

The Chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association**
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MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00am Family Service

10:30am Worship Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

May 5

10:00 AM Family Worship: Question Box

One of the ways we practice Unitarian Universalism is by asking BIG questions about our lives and this amazing and complicated world we live in. People of all ages are invited to bring your questions to our family service and we will find some answers together in community.

10:30 AM Worship: One Among Many

Today we welcome new members who are joining our congregation. In honor of New Member Sunday, we will consider one of the central tensions of our UU faith: the individual and the collective. We are individualistic in that we are each on our own search for truth and meaning. Yet we are collectivistic in that we come together in covenantal communities, and because we know our commitments to creating a better world require something much larger than ourselves alone. How do we strike a balance between the one and the many? Rev. Jolie preaching.

May 12

10:00 AM Family Worship: Caring and Nurturing (or Mother's Day Walk for Peace)

In honor of Mother's Day, we will explore what it means to nurture something and help it grow. We will make connections to our faith and to what we are up to in our garden.

10:30 AM Worship: Mother's Day (or Mother's Day Walk for Peace)

Join Rev. Jolie and your fellow congregants for "church in the streets" on May 12 at the [Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#), in support of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. All those who can't be part of the walk will be treated to a worship service on the theme of motherhood and mamas of all kinds, led by Valerie White.

Continued on next page.....



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May 19

10:00 AM Family Worship: Daring to Dream Big

We are taking on a big new project with our garden this spring. We don't know how it will turn out but we do believe what we are doing is important. In our family service today we will reflect on those times in our lives when we have dared to dream big.

10:30 AM Worship: Considering Forgiveness

One of the topics that has come up in our recent "Conversations at the Death Cafe" program is forgiveness. What does it mean to forgive ourselves? How do we forgive others? And what does this have to do with practicing our faith as Unitarian Universalists? Rev. Jolie preaching.

May 26

Five Points Cluster Worship Service

There will be no worship service at UCS this Sunday, due to the holiday weekend. Join our friends from the Five Points Cluster instead! The Five Points Cluster is a group of local UU congregations (including our own) who support one another with shared services and programming. More details including service location and topic will be included in upcoming weekly newsletters.

We are Unitarian Universalist congregations in Southeastern Massachusetts committed to:



Collaboration Taking Action Sharing Resources Empowerment Service

CHURCH NEWS

First Fridays are for Fellowship is happening in May!

Due to scheduling challenges our Fellowship Committee had to cancel last month's potluck. But we're back!

Please join us on Friday, May 3 at 6 PM in our Vestry. Bring a dish to share if you can.

People of ALL AGES are welcome to attend First Fridays are for Fellowship.

If you have lawn games or board games that you think people would enjoy, please feel free to bring them.

Casual Music Jam Friday May 10th 2024 from 7-9pm

We'll be gathering on Friday, May 10th from 7-9pm at the Unitarian Church of Sharon (4 N. Main St in Sharon) for our monthly casual music jam. We'll be in Program A/B (head down-stairs, then take a right).

Tai Chi

Tai Chi has been meeting in Room A/B on first and third Saturdays from 8 to 9 a.m. People are enjoying it, and contributing between \$5 and 10 to help defray the cost of the excellent teacher, Vince Jornales. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time. Never did tai chi? Come give it a try; it's fun, relaxing and energizing all at once, basically focusing the mind and body on simple movements and the breath.

Art Wall

Say good-bye to the April art wall. Take a farewell look at Elaine Price's "Cottage on Shore Cove," (Elaine felt the neglect of this abandoned cottage, painted her watercolor, and sure enough, it was henceforth demolished). Then, turn to Forbsey Russell's glorious oil painting "Farewell Sunset," celebrating the earth's daily cyclical adventure. Perhaps allow yourself to feel the inner turmoil and yearning in Dinah Altman's self portrait in oil, "Love/Dance". Feel the calm of Louise Chereski's watercolor depicting the delightful flickering of the arboreal sun and shade. Recently added are some charcoal sketches of Dinah's, from art school decades ago, with the live model.

Coming in May will be an art wall of Anastasia Aranovich's photographs showcasing nature's beauty and the love afforded us from beholding it.

Looking forward to more art!

Meditation Group, weekly on Mondays 7-8 PM

Join Carol Abrams, local meditation teacher, for a simple weekly mindfulness practice in our Vestry. All welcome.

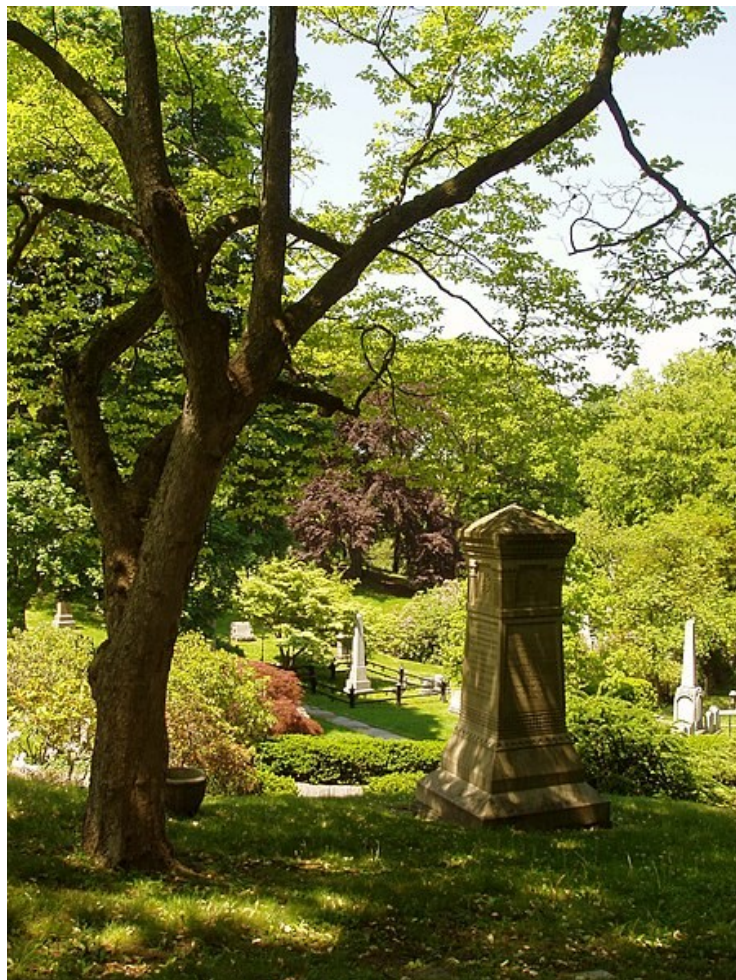
CHURCH NEWS, continued

Transcendentalist Club - 2nd Annual Outing

Saturday May 4, raindate Sunday May 5

Join our small band of like minded friends as we tour Mount Auburn Cemetery, where we will enjoy a walking tour at the height of Spring in some of the most beautiful grounds in the area. The day will be capped off by a light picnic and visit to Margaret Fuller's cenotaph along with an overview of the women who was the first editor of the Transcendentalist magazine 'The Dial' and at the invitation of Emerson a member of the Transcendentalist Club.

The 174-acre cemetery is important both for its historical aspects and for its role as an arboretum. Anyone interested in joining us can contact Courtney Hopkins at courtneyhopkins@gmail.com or look for me at church



CHURCH NEWS, continued

ONGOING SERIES

Conversations at the Death Café

With Rev. Gary Strichartz, Ph.D

Rev. Gary Strichartz is a Chaplain at Millford Regional Medical Center and a UU minister. He brings to his chaplaincy more than 30 years of experience as a researcher and professor of the science of pain.

Facilitated by Rev. Gary and Rev. Jolie, with help from Rumni Saha, Ellen Bordman, and Lauren Grasso

Tuesday : April 30, May 7, 7 - 8:30 PM, in Program A/B (large downstairs classroom at UCS)

Description: Dying and death are uncomfortable topics, and people avoid talking about them. To anyone, including friends, family members, clergy, even their spouses. Through the remaining two sessions of this workshop we hope to relieve some of the anxiety about dying and death, to provide some helpful information, both practical and spiritual, and to encourage people to begin a conversation on these topics with their loved ones. Our hope is to make these subjects less frightening and anxiety provoking, and thereby to help people live their lives to the fullest, right up to the end.

RSVP to Rev. Jolie: minister@uusharon.org.

Not Just Another Coffeehouse

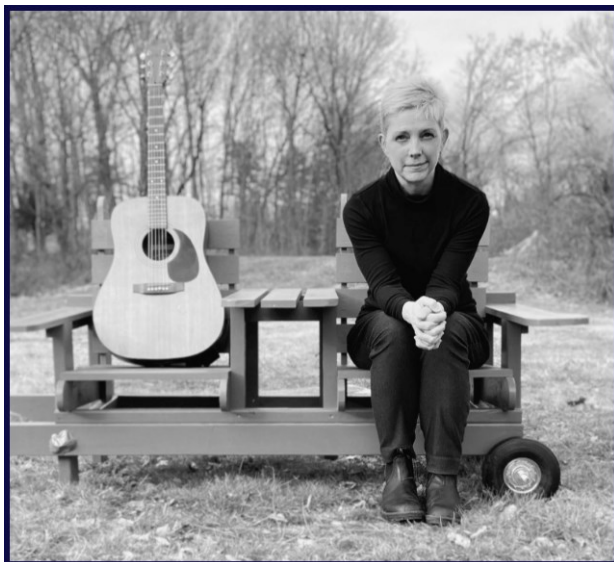
Upcoming Performance

Erin Ash Sullivan, Saturday May 25, 2024

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

Suggested donation \$20

<https://erinashsullivan.com/>



CHURCH NEWS, continued

Worship Committee Update

We are delighted to share that Dave Slater joined our committee. Other members: Ellen Bordman (Chair), Peter Raskin, Tom D'Avanzo, Valerie Vigoda, Ashley Tsongas, Hema Sarang-Sieminski, and Gary Webber. We meet on the 3rd Sundays of the month at 12:15pm via Zoom and sometimes hybrid. Please reach out to one of us if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the UCS worship services.

In April, ~15 members of the congregation have reflected on the spiritual, emotional, and practical aspects of death and dying with Rev. Jolie and Rev. Gary Strichartz at two of our Death Cafe workshops, with the last two scheduled for April 30 and May 7.

On Sunday, May 12, if you are not planning to join the UCS team at the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Annual Walk for Peace, come to church for Valerie White's Mother's Day worship service. Our last 10:00am Family Service of the year will be on May 19. After that, all our worship services will begin at 10:30 AM. We will either do Time for All Ages (when we do a brief story or discussion before the kids leave for children's programming) or intergenerational services (when they stay for the whole service). Looking further ahead to Memorial Day weekend, May 26, members and friends are invited to the Five Points Cluster service. There will be no service at UCS.

Summer is right around the corner! The Worship Committee seeks congregants who are interested in leading occasional Vespers (evening) worship services this Summer. Or perhaps some of you might like to organize worshipful gatherings on the Second Sundays in Summer, to accompany Mainspring House Lunch Making. If there is any interest, please reach out to one of the Worship Committee members.

Commemorating Juneteenth:
Showcasing Sharon's Creativity
 Calling all Sharon based artists!
 Sharon Racial Equity Alliance, Sharon Cultural Council, and the DEIC are
 sponsoring a Juneteenth art show from June 15th - 30th.
 Submissions due May 1st



For more information and to submit your work
 follow the link below or scan the QR code.
<https://tinyurl.com/CreativeSharon>



CHURCH NEWS, continued



PRESENTS

ROHAN DASGUPTA & DEEPSHANKAR BHATTACHARJEE

accompanied by

SUBRATA BHATTACHARYA



**DEMONSTRATION OF MORNING
RAAGAS IN
“JAFFARKHANI BAAJ”
STYLE OF SITAR PLAYING**

**HINDUSTANI SHASTRIYA SANGEET
(INDIAN CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL
MUSIC)**

**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON
4 N Main St, Sharon, MA 02067**

11th May' 24 → TIME: 11AM -1.30 PM

For more details contact

Niraj R.: hasmukhswar@gmail.com

OR

240-422-3030



Event is supported by

From the Minister



Dear Ones,

I heard a story once about a group of evangelical Christian seminarians who cut up a Bible, just cut holes all through it. This group of students was full of all the heady energy and righteousness that can accompany any young idealist's first year in academia. In their Bible classes they got fired up about all the verses about the poor. Like when Jesus told his disciples, "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Or like the descriptions of the Jubilee found in the Hebrew Bible, when all debts are forgiven, land is reallocated, and slaves are set free. This theme emerged across book after book of their sacred text - the Word of God clearly calling them to care for the poor and to redistribute the resources of the rich.

These seminarians looked at these verses, and looked at each other, and said, what Bible have we been using before now? None of the churches of their upbringing ever talked about poverty, or God's call to fight economic injustice. It was as if their churches had been using a Bible with all such references removed.

So they got the idea to create the version of the Bible it seemed their church had been following. Jim Wallis, who has gone on to become a prominent Christian theologian, founder of Sojourners magazine, and anti-poverty activist, tells the story: "One member of our group took an old Bible and a new pair of scissors and began the long process of literally cutting out every single biblical text about the poor. It took him a very long time." Jim Wallis writes that he still takes this "hole-y" bible around to share his message that the American Bible is full of holes, to call our attention as a nation to the Biblical call to care for the poor and to address the root causes of poverty. Though we are no longer a biblically-based tradition in our UU congregations, we do draw inspiration from the Bible, and from many other religions which tell us to pay attention to the plight of the poor, and so we too must heed this call.

Last month I preached about our UU value of Equity, and in that sermon I talked about class in American society. Our culture has gotten more engaged on the topic of race and racism, with some unfortunate backlash, but we still struggle to talk about poverty and economic inequality, and the ways that race and class intersect. As we prepare to join the [Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#) on May 12, it is important to reflect on the root causes of community violence, and how we are called to work for a more equitable society. As the [Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence](#) explains:

Racial disparities in gun violence rates are the result of centuries of deliberate policy choices that created racially segregated neighborhoods that are underfunded and under-supported by policymakers. Gun violence is a symptom of deeper issues: racism, poverty, trauma, and lack of opportunity. This is why we see higher rates of gun violence in communities of color - policymakers have intentionally created neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, poorly funded schools, and high rates of over policing.

We know this is unacceptable. And we know that we can be part of the work to build a world that is more fair, a world where all may have what they need to survive and thrive without threat of violence.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

From the President



Many years ago, before I moved to Massachusetts, I was a member of a tiny UU congregation in Derby Line, Vermont. Derby Line is so called because it sits on the Canadian border. In fact the local public library straddles the border—when I lived there if you stood in front of the check-out desk you were in the states, and the librarian on the other side was in Canada.

I was a member there because my then husband was the minister, and I did a lot of minister's wife stuff . . . I prepared the stencil for the order of service for the mimeograph machine and typed the sermons and edited the newsletter . . .

Later, when the church was without a minister and I was single again, I was a supply preacher there once a month for a whole church year. I really enjoyed coming up with sermons and arranging the services, choosing hymns and readings and such. There was a time in my life when I actually considered the UU ministry as a career and even started the application process for Starr King.

Actually, I don't think it would have been a good fit. My face-blindness (technical term prosopagnosia—kind of like dyslexia for faces) would have been a problem. People would not like it if their minister didn't recognize them! There were times when my minister husband and I would stand at the back of the sanctuary after the postlude to greet the departing parishioners, and I would whisper to him, "Who was that?" and he would say something like, "That was the Jones's. We had dinner at their house last night."

But anyway, there was a lot about creating worship that I liked . . . I've done some of our summer services here, too . . . and so you can imagine that I was pleased, intrigued and challenged when Rev. Jolie asked me if I would take on the Mother's Day service this month when she and many of us would be participating in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace!

I've picked out the hymns and chosen the readings already, and have even written my sermon!

Looking forward to seeing (some of) you on May 12.

Valerie White

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

May Religious Education

Introducing A Spring Gardening and Outdoor Program!

This month, we're diving into a new venture. We're setting up the stackable gardens and children will get their hands dirty planting fast-growing vegetables which we hope to harvest in June and donate to the food pantry.

This is a bit of a pilot to determine if we can integrate gardening into our religious education curriculum over the long term. Our aim? To cultivate not just vegetables but also a sense of responsibility for the environment and an understanding of food insecurity issues facing our community. By growing and donating fresh produce to the food pantry, we're nurturing compassion and fostering a spirit of giving back. We think this curriculum could run almost all year - two short growing seasons (spring and fall) and summer harvest garden party and even germinating our own seeds indoors beginning in late February or March. Deep winter might find us exploring poverty as well as food insecurity, organizing clothing and food drives, and even creating some high tech publicity!

Join Us!

We invite all members of our congregation who have a passion for gardening or a desire to make a difference to join us in this exciting venture. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a newbie with a green thumb, there's a place for you in our garden. Reach out to Christine or a member of the Religious Education Committee.

Playground Power

The children also have the opportunity this month to do some maintenance and visioning for the playground. They have begun to work with Glenn Rivard to come up with a solution for the spinning monkey bars, and perform some maintenance on the water feature. They are ready for the climbing feature in the center of the playground and have suggested we have a bake sale in order to raise funds for it! Stay tuned for more news and updates!

Calendar of Events

May 5: Soil and Water

K-4: These are essential ingredients in the recipe for gardening. Filling the stacks with soil (100 individual containers make up the entire garden!) and setting up irrigation. We'll get the water running for the hand pump and sluice and teach a lesson on responsible use of this playground feature.

Gr. 5-6: OWL Session: Final session! Thank you to Lionel Schanz, Kate Barber, Karen Zelevinsky and Andrew Plumridge for teaching this class and to parents for getting your children there!

May 10: Youth Pizza Party and Game Night (Friday 5pm to 7pm)

Relaxing night for youth to get together, chat, eat, and play games!

May 12: Seedling Sunday

K-6: This season, to set us up for success, we'll purchase seedlings: lettuce, kale, and some herbs. But we'll also try planting some seeds directly into the soil. Planting starts and connecting irrigation.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT, continued

May 19: Dare we expand?

K-6: If things seem to be going well, we'll add some grow bags to the garden and plant potatoes. Let's take a leap of faith and dream big for the benefit of the food pantry customers!

May 26: Memorial Day Weekend

Church Closed.



The stackable garden the last time it was in operation in 2022.

PanWaf Breakfast Success!

Thank you to all who were able to make it to the wonderful breakfast last Sunday hosted by the youth at UCS! And it is all for a good cause as we raised over \$230 for our CityReach program next year when the teens will go into Boston and learn about and serve the unhoused community. As much fun as it is for all of you, the youth also have a blast making you breakfast!



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



The Social Justice Committee encourages you to visit the UCS website (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

In March, our Brown Envelope offerings helped the **UU Service Committee** (uusc.org) support grassroots partners working for human rights for migrants and other vulnerable people here and around the world. We combined the Sunday BE collections, along with the honorarium for our guest minister in March, Laura Randall from the UUSC, plus Guest At Your Table home collection boxes for a combined donation of \$1,343.38. Thank you for this generous support.



 A promotional banner for the "28th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace" held on May 12, 2024. It features photos of diverse participants, a circular logo with silhouettes of people, and the text "Cultivating Cycles of Peace". The event details are: "MAY 12, 2024 AT 8:00 AM (PROGRAM), 9:00 AM (WALK) TOWN FIELD, 1520 DORCHESTER AVE. DORCHESTER MA 02122". A call to action says "Join us on Mother's Day as we walk to honor and remember the lives of our loved ones who have been murdered." Logos for sponsors include Martin Richard Foundation, Yale, Beth Israel Lahey Health, and Rick & Gilte Shea. Buttons for "REGISTER", "START A TEAM", "DONATE", and "SPONSOR" are present, along with the website WWW.MOTHERSDAYWALK4PEACE.ORG.

The Brown Envelope donations for April will be sent to the **Louis D Brown Peace Institute** (ldbpeaceinstitute.org/mothers-day-walk-for-peace), and there will again be opportunities for UCS members and friends to attend the Walk on Sunday morning, May 12th. This year we will walk and fundraise in collaboration with the Five Point Cluster team; registration for walkers and pledging for everyone can be found [here](https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/187181/Five-Points-Cluster-UU) [<https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/187181/Five-Points-Cluster-UU>]. Again this year, Rev Jolie will be part of the Cluster Walkers, but a lay-led service will occur in Sharon that morning if you are only with u in spirit on the streets of Boston. Donations online at the Peace Institute will continue into June.

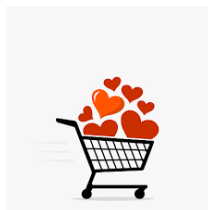
SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Our May BE collection will be split between two important recipients: the **Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network – BIJAN** (beyondbondboston.org), and **Green Roots** (greenrootsej.org). BIJAN works to build a “*network of faith communities, individuals and other activist groups working to reduce the escalating harm of our immigration system in the current political context. We work closely with immigration justice and abolitionist organizations to support those impacted by our racist immigration system. As an accompaniment network, we take action only in response to requests from those in need of support, or their representatives (family, attorneys, etc.) We don’t make promises, but we are good at trying very hard.*”

Green Roots “*engages and empowers residents in the frontline communities of Chelsea and East Boston in campaigns and projects to achieve environmental justice, improved public health, and quality of life. We work on a broad range of issues, from food justice to climate resiliency, waterfront access and much more. Our work positively impacts the Greater Boston area and beyond.*” Please give generously to support both of these worthy organizations.



MainSpring House lunch making: once again our UCS Youth will take the lead as we assemble 75 brown bag lunches for the guests of the shelter in Brockton. In order to avoid overbooking on Mothers’ Day, instead on Sunday, 19 May, during the second service upstairs, the team will assemble the meals on our behalf. If there is still work needed to finish the project, please give a hand during Coffee Hour. Thanks!



Want to help make the Brown Bag lunch program work? You too can help to 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 you personal shopping needs. We buy the cards in bulk, and get a 5% discount, which funds the lunch program (your grocery purchases are one-to-one, dollar for dollar, since the 5% donation comes from the stores). Stop by the Social Justice Table in the Vestry during Coffee Hour to learn more about this user-friendly program. The more UCS consumers use the S4J program, the more resources we raise that can be directed to helping address local food insecurity. Since we all shop for groceries and supplies at some point, doing it with S4J cards is an easy way to extend our work to alleviate hunger in our own backyard. Thank you for supporting Shopping for Justice!


The **SJC Meeting for May** was moved to late April to accommodate scheduling needs, so the SJC will once again meet on Sunday, June 2nd at noon. All are welcome; please join us as we look for opportunities and challenges to work together as we make a difference in the world.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Boston Pride 2024 - save the date! On Saturday, June 8th Boston will celebrate Pride with a parade, festival and more. Details to follow – stay tuned!



One lecture remains from this series hosted by a dear friend of our minister!
Watch on zoom on May 9.



The
Minns
Lectures
2024

ADULT
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
EVENTS

Sponsored by
First Church Boston
and King's Chapel

Abolition Theologies: Praying for Liberation

Prison abolitionism is a theological imperative for Unitarian Universalists.

REV. JASON LYDON

April 18

Boston

First Church
and on Zoom
7:00 pm ET

April 21

Boston

First Church
and on Zoom
2:00 pm ET

April 25

Boston


King's Chapel
Parish House
and on Zoom
7:00 pm ET

May 9

Chicago

Second Unitarian
Church and on
Zoom
7:00 pm CT

In Person or Online. MinnsLectures.org



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly 2024: June 20 - June 23 (Thursday-Sunday) Virtual Only

This year's theme: LOVE UNITES, STORIES IGNITE.



"General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles."

The key business item at this year's GA will be the vote on FINAL APPROVAL of the proposed ARTICLE II REVISIONS. These revisions include replacing the 7 Principles currently contained therein, with a VALUE BASED approach. Rev. Jolie has been preaching about these values over the year and helping us explore what they mean for us as UUs.

Delegates still needed!!!

UCS is entitled to 4 voting delegates at GA. If you're interested in serving as a delegate this year or would like more information about what it entails, please contact Rev. Jolie or Barbara Nelkin-Rose, who has served as a delegate for the past 2 years.

As a delegate, you have 2 options:

Full Online Registration which allows you to attend all programming, including workshops, worship services, the Ware Lecture, featured speakers, opening and closing celebrations, exhibits, entertainment, and networking. **Cost:** \$315 if register by May 15 / \$400 if register after May 15.

Business-only Online Registration which provides access to the GA Delegate Platform for discussion and voting during General Sessions. It does not provide access to GA programming, the GA app, or networking opportunities. Payment is not required but a donation to offset production and platform costs is suggested.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

[Program Schedule](#)

[Registration](#)

[UCS Website Page](#)