

# 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](http://www.uusharon.org)

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## Inside this issue

<a href="#">From the Minister</a>	10
<a href="#">From the President</a>	11
<a href="#">Faith Development</a>	12
<a href="#">Social Justice</a>	14

**NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES**

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

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

## November 3

**10:00 AM Family Worship: Question Box** Part of how we search for truth and meaning as Unitarian Universalists is to celebrate the questions themselves as part of our faith. From time to time, we dedicate a family service to asking and answering Big Questions together, and today is such a day!

**10:30 AM Worship: We Are The Ones We've Been Waiting For** Anyone stressed about the election, the fate of our country? We will take time during our worship service today to reflect on hope and resilience. Since the election and its outcome is so uncertain, let's take a break from fretting over polls and focus on engagement in local efforts to build the communities we dream of. Rev. Jolie preaching.

## November 10

**10:00 AM Family Worship: Fry Bread** To honor Native American Heritage Month, we will read the wonderful book Fry Bread together, and we will reflect on culture, family, and food.

**10:30 AM Worship: Addiction and Recovery** Whether or not we realize it, all of us likely know someone struggling with substance use disorder, and/or people in recovery. Our worship today will be dedicated to bringing this issue into the light, and grappling with some of the questions that those of us with loved ones who are addicted may face. Rev. Jolie will lead our worship today, in conversation with three of our UCS members who are in recovery.

**Continued on next page**

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**OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICES**

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

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

## November 17

**10:00 AM Family Worship: Endings and Beginnings** We will say goodbye to our beloved DRE, Christine Bulman, in our family service today. And we will reflect on how endings and beginnings are inextricably linked.

**10:30 AM Worship: It Ain't Easy Being Old** With help from some bonafide elders, Rev. Jolie will take the plunge and lead a worship service on the one thing her mentor told her never to preach on until she was old enough. What are the challenges and gifts of old age? What does our faith tell us about getting old? Rev. Jolie, Jean Fox, and others will lead our service today.

## November 24

**10:00 AM Worship: Giving Thanks** In further celebration of Native American Heritage Month, we will read the beautiful and simple book, Giving Thanks by Chief Jake Swamp. Together we will reflect on the practice of gratitude as part of our UU faith.

**10:30 AM Worship: Finding Healing Through Truth-Telling** Why do we tell hard stories from our country's history? Is it to make ourselves feel guilty? Is it to seek absolution? On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will reflect on how the "first Thanksgiving" came to be part of the myth of the founding of America, and what it can offer us when we challenge what historian Tim Tyson calls "self-congratulatory history that passes for heritage." Rev. Jolie preaching.

## CHURCH NEWS

### Art Wall

There are many creative people in our congregation. Won't you consider sharing your art work by showcasing it on the "art wall?" By doing this you will inspire others and help broaden and strengthen our community. Any form of expressive art would be welcome, including poetry. Find Dinah on Breeze and call or email or catch me live.

### Tai Chi

Tai Chi with Vince Jornales at the UU is early (8 am to 9 am) on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Those who have been attending ( about 5 to 7 people) find it well worth the effort to get there and the few dollars contributed (\$3 to \$10). Chi Gong, a part of the class, translates as "skill in breathing" and we have found that to be a very helpful skill (!). The slow deliberate movements. of the Yang 24 form, are meditative; building body awareness, balance and control. Good for your mind, good for your body, good for your spirit. All are welcome

### 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.

### Come Friday for Potluck!

Dust off some old gems from the family lore and bring some jokes, stories or witticisms to First Fridays are for Fellowship coming right up this Friday Nov. 1!

Festivities begin at 6 p.m. Bring something to share as you are able, or just bring yourselves.

As usual, musical instruments are welcome!!

Cheers,  
Fellowship Committee



### Climate Change Dialogues

*Reimagine Together: From an Extractive Age to a New Era*  
**November 5 (yes, election night - it will be good to be together!)**  
**7-8:30 PM in Program A/B.**

Feeling overwhelmed by climate change? Yearning for a more spiritually grounded approach to building the world we dream of? Join Rev. Jolie and your fellow UCS members for this transformative and deeply connecting dialogue process in which we explore the challenges and possibilities of creating climate justice together. RSVP to Rev. Jolie by October 15: [minister@uusharon.org](mailto:minister@uusharon.org). Minimum of 5 participants needed to run this program.

## ***CHURCH NEWS, continued***

### **AIM Higher**

#### Restoration of the Meetinghouse

About 15 years ago, AIM (Accessibility and Improvements to the Meetinghouse) began its work. A project to make our sanctuary accessible to all became a plan to create an entire new wing. Through this project we were able to build a needed elevator, and create needed meeting space, administrative offices and classrooms. However, the Meetinghouse itself remained unimproved. We are now planning to AIM Higher by fully renovating our beloved sanctuary, first constructed in 1842, ensuring its structural integrity, accessibility and efficiency for the next 180 years.

Last year we sent out a survey to determine the goals that the congregation would have for a renovation. We will be engaging with all of you more in the coming year to ensure that our plans speak to the needs of the entire congregation. Our AIM Higher Committee has representatives from previous AIM endeavors, the buildings committee and stewardship.

Many of you have made a first contribution to this project, providing funds to begin the planning process. Thank you! As the first step, AIM has solicited proposals from architects to create a scope of work that will include structural improvements, accessibility, energy efficiency, and options for better integrating technology into the space. By the new year, we hope to have an agreement with an architectural firm experienced in restoring historic buildings and working with community-based groups.

We are excited to begin this long-anticipated project. You may be sure that we will offer opportunities for everyone to learn about our progress and provide us with essential feedback.

Maura Camosse Tsongas & Glenn Rivard, Co-Chairs

Jack Armstrong, Linda Godfrey Bailey, Rebecca Kinraide, Alex Matthews, Rory McGregor, Rev. Jolie Olivetti, Jessica Plumridge, Jeff Rose, and Colleen Tuck, members

## CHURCH NEWS, continued

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE

In order to address some issues brought to our attention with Joys and Concerns, the Worship Committee will try something new for the next few Sundays. We will use two microphones. The worship coordinator and the greeter will each take a side of the sanctuary to pass the mic to those who want to share. Congregants are asked to please state their name, speak directly into the mic to improve volume and to face the congregation as much as possible. We hope this will save time and make folks more audible.

December 1st (Thanksgiving weekend) Ellen Bordman will lead a service centered around Gratitude in the sanctuary. Please let Ellen know if you would like to help plan.

### 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.***

### A special thank-you from De'Stiny Tarkpor:

In the aftermath of a catastrophic fire that destroyed the home of our Congregational Administrator's daughter and grandson, our UCS people made donations to help her rebuild her life. She sent us a thank-you card, which I share with you here:

*I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the generous donations you provided to me and my son. Starting over in life is never an easy task, and your support has made a significant difference during this challenging time. Because of your kindness, we are able to navigate this transition with a little more ease and hope.*

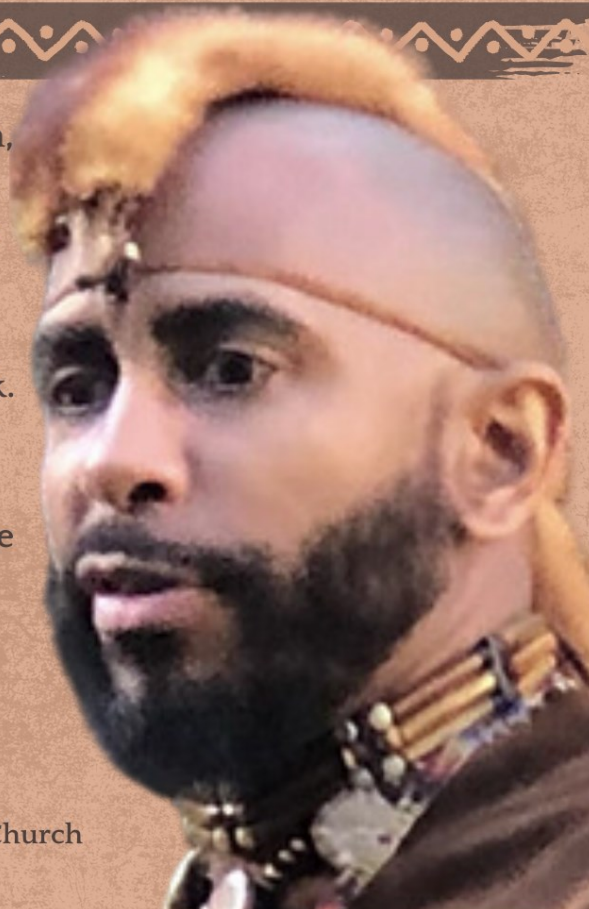
*Isaiah and I will always be thankful for what you did for us, especially since it came from such a selfless place. Your generosity has truly touched our lives, and we appreciate it more than words can express. Thank you once again for your incredible support!*

-De'Stiny & Isaiah



**CHURCH NEWS, continued****SAVE THE DATE!****THOMAS "SPIRIT TREE" GREEN****Sun. November 17 | 2:00 PM****Unitarian Church of Sharon  
4 North Main Street  
Sharon, MA.**

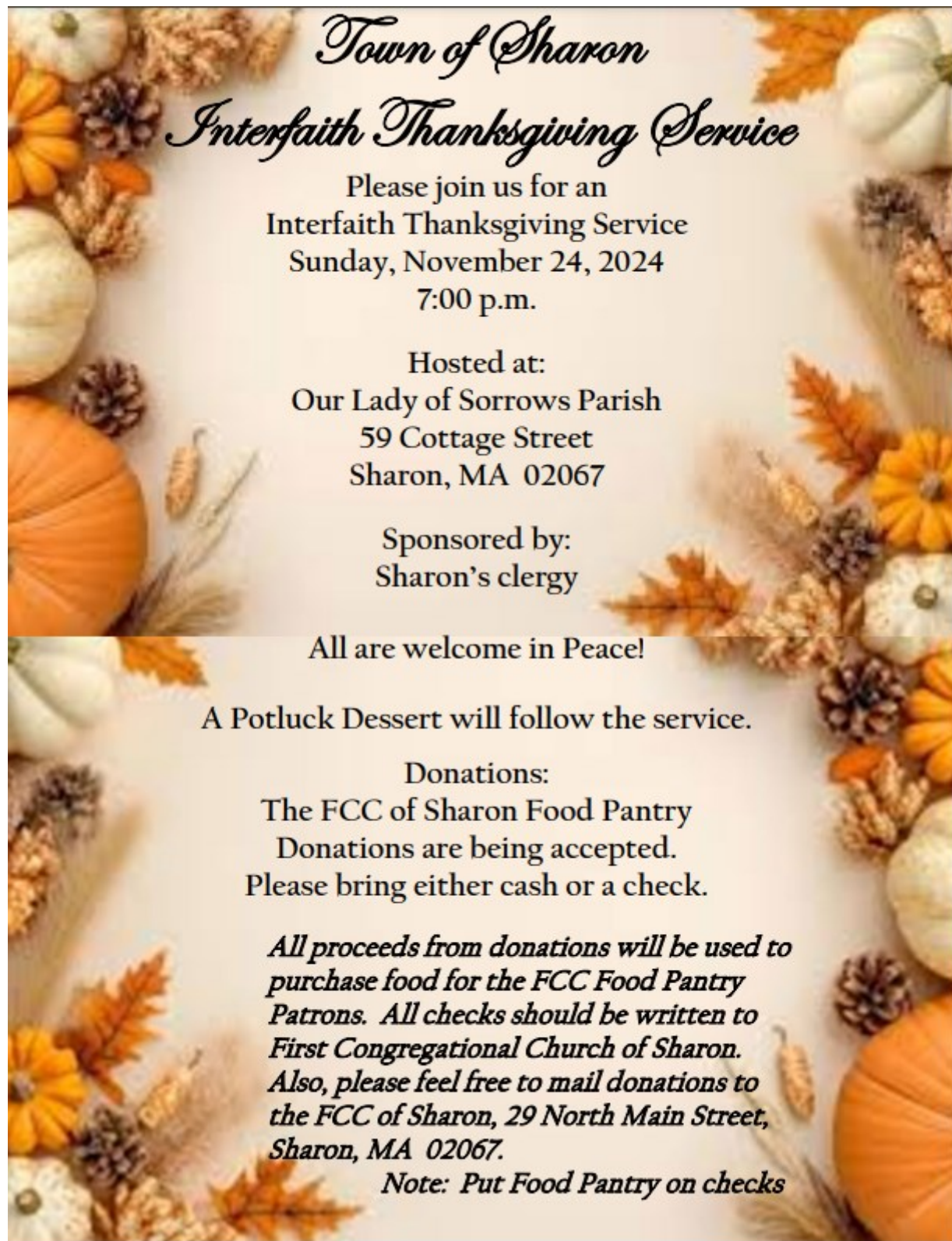
In observance of Native American Heritage Month, Thomas (Spirit Tree) Green, descendent of the Neponset band of Massachusetts who gathered at the praying town of Ponkapoag, and a Tribal Council Member and Chairman of the tribe's History Preservation Committee will present a talk. He will discuss topics such as the interactions of the people of the Massachusetts Nation and European traders and settlers, The Great Dying, the roles of the indigenous leaders, the Colony of Massachusetts Bay and Puritan settlers, the translation of the King James Bible into the Indigenous Massachusetts tongue, and more



Sponsored by

Sharon  
DEICUnitarian Church  
of Sharon



**CHURCH NEWS, continued**

*Town of Sharon*  
*Interfaith Thanksgiving Service*

Please join us for an  
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service  
Sunday, November 24, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

Hosted at:  
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish  
59 Cottage Street  
Sharon, MA 02067

Sponsored by:  
Sharon's clergy

All are welcome in Peace!

A Potluck Dessert will follow the service.

Donations:  
The FCC of Sharon Food Pantry  
Donations are being accepted.  
Please bring either cash or a check.

*All proceeds from donations will be used to purchase food for the FCC Food Pantry Patrons. All checks should be written to First Congregational Church of Sharon. Also, please feel free to mail donations to the FCC of Sharon, 29 North Main Street, Sharon, MA 02067.*

*Note: Put Food Pantry on checks*

## CHURCH NEWS, continued

### LEGACY of the Harlem Renaissance

Saturday, November 30

3:30 pm

at the Unitarian Church of Sharon

tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door



Sponsored by the Oscar Micheaux Family Theater Program Company

The Oscar Micheaux Family Theater Program Company continues to create cultural enrichment programs that educate, entertain and empower as the “New Voices of the Harlem Renaissance”.

Performances by the cast of talented artists use improv, poetry, acting and the musical genres of Gospel and Spirituals to tell stories of triumph over social adversities. The company is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance (1919-2019) and to honor and pay tribute to the Ancestors and the descendants of the Harlem Renaissance Era as they began to erase barriers denying them their rights as American citizens, to serve in an integrated military, to vote, and to end nationwide laws of segregation and separation.

Stanley R. Thompson who is a former member of the USMC and Haywood Fennell, Sr. a former member of the US Army are strategic planners for building the Oscar Micheaux Family Theater Program. With other military veterans, they are now part of the 2024-25 performance season. Their opening performance, part of "The New Voices of the Harlem Renaissance:" on November 29<sup>th</sup>, will feature historic narration, poetry and a mix of musical genres, including Christmas carols.

**For ticket information call 857-204-5312.**



## CHURCH NEWS, continued

*Join us...*

### Shattered Stars:

The Power of  
Courage, Compassion,  
and Kindness



Motivational Speaker  
Award-Winning Author  
**IRENE STERN  
FRIELICH**

In this presentation, Irene retraces the Stern-Herzfeld family's footsteps as they escape their comfortable home in Germany on Kristallnacht in 1938 and cross the border to the Netherlands. The family lives there in relative safety until the Nazis invade and turn their world upside down.

Using photos, interviews, audio and video recordings, Irene covers the period from 1938 through liberation in 1945. She brings to life the people and places portrayed in her memoir, including a baker, a coffee roaster, farmers, clergy, and officials, many of whom demonstrated courage, compassion, and kindness to help her family survive.

*"... inspiring and motivating ..."*

Thursday, December 5, 2024

7 pm - 8:30 pm

Unitarian Church of Sharon  
4 North Main Street  
Sharon, MA 02067

Co-Sponsored by Sharon Pluralism Network



"Author Irene Stern Frielich has a beautiful way of connecting past to present in this expansive and enthralling work of both biography and memoir ... a demonstration of the raw emotive power of storytelling ..."

—K.C. Finn, Readers' Favorite



Books available for sale and signing at the event, or on BGN or Amazon  
Follow the journey on Facebook at [Shattered Stars Healing Hearts](#)

[www.shatteredstars.org](http://www.shatteredstars.org)

## From the Minister



Dear Ones,

A few weeks ago, we talked about the Jewish holiday of Sukkot during our family service. Sukkot is a time in the fall when observant Jews build special shelters (called a sukkah) outside and spend time there, eating together, even sleeping outside. During our discussion that day, we talked about what the practice of spending special time outdoors can offer us. As UU's, we respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and going outside can help us feel connected to the earth.

As Christine and I were preparing for that service, we encountered another aspect of the holiday which I would like to reflect on further here. Sukkot has two meanings: the first is as a harvest festival to celebrate and give thanks for the abundance of the earth. And the other is to commemorate the 40 years that the ancient Israelites are said to have wandered the desert. In this vein, part of observing Sukkot is to remember the homeless. The holiday is behind us now but of course the fact of homelessness remains. The causes of homelessness are myriad, ranging from climate crisis and forced migration to poverty and mental illness. At the root of the problem is a system that treats housing as a commodity rather than a human right. And, we must remember that this is not just something that impacts "other people." There are members of our own congregation, their friends and family members and other loved ones, who have been at one time, or currently are, insecure in their housing.

For over a year now, we have been part of local efforts to support our immigrant neighbors who have been in shelter at a hotel in Sharon. Many of these folks have fled violence, and economic and political crises in their home countries, many of them from Haiti, but other places as well. I have watched and cheered you on as you have stepped up in so many ways, including bringing a family into your own home, and also shuttling to the laundromat, teaching English, donating money and material goods, hosting birthday parties for the kids, and more and so much more. Catholic Charities Boston, a direct services and advocacy organization, has begun working with some of the families staying in the shelter, helping them find permanent housing and providing financial assistance. They have asked the Sharon Interfaith Clergy Association whether any of our congregations would like to sponsor one of these families. I already know of a couple of UCS members who would like to be part of such an effort, in addition to all those who have already been doing this kind of work for the past year. Anyone else looking to get involved? The roles we are looking for are as follows:

1-2 people to help coordinate donations the family will need to set up their new household and get on their feet.

1-2 people to coordinate visits to the family's home to provide friendship, mentorship, opportunities to practice English, etc.

1-2 people interested in helping the family when they encounter various challenges (dealing with state benefits, health benefits, getting a drivers license, and so on).

If any of this speaks to you, please let me know: [minister@uusharon.org](mailto:minister@uusharon.org). Thank you!

Yours in faith,  
Rev. Jolie

## From the President



Dear UCS members and Friends,

As I write this, the election hasn't happened yet. So you may well be reading this in an environment that is substantially different from the one that I'm writing in. My hope is that it is a less stressful one.

As I face the daunting prospect of a nation that is starkly divided, with extreme accusations flying and incitements to violence, I'm feeling some *deja vu*. The anxiety that I'm feeling is not that different from what I was feeling in 2017 and then again during the height of the pandemic and then four years ago before the last presidential election.

I don't have a solution for dealing with our current situation. However there are some things I have found helpful. For myself I find that getting out into the woods connects me with things that are real. The sounds, the sights, the smells of nature, along with the demands on my body of hiking, bring me closer to being present in the moment. Also, being with friends and family (when we're not amplifying our election anxiety...). Playing music focuses the mind as well. You can't be thinking about the news while you try to make that next chord change.

In the end we will all have to deal with whatever the outcome is. We will need to hold each other up. We may need to protest or take other actions of resistance. One thing that I am certain of is that our UCS community will be there for us. I'm grateful to be a part of a community of such committed and principled people. Holding onto our values and our connections will see us through. It's the only thing that can.

Jon Slavin



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

### A Note From the Director of Faith Development

Dear Friends,

This will be my final blog post to the congregation and I'd like to use the space to say thank you and to sing your praises. This is indeed a "congregation of loving hearts" and I have enjoyed my time here immensely. Thank you for assimilating me into your congregational life in such a supportive and friendly way as we have worked together to sustain the worship and program experiences of our children and youth.

Four and half years have flown by, and yet it feels like we've been through an age together given that we started our journey together peering at each other on Zoom screens and from behind masks during an anxiety-ridden time for all. As we began the interim journey after Louise's outstanding 16-years of leadership, I remember articulating the importance of making space for the grief that comes with the inevitability of change. And after a time, beginning to chart a course forward by discerning the values, strengths, needs and challenges of the religious education program. Pandemic and all, we did this. And more.

Together we identified the need to evolve with the changing landscape of family and congregational life. We worked to find ways to "do" religious education in ways that harmonize with busy lives, build connection, and support joyful learning.

In addition to re-starting the classic UU programs such as Coming of Age and OWL, we evolved a sort of "learning center" downstairs that makes space not only for experiential classes such as building, gardening and cooking but also provides centers for self-direction and choice-based creativity such a library, art studio and maker space. Writing these words makes me so happy! This is phenomenal and I'm thrilled at the way this congregation has actualized the sentiments expressed during the initial vision session in 2021! And a shout out to UCS teens who have evolved from Teacher Assistants to Lead Facilitators, becoming even more integral to the RE program than ever before.

We have continued the fabulous family worship service and strengthened its connection with religious education programming. Though nary a church across the country has returned to it's pre-pandemic attendance levels, I am confident in saying that the religious education program at the Unitarian Church of Sharon has rebounded.

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT, continued

### A Note From the Director of Faith Development, continued

For all of this I am especially thankful for the tireless dedication of the Religious Education Committee; the ever-presence of Building & Grounds for our ever-evolving requests; and the commitment to children and youth brought by our Youth Coordinators, Childcare, Choir staff and Volunteers. And Reverend Jolie. Your minister is a champion of religious education and a supervisor like no other.

For all of this I am especially thankful for the tireless dedication of the Religious Education Committee; the ever-presence of Building & Grounds for our ever-evolving requests; and the commitment to children and youth brought by our Youth Coordinators, Childcare, Choir staff and Volunteers. And Reverend Jolie. Your minister is a champion of religious education and a supervisor like no other. Her unwavering attention to and support of the role of DRE unequivocally contributes to successes such as those listed above. I will miss working with such a dynamic and dedicated colleague and am excited for your new DRE to get to join such a fabulous crew.

Last but not least, affirmation of the children and youth - those who have kept us on our toes and who teach us where flexibility and adaptation are needed and where balance and consistency is required. They bring joy and creativity to every space, and the wisdom they share is humbling. May they continue to fill the church with their voices, laughter and song.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: this program is built upon a strong foundation and a well-articulated philosophy and I am confident that it will continue to guide and accompany the faith formation of young Unitarian Universalists for years to come.

In faith,

Chrisitne Bulman

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



The Social Justice Committee encourages you to visit the UCS website

([uusharon.org](http://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. 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 dig deeper into the layers of the chosen topic. 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. **See below for details on our plans to explore becoming a Partner Congregation with UU Mass Action!**



### Brown Envelope Collections

The September BE collection once again has been directed to our **Partner Church in**

**Gyulakuta, Transylvania.** Donations of \$593, plus a line item in our annual budget of \$700 means that \$1,293 is being sent to our UU partners in Romania. The money we raise 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.

October Brown Envelope donations are supporting **CityReach** ([commoncathedral.org/cityreach](http://commoncathedral.org/cityreach)) an overnight urban outreach program begun in March 1996 for youth, young adults, and college students from churches of any denomination. The program gives these young people the opportunity to learn first hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. Our own **UCS Senior Youth** are exploring participation in this program later this year. Thank you for your engagement with this work.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



Starting in November, and including the Sunday services in December, our Brown Envelope donations will be directed toward exploring an expansion of our relationship with **UU Mass Action** ([uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)).

Their Vision: A world where all people are honored and valued. Their Mission: to organize and mobilize UUs in Massachusetts to confront oppression, by providing pathways towards justice and identifying opportunities in which we can live our shared values.

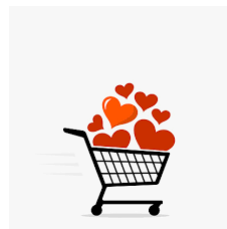
Founded in 2006, UU Mass Action is the original statewide UU organizing and advocacy group in the US. Their mission is to coordinate the 20,000 Unitarian Universalists and 142 congregations in Massachusetts to confront oppression. All of their work is in partnership with larger campaigns and coalitions. Pathways to justice are selected by identifying the priorities in which UU congregations are engaged, taking part in coalition partners' shared priorities, assessing legislative momentum, and identifying who are the most vulnerable people in our Commonwealth.

Funds collected this month and next will support this important work. The Social Justice Committee is also exploring becoming a Partner Congregation to deepen our connection with UU Mass Action. See below for an overview of our potential engagement with this social justice engine for change.



The Team working to feeding our neighbors in need

**MainSpring House lunches:** an ongoing monthly commitment, now led by our Youth! Each month we provide 75 brown bag lunches for the homeless shelter in Brockton. Usually assembled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, this effort is currently being led by members of our Senior Youth, and they are always looking for help (shopping, assembly, delivery, cheerleading, etc...). Want to lend a hand? Contact Caroline Dixon, our Youth Ministry Coordinator, at [yc@uusharon.org](mailto:yc@uusharon.org).



**Want to help make our Brown Bag lunch program grow?** You too can help to make the MSH lunch program a success whenever you shop for your own groceries.

.....Continued on next page

## ***SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued***

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. *[BONUS: your own groceries will be healthier and be extra tasty once you use S4J grocery cards at check-out; all the Kool Kids are doing it!]* 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!

**Excess Halloween candy?** – *if you happen to have leftovers after the Goblins depart, or if your sack of goodies returns home with so much bounty that you want to share some, please bring extras to church in early November and we will use them to enrich our MSH bag lunches. Thanks!*

### **Fair Trade prices going up soon**

A recent spike in costs for our partner in Fair Trade goods, Equal Exchange in West Bridgewater, means that our prices for coffee and especially chocolates will be going up as of **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**. As we work through our current inventory, resupply prices will rise, and we will need to pass them on to you our dear customers! We hope that you understand this reality, and that you continue to support Fair Trade, which deals equitably with small-scale farmers and still allows the SJC to raise funds for many of our important projects.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued**

### **Partner Congregation Program at UU Mass Action**

*Below is an outline of the scope of opportunities and responsibilities associated with a possible deeper relationship with UU Mass Action. The SJC has invited Reverend Jo Murphy, UU Mass Action's Executive Directory, to preach in Sharon on Housing Justice on Sunday, 8 December, and to explore with her ways for UCS to collaborate in their work. Please visit their website, [uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org), to learn more about the extensive range of programs and opportunities an alliance with this organization can bring to our work for social justice!*

All too often, ministers and congregational leaders grapple with how to truly engage their congregations in living out our UU values. Since 2006, UU Mass Action has been organizing and mobilizing more than 100 congregations in Massachusetts to confront oppression in solidarity with our frontline partners. We support congregational leaders in being effective and strategic in their justice work, to support them in building power with our frontline partners and each other instead of acting in silos.

We created the **Congregational Partnership Covenant Program** in 2023 in order to formalize our relationship with congregations we work with. While we work with many congregations already, this is a chance to identify areas for deepening while acknowledging whatever ways we may already be in relationship. Whether you are already an active supporter of UU Mass Action or brand new to our organization, this program provides a structure to deepen our relationship, and tailor our collaborative work with your congregations to wherever you currently are. We invite you to make our connection official with a partnership.

Below are the standard benefits and responsibilities that come with becoming a partner, AND we will be creative to the best of our ability to work with you for any additional/other requests.

### **BENEFITS OF CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

- *Investment and support in your staff/minister/*

*leaders*

- We will prioritize partner congregations for preaching
- Coaching/mentoring for social justice leaders
- Training Requests for at least 10 participants: Running Great Meetings, Healthy Conflict, Building Strong Teams, Turn-out, etc.
- Support your congregation in cultivating a social justice lens through above trainings and coaching, and providing learning resources
- *Partnership in our work*
- Twice a year we will send you an insider update about our campaign work
- Member congregations will be invited to share input in surveys as we do campaign planning, development and selection, and evaluation so we can take your interests and feedback into account.
- *Promotion of your congregation*
- We will list you as a partner congregation in our materials
- We will strive to amplify your congregation's work that aligns with our campaigns
- *Youth Engagement & Intergenerational support*
- We will prioritize inviting youth leaders from partner congregations to join in youth action opportunities

### **Support REs in connecting with our campaigns as opportunities arise**

### **CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

*Core Responsibilities for all Partners*

- Congregational gift\* to be given at the end of the calendar year [*potential Brown E donations*]



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



### CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

#### *Core Responsibilities for all Partners*

- Congregational gift\* to be given at the end of the calendar year [*potential Brown E donations*]
- Annual Reflection & Renewal on the partnership (we will check-in every summer and winter)

Communication if there are any major changes in the congregation or social justice team that may impact the partnership

#### *Pick at least 2 of the following in addition to the Core Responsibilities*

- Social justice committee chairs/leaders attend either Regional Team meetings, or join an issue team (or takes on some other leadership role at UU Mass Action)
- Promote the annual UU Advocacy Day
- Invite UU Mass Action to preach
- Congregational newsletter/website includes a link to sign up for UU Mass Action newsletter, as well as, shares content and action alerts from our newsletter monthly

Recruit 10% of your congregation's membership to become [Individual Members of UU Mass Action](#)

(\*Gift: The work we do with leaders across congregations makes the UU voice for justice stronger, both within and outside of their congregations. We do not charge for our mission driven trainings or programs (while other programs that do similar social justice leadership development work can cost thousands of dollars). In recognition of the value add that we provide to UU leaders across congregations, we invite your congregation to support the time and energy it takes to do our work well. The congregational gift is on a sliding scale based on your capacity.)

