

The Chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association**
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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](#)

October 6

10:00 AM Family Worship: Encountering Judaism Our Crossing Paths and World Blessings classes are both embarking on a study of Judaism in the month of October. To support this exploration and to honor the Jewish New Year, we will talk about some of the connections between Judaism and our UU faith in our family service today.

10:30 AM Worship: The Infinite Game Usually, a game ends when someone is declared the winner. But in an “infinite game” like life, who can win? To know, we must play! Join us for an exploratory, experiential service about play and the “infinite game” of life as a source of thriving, resistance, and even transformation. Our service will be led by Shiloh Hoffman, guest preacher.

About Our Guest Preacher:

Shiloh Hoffman (they/them) is a candidate for ministry through the Unitarian Universalist Association, and a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School. They serve as a hospice chaplain with Hospice Services of MA, and was a ministerial intern at United First Parish Church in Quincy. Shiloh is also a volunteer crisis counselor with the Trevor Project, a suicide prevention and crisis intervention nonprofit organization for LGBTQ+ young people. In their spare time, Shiloh enjoys hanging out with their wife and two cats, baking, and playing early 2000’s video games.

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October 13

10:00 AM Family Worship: Fry Bread To honor Indigenous Peoples Day, we will read the wonderful book *Fry Bread* together, and we will reflect on culture, family, and food.

10:30 AM Worship: The Growing Edge of Oops Being the humans that we are, we sometimes mess up, let people down, and fall short. In honor of the Jewish Holiday of Yom Kippur, we will reflect on how acknowledging and learning from our broken promises is spiritual work. Rev. Jolie preaching.

October 20

10:00 AM Family Worship: Welcoming the Harvest Season As our World Blessings class prepares to learn about the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, we will spend time in our family service reflecting on the abundance of fall.

10:30 AM Worship: The Different Faces of Regret We want to be able to let go of regret, to live fully into our lives as they truly are. But is there something to be gained from understanding our regrets? And what does our UU faith have to say about regret? Rev. Jolie preaching.

October 27 INTERGENERATIONAL

10:30 AM Worship: All Souls Join us for our traditional service in honor of All Souls Day. We will light candles and join in remembering our ancestors, loved ones, all our beloveds who have died. We will seek solace and seek to be inspired by their lives, all within the sacred space of our community. We will also share in a ritual to say goodbye to our DRE, Christine Bulman. Rev. Jolie will lead the service today.

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.



Climate Change Dialogues

Reimagine Together: From an Extractive Age to a New Era

Three Tuesdays in a row: Oct 22, Oct 29, and 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. Minimum of 5 participants needed to run this program.

CHURCH NEWS, continued

Conversation on Black Lives Matter signage at UCS led by the Committee on Ministry:

We want to thank those of you who joined us at the Congregational Meeting on September 22nd regarding the Black Lives Matter (BLM) banner. There were about 30 folks in attendance who engaged in deep listening and thoughtful conversation about the events that transpired last year resulting in the decision to take down the BLM Banner from between the pillars in the front of the church building and replace it with a new, more prominent BLM Placard at the Wayside Pulpit.

During the first part of the meeting, Rev. Jolie facilitated a review of the timeline/process which led to the removal of the BLM banner between the pillars and installing the large placard above the Wayside Pulpit. While doing so, she invited folks to share their stories, memories and feelings about the events that had taken place. It was a rich sharing and a weaving together of various stories, as a number of people shared their recollections of events, the context in which they occurred and their thoughts and feelings about the events. We then had an opportunity to break out into smaller groups for even deeper conversations and sharing.

Overall, it seems to have been an important and needed conversation and one which allowed us to come together as a community in shared space. We hope that it will be one of many future conversations at UCS where we can share our deep and honest thoughts and feelings about sensitive issues that are often not easy to discuss and that the Committee on Ministry, along with Rev. Jolie, can support the congregation in these discussions.



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,

We are heading into another time of transition with our Religious Education program, as we are preparing to say goodbye to our DRE, Christine Bulman. Christine led us through some big changes over the four years that she served our congregation. Even before the pandemic, our children's and youth programming had already started to experience some of the shifts in congregational life that have been impacting Unitarian Universalism nationally. Pew Research Center studies have consistently shown that in each successive generation (Silent, Baby Bomer, Gen X, Millennial, and Gen Z), fewer and fewer people are participating in institutional religion.

I bring up this trend because it helps to understand the larger context in which our congregation is trying to live into its mission. And it's important for us to celebrate how we have, in many ways, bucked the trend over the years. From 1970 to 2020, during an era when, across the country, answers to a simple [Gallup poll question](#): "Do you happen to be a member of a church, synagogue, or mosque?" were steadily trending towards "no," our congregation instead cultivated a long period of growth, so much so that we were named a "Breakthrough Congregation" by our UUA in 2012. Of course COVID-19 turned everything upside down for us, as it did for everyone else. But - we keep going. Though some of our members moved away or stopped attending during the pandemic, many more stayed connected and new people found their way to us. We are finding new ways to connect, and finding our way back to familiar traditions (have you heard that we are going to resurrect Circle Suppers?). I take heart in how, each year since the onset of the pandemic, we have continued to welcome new members into our religious community, including lots of new children and youth who have gotten involved in our R.E. program.

In 2022, Evin Carvill-Ziemer, who served the Central-East Region of our UUA at the time, and is now the director of our New England Region, posted an [article](#) called, "Where Are the Children and Families?" Evin reflected on the exhaustion and stress that so many families felt during that time, when we were still reeling from the disruption, loss, and uncertainty of the pandemic. Evin's advice for how to best serve our children and families given the drastically changed landscape of energy & volunteerism includes: emphasize play and connection, emphasize presence over preparation, let kids be kids, balance between multigen and volunteer-led programs, and notice the places faith formation is happening all the time. When I look at this list, I feel proud of how we have already been trying on a lot of these concepts here at UCS - with our family worship services, with our choice-based, multi-age, youth-taught RE classroom, our coloring table at the back of the Sanctuary, and more. So - thank you Christine for helping us respond to these challenging times. I am full of hope for the next chapter of Religious Education here at UCS.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

From the President



Dear UCS members and Friends,

An unintended pleasure of my drive to church each Sunday is that I get to listen to “Hidden Brain”, which plays on WGBH radio at that time. The show explores a wide range of issues related to human nature and the ways that we behave, which we often are unaware of. This past Sunday the part of the show that I caught was focused on trust. They discussed ways that trust enhances our communities and even the functioning of our economy. And conversely the way lack of trust harms us. I was particularly struck by their discussion of how trust in a community makes it more resilient. They were talking about a neighborhood, but I think that it applies equally to communities of faith. Our connection with each other enhances our mutual trust and that trust strengthens our community.

Later that day, after the service, we had a discussion about our “Black Lives Matter” banner, which many of you attended. I have to say that I was not particularly looking forward to the discussion. It seemed to me like water under the bridge and that the discussion could only stir up old resentments. I was wrong. The discussion was a wonderful illustration of the trust within our community. People shared honestly and respectfully. I was left with a deeper sense of connection to the members in our congregation. As discussed in the “Hidden Brain” episode, mistrust and cynicism impoverish our lives. Trust and hope make us and our communities richer.

Jon Slavin

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

A Note From the Director of Faith Development

Dear Friends,

After much reflection, I have made the difficult decision to step down from my role as Director of Religious Education. This was not an easy choice, as I have cherished my time serving this community for the past four years. However, due to changing personal and logistical demands, I've come to realize that now is the right time to take this step.

It has been such an honor during my time here to walk alongside the children and youth of this community. Watching them grow, ask big questions, and find their voices within our congregation has been a deeply rewarding experience. It has been a privilege to be part of their journeys, and I know they will continue to thrive with the support and love of this community.

As we move forward, I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition. Over the next several weeks, I will continue to work with our staff, volunteers, and R.E. Committee to support the important work of our religious education programs and assist with transition planning. While I will be reducing my in-person presence, I will remain available remotely through the end of November to ensure that everything is set up for success moving forward.

It has been a true honor to work with all of you, and to be part of such a thoughtful and supportive congregation. I am confident that this community will continue to thrive and grow, and I believe a new Director of Religious Education will be very fortunate to serve here. I will always carry the memories of my time here with me and hold this congregation close to my heart.

Thank you all for your trust, your support, and the opportunity to be part of this incredible community.

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

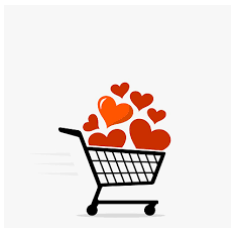
Summer BE donations (online, by mail, and during our Summer Sandwich Sunday gatherings) raised \$680 to support our ongoing monthly commitment to provide brown bag lunches to the shelter at **MainSpring House** in Brockton.

The September BE collection once again has been 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 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



October Brown Envelope donations will support **CityReach** (commoncathedral.org/cityreach) an overnight urban outreach program begun in March 1996 for youth (with accompanying adults), 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. During the 20 hour session, participants join CityReach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food and clothing. This is followed by times of sharing and reflection. Our own **UCS Senior Youth** are exploring participation in this program later this year. Thank you for your engagement with this work.



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. 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 you 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!

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 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 later this fall. 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

A perspective to ponder

At a recent volunteer training for the UU Urban Ministry, led by Rev. Tricia Brennan, we read an excerpt of a provocative article by Rachel Naomi Remen, *Helping, Fixing or Serving*. It generated some rich conversation and lively discussion; if you like, here is the essence of it for your own reflection:

Helping, fixing and serving represent three different ways of seeing life. When you help, you see life as weak. When you fix, you see life as broken. When you serve, you see life as whole. Fixing and helping may be the work of the ego, and service the work of the soul.

Service rests on the premise that the nature of life is sacred, that life is a holy mystery which has an unknown purpose. When we serve, we know that we belong to life and to that purpose. From the perspective of service, we are all connected: All suffering is like my suffering and all joy is like my joy. The impulse to serve emerges naturally and inevitably from this way of seeing.

Serving is different from helping. Helping is not a relationship between equals. A helper may see others as weaker than they are, needier than they are, and people often feel this inequality. The danger in helping is that we may inadvertently take away from people more than we could ever give them; we may diminish their self-esteem, their sense of worth, integrity or even wholeness.

When we help, we become aware of our own strength. But when we serve, we don't serve with our strength; we serve with ourselves, and we draw from all of our experiences. Our limitations serve; our wounds serve; even our darkness can serve. My pain is the source of my compassion; my woundedness is the key to my empathy.

Serving makes us aware of our wholeness and its power. The wholeness in us serves the wholeness in others and the wholeness in life. The wholeness in you is the same as the wholeness in me. Service is a relationship between equals: our service strengthens us as well as others. Fixing and helping are draining, and over time we may burn out, but service is renewing. When we serve, our work itself will renew us. In helping we may find a sense of satisfaction; in serving we find a sense of gratitude.

Fixing and helping create a distance between people, an experience of difference. We cannot serve at a distance. We can only serve that to which we are profoundly connected, that which we are willing to touch. Fixing and helping are strategies to repair life. We serve life not because it is broken but because it is holy.

Serving requires us to know that our humanity is more powerful than our expertise. Service is not an experience of strength or expertise; service is an experience of mystery, surrender and awe. Helpers and fixers feel causal. Servers may experience from time to time a sense of being used by larger unknown forces. Those who serve have traded a sense of mastery for an experience of mystery, and in doing so have transformed their work and their lives into practice.