

the chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association**
4 North Main Street
Sharon, MA 02067
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www.uusharon.org

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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 4

10:00 AM Family Worship: What We Believe

Since our teens are sharing their credos today, we will spend some time during our family service reflecting on what is important to us. The lifelong search for truth and meaning is a core part of being a Unitarian Universalist, and we will celebrate this part of our faith tradition today.

10:30 AM Worship: Coming of Age

Three of our teenagers have been participating in a program all year to explore their values and beliefs as young Unitarian Universalists. During today's service, we will hear their Credo statements and celebrate these youth who are coming of age.

May 11

10:30 AM Worship: Worship Leader, Valerie White

Rev. Jolie is at the Mother's Day Walk for Peace today. No family service nor RE today - join us at the walk or come enjoy our worship service. Our coloring table will be available in the back, and nursery care will be open for children up to age 5.

Valerie's Topic: "Stuff." Do you have "stuff" to which you are sentimentally attached even if it has little intrinsic value? Does some of it come from your mother or someone else dear to you? Do you wonder sometimes whether your heirs would have any interest in it? In this Mothers' Day sermon, Valerie White will reflect on these kinds of questions.

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May 18

10:00 AM Family Worship

It's our last family service of the year! Since our RE class has started spring gardening, we will take a look back at everything we planted and cultivated this year. What are you growing in your garden of faith?

10:30 AM Worship: Calculating Risk

What is our relationship to faithful risk-taking? What are the kinds of risks we do take - in our personal lives, and on behalf of the collective? And how do we understand risk at this moment in history? Rev. Jolie preaching.

May 25

10:30 AM Worship :Memories of the River: Flowing Toward the Light Amidst the Storm Guest Preacher: Brayan Martinez

Brayan Martinez, a member of the United Methodist Church with Roman Catholic roots from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, will share a powerful message on the transformative power of memory as an act of resistance. Drawing inspiration from Memorial Day, he will reflect on the unique dynamics of the borderlands, specifically the intertwined cities of Ciudad Juárez and El Paso, Texas. Bound by culture, history, and a shared binational identity, these two cities offer a striking contrast. While Juárez continues to face significant challenges, El Paso stands as a symbol of peace, safety, and refuge.

CHURCH NEWS

Art Wall

The June art wall will have the theme of our beloved UU church. This theme can be interpreted in a realistic and/or expressionist style. Photos, paintings, drawings, sculptures, cloth work, will all be welcome. Start bringing your work in, in mid May, and please speak with Dinah with any questions or comments.

Tai Chi at UCS! -All are welcome -

(Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.) 9 AM - 10 AM

Taught by the wonderful Vince Jorales, Martial Arts Instructor

Breath and Balance

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.

Casual Jam 2nd Friday of the month

Every second Friday of the month from 7 to 9 pm in Program A/B, we get together for a cozy little campfire sing-along (minus the campfire). It's a very welcoming vibe, so feel free to bring your instrument and lead a song, or just join in and sing along with the group. We cover a mix of folk, traditional, and pop tunes - a little something for everyone. Oh, and just a heads up - we do sometimes need to reschedule, so be sure to check the Church Calendar.

Worship Committee

At our recent monthly meeting, we discussed whether we need hymn leaders at all of our services. There may be times when it's helpful, such as when it's an unfamiliar hymn. However, people on Zoom might want to hear the congregation singing more clearly. We wonder if that's the case for those in the sanctuary, as well. Let us know your thoughts. .

- Ellen Bordman, chair

First Friday Fellowship Potluck

Please join Fellowship for an evening of Bingo Fun at May's Pot Luck! We will be providing pizza, and you are most welcomed to bring salad, dessert, drinks...May 2nd, 6-8! (We will be playing for quarters so be sure to bring yours; splitting the "pot" with the church!) Hope to see you!

-The Fellowship Committee

CHURCH NEWS, continued

Racism in Unitarian Universalist History

A presentation by Rev. Jolie

Sunday, May 4, 2025 after worship ~ (approx. 11:45 am - 12:45 pm)

In the Vestry, Lunch included!

We recently held a two-part series on Racism and Resistance, with one lecture by Bryan Trabold (Professor of English at Suffolk University and UCS Member) and one lecture by Rev. Jolie. A number of folks couldn't make it to the second one, so Rev. Jolie is offering a redux. This presentation will focus on Unitarians and racism during three eras of American history: chattel slavery, eugenics, and the backlash against Black radicalism in the 1960s. Open to all.



Not Just Another Coffeehouse

Lisa Bastoni

<https://www.lisabastoni.com>

Saturday May 17, 2025

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

Suggested donation \$20



Lisa Bastoni (Northampton, MA) is a 2022 & 2023 New England Music Award nominee (Roots), 2020 & 2019 Boston Music Award Nominee (Folk) and winner of 2019 New Folk at the esteemed Kerrville Folk Festival

Board Meetings

You can view the monthly board notes [here](#)

The UCS Board meets on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7:15 PM. All meetings are open to UCS members and invited guests unless otherwise noted.



USC members at First Parish Unitarian Church on Saturday, April 19th

CHURCH NEWS, continued

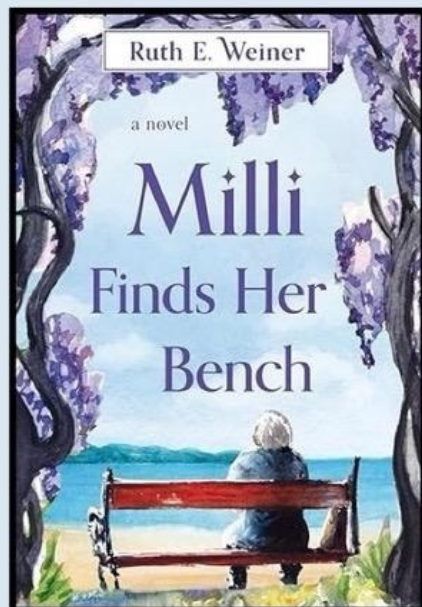


Save the Date!



SHARON READS TOGETHER

Community Reading with The Friends of the Sharon Public Library



Milli Finds Her Bench

Book Celebration

Meet local author, Ruth E. Weiner, and discover the magic of Milli!

Thurs, May 1 - 6pm - 8pm
Sharon Community Center Ballroom

Book Discussion

Sharon Public Library
Wed, March 12 at 1pm
Free but registration required.

Sharon Paints Together

Sharon Adult Center
Free but registration required.
• Wed, March 19 at 11am
• Tues, April 8 at 1pm

Milli Finds Her Bench is a story of Milli Tarnover, an almost 85-year-old woman, who sneaks away from her retirement community to visit her beloved bench in the arboretum. Milli neglects to return to her facility and begins an adventure where she is befriended by a cast of colorful characters. When the authorities find her, they move her to a memory care unit where she discovers a deadly secret. Can Milli save herself and the other residents in time?

Books are available at Sharon Public Library

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/sharonreadstogether2025 for more information



CHURCH NEWS, continued

Sharon Historical Society Many Families, Many Stories



Many Families, Many Stories

- ★ An exhibit and events that celebrate the diverse traditions and stories of family life in Sharon
 - ★ Will be on display May 3rd -25th
at the Sharon Historical Society, 16 High St., Sharon.
This special program in honor of International Family Day is made possible in part by a grant from The Sharon Cultural Council.
 - ★ The Sharon Historical Society is looking forward to celebrating the diversity of families in Sharon, including yours! It's our way of recording the present to preserve it for the future.
 - ★ How? We are asking families to select either an artifact that represents a family tradition to be on loan as part of this exhibit, or a photograph of an object or event that tells a key family story. Along with the object or photograph, we'd like you to share a short paragraph explaining why you chose this item. You might think of: an article of clothing, a musical instrument, a photo of a special place, a favorite book, a traditional food, a family gathering, a holiday decoration, a tool, or artwork. **Deadline for submissions is March 31.**
 - ★ Visitors to the exhibit are also invited to record an oral history.
 - ★ Real objects speak volumes, but if your artifact is very precious, or perishable (like a plate of food), just a photograph makes more sense. What you select is up to you, but if submitting a photograph, please size it to be an 8x10". We can also arrange for a Historical Society volunteer to photograph your object.
 - ★ The exhibit will open on Saturday, May 3rd from 1 to 4. **On Sunday May 4 there will be a reception with shared stories and food from 3 to 5.** The display can be viewed through May 25th during our Friday, Saturday and Sunday open hours or by special appointment for groups, with some family-friendly activities offered.
- To participate or learn more, you can contact us at:
- ★ programs@sharonhistorical.org
 - ★ Deadline for submission is March 31st
 - ★ Submissions for exhibit are being accepted starting now



CHURCH NEWS, continued

SILENT/ONLINE AUCTION

FOR THE BENEFIT OF
THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

Unitarian Church of Sharon's Silent Auction

[CLICK HERE TO BID!](#)

Auction closes on
Sat, May 10, 2025 at 8:00 PM

Pick-up location
4 N Main St, Sharon, MA 02067, USA
Welcome to our online fundraising auction. 📢

Each item up for bid has been generously donated by our supporters, partners, and sponsors, with all proceeds directly benefiting our cause. By participating in our auction, you're not just acquiring remarkable items; you're also making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Spread the word, forward the link to your friends and family, and together, let's make this auction a success! 📢

Donations to Zeffy are completely optional (select Other and choose \$0). The Church will not have to pay any costs should you decide not to donate to Zeffy. Again, donations to the software are completely optional. We are not able to change the default setting of 15%. You can absolutely choose \$0 by selecting Other first. According to Zeffy, donations average 5%.

Thank you for your support, and happy bidding!
Unitarian Church of Sharon

CHURCH NEWS, continued

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (Submitted by Barbara Nelkin-Rose, Chair)

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Our Small Group Ministry gathering for the month of MAY will focus on the value of TRANSFORMATION as it relates to the world outside of us. April was devoted to Inner Transformation and we had another deep, reflective conversation.

All are welcome to join us on Saturday Morning, May 3rd from 10:15-11:45AM in the NURSERY. The session will be facilitated by Barbara Nelkin-Rose., and while pre-registration is not required, it is encouraged. If you are interested in attending, please contact Barbara.

Please note that the Tuesday evening gathering has been cancelled for now, but might resume again in the Fall if there is enough interest.

ARTICLE II: TRANSFORMATION

We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

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From the Minister



Dear Ones,

It's May, which means it's time for the [Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#) to support the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, which is a center for healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities dealing with murder, trauma, grief, and loss. As I shared in a sermon last month, I first came to know the Peace Institute as a member of a coalition of youth workers and young people organizing to address racial disparities in the juvenile justice system. Our coalition's major campaign was to pass a bill through the MA state legislature that would get municipalities to collect the demographic data they were federally

required to collect and make public, but were by and large not collecting. Not having the data to show what we already knew - that young people of color are disproportionately criminalized and experience more harmful impacts from our juvenile justice system in our state - was a barrier to effective advocacy to reduce and eliminate racial disparities. So we needed the data.

How do you get teenagers excited about data collection, you ask? Well, for one thing, they did not need much convincing. The youth who worked on this campaign had cousins, friends, siblings, and were the ones themselves who knew what it felt like to be over-policed, and to get harsher treatment once in contact with the juvenile court and detention system. They knew how unfair it was, and how hard it is to convince those who don't experience these impacts first-hand - that is, most of those who are in positions of power - without the data to "prove" it. It also helped that we always had lots of yummy food at our meetings.

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

You are invited to join me and our Social Justice Committee in supporting the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute this May. There are lots of ways to get involved: You can walk with us on May 11, you can donate to support [Team UCS](#), and you can ask your friends and family to donate, too. To register, visit our [team page](#), and click "Join Our Team."

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

From the President



As some of you know, Louise and I just got back from a trip to Spain. It was a wonderful place to visit, great museums, wonderful architecture, excellent food, but at various points in our trip we were confronted with Spain's troubled past, and at times its avoidance of it. In Madrid we visited an archeological museum that had fascinating information on early human settlement of the Iberian Peninsula. However as it moved toward more recent times holes started to appear. Though it covered the period, there was nothing about the Inquisition. The expulsion of the Jews and Moors (muslims) in 1492 was lightly touched upon. There was one small

case on Jewish culture in Spain There was a bit more on the Moors, who had after all ruled the entire peninsula for roughly 700 years, but it was only a small fraction of the material on the Catholic Monarchs.

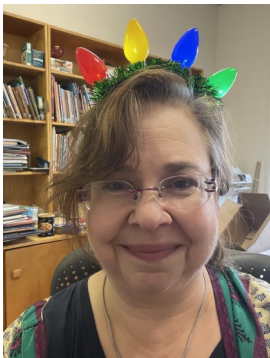
In more modern times of course there were the years of the Franco dictatorship and the Spanish Civil war with all of its brutality. We saw Picasso's masterpiece Guernica in the Reina Sofia museum, which commemorates the vicious bombing in 1937 by Nazis (with permission from Franco's "Nationalists") of the civilian town with that name. In the Puerta del Sol plaza is a building that used to be Franco's police headquarters in which people were tortured and from time to time were thrown to their deaths on the pavement below. There are still weekly commemorations of the victims of fascism that take place in front of it. So some of the Spanish want to confront their past, though such discussions are still a hotly debated topic. Some say that the right wants reconciliation without the truth.

I'm sure that it's not hard for folks in our church to guess what is stimulating my thoughts about this now, having come back home. There are people who want to erase the uglier parts of our history and teach only "patriotic" history. Current events are even more worrying with legal immigrants and residents being snatched off the streets and put into detention facilities. I'm deeply concerned about our future. So, apparently, are many others as the demonstrations around the country attest. These protests and their size, along with the other actions such as lawsuits, have eased, ever so slightly, my anxiety. We will not go quietly. As always our church community is a comfort to me. We can disagree about many things, but I hope that all of us support democracy, the rule of law and due process. I think our values demand that.

P.S. On a totally different topic: Silent Auction! Silent Auction! Silent Auction! There are some amazing things being offered. Please [check them out and bid](#). It will enhance your life and support the church at the same time!

Jon Slavin

FAITH DEVELOPMENT



Dear friends,

As we glide into May on the backs of April showers, I find myself looking around at the world – the buds of spring flowers and the gold, pink, and green that adorn the trees and bushes in my neighborhood – and just taking a deep breath of pleasure. Politics still stresses me; the price of eggs doesn't seem to be going down; our collective anxiety makes some of our human interactions more spicy than preferred. Yet I can still find pleasure in small things, and I can still find hope in the earth re-forming herself into green and growing things. And it helps me hang on to love as the center of my faith and as the doctrine of our church. All the things that keep us afloat and believing are acts of rebellion.

And it never hurts to give the Earth a little help. As our Coming of Age youth present their credos this coming Sunday, our K-5 class will head out to the container gardens and plant some food for us to grow. They've chosen lettuce, strawberries, snap peas, and herbs, because we hope for plants to be ready for harvest in early June. We'll donate whatever we harvest to a local food pantry. It seems to me that growing and harvesting fresh food is the perfect conclusion to a year of recipes from around the world in RE. Eating together is one of those acts of rebellion we can partake in. Food is a way to learn about our similarities – such as rice being food prepared everywhere in the world – and to respect our differences, such as being careful to prepare food for every diet when it's possible, especially when thinking about allergies and planetary impact. Turns out that gluten free cupcakes are pretty yummy!

Sitting down at a kitchen table, over food or while sipping coffee or tea, can create an environment for people to share their thoughts and experiences, to wonder together, to celebrate or mourn together. This creates community and cooperation in place of divisiveness, and I'm glad our year will wrap up with nurturing growing things and participating in acts of generosity.

May is the lead-up to the end of our church year, as we recognize our Coming of Age and Bridging youth, wrap up our formal RE classes and the family services, and prepare for summer. I hope your days are full of warmth, compassion, and lots of love as we gather over these last precious spring weeks.

In faith,

Lauren Strauss

dre@uusharon.org

774-286-9573 (call or text)

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

March Brown Envelope donations raised \$2,750 for **Father Bill's & Main-Spring**, whose mission is to end and pre-

vent homelessness in Southern Massachusetts. We were able to send in a portion of this amount by mid-March to qualify for a 1:1 matching grant from Arbella for an additional \$1,250 boost, meaning that \$4,000 was raised overall.

The April Brown Envelope collections will be split between two indigenous land organizations: the **Wampanoag Common Land Project** in Plymouth (nativelandconservancy.org), and the **P8guaso Land Rematriation Project** in Millis, MA (agrariantrust.org/clearing-brook-fundraiser).



This year's theme is "Cultivating Cycles of Peace": we have the agency to cultivate cycles of peace by empowering survivors, supporting families, and investing in Generation Peace, young people shaping the world.

The Brown Envelope donations for May will be sent to the **Louis D Brown Peace Institute** (ldbpeaceinstitute.org), and there will again an opportunity for UCS members and friends to attend the Peace Walk on Sunday morning, May 10th. Registration for walkers and pledging for everyone can be found [here](#) (Look for "Team UCS"). Again this year, Rev Jolie will lead our group, but a lay-led service will occur in Sharon that morning if you are only with us in spirit on the streets of Dorchester. Donations online at the Peace Institute will continue into June.

Sunday timeline:

7:00am onsite registration

8:00am Program

9:00am walk begins, 3.2 miles at your own pace

10:30am closing ceremony

Racism in Unitarian Universalist History

A presentation by Rev. Jolie
Sunday, May 4, 2025 after worship ~ (approx. 11:45 am - 12:45 pm)
In the Vestry, Lunch included!

We recently held a two-part series on Racism and Resistance, with one lecture by Bryan Trubold (Professor of English at Suffolk University and UCS Member) and one lecture by Rev. Jolie. A number of folks couldn't make it to the second one, so Rev. Jolie is offering a redux. This presentation will focus on Unitarians and racism during three eras of American history: chattel slavery, eugenics, and the backlash against Black radicalism in the 1960s. Open to all.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



Our new collaboration with **UU Mass Action** is here!

The SJC has launched our commitment as a **Congregational Partner**

with **UU Mass Action** (uumassaction.org), and in the coming weeks and months look for new opportunities to engage in the collective work of UUs from across the state in the areas of Indigenous Justice, Climate & Environmental Justice, Immigrant Justice, Housing Justice and Decarceration & ending Solitary Confinement. Visit uumassaction.org to learn more, and *sign up for their newsletter* to get the most current news and action items.



Easter Can Hunt haul headed for the Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry

Food Pantry update

Our ongoing support for the 6 local food pantries in surrounding towns has reached over \$80,000 (!) since this special effort started when Covid hit hard 5 years ago. Elaine Price has continued to offer occasional baked treats to the first-to-respond to her offer each month, in exchange for a donation to the food pantry program. Look for flash emails on the church social site and act quickly – most offers are snapped up within a baker's minute (she may take a break over the summer months, or maybe not!). Thank you to

everyone, Elaine winners and everybody else, who has donated to this cause. The pantry staffs report ongoing record demand, with no letup in sight.



Elaine's April Gourmet Pie Prize for the Food Pantry program

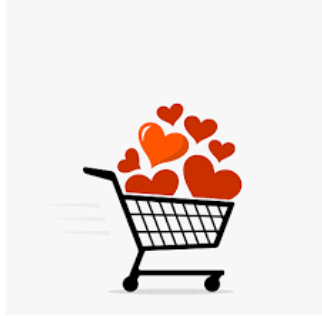


"WE COMPOST" - Black Earth Compost Program is here!

Our new congregation-wide composting program is up and running, so we can all contribute our household compostable waste as well as our church program waste to a shared Black Earth collection bin in the church parking lot. Let's make this a priority and avoid putting compostables into the regular trash.

Questions? Comments/suggestions? Feel free to contact any SJC member or project point person Kathy Farrell (781-201-0799 or kfarrell-dfail@comcast.net). We are going to start recording the weight of our group effort, so every pound of orange peels and chicken bones counts!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



MainSpring House lunch making update:

Have you noticed that our monthly brown bag lunch project for MainSpring House in Brockton is happening behind the scenes? Youth of the church have led an effort to manage this project on behalf of all of us, and they do the assembly on the 2nd Sunday each month during the service upstairs. Want to acknowledge this work? Thank the folks with PB&J fingers at Coffee Hour, and stop by the Shopping for Justice table to purchase grocery cards that fund the effort. We sell cards to Shaw's, Stop & Shop, and Big Y at face value, but the stores give the church a 5% discount that allows us to buy the bread, fruit and makings for the bag lunches each month. You eat, they eat, everybody eats! Thanks for your participation and support.

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Pride 2025 – save some dates

Rainbow Sunday this year will be on June 8th

Pride Boston Celebration and Parade will be on Saturday, June 14th