

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
Jonathan Slavin
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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SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00am Family Service/ / 10:30am Worship Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

September 8 INTERGENERATIONAL

10:30 AM Worship: Like Rivers to the Sea

Each September we celebrate our coming together once again after the summer with a water ceremony. Bring your water and share with us what it means to you as we pour it into a common bowl. If you forget your water, that's OK, we'll have some here for you. Rev. Jolie will lead our worship service today.

September 15 INTERGENERATIONAL

10:30 AM Worship: Change and the Spirit

Fall can feel like it's full of changes, with the start of a new school year and the changing season. Today's service will give us space to reflect on change in an inter-generational setting, including time to "turn and talk" to one another - a worship practice we often use in our family services. Kids: bring in your backpacks for a blessing to start the new year right! And everyone is invited to bring in an object that represents a change or transition in your life, to receive a blessing as well.

September 22

10:00 AM Family Worship Begins

Our weekly Family Worship service begins today, along with the start of our RE programming! Back in May, we shared a ritual to close out our family service for the season. Today we will share another ritual to open up a new year of being in intergenerational worship together.

10:30 AM Worship: Can We Talk About Politics in Church?

Short answer: yes. But it can get complicated! As election season heats up, let's pause and reflect. How do we cultivate a community where all who seek a home here may find it, and *also* where we speak and take collective action on the issues that align with our UU values? Rev. Jolie preaching.

September 29

10:00 AM Family Worship: Exploring World Religions Through Cooking

Our children's programming this fall is all about FOOD. Today, our family worship service will support the religious and culinary explorations taking place downstairs.

10:30 AM Worship: Climate Revival!

Today's worship service will tackle a tough topic: climate change. But we will do so by focusing on possibilities rather than catastrophes. Along with hundreds of other UU congregations who have signed up for a "[Climate Revival](#)" weekend, we will consider how our climate work can be: less isolated, more connected; less anxious, more nourishing; and less limited, more visionary. Rev. Jolie preaching.

CHURCH NEWS

Bean Supper

Join us on Saturday, September 7 at 5 PM for our beloved annual tradition: The Bean Supper! Rain or Shine. Guests and newcomers welcome. Bring a friend! Click [this link](#) to sign up to help or let us know what you're bringing. Hope to see you there!

Art Wall,

Looking forward to showcasing new artists and new art in the fall.

Tai Chi

Classes continue at the church on first and third Saturdays, 8 am to 9 am, rain or shine. Bring a few \$ and you and your body. All welcome; bring friends and family!

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.

Worship Committee News

The committee will be meeting for a potluck retreat on August 29th to discuss and plan the church year. We look forward to seeing you all at the Ingathering service on Sunday, September 8th. Members of the Worship Committee this year: Hema Sarang-Sieminski, Ashley Tsongas, Peter Raskin, Thomas D'Avanzo, Gary Weber, Dave Slater and Ellen Bordman (Chair). We meet once a month (TBD), typically with Rev. Jolie and the President of the board of the church. If you are interested in joining our committee this year, or have questions or comments about our worship services, please reach out to one of us.

Neponset River Watershed Cleanup – Canton Park and Ride - Saturday, September 28, 9 am to 12 pm – [click here to sign up](#).

As part of our UCS Worship Committee-sponsored Climate Revival, we are joining forces with our friends at UU Canton and with volunteers from all over to help take care of the watershed we call home! What does cleaning up trash have to do with climate change, you may ask? Though of course there's no direct connection between cleaning up waterfronts and parklands and reducing our carbon footprint, we believe that taking positive and local collective action for the environment can give us hope amidst the challenges we face. The simple act of clearing garbage out of our watershed can remind us that everything we do impacts the land and water that sustain us. And it's good for our souls to spend time outside together. [Sign up today!](#)



Calling all book lovers!

We are starting a new book group at UCS. Want to join?

We also need your input on when to meet and whether or not there should be a theme.

Contact Tom D'Avanzo before the end of September to express interest:
tdavanzo@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS, continued

Dear Ones – Please see this special invitation from Rabbi Kafka, my friend and fellow member of the Sharon Interfaith Clergy Association. Consider yourselves invited to Kol Tikvah this High Holiday season! ~Rev. Jolie

Dear UCS friends,

I am writing to extend an invitation for you to attend Temple Kol Tikvah's High Holiday services in October. I know that some of you are Jewish, or of Jewish descent, and I have been wondering if you might find some meaning/comfort in joining together with other Jews and their loved ones during this season. Of course those of you who do not identify as Jewish are also welcome to attend.

Our services are really sweet, imho, and meaningful and accessible. And musical. Okay yes, we sing most of the traditional prayers in Hebrew which you won't understand, and the traditional theology of the translations will likely be off-putting -- it is to most of us! -- but the overall effect of the experience is one of connection, renewal, and hope.

Three of our high holiday services are free and open to the public: Rosh Hashanah evening, Yom Kippur evening (known as Kol Nidrei), and then the final late afternoon/evening service on Yom Kippur day. The Rosh Hashanah morning and Yom Kippur morning services have a fee: \$170 per person for RH+YK mornings; \$100 for one or the other. (This is traditionally a time of fundraising for synagogues.)

Due to increased security considerations, we require pre-registration for all holiday services. [Here is the link.](https://forms.gle/sW6PEwDjPHj4UiBV7) (<https://forms.gle/sW6PEwDjPHj4UiBV7>)

Let me know if you have any questions!

Warm regards,
Rabbi Randy Kafka
Temple Kol Tikvah
9 Dunbar Street
rabbi@koltikvahsharon.org

Dates and times:

Erev (evening) Rosh Hashanah: Oct 2, 7:30pm

Rosh Hashanah morning: Oct 3, 10:00am

Kol Nidrei: Oct 11, 7:30pm

Yom Kippur morning: Oct 12, 10:00am

YK late afternoon/evening (includes the traditional Yizkor memorial prayers): Oct 12, 5:00pm

From the Minister



Dear Ones,

The summer is winding down, fall is approaching. The time has come for us to gather once again as a community for our weekly Sunday worship services. If you have been looking for a reason to come join us on a Sunday morning, whether for the first time or for the first time in a while, consider this the reason you've been waiting for: the start of a fresh "church year"! It would be so wonderful to connect once again with all our friends, old and new.

We had two Sunday morning gatherings this summer, our "Summer Sandwich Sundays." We made 75 lunches for Main-Spring House, a homeless shelter in Brockton, and we circled up after for a mini worship service, complete with singing, joys & concerns, and time for reflection. Our Fellowship Committee also hosted an Ice Cream Social, which I was very sad that I was out of town for, and so missed it. I'm sure it was sweet.

You may have heard that we had an unwelcome visitor this summer in the form of MOLD. It turns out rainwater had been pooling on the ground right at the base of the building where the meetinghouse abuts the addition in the Memorial Garden (Depot Street side). This was due to a faulty and too-short downspout (which problem has since been rectified). So after a heavy rain - we had several of those this summer - water would seep inside, winding up on the floor of the vestry, in that corner where we buy our Equal Exchange coffee and chocolates. With the general humidity of the summer and all that additional moisture from the downspout, the mold was off and running! Our B&G crew was on the case. We immediately contracted with a remediation company called AirCare to get rid of the mold, and got to work on the downspout issue. A team of volunteers stepped up to move ALL of the items out of the kitchen. And then many more answered the call to bring items home and clean them. Air-Care then used antimicrobial spray and fog to decontaminate our vestry and kitchen, and also Program C, where we found additional mold due to a separate issue. Once it was safe to reenter the space after the treatment, yet another team of volunteers stepped in to move us back into our kitchen and throw away items that could not be salvaged. THANK YOU to everyone who has helped with the process so far.

Among the items that had to be pitched was one of our values signs. If you haven't seen them or you're not sure what I'm talking about, we have these signs that line the windows of the Vestry, that say things like "Kindness," "Respect," and "Peace." Well, one of them got moldy. As it happens, it was the one that says, "Humility." Perhaps we'll be OK without that particular sign for a little while, given what humidity taught us about humility this summer. Wishing you all abundant blessings for the end of summer and start of fall.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

From the President



Dear UCS members and Friends,

Well, my first month of Presiding (following the trend of making all nouns into verbs) has been eventful. I got COVID shortly before the first board meeting that I chaired, so that was done virtually. At about the same time we got the news that we had a mold problem in the Vestry and downstairs generally. Added to that was the discovery, and fix, of a problem with one of our gutters leading to water getting into a corner of the Vestry and hallway (apparently separate from the general mold issue). Many thanks to the Buildings & Grounds committee for arranging for the mold remediation, and Jack Armstrong in particular for catching and fixing the gutter issue. In addition many members took home items from the kitchen, washed them and brought them back. If we needed a reminder of the fact that we all need to pull together to make this community work, this has certainly been that. It has also reinforced for me that this congregation is strong.

Not that we don't have our challenges. The top of that list would be our budget and the need to close the gap between revenue and expenses. And of course our historic church building is on our minds - and in our plans as the AIM Higher committee gets underway. We are in a time in which there is a lot of serious concern within UUism, and in liberal religion generally (and even conservative churches) about dropping attendance and lack of engagement, particularly of younger people. Hilary Allen of the UUA outlines the discussions taking place in the New England Region among leaders and religious professionals in the August newsletter "Words to Lead By" (<https://www.uua.org/new-england/blog/were-all-swimming-stream-together>). And while I feel like we are in a comparatively good place at UCS, her emphasis on the need for us to support each other, especially people in their 30's and 40's, is important.

Finally, I was inspired by our experiences to write a poem.

The Voyage

Setting out toward the obscured horizon
 there are storm clouds,
 but also shafts of golden light
 tossed as we are by the waves
 there is no safe harbor for us
 no dry dock where we can patch up our ship
 and wait for fairer winds
 we must plug our leaks as we go
 but we have chosen this voyage together
 even with no clear destination
 because the journey is our goal

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

A Note From the Director of Faith Development

Welcome back to the church! I hope that you have had some wonderful adventures and restful moments. I hope you got to enjoy starry night skies, refreshing swims and quiet rainy days. And I hope that even as your schedule begins to pick up, you will continue to find moments to enjoy the final weeks of summer.

This summer brought big changes to my life. The time came to sell the home I raised my children in and start a new chapter as an empty nester. I elected to move to southern Maine to be closer to my parents in their final years. Little did I know that 2024 was to be my father's final year, and we lost him just one week after my move. Thanks to all those who have sent messages and cards of support during this time of bereavement. You may be wondering about my move out of state - it will not affect my role with Unitarian Church of Sharon. With the support of Rev. Jolie, the Board, the Personnel Committee, and the RE Committee, I plan to continue to work remotely for part of the week and be onsite Sundays and Mondays, staying locally with friends and family. My Tuesday office hours will move to Mondays.

I hope to focus the bulk of my workweek from Sunday - Wednesday. You can help me do this by signing up to volunteer in the classrooms early and often. So often I find myself on Fridays and Saturdays making last-minute adjustments and recruiting to make sure we have coverage in our RE program on the upcoming Sunday. Having complete schedules for each season will go a long way to provide order and calm to the vibe of our programs! See below for more information on how to offer your valuable support.

I'm excited to get going again with our faith development and religious education programs. [Read here](#) to get oriented to what's coming...

In faith,
Christine

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.

The Social Justice Committee: a new look for a new church year

You may notice a few changes this fall as the SJC explores a new approach to our collective work for Social Justice. Thanks to a lengthy and thoughtful review process, guided by the Committee on Ministry, we have examined various models for how to approach this important work, and are excited about trying a new model. While we will continue to facilitate some of our longstanding programs and relationships, we are hoping to narrow our focus in the coming months to explore and support a single concern with a multi-faceted perspective as we examine the interwoven and complex nature of the topic at hand. For the coming year, our primary focus will be on **housing and homelessness**, in all of its complexity. We hope to offer opportunities for education, advocacy, and for service/harm reduction & direct humanitarian relief. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities as we work together to untangle this *topic du annum*.



Brown Envelope Collections

The June BE collection raised \$1,250 to support the work of **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. We are deeply grateful to First Parish Malden, Universalist for serving as the fiscal sponsor for this life saving work.

Summer BE donations (online, and during our Summer Sandwich Sunday gatherings) will support our ongoing monthly commitment to provide brown bag lunches to the shelter at MainSpring House in Brockton.

The September BE collection once again (starting the Sunday after Labor Day) will be directed to our Partner Church in Gyulakuta, Transylvania. For many years, our congregation has supported fellow UUs in Romania. The money we raise via our Brown Envelope Collection in September pays for a musician during their worship service and for a copy of the monthly Romanian Unitarian magazine for each family, as well as other urgent projects. They are enormously grateful for this support.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

Summer Sandwich Sundays: MainSpring House lunch making in July & August!

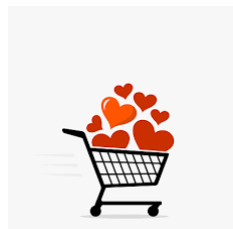
Folks gathered twice over the summer to fulfill our monthly commitment make brown bag lunches for MainSpring House shelter in Brockton. Following a shift on the intergenerational assembly line, Reverend Jolie led the group in a simple sharing circle, and then there was time for our own bagged lunchtime together. A tradition sure to be repeated!



"Summertime and the WOW Butter spreads easy..."

MainSpring House lunch making this year:

Our monthly lunch assembly will happen several ways in the coming months – sometimes in the Vestry after Sunday morning services during Coffee Hour, and sometimes as a Social Justice project led by the Coming Of Age participants as they meet each month across the year. For September, we ask you to join the team during Coffee Hour following the Ingathering Service on the 8th as we work to feed our neighbors.



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! (By the way, S4J corn and apples somehow seem to taste better than goods bought with boring cash or credit cards!)