

the chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
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No Service Until September 7, 2025

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

SUMMER GATHERINGS

JUNE 22

GENERAL ASSEMBLY WATCH
PARTY! 10:30AM
BRING A BAG LUNCH.

JULY 13 + AUGUST 10

10:30AM WORSHIP CIRCLE
+ MAKING BAG LUNCHES FOR
MAINSRING/FATHER BILL'S
BRING A BAG LUNCH!

JULY 13

ICE CREAM SOCIAL 3 - 4:30PM

AUGUST 2

GAMES + SMORES 6:30 - 8PM
RAINDATE 8/3

AUGUST 8

COFFEEHOUSE 5PM

SEPTEMBER 6

BEAN SUPPER 5-7PM

CHURCH NEWS

Art Wall

"Garden" theme for summer art wall.

September: "Our UCS" as seen and/or experienced by those of us who dare to attempt art work.

As always, please see Dinah about contributions or with questions; new and repeat artists welcome.

Dinah



Tai Chi

*Tai Chi meets every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. 9 AM - 10AM

Taught by the wonderful Vince Jornales, Martial Arts Instructor

Breath and Balance. All are welcome.



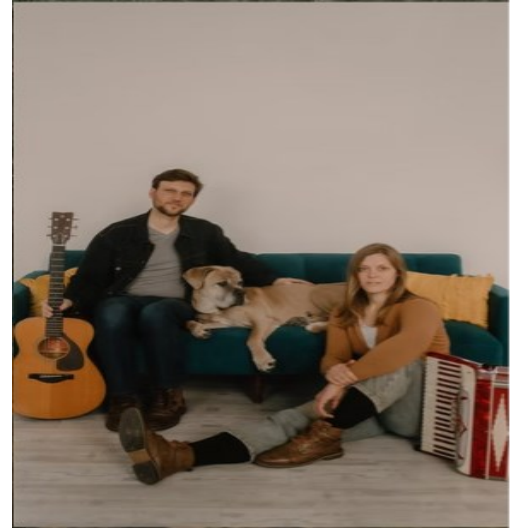
Rumni Saha and Rev. Jolie Olivetti at General Assembly in Baltimore, MD

CHURCH NEWS, continued

Father's Day cookout 6/15



CHURCH NEWS, continued



Not Just Another Coffeehouse

Rough and Tumble

<https://www.theroughandtumble.com/>

August 8, 2025

Doors open at 4:30 and concert starts at 5:00 pm (**Note Time Change**).

Suggested donation \$20, Special Summer Concert: Bring Your Dinner

The Rough & Tumble aren't casual road dogs, but they aren't letting on, either. From their upbeat, commanding stage presence and sharp banter, to their earworm-inducing melodies and heartstring lyrics, this thriftstore Folk-Americana duo refuses to bring the haggard road-worn stereotype to their audience— even though they've earned it. In fact, The Rough & Tumble have been elbowing out of most stereotypes.

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.

CHURCH NEWS, continued

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



CURRENT SMALL GROUP MINISTRY SESSIONS:

- Our Small Group Ministry sessions have been so enriching that we have decided to continue to meet over the summer, and we will once again be focusing on the value of PLURALIS - this time, as it relates to our own inner worlds and the different parts that make up who we are.
- For many of the values we reflected on this past year, we actually ended up spending 2 sessions - one on how the value manifests for each of us in relation to the world OUTSIDE of us, and then again on how the value manifests for each of us INTERNALLY.

UU VALUE FOR SMALL GROUP MINISTRY: PLURALISM

- We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.
- We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY – INTERNAL REFLECTIONS

Once again, at our June committee meeting, we used part of our time to hold our own small group ministry. The reading, chosen by Tom D'Avanzo, for our June meeting was some selections from the book *Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine*, by Alan Lightman. The book focuses on the relationship between scientific knowledge and spiritual mystery and led to some deep and interesting conversation.

We wanted to share with you some excerpts from the book and some of the questions raised during our deep, meaningful and thought-provoking conversation. We hope YOU will feel inspired to read the quotes/questions and give them some thought.

(Continue on next page)

CHURCH NEWS, continued

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

QUOTES:

· "Every culture in every era of human existence has had some concept of Absolutes. ... Many of the Absolutes are rooted in personal experience, but they involve beliefs beyond that experience. A fascinating feature of the Absolutes-in fact, a defining feature-is that there is no way to get there from here, that is, from within the physical world. There is no gradual, step-by-step path to go from relative truth to absolute truth, or to go from a long period of time to eternity, or from

limited wisdom to the infinite wisdom of God. The infinite is not merely a lot more of the finite. Indeed, the unattainability of the Absolutes may be

part of their allure."

· "Unprovability is a central feature of all Absolutes. Yet I did not need any proof of what I felt during that summer night in Maine looking up at the sky. It was a purely personal experience, and its validity and power resided in the experience itself. Science knows what it knows from experiment with the external world. Belief in the Absolutes comes from internal experience, or sometimes from received teachings and culture-granted authority."

QUESTIONS RAISED:

- Can scientific knowledge and awe of the unknown, be held simultaneously?
- How does one define spirituality? Is it different for everyone?
- What does Absolute mean to you?

MOVING FORWARD:

We will continue to offer Small Group Ministry sessions next year as we believe it is a great way of building deeper connections and providing space for deep sharing. We hope you will consider joining us for some of these sessions. If there are any topics you are especially interested in addressing, or any specific reading you would like to share with us, please feel free to contact Barbara @ com.chair@uusharon.org

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!

From the Minister



Dear Ones,

I write to you from Baltimore, in the midst of my week attending Ministry Days and General Assembly (GA). Ministry Days is the national gathering for members of the UU Ministers Association; it always takes place in the days leading up to GA, which is the annual meeting of our UUA. At GA, the business agenda of the Association is interspersed with workshops, keynotes, and lots of different worship services. We are now on an every-other-year schedule, with fully virtual GA one year, followed by hybrid the next, and so on. So this is the first chance I've had to see many of these colleagues and other co-religionists in person since 2023. It is good to see everyone and to feel our strength in numbers.

The theme for GA this year is "Meet the Moment." There's always a theme at GA, and, to be honest, I have never found them to be terribly memorable. The themes are printed on various banners and other conference materials, but other than that, they don't seem to make much of a mark on our time together. The conference organizers are trying something different this year: using this theme to frame multiple conversations about how our congregations and our religious movement as a whole can rise to the challenges of our times. The challenges they have laid before us include everything from our polarized and hostile political environment to membership numbers that have declined over the past 10 years across the denomination. It's a laudable approach, trying to get all of us on the same page about what we are facing, and then working together across lots of different segments of congregational life to come up with ways forward.

I attended a session about congregational administration, and was heartened to learn that we are not alone in risking burnout for our dedicated and overworked volunteer treasurers. (And that our UCS treasurer's idea of contracting some outside bookkeeping assistance is right on the money, so to speak.) I attended a session about the unique needs of young adults, and got some concrete ideas about things we could try in our congregation to better serve college age folks and 20-somethings. And I attended a session in which we took a long, hard look at all the fractures and creeping authoritarianism of this moment, and reaffirmed that our congregations offer vital spaces of community and connection, which are so desperately needed in this time.

Immediately following GA I am headed on a couple weeks of family vacation. After that, I'll be in the office or working remotely for some time this summer, interspersed with some study leave and vacation leave. Members and friends will receive emails each time before I'm about to head out, including details about when I return, and who will be on-call for pastoral emergencies. I hope to see you at some of the fun events we have planned for the summer, including "Second Sunday Summer Sandwiches" - our monthly summer worship circle and sandwich-making for MainSpring House. Our weekly newsletter will be paused for the summer, and this issue of the monthly covers both July and August. We'll reconvene at the Bean Supper on the meetinghouse grounds on Saturday, September 6 at 5 PM, and weekly worship resumes on Sunday, September 7 at 10:30 AM. Enjoy your summer!

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

From the President



Thinking about these troubled times that we're in has, for some reason, gotten me thinking about faith. That's a troubling word for me and others who consider themselves to be atheists or agnostics. But the dictionary has several definitions of that word and I find that among those is something close to what I'm thinking of. So for me faith is not about God and it is not exactly about having confidence in people, though I do hold to their "inherent worth". I've certainly been very disappointed with the US electorate. And there are those who are so completely focussed on their own enrichment and privileges with total disregard for the wellbeing of others that I would call that evil.

Of course there are people that I do have great faith in, especially in our congregation. Working in good faith is an expression that is brought to life continually in the meetings we have to do the work of building our community. And that gets closer to what I've been thinking about relative to faith. It's connected with, but distinct from "hope". I'm thinking of the faith needed to keep working to make our society and country better. To go to stand-outs in support of immigrants even as you see the power of the national government being wielded against honest, hard-working people who are trying to improve the lives of their families. To keep engaging in resistance to oppression even though the daily onslaught of horrible news makes us want to just shut it all out.

So not a faith that everything is going to turn out okay. More like trying to live out our values, whether or not we succeed. I'm reminded of the song "Anyway" by the Roches. Among the lyrics is:

"What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.... The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway." Later in the song they refer to it "being between you and God, it was never between you and them anyway." For me, I think about it being about who I am as a person. As our sign says, "deeds not creeds". Our faith is about what we do. May we continue doing what we can.

Jon Slavin

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. In particular, our new relationship with UU Mass Action is a tremendous portal to social justice work happening across the state – go to uumassaction.org for details.



.Brown Envelope Collections

[Insert photo of Peace Walk 2025, no caption] out U the City Boston is a multi-

The Brown Envelope donations for May were sent to the Louis D Brown Peace Institute (ldbpeaceinstitute.org). Again this year a group from UCS, led by Rev Jolie, attended the Peace Walk on Sunday morning, May 10th. Our donations at the Peace Institute came to \$1855, portions of which were eligible for 1:1 matching by other donors, resulting in \$3,205 raised for the Institute.



For June, Pride Month, the Brown E collection will go to support The Trevor Project (thetrevorproject.org), the world's largest suicide prevention and mental health organization for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Questioning (LGBTQ) young people. Their mission: To end suicide among LGBTQ youth.

"We received official notice that the Trump administration has ordered the closure of The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline's LGBTQ+ Youth Specialized Services program, effective July 17,

2025. This means that, in 30 short days, this program that has provided life-saving services to more than 1.3 million LGBTQ+ young people will no longer be available for those who need it."

The implication is that the services provided by The Trevor Project will be in even greater demand once this change in the 988 service occurs.

Summer BE donations (July & August, online, and during our two Summer Sandwich Sunday gatherings) will support our ongoing monthly commitment to provide brown bag lunches to the shelter at MainSpring House* in Brockton. *Interesting note: the facility at Main & Spring Streets in Brockton, our longstanding connection with the MainSpring House project, has been closed (perhaps to be sold), but the programs sponsored by Father Bill's, the parent organization, continue to function at a new facility, the Smith Family Housing Resource Center at 124 Manley St. So we will have to come up with a new shorthand (SFHRC???) for our ongoing commitment to helping our neighbors in need in the greater Brockton community. For now, 'MSH' still conveys what we are committed to doing each month.

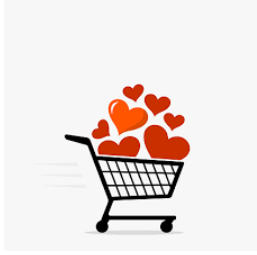


Our dedicated team leading the lunch making for MSH

Summer Sandwich Sundays: MainSpring House* lunch making on July 13 & August 10 @ 10:30 AM

Join us in the vestry to make sandwiches for MainSpring House*. We will then circle up for a simple worshipful time led by Rev. Jolie, and we'll all enjoy a bring-your-own bagged lunch

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



Want to help make the Brown Bag lunch program work? You too can help to make the MSH lunch program a success whenever 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 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!

get the most current news and action items from our new partners for social justice. There's plenty to do, so let's dig in!

Want to join other UUs passionate about social justice? Join the UU Mass Action Year End Potluck on Tuesday, 8 July, 6-8pm, at the Sudbury UU Church. If interested, let's carpool.

YEAR END POTLUCK

8 JULY 2025 | 6-8 PM

LOCATION: FIRST PARISH SUDBURY, 327 CONCORD ROAD

COME CELEBRATE THE YEAR WITH US!



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

We are now several months in on our new **Congregational Partnership with UU Mass Action** (uumassaction.org), and as we enter the fall, 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. Visit uumassaction.org to learn more, and *sign up for their newsletter* to

Our Immigrant Family Neighbors

Since the fall of 2023, local houses of worship and many individuals have overseen the New Resident Task Force, with significant support from UCS members. As the program has been winding down this spring, final commitments to assist in settling housing and furnishings have been ongoing, but this phase of the program is coming to a close. A *huge Thank You* to all who have supported our newest neighbors over this period, as they have needed our support while confronting the rigors of getting settled in our community.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



Compost News

Our new congregation-wide composting program is up and running, and will continue over the summer and into the fall. Initial results are promising, and we hope to encourage more households to take advantage of this opportunity to keep more of our compostable waste out of landfills. In return, the church receives several bags of rich compost several times a year to augment our own flowerbeds and plantings. Let's all make the effort to get that bin filled, and then filled again!

Not composting yet? Or having trouble with the bin lock? Give Kathy Farrell a call (781-201-0799) or email (kfarrell-dfail@comcast.net) for a quick intro to the program and the bin lock code.

Pride 2025 – Quite a month!



Our traditional Human Rainbow



Rev Jolie and Meg share the story 'Twas the Night Before Pride



Pride celebration cake for everyone!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



Kick off to the Boston Pride Parade at Arlington Street Church



Join the [Wednesday Vigil on the Corner](#) for Immigration Rights - 5:00 to 6:00pm. Let's see if we can keep this going every Wednesday evening throughout the summer months!