith,

Christine

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT, continued

For further reading about talking with children about war and violence see [this article](#) from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

### Two Sundays

This is the number of Sundays the Faith Development Committee hopes you'll sign up for in our dynamic new children's model on Sunday mornings. We are currently scheduling for January and February so if you sign up now, it gives you plenty of time to learn about the program from Christine. Let's give our fall team a hand for staffing the program without a blip during Christine's absence and give them a winter break! [Sign up here.](#)

Thank you to Jenny Theiler, Sadie Dussault, Karen Woods, Chloe Kline, Suha Roustom, Margaret Berges, Maura Comosse Tsongas, Alisha Sarang-Sieminski, Nina Vigoda, Charlotte Trivedi and to the Faith Development Committee for their fabulous support kicking off the year!

### Youth Programming at UCS

This month the youth will be continuing to help in the children's faith development classes (and getting ready for Revels!). We are also gearing up for Cedar Hill in January and a service trip in June 2024. In fact, we would love to invite parents of high school age youth to an informational meeting about this possible service trip. This meeting will be on November 12th on zoom at 5pm.

This service trip would be through Living Legacy Project and would be a youth centered trip with other UU churches from around the country. The trip would take place from June 19th through June 23rd 2024. We would travel to Memphis initially and travel in a bus to a variety of significant civil rights movement locations as we learn about the civil rights movement from some of the people who experienced it first hand!

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



The Social Justice Committee encourages you to visit the UCS website ([uusharon.org](http://uusharon.org)) for information about the social justice programs at church. The Social Justice pages are a great source for

information about opportunities to engage, resources, and links to partner organizations and groups that we collaborate with in our work.

### Brown Envelope Collections



Our Brown Envelope collection in September will be sent to our **Partner Church in Gyulakuta, Transylvania**.

Once the final tally of donations is complete, they will be added to our budgeted contribution to our Partner Church and sent out. For many years, our congregation has supported fellow UUs in Romania. They are enormously grateful for this support.

In October, the Brown E collections are reserved to support a local immigrant family in transition, currently living with Janet Limke and Rob Scott in Norwood. Numbering 5 in total, their goal is to achieve independent housing soon, and our support will be put toward that end via the **Minister's Discretionary Fund**. There may be additional practical opportunities to help them get set up in their new quarters in the coming weeks. Thank you for your generous donations and support.

The Brown E donations in November will go to **City School Inc** ([thecityschool.org](http://thecityschool.org)), a non-profit which works with a diverse group of youth, ages 14-19, and whose mission is to help them to become effective leaders in addressing social justice issues, incorporating a strong focus on racial justice. Their work intentionally crosses lines of race, class, gender and neighborhoods. City School Inc is affiliated with **Black Lives Matter Boston** ([blacklivesmatterboston.org](http://blacklivesmatterboston.org)), and their mission to empower black communities and build Black futures. Thank you for your generous donations.

**Abolition Day** in Mansfield: on Sunday, 15 October, the annual celebration commemorating the Great Mansfield Freedom vs. Slavery Riot of 1836 was held on the town's South Common. Our own Reverend Jolie Olivetti was one of the featured speakers that day, with a strong message about our ongoing work for racial justice. Thank you Rev Jolie!



Our ongoing effort to help **local food pantries** (6 in total, with an emphasis on the Sharon/Stoughton Pantry) which began to expand over 3 ½ years ago when Covid entered our lives, has to date raised well over \$62,000 in funds to help our neighbors get through difficult times. This is an amazing accomplishment, and we will continue to offer this extra effort to address food insecurity in our neighborhoods. The reports back from the staff at the pantries are that demand remains high, and that our donations are making a real difference. Thank you for your ongoing support (checks both large and small, and of course staple foods via the donation bin in the lobby of the church, are always appreciated). And here's an observation from our food pantry coordinator, Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks:

*We at UCS make consistent donations so I thought this info pertinent.*

*1. Leave the packaged Mac and Cheese on your own shelf. It cannot be easily used since it requires milk and butter, items usually not available at food pantries.*

*2. Although more expensive, here is a donation item I had not considered before—milk from the non-refrigerated shelves.*

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

3. Volunteers needed here at UCS to deliver to Stoughton Food Pantry once or twice a month. Sign up sheet is near food trunk in Entry.

4. Add to your grocery list if possible. With the increased local needs from new families in the area and regular pantry recipients, I am reminded that this is a time to double our efforts.

*Thanks to you, our donations are always received with smiles and gratitude!*  
Ellen

**MainSpring House** lunch making: In conjunction with the Faith Development program, several youth of the church are taking responsibility for this vital social justice effort, 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.



*Have too much **post-Halloween candy** in a bowl tempting you at home? Donate it*

*here and we will add it to upcoming MSH brown bag lunches each month, to round out the meals that we provide with a sweet treat. Thanks!]*



### **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 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 granola and berries just taste better** when you purchase them with a S4J grocery card!

## ***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](http://uusc.org)) is typically engaging with overlooked and underserved communities when emergencies strike.

**SJC Meeting for November:** the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, starting at approximately 12:45pm. We will continue to offer hybrid-zoom participation, with some gathering in the physical Library for face-to-face conversation, and others 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 Trade Table prices** are heading north. Effective this month, we are raising the prices of our fair trade products in step with price hikes from our providers. We will keep things as reasonable as possi-

ble, and take advantage of occasional discounted purchasing opportunities when they arise, but in order to keep this fundraising effort viable, and to keep the high quality, fairly traded goods at your fingertips, prices will rise. And of course we are never disappointed when we hear “Keep the change!” as all profits go to support the social justice work of the congregation. Thanks for your understanding.