

The Chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association**
4 North Main Street
Sharon, MA 02067
781/784-3652
www.uusharon.org

President
Valerie White
president@uusharon.org

Minister
Rev. Jolie Olivetti
781/784-3652 x2
minister@uusharon.org

Director of Faith Development
Christine Bulman
781/784-3652 x3
DRE@uusharon.org

Youth Ministry Coordinator
Caroline Dixon
yc@uusharon.org

Congregational Administrator
De'En Tarkpor
781/784-3652 x1
admin@uusharon.org

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JUNE WORSHIP SERVICES

10:30am Worship Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

June 2

10:30 AM Worship: Rainbow Sunday

Happy Pride! Wear your solid color shirt, any color from the Progress Pride flag. We will have a Time for All Ages before the kids go to their children's programming. Today our worship service will include lots of special things - another New Member welcome, songs from both our Children's Choir and our Adult Choir, and, in a time of continued attacks on our LGBTQ+ communities, the insistence upon Love above all. Rev. Jolie preaching

June 9

10:30 AM Worship: Nourish the Spirit

We will nourish our spirits in a variety of ways. We will hear the music and poetry of Rabindrath Tagore, a seminal figure in 19th/20th-century Bengali literature and music, as sung by our friend Somen Saha. We will also show our gratitude to our RE volunteers, and we will send our graduating seniors off into the world with our beloved tradition of a Bridging Ceremony. Today's worship is Intergenerational, led by Rev. Jolie, Christine Bulman, and Caroline Dixon.

June 16

10:30 AM Worship: How Jackie Robinson Changed America

Did you know our own Mel Springer has written a book about baseball, plus he is working on a second, as well as a dramatic presentation on the sport? What began as Mel's idea to include a few baseball-related songs on some Sunday has blossomed into a multifaceted worship service on the theme. Mel Springer will lead our service today, with an additional reflection from Rev. Jolie.

June 23

1:00 PM General Assembly Virtual Worship: Weaving Our Lives

Join us virtually for the largest annual gathering of UUs in worship. Sunday Worship will be live-streamed here [at this link](#). No registration required. DVR controls, which provide the ability to pause and rewind the live event, will be available. Rev. Molly Housh-Gordon preaching. We will open the church for a Virtual Worship watch party at 1 PM, stay tuned for the possibility of a brown bag lunch beforehand.

CHURCH NEWS

First Fridays are for Fellowship

Please join us on Friday, June 7 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 June 14 2024 from 7-9pm

We'll be gathering on Friday, June 14 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 downstairs, then take a right).

Tai Chi

Tai chi will continue during the summer on first and third Saturdays, 8 - 9 a.m.

Weather permitting, class will be held outside on church grounds, otherwise indoors. It's fun and it's healthy, Bring a few dollars (\$5-\$10) if you can, to help sustain the program. Show up and follow along.

Art Wall

The June art wall will feature art in needlepoint by Rebecca Kinraide.

I'm so glad to facilitate the art exhibits of work by members of our community. People enjoy seeing the art, so let's keep it coming next year! Feel free to approach me with questions.

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.

Save the date! Summer Kickoff Cookout

June 16, 2024, after worship. Join us on the grounds for our traditional end-of-year picnic. Sign up form will be coming out soon to help out and/or bring food.

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>

From the Minister



Dear Ones,

Happy Pride Month! I have often said, only half-joking, that Rainbow Sunday is our only truly UU holiday. We love and observe many, many holidays as UU's, but when we do so, we draw upon the traditions and rituals of other religions that inspire us or that we are connected to. Winter Solstice, Diwali, Christmas, Ramadan, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur... many of us here recognize these holidays and more, and they fill our church year with meaning, marking certain times as special and holy. But these holidays are all originally Pagan, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Christian - in other words, they are observances from other religions. Unitarian Universalism only officially came into being in 1961 when two formerly Christian denominations, Unitarianism and Universalism, merged.

There are deep, ancient roots to both Unitarianism and Universalism, but the truth is, as our own religious movement, we are only about 60 years old. The newness of UUism can help explain why our holidays are mostly from other religions.

What days are special to you as a UU? I think of Water Communion for Ingathering Sunday, our rite of return in the fall, a very common and much beloved UU ritual. What else? If I'm missing a UU holiday, I should know about it. Let me know. And then there's Pride. Pride does not originate in any other religion, and we observe it faithfully as UUs.

Pride is primarily a secular celebration of LGBTQ identity and rights. The first Pride march was in New York City on June 28, 1970, commemorating the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. The Uprising happened one night in 1969 when trans women at a bar in New York refused to be arrested simply for being themselves. After that first-year anniversary march, the celebrations continued and expanded, spreading to other cities, encompassing whole weeks and eventually the whole month of June.

As UU's, Pride has a special place on our church calendars. We go to Pride marches with our church friends, we celebrate Rainbow Sunday in worship, we honor LGBTQ history, the progress we've made towards justice and inclusion, and the work that continues to call us. By doing all this out of our spiritual convictions, out of our identity as UU's, we transform the secular into the sacred. Our Unitarian Universalist theology insists upon the worth and dignity of all people. So for us, Pride month, a month that recognizes the worth and dignity of all people, is a holy month. And Rainbow Sunday is a colorful, beautiful, and holy day.

We will have the opportunity to celebrate Pride as a congregation over the course of a couple of weekends this year. Rainbow Sunday will be on June 2. Then the following weekend, the [Boston Pride Parade](#) will be on June 8, and [Sharon Pride](#) will be on June 9. Hope to see you at one or all of these fabulous events.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

From the President



When I came near the end of my then-final term as UCS president in 2009, we were just breaking ground for the AIM project, and in my speech at the groundbreaking I said I felt a bit like Moses looking across the Jordan to the promised land, which he would never reach. Of course I DID reach it, just not as president! As I come to the end of this my fourth term as UCS president, we are just beginning a similarly ambitious project: renovating and modernizing the sanctuary. I sincerely hope that this time, too, I will get to enjoy

the fulfillment of the project.

As I write this, I have two more tasks to complete as your president: I have to prepare for and preside over the June board of Trustees meeting, June 4, and I have to prepare for and preside over the Annual Congregational Meeting, June 14. I'm looking forward to being done, but I know myself well enough to know that, late on June 14, I'm likely to be feeling a bit of regret!

We'll try to do a better job of including the Zoom attendees in that meeting than we did at the special meeting when we amended the bylaws—I'll appoint a board member to keep an eye on the Zoom screen and the chat to make sure that folks attending virtually who want to be heard are recognized.

In case you've never been to an Annual Meeting before, let me tell you some of the important things we need you for: we need you to elect board members and officers for the term which starts July 1, and we need you to approve a budget for the fiscal year which starts then too. I'm not sure yet what other business there might be, but you'll get the warrant and agenda a week ahead of time.

I was on the task force which drafted our current bylaws, and we put a tongue-in-cheek phrase in the notice requirement: we said that the warrant must be "nailed, or otherwise affixed" to the meetinghouse door. Martin Luther's spirit lives on.

Recently on Facebook I saw a post asking for the "best thing you've ever done". The first response had to do with having a child, and that certainly works for me too, but I would also have to say that my nearly 30 years of association with this beloved community and my four terms as your president would certainly be in the running. Thank you all for your trust and your support. I've been honored and humbled to serve.

Valerie White

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

June Religious Education

Every month in our community brings its share of joys and concerns, but June carries poignancy like no other for religious education.

The end of the church year, wraps up with lots of small celebrations as children, youth and volunteers finish up classes they have invested time and effort and love into. June carries a lightness. As the weather brightens, we can let go of some school-year commitments, and look forward to some play and rest. June also carries poignancy as we say goodbye to people and routines we have shared for decades. As RE closes out the year, we do so with note of sadness having said goodbye to Joyce Bramhall, former DRE and long time champion of religious education; and to Brad Larson, a dedicated volunteer teacher when many of our current teens were in grade school. Some of those teens will be before us as we witness and bless six graduating high school seniors as they venture into the world as young adult Unitarian Universalists in a poignant service for all ages. May we all benefit from the support of community as we move through transitions and may we experience the peace and rest of more than a few dreamy and endless days of summer.

June Calendar:

In lieu of family services which are on pause for the summer, all 10:30 worship services in June will have a “Time for All Ages” interactive component. On June 2 and 16, childcare activities will be provided outdoors following the Time for All Ages. June 9th is an intergenerational service with a children’s table in the sanctuary.

June 2: Time for All Ages: Twas the Night before Pride

This joyful picture-book homage to a day of community and inclusion—and to the joys of anticipation—is also a comprehensive history. Followed by outdoor childrens gardening and activities.

June 9: Bridging Ceremony & RE Volunteer Thank You

This Sunday we honor the youth from our congregation who are graduating from high school as they step across the bridge to young adulthood. Our children will also be taking time to thank those who helped out in RE this year. Coffee hour reception follows.

June 16: Time for All Ages: Baseball through the eyes of a child

On this baseball themed Sunday, two of our young people will share a bit about their views on baseball. Followed by a big event: **Harvest time!** This is the culmination of our spring gardening program. We will harvest all of the lettuce, Kale, spinach and radish we planted this spring; we’ll wash it up, bag it, and deliver it to the Sharon Food Pantry.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT, continued

Happy One Year Anniversary to the Little Free Diverse Library!



In 2023, our children designed, built, installed, and stocked a Little Free Diverse Library on the property of the Unitarian Church of Sharon. The project was led by intrepid DIY'er Glenn Rivard who put together this window into the process. Click the link below to watch the video and let us rejoice again in the gift of working together to make the world a more inclusive place.

<https://youtu.be/kMJaNWy2sEs>



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

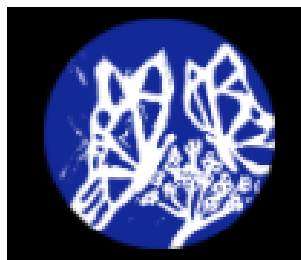
Social Justice pages are a great source for information about opportunities to engage, resources, and links to partner organizations and groups that we collaborate with in our work.

dozen participants from USC as part of the Cluster Walkers, with a lay-led service in Sharon that morning. Donations online at the Peace Institute will continue into June. Over \$640 was collected in Sharon, and substantially more (\$975++) was donated directly online for the Peace Institute, so a final tally may be difficult to discern, but once again the UCS has made a significant contribution to this important cause. Thank you!

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).



Brown Envelope Collections



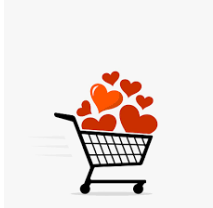
The June BE collection will support **Pink Haven** (pinkhaven.org), a collective of organizations and individuals who are committed to trans liberation and joy and to growing community defenses, mutual-aid, and alternative systems of care for gender diverse people. All donations are moving directly into the hands of trans-led organizers and being used to support trans and non-binary people in accessing the resources and support they need to survive and thrive. We are deeply grateful to First Parish Malden, Universalist for serving as the fiscal sponsor for this life saving work.

The Brown Envelope donations for April were sent to the **Louis D Brown Peace Institute** (ldbpeaceinstitute.org/mothers-day-walk-for-peace), and there was again an opportunity for UCS members and friends to attend the Walk on Sunday morning, May 12th. This year we walked and fundraised in collaboration with the Five Point Cluster team, when Rev Jolie led over a



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

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. On June 9th, 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 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!



Recycling Solar Eclipse glasses – a big “Thank You” to Margaret Berges for arranging to have our recently used eye protection sent to nonprofit organizations in other countries where future solar eclipses can be enjoyed – recycling on a cosmic scale!

Boston Pride 2024 - On Saturday, June 8th Boston will celebrate Pride with a parade, festival and more. More details on page 10



Some of the UCS crew at the end of the 4.3-mile Walk for Peace on a beautiful Mother's Day morning in Dorchester.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



Coffee that Reflects Our Values: Equal Exchange

When we serve Equal Exchange coffee during Fellowship Hour or sell it after services or for the holidays, we're making a strong statement about our values as a community. We're proclaiming that our congregation believes that it's vital to keep small farmers on the land providing food for their families and having some economic control over their lives; that it's important to work with indigenous producers and women; that sustainable agricultural methods are a vital way to address climate change.

In 1986 when Equal Exchange launched its organization, it helped to join a network of coffee farmers who were organized into cooperatives by Catholic priests trying to assist poor people to overcome poverty. It was a solidarity movement known as "Liberation Theology." By working directly with democratically run small farmer cooperatives and offering fair prices and pre-harvest financing, Equal Exchange saw that it could be part of an international movement that was improving small producers' access to worldwide markets so that they could survive and thrive.

Equal Exchange started its path with coffee from Nicaragua. Today, it partners with 24 farmer groups in 11 countries which produce high-quality organic coffees. EE purchases about 5.5 million pounds of green coffee beans each year from its partners to roast and sell to U.S.

coffee drinkers. Equal Exchange buys exclusively from small-scale farmer cooperatives and associations. The farmers who produce Equal Exchange organic beans are committed to providing U.S. consumers with the highest quality coffee experience.

Our congregation is proud to serve a brew that is both delicious and reflects our values of social justice. By choosing this fairly traded coffee, you are supporting a whole separate ethical supply chain—not huge corporations. Enjoy it at church, buy some to bring home, share it with friends.



Learn more at equalexchange.coop

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

A Celebration of Pride!



Saturday, June 8th ~ 10:00 am

Arlington Street Church and on [Zoom](#)

(ASC is our UU church on Boston Common)

Come one, come all, to Arlington Street's annual pre-parade Pride service and celebration! The event will feature powerful reflections from LGBTQ speakers, festive community singing, and a live band. On this 20th anniversary of marriage equality, what better place to celebrate than the site of the first legal same-sex wedding in a church in the United States? Friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, allies - all people of good heart are welcome! After the service, we'll leave to march in the parade and head to the festival together.

This will be long-serving ASC minister Rev. Kim Crawford-Harvie's last Pride service before her retirement.

Our Rev. Jolie will process with the other ministers at the beginning of the service. We will gather a delegation from UCS to join the service and the parade with our friends from ASC, including Rebecca Reid.

With questions, to RSVP, or to ride the train from Sharon together, contact Gare Reid: agreid@rcn.com
Hope to see you there!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

SHARON PRIDE



5TH ANNUAL SHARON PRIDE FESTIVAL & CAR PARADE

Sunday, June 9, 2024, 12-4 p.m.

Join us for a family friendly celebration including music, arts & crafts, read alouds, lawn games, and more!

For more information, visit:

<https://www.lgbtqplussharon.org/>



SPONSORED BY THE SHARON PRIDE STEERING COMMITTEE WITH SUPPORT FROM SHARON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE, SHARON CULTURAL COUNCIL, THE BOSTON PRIDE COMMUNITY FUND, AND THE TOWN OF SHARON.



Sharon Pride Steering Committee is fiscally sponsored by NOPI - Nonprofit Incubator, a program of NOPI INC, a Massachusetts nonprofit corporation and 501(c)(3) organization, EIN 81-5089505. Learn more at <https://thenopi.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](#)