

# The Chalice

Published by the  
Unitarian Church of Sharon  
**A Welcoming Congregation  
of the Unitarian  
Universalist Association**  
4 North Main Street  
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### JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

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

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

### January 5

#### 10:00 AM Family Worship: Freedom Soup

Our friends in Haiti and Haitian people all over the world celebrate their Independence Day on January 1. In honor of this, we will learn about the history of Haiti and help our World Blessings kids prepare for their class today.

#### 10:30 AM Worship: Question Box!

From time to time we have a special family service devoted to asking and answering people's BIG questions together. Our Worship Committee was wondering, why do the kids and parents get to have all the fun? So, Rev. Jolie is in the hot seat this week. What questions do you have for her? She reserves the right to get input from the congregation, and to say "I don't know" when she simply doesn't know. What have you been wondering about Unitarian Universalism? Or religion and faith communities generally? Or... something else?

### January 12

#### 10:00 AM Family Worship: Zeit and Zaatar

In preparation for our World Blessings class which will be cooking a Palestinian dish today, we will enjoy a story and discuss the culture and resilience of the people of Palestine.

#### 10:30 AM Worship: Next Steps Weekend Worship!

On Saturday and Sunday, Jan 11 and 12, we will spend time as a congregation with Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry, a guest from Stewardship for Us, our UUA-affiliated capital campaign and stewardship consulting firm. This special weekend will help us kickstart our capital campaign to renovate our historic meeting-house. Rev. Lydia will also lead worship for us on Sunday morning, delivering a message of the power of generosity to help congregations achieve their dreams.

#### Guest Preacher Bio

Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry loves helping congregations thrive. She brings over 20 years of parish ministry experience into her consulting with Stewardship for Us. Having served three congregations of various sizes, she has helped each of them align their vision with their values, and then foster generous giving to live into that vision. Rev. Lydia is most passionate about the individual and community transformation that is possible when people come together to create something none could have imagined alone.

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## January 19

### 10:00 AM Family Worship: Pluralism

Today we will spend some time with one of our UU Values: Pluralism. Pluralism means we can hold onto many truths at once, and try to learn from one another. Have you ever tried to learn from someone who believed something different from you? What was that like?

### 10:30 AM Worship: The Radical Imagination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Tell them about the dream, Martin!” Mahalia Jackson urged Dr King off his prepared remarks at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. Because none of us has ever known a US without systematic racism, it takes radical imagination to work toward a new reality of justice and equality we dream of. Today’s service will explore what this calls us to do in the world. Rev. Jolie preaching

## January 26

### 10:00 AM Family Worship: The Runaway Wok

In celebration of the Lunar New Year, we will read a fun story called The Runaway Wok and we will discuss the value of generosity together.

### 10:30 AM Worship: When Times Get Tough, Choose Gratitude

In whatever comes next — especially in whatever the future holds — you can choose to practice gratitude. None of us live in an "all or nothing" world. As always, there will be good days ahead as well as bad ones. It is up to us to see the blessings as they come. There will be moments of beauty in your life. Moments of awe and wonder. Warmth and comfort. There will be times of joy, of love, of laughter shared with family and friends. It will be important to notice all that is good and to be grateful for all that is our lives. Tough times call for even tougher spiritual practices to keep us fully charged and more fully alive.

Rev. Gretchen Weis has been a Unitarian Universalist minister for 11 years. She served all the days of her parish ministry at Murray UU Church in Attleboro, who named her Minister Emerita upon her retirement in summer 2023. She remains an active volunteer in our faith, mentoring future ministers during their seminary and formation years, as well as mentoring ministers through the full fellowshiping process.

## CHURCH NEWS

### Art Wall

Having received no other takers, I decided to hang my art work recently. After hanging a large portrait of my late aunt, uncle and mother, which was well received, I replaced it with something I've been working on more recently, which I titled "Hope" and another one I've been working on over the years which I titled "Change." I am heartened that people have responded to the abstract expressionist work positively, recognizing the motivation to persevere and overcome adversity in the art-work, and seeing the beauty therein.

Also hanging currently are two small works by MaryAnn Cahan, a former UU member, who still hangs out with us occasionally at the coffeehouse and at casual music jam. They are realist in style, and also expressive and beautiful.

An addition to the artwall is a photo display on the neighboring table, contributed by Glenn Rivard. His photos are digitally presented and scrolling. He has offered to include others' photos, and will provide a link so that you can email your photographs to him.. Feedback to Dinah or Glenn would be welcome.

Do let me know if you have art work to share on the artwall.

Dinah Altman

### Tai Chi

Great news! Starting on December 7 our Tai Chi class will be from 9-10 am, an hour later than previously. You can have your sleep and your exercise!

Join us; all are welcome, please contribute \$5 to \$10 if possible; see what meditative movement and breathing is all about. Vince teaches the Yang 24 style set, as well as Chi Gong breathing routines, and some other forms, like Bagua (circles) and T'ang Balm (sp?), a shorter form. He is very good at including newcomers and more experienced people in the classes. There is no competition, no pressure. It has helped me and others tune into one's own body, leading to better breath, balance and coordination; all in all, to feeling better. There's a good feeling in the class, and it's a nice way to start the day. First and third Saturdays of the month, 9:00 to 10:00.

### 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.

## **CHURCH NEWS, continued**

### **Casual Jam 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month**

Every second Friday of the month, from December through May, we get together for a cozy little campfire sing-along (minus the campfire). It's a very welcoming vibe, so feel free to bring your instrument and lead a song, or just join in and sing along with the group. We cover a mix of folk, traditional, and pop tunes - a little something for everyone.

Even if you're a bit rusty, don't worry! If a song is a bit tricky, we'll happily play through it a couple of extra times so everyone can get the hang of it. The most important thing is that we're all there to have a fun time making music together.

We meet from 7 to 9 pm at the Church in Program A/B. Mark your calendars for the second Friday of each month and come on by! Oh, and just a heads up - we do sometimes need to reschedule, so be sure to check the Church Calendar, especially **for January (that one's happening on the 17th)**.

Can't wait to see some new faces join us soon!

### **Worship Committee**

Jan. 3rd or 4th, the worship committee seeks volunteers to put the holiday decor away before the Jan. 5th service. Please contact Ellen Bordman if you are available and willing.

We plan to have at least two representatives attending the January 11th AIM Higher Next Steps workshop event.

- Ellen Bordman, chair

### **First Friday Fellowship Potluck**

No First Friday Potluck in January.

Cheers!  
Fellowship Committee

### **Board Meetings**

You can view the monthly board notes [here](#)

***The UCS Board meets on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7:15 PM. All meetings are open to UCS members and invited guests unless otherwise noted.***

## **CHURCH NEWS, continued**

### **An Announcement about...announcements!**

With all the exciting events happening in our church community, the Worship Committee requests that we return to the Announcement Form. What is this, you ask? On the bench as you enter the sanctuary, we will have some short forms for folks to fill out before the service begins if they would like the Worship Coordinator to read an announcement at the beginning of the service. We aim to keep everyone informed about upcoming events, while at the same time keeping them brief and only at the start of the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **A Concern about... Joys and Concerns...**

The Worship Committee would also like to give a gentle reminder to all that Joys and Concerns is not the time for an announcement. We have been thoughtful in making Joys and Concerns a spiritual, worshipful time when we share what is happening in our lives. Please use the Announcement form for sharing about upcoming events.

### **AIM Higher**

#### **Restoration of the Meetinghouse**

December was a month of preparation for a very busy new year. Committee members first met with members of the Follen Unitarian Church in Lexington, which has experienced a number of improvement projects. We enjoyed an extensive tour, including the sanctuary, which has benefited from several major projects over the years. Because of those projects, the historic sanctuary appears in remarkable condition. We came away from the tour energized for our project and more aware of the time and attention this will require.

The Committee has received a few responses from architectural firms that are interested in our project. We will review the responses, then interview and ideally have an agreement with an architect for our project by the end of January.

We hope you have reserved time on the weekend of January 10-12 to meet Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry, our consultant from Stewardship For Us. On Saturday, each committee will have an opportunity to meet Rev. Lydia. Lunch will be offered for everyone who is interested and may not have a scheduled time to meet Rev. Lydia. There will also be a workshop facilitated by Rev. Lydia that all are welcome to attend. Sunday will feature a sermon by Rev. Lydia followed by lunch for all who wish to stay, meet our consultant, and share thoughts. If you plan on attending lunch or need child care, please let us know by sending an email to Rebecca Kinraide ([kinraide@gmail.com](mailto:kinraide@gmail.com)).

We are on our way! Our January meetings continue the journey toward a beautiful, restored sanctuary.

Maura Camosse Tsongas & Glenn Rivard, Co-Chairs

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

### **NAME CONSIDERATION COMMITTEE**

“What’s In a Name? By now most of the congregation is probably aware that the Board has discussed changing the name of our church, the Unitarian Church of Sharon. There are 3 primary reasons for this:

- 1). We are part of the Unitarian Universalist Association but the term “Universalist” is not reflected in our name.
- 2). The term “church” may be problematic for some congregation members, as well as the larger community, who think it is overly Christian.
- 3). The term “of Sharon” may feel like it does not include members who live outside of Sharon.

There are many opinions about all of these issues. To sort this out and move forward the Board created a Name Change Committee. The Committee has had one meeting and decided to change its own name to the Name Consideration Committee to reflect the fact that we may recommend no name change at all.

The Committee has already identified a variety of questions that need to be looked at including the cost of a name change (such as new signs) and any legal issues that may arise. Committee members are now doing research on these and other questions.

Over the coming months we will be updating you on the status of this work and how we plan to solicit input from the Congregation. Interested? If you want to know more or even join the Committee please contact Tom D’Avanzo, Committee Chair, at [Tdavano@yahoo.com](mailto:Tdavano@yahoo.com). Other current members include: Meg Dussault, Valerie White, Beth McGregor, Gare Reid, & Ryan Perry.

## **CHURCH NEWS, continued**

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



With the intention of supporting the congregation in giving meaning to, and living into, the newly adopted 7 values listed in Article II, the Committee on Ministry has started a Small Group Ministry program focusing on each of these values: Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, Transformation, and Love, around which all the others are centered. Small Group Ministries, also sometimes called Covenant Groups, are simply a way for people to gather and deepen their connections with one another while exploring their values, faith, or beliefs together.

We held our first meetings last month, focusing on the value of Generosity and started 2 separate groups, one meeting on Saturday mornings and the other meeting on Tuesday evenings. While our groups were indeed small, they were powerful, deep, meaningful, authentic and helped create deeper connections between participants. There is still space to join either of these groups and we hope you will consider joining us at one of our next meetings:

**Tuesday evening, January 14th from 7:00-8:30pm** (Facilitated by Sarah Langmead and Lauren Grasso) OR

**Saturday morning, January 18th from 10:30am-noon** (Facilitated by Barbara Nelkin-Rose and Alison Reid)

**The value for January is JUSTICE**, which ties into Martin Luther King Jr, Day on January 20th and a congregational MLK event planned for Sunday, January 19th. Focusing on the theme of Justice this month will help support us in accepting and meeting our commitment to the work of anti-racism and anti-oppression, as called for in our UU value of Justice, described in our new UUA By-Laws as follows:

We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all feel welcome and can thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.

While it would be helpful if you could let us know ahead of time if you plan on attending either of the above meetings, all are welcome and pre-registration is not required. Please contact Barbara Nelkin-Rose (Committee on Ministry Chair) @ [barbjnr@msn.com](mailto:barbjnr@msn.com) if you have interest in attending a meeting, have any questions or will need a ride to a meeting.

We hope you will join us!!!

# CHURCH NEWS, continued

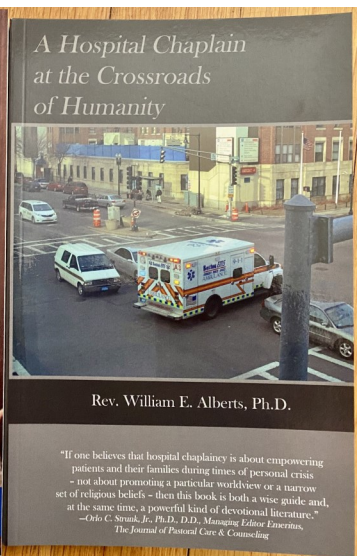
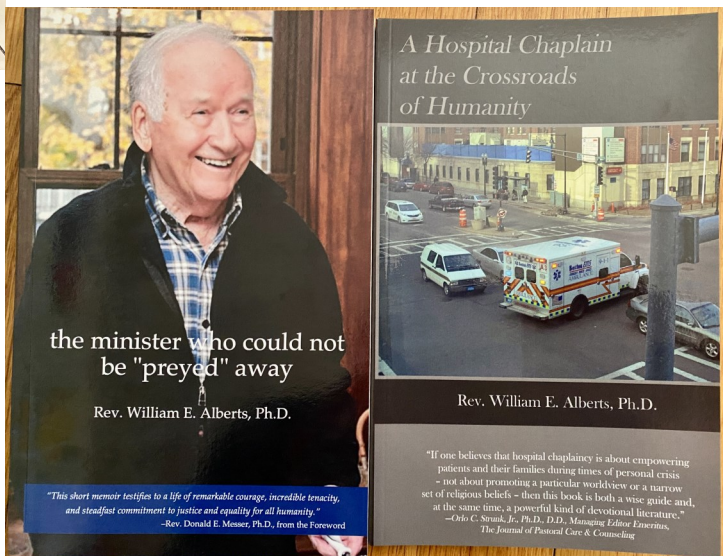
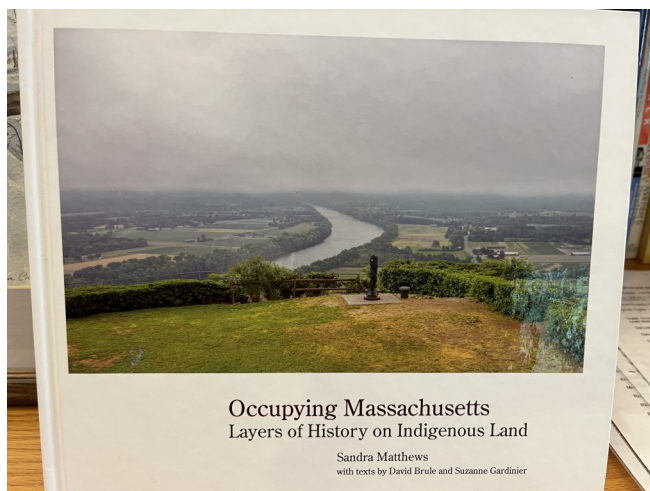
## New Books for the Library

If you aren't familiar with the UCS library, please take a few minutes to peruse the holdings. Many volumes on UU history, Social Justice, and other topics available for lending.

Here are some new additions to the library

Eva Alberts has donated two books authored by her late husband, Rev. William E. Alberts, Ph.D. "The Minister Who Could Not Be 'Preyed' Away" tells the story of Bill's ministry at Old West United Methodist Church (1965 to 1973), his subsequent forced retirement for performing the marriage of two male members of the church, and the resulting landmark lawsuit that created new case law in Massachusetts. "A Hospital Chaplain at the Crossroads of Humanity" is a compilation of short stories that cover Bill's ministry as hospital chaplain at Boston Medical Center (1992 to 2011). He became an ordained UU minister in 1984 and was minister of the Community Church of Boston. He was both a Methodist and Unitarian Universalist minister and a diplomate in the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy.

On December 1, Jan, a UU from Chattanooga, visited the church. She was in Sharon visiting her son for Thanksgiving. When friends from the UU Fellowship of Waynesboro, Virginia learned Jan would be in Massachusetts they gave her the book, "Occupying Massachusetts - Layers of History on Indigenous Land". Sylvia and Doug Woolworth suggested the book be given to a Massachusetts UU community. It is an art book documenting structures and historical sites of Massachusetts Indigenous people.





## From the Minister



Dear Ones,

This past December, our choir marked the turning of the year with “A Winter Solstice Singing Ritual,” as they have done every December for as long as Jennifer has been our Choir Director. The choir’s Solstice celebration is one of the highlights of the church year for many of us here at UCS. It is a night of music, poetry, reflection, meditation, and candlelight. One of the readings shared as part of this ritual just absolutely blows me away, every time. So I will share it here in my New Year newsletter column. This poem is by Julie Middleton, one of the authors of the Winter Solstice Singing Ritual:

***It was the longest night.  
People gathered from near and far,  
in small groups and large,  
to share their fears and grief  
and the darkness in their hearts.  
A year like no other, this was,  
Testing us beyond what we’d ever imagined.***

***Day after day, week after week,  
we found ourselves growing  
and becoming sturdy  
because there was no other choice.***

***And the Solstice fire was lit and the candles passed  
and the light of the near year’s dawning  
lifted our heavy hearts  
And brought us brightness and hope.***

I find such comfort from this poem every year. Especially this line: “a year like no other, this was, / testing us beyond what we’d ever imagined.” We never know what challenges we will face in the coming year. But we can be certain that we will encounter many new and unimagined things, some of them hard, or perhaps even very hard. Rather than feeling discouraged by this, we can draw strength from remembering that we have already made it through so much. As the poem says, “we found ourselves growing / and becoming sturdy / because there was no other choice.” We are built for the unknown. We are adaptable. We bleed and we heal, we move on and carry our scars with us as we go. Sometimes we even grow stronger for having been through the trials of yet another year like no other.

I want to reiterate an ask that I’ve announced from the pulpit and in a previous newsletter. Several dedicated volunteers have been helping our new immigrant neighbors who are staying in temporary shelter in Sharon on their search for housing. For those with no credit score it’s basically impossible to get a lease, even though these folks are employed and have steady income. So we have a big ask for this big-hearted congregation: we are looking for people who would consider co-signing a 12-month lease with these hopeful tenants who will be making their own rent payments. In this way, these renters will be able to establish credit and thus gain the ability to rent without a cosigner. Could YOU be the one to take this on? We are not asking these cosigners to pay any rent, though they would of course assume a small amount of risk in signing onto a lease. For more information, talk to Rev. Jolie and she can connect you to the volunteers who are working on this project. I feel confident that we will find some folks willing to do this! For more information, talk to me and I will connect you with the volunteers who are working on this project.

Yours in faith,  
Rev. Jolie

## From the President



So December is that time of year for looking back over the past year and assessing things. There are always those “best of...” lists. While I’m not going to go that route, I think some looking backward...and looking forward is warranted. I am struck by how different I feel about our church and our country. Optimism for our congregation and deep concern for the future of our country.

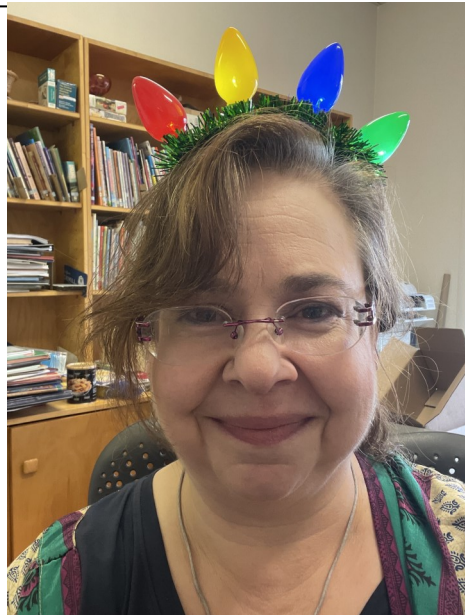
Over the past year our congregation has grown. We have new people in the choir, new kids in our RE program and new members taking very active roles in the life of church. We’re moving forward decisively on the AIM Higher project, with discussions with UUA stewardship consultant Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry scheduled for January 10-12. And despite the setback of losing Christine Bulman as our DRE, our RE community is working hard to keep the program going. The assistance of our new Acting RE coordinator, Lauren Strauss, and our to-be-hired Lead Teacher should make that easier in the new year. There is a lot to be hopeful for for our congregation in the coming year.

Meanwhile our country is reeling toward the inauguration in January, as the president-elect is already causing chaos by torpedoing a deal that would have kept the government from shutting down. There is real fear in the immigrant community about what next year will bring. Many in our congregation have been involved in various ways with assisting folks staying in town who are refugees. This has been rewarding for us and sometimes frustrating as the systems that should be providing assistance have sometimes been dysfunctional. For folks who have been through so much trauma it is maddening to see them facing so many hurdles to just finding a decent place to live and work. That work goes on and my hope is that with the election behind us the demonizing of immigrants will subside. In any case our commitment to supporting immigrants and refugees will continue as will our work on housing more generally, which is the primary focus of our Social Justice Committee for the coming year. We, as a congregation, will continue to be engaged in vital work for social justice in our community, our country and the world.

We have certainly had our ups and downs even in the short time I’ve been president, but I think that is always so. I look forward to working (and having fun) with all of you through what promises to be a challenging year to come.

Jon Slavin

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT



Dear everyone,

This is my first column for the Newsletter as your Acting Coordinator of RE, and I'm looking forward to being able to meet you all in person in the coming month or two – which is tricky since I will spend my Sunday mornings in Framingham.

Below is the Faith Development Calendar for January. Please be advised that there is a small chance we will need to adjust the Crossing Paths dates for the month. Should this be an issue I will let everyone know as soon as possible.

Who's teaching? We need you!!! Come cook with our World Blessings crew. We have four extra-yummy recipes this month.

And if cooking is not your 'thing,' there are other activities going on in Faith Development at the same time, and those need leaders as well.

Don't let everyone else have all the fun! [Sign up](#) today!

Thank you all for being awesome!

Lauren Strauss

[dre@uusharon.org](mailto:dre@uusharon.org)

774-286-9573 (call or text)

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

### January Faith Development Calendar

#### **K-5 - World Blessings: Exploring world religions through cooking**

- January 5: Freedom Soup
- January 12: Zeit and Za'atar
- January 19: Musakhan (Purple) Pizza
- January 26: Festive Stir-Fried Rice

[Lead a cooking class, it's a blast!](#)

#### **Gr. 6&7 - Crossing Paths: Exploring our neighboring faiths**

- January 5: No class
- January 12: Islam Session 1
- January 19: Trip to the Islamic Center of Boston in Roxbury
- January 26: Islam Session 3

#### **Gr. 9&10 - Coming of Age - an Independent Exploration**

- January topic: God. Pages 34 and 76 in the Journal
- Contact Caroline Dixon for questions or more info.

#### **Senior Youth Group**

- Meeting planned for January 12 at 5pm

#### **RE Committee**

- January 8 @ 7:00pm, check the calendar for zoom details
- All welcome! We are searching for new members, come check us out!

## 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. While we will continue to facilitate some of our longstanding programs and relationships, we have chosen to focus this year primarily on housing and homelessness, in all of its complexity. We plan to offer opportunities for education, advocacy, and for service/harm reduction & direct humanitarian relief.

### Brown Envelope Collections



[For November and December, our Brown Envelope donations were directed toward exploring an expansion of our relationship with UU Mass Action (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. The Social Justice Committee is a planning to commit to the Partner Congregation Program to deepen our connection with UU Mass Action.

The collection during our Christmas Eve services this year once again was given to Father Bill's & MainSpring House (helpfbms.org) in Brockton, our partners in addressing homelessness. (We continue to provide MSH with monthly bag lunches, funded by our Shopping for Justice grocery card program, to help feed individuals and families facing housing crises.)



### Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry

The January Brown Envelope collections will once again support the 6 local food pantries in our surrounding communities of Foxboro, Walpole, Norwood, Canton, Stoughton/Sharon and the First Congregational Church of Sharon's local pantry. Our gifts, delivered after the holiday season, are especially appreciated as pantry staff report that the post-holiday season is a particularly lean donation period for them, and requests for help remain at overwhelming levels. Donations will be converted into Shopping for Justice grocery story cards, which allows for an additional 5% boost to our gifts. Thank you for your support.

The Brown E donations will build on our extraordinary 5-year effort since Covid struck that focuses on support for local food insecurity, which has raised over \$73,300 to date. This is in addition to numerous bags of food staples that are donated and given to local pantries each month.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



The December donation prize!

### Food Pantry donations with a Bonus (Baked) Opportunity!

If you have been planning to make a donation to our ongoing support of 6 local food pantries, Elaine Price has resumed her challenge: be the *first* to claim her monthly offer of an exciting home baked treat, make an above-and-beyond donation to the Food Pantry Fund, and the treat is yours! Check the *UCS Social Email List* around noon on occasional Wednesdays, and once, maybe twice a month Elaine will offer a new baked item (and then arrange for pick-up or delivery). Act fast and it's yours! Thank you Elaine for inspiring us all! (Of course, donations to the Food Pantry Fund without claiming Elaine's prize are always welcome....)

### Emergency Support for inmates after a fire at MCI Norfolk

On Sunday December 1st at 2:30 PM a fire started on the top floor of unit 1-1 at MCI-Norfolk correctional facility. People were evacuated and no one was harmed. It took several fire departments about an hour to stop the fire leaving the entire unit displaced. Those 57 inmates housed on the top floor have lost all of their belongings, including clothing, shoes, legal paperwork, pictures, electronics, books etc. Individuals are confronting the cost of replacing their belongings, and the DOC is only giving each resident \$35. UU Mass Action alerted the SJC to a fundraising effort to help in this effort, and the committee voted to immediately release funds from our discretionary account (13 individuals @ \$60 each = \$780) for timely relief. We will share more information on this effort when updates are available.



### Black Earth Compost Pilot Program

Managing our food waste sustainably is a big climate friendly step we can all take. In Massachusetts, 21.6% of our trash is food waste (Mass DEP statistic). That's a lot of discarded food.

The SJC is starting a congregation composting pilot project using Black Earth Compost services this coming March - June. We'll have a large Black Earth compost bin in our parking lot for our congregation to use, free of charge. Many of you compost in some manner already. Some currently use Black Earth's services at home. Others are backyard composters, often using the resulting compost for your gardens and yards. Backyard composting usually excludes some organic material, like meat, fish, bones, and sometimes dairy, that **will now be compostable** in our pilot project. And there are some folks that currently don't compost for a variety of good reasons, including no access to a good composting area, not being sure how composting works, or thinking the whole compost thing might be yucky/stinky/slimy (it is not).

To join in our community composting project, you would simply bring your compost to the bin in the parking lot. Perhaps on Sundays, since you'll be here anyway. Or maybe on Wednesday because it's a good day to compost. Or whenever you like, morning, noon or night. Our initial thought is that we would have the Black Earth bin picked up every other Monday, twice a month. We'll see how things go. One bonus is that Black Earth Compost will return several bags of premium compost to the church each year that will enhance our flower beds and the Memorial Garden: that's a Win-Win-Win (You, UCS and especially Mother Earth)!

Over the next two months, we'll have "compost training" so you have a better sense of why you might want to compost, as well as what you can compost, and some tips on how to make it fit seamlessly into your lives. We're very excited to enhance our collective environmental game and offer this community service. Look for more information on compost sessions in January.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



The new BLM placard at the Wayside Pulpit on the corner

### SAVE THE DATE

### HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025**

**noon-1:30pm**

Please join us in honoring and celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. in an event planned by members of the Social Justice Committee and former ARWG members. While still in the planning stages, we intend to include:

- A Presentation by Bryan Trabold, a UCS congregant and a professor at Suffolk University, who has generously offered to share his knowledge with us on racism and the message of *Black Lives Matter*.
- A Recommitment Ceremony – recommitting ourselves to the work of anti-racism and anti-oppression, in fulfillment of our value of Justice, which is explicitly stated as one of our UU values in our new By-Laws.
- A Potluck Luncheon, which will offer us time both to socialize, and to share our reflections on Bryan's presentation.

We also intend to provide Childcare and activities for the younger children during the presentation and ceremony, while the older youth are invited to join us as well. Of course, ALL are invited to join us for lunch.

**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 Sunday, 19 January, during the second service upstairs, the team will assemble the meals on our behalf in the Vestry. If there is still work needed to finish the project, give a hand during Coffee Hour. 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**. Coffee will go up to \$12/bag (\$13 for Decaf), chocolate bars \$5 each, 3 for \$14, mini chocolates 50 cents each, 3/\$1, and cocoa powder to \$9/tin. 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.

### Gifts for Kids – another successful year!

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2024 Gifts for Kids Program. Either through direct gift shopping for a specific child, or by donations which allowed for gifts and gift cards to be purchased on their behalf, over 1300 children and youth in our region had happier holidays thanks in part to your efforts. An extra shout out to the many volunteers of all ages (shoppers, collection site Sherpa's, GFK board members, etc.) who helped to make things run smoothly. The GFK Program was founded over 30 years ago by our own Pat McDougal to provide gifts for children in need during the holidays, as identified by social service agencies in the 14 surrounding towns, including Sharon.