

# The Chalice

Published by the  
Unitarian Church of Sharon  
**A Welcoming Congregation  
of the Unitarian  
Universalist Association**  
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## Inside this issue

<a href="#">From the Minister</a>	8
<a href="#">From the President</a>	9
<a href="#">Faith Development</a>	10
<a href="#">Social Justice</a>	12

### MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

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

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

## March 2

### **10:00 AM Family Worship: Generosity**

It's pledge drive season here at UCS. What does that mean? How does our UU value of Generosity feed our hearts, minds, and spirits?

### **10:30 AM Worship: Give Together, Grow Together**

It's time to kick off our annual pledge drive! What is the spiritual meaning of stewardship? Why do we give our time, talents, and treasure to a UU church? Because when we give together, we grow together. Rev. Jolie preaching.

## March 9

### **10:00 AM Family Worship: Transformation**

Change is a part of life. Even our beliefs can change as we grow and have new experiences. Today we will reflect on why UU's lift up Transformation as one of our values.

### **10:30 AM Worship: Credo Service**

We are carrying on with a beloved annual UCS tradition today. It's our Credo Service, when members are invited to share about their beliefs and the journeys of their hearts and minds from our pulpit. Kate Barber and Jeff Tucker will share their credos today, and Rev. Jolie will share a reflection about why the Credo Service is an important part of practicing our UU faith.

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## March 16

### 10:00 AM Family Worship: Justice

There are lots of ways to fight for a better world. Today we will think about art as resistance as we reflect on our UU value of Justice together.

### 10:30 AM Worship: Poetry is Not a Luxury

The title of today's service is from the writer and revolutionary thinker, Audre Lorde (1934-1992). We will explore this premise, that poetry - and other forms of artistic expression - are not mere frills but rather touch the beating heart of our existence. Rev. Jolie preaching.

## March 23

### 10:00 AM Family Worship: Interdependence

In celebration of the Spring Equinox, we will think about our UU value of Interdependence. Is there a way we could experience what an interdependent web really feels like?

### 10:30 Worship: Guest Speaker from Father Bills/ Mainspring House

Our Social Justice Committee is focusing on Housing Justice, delving deep into the topic of homelessness and affordable housing. This Sunday, we will welcome a guest speaker from the staff of FBMH to help us reflect further on this important topic as a congregation. Rev. Jolie is off today.

## March 30

### 10:30 Intergenerational: Music Sunday

Rev. Jolie and our Adult Choir Director, Jennifer Spencer, are collaborating on our worship service today. We will sing, sing, sing! We will sing some old favorites as well as some less familiar selections from our hymnal. Rev. Jolie will also speak on how music gives us spiritual strength to build the world we dream about.

## CHURCH NEWS

### Art Wall

New art to share would be welcomed. I'm working on some portraits. Anyone else?

### Tai Chi

The class continues indoors at 9:00 am. Last time we had eight participants and it was an engaging class with new material. Moving breath and bodies. concentrated mind. 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.

### Compost Training

Our pilot compost program begins March 1. Our big green bin has arrived and is preparing to be filled! This program is for congregants as well as for UCS event use. Black Earth, our new composting service, requests that all users be trained on composting (so as not to contaminate the batch) before being given access to the bin. Please plan to attend one of the following training sessions if you would like to use the composting service:

If you were unable to attend the training sessions, please contact Kathy Farrell (contact info in Breeze) for a quick one - on -one session, or for questions.

### There's Something About Mary (not the movie) with Rev. Jolie

Tuesdays, March 4, and March 11 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Program A/B

Want to talk about Mary, mother of Jesus? In this three-part class and discussion series, we will reflect on what we can learn from the divine mother figure – from a queer theological perspective, a de-colonial theological perspective, and from our own interpretations of Christian and Muslim scriptural texts. Have you never thought about Mary before? Are you humanistic / non-theistic? Never fear – this group is still for you! Rev. Jolie leading this class. Minimum group size 5, maximum group size 12. Email [minister@uusharon.org](mailto:minister@uusharon.org) to RSVP.

### Special Event - "Playshop" Theater/Movement Workshop

March 9 2 - 3:30 PM, UCS Vestry

Macushla Roulleau, a dear friend of UCS, spouse of Christian and mother of Miranda, and our former nursery teacher, is offering a "Playshop" workshop in our space. The cost is \$35 per person. In this workshop you'll play games and try exercises from the traditions of dance therapy, movement therapy, improv theater, and clowning. Join us to reconnect to your inner child, reinvigorate your enthusiasm for life, and remember how to play! (18+) Please email [christiana.cefalu@gmail.com](mailto:christiana.cefalu@gmail.com) to sign up.

## **CHURCH NEWS, continued**

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

**Every second Friday of the month from 7 to 9 pm** in Program A/B, 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. Oh, and just a heads up - we do sometimes need to reschedule, so be sure to check the Church Calendar.

### **Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee seeks poets and readers for our upcoming Poetry service on April 27th. Please contact Ellen: ebordman@pm.me

Our next meeting is March 16 at 12:15pm.

- Ellen Bordman, chair

### **First Friday Fellowship Potluck**

Fellowship invites you to join us for a special treat and potluck on Friday, March 7th, 6pm! We will celebrate all things "green" as we listen to Celtic tunes provided by Jeff Tucker and friends! Hope to see you there!

The 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.***



### **Memory Tea**

April 13, 2025, 12:30 PM  
UCS Library

All are welcome to gather and share memories of our loved ones who have died. Bring a photo or other mementos if you wish. Enjoy finger foods and the comfort of this community. Hosted by Rev. Jolie and the UCS Caring Committee.

## CHURCH NEWS, continued



### Not Just Another Coffeehouse

Halley Neal

Saturday March 22, 2025

Doors open at 6:30 and concert starts at 7:00.

Suggested donation \$20

<https://halleyneal.com/home>



### The Sharon Historical Society Exhibit

The Sharon Historical Society is creating an exhibit and set of events called "Many Families, Many Stories" during the month of May to document and celebrate the diversity of families and their traditions in Sharon. We're hoping that many folks from UCS will participate. To be a part of the exhibit, we're asking that you either loan an object that says something about your family, along with a brief description of its meaning, or submit an 8x10 photograph of a traditional family activity or object, again with a brief description. (For instance, I'm thinking of a photo of my daughter, grandsons and me hand-cranking my grandmother's old bread mixer to make Swedish Christmas buns, and maybe even lending the mixer itself.) **We'd like to have submissions by March 31st** to give us time to assemble the exhibit, which is being curated by local historian and educator Claire Forman. To be a part of it, or to find out more, you can email Claire at [programs@sharonhistorical.org](mailto:programs@sharonhistorical.org), or you can discuss your idea with me if you'd like.

We have so many interesting families that I think our participation will really enrich the exhibit.

Thanks!

Beth McGregor

## **CHURCH NEWS, continued**

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



Our Small Group Ministry gatherings continue, as we devote time to reflecting on, and exploring, the current UU Values now included in Our UUA bylaws: Generosity, Justice, Interdependence, Equity, Transformation, and Pluralism, all centered around Love. You can find an image of these values in the vestry - the flower graphic near the kitchen.

While we had planned to spend 1 month on each value, we have been finding our discussions to be deep and rich and often lending themselves to more than one session. This was the case with the value of INTERDEPENDENCE, so while last month – February - we explored the value of interdependence as it relates to Nature/Mother Earth, THIS MONTH – MARCH – we will be exploring interdependence as it relates to relationships among Human Beings.

### **Article II: INTERDEPENDENCE**

We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.

We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

### **MARCH DATES: INTERDEPENDENCE - AMONG HUMAN BEINGS**

Saturday, March 1st from 10:15-11:45 AM. Nursery

Facilitated by Barbara Nelkin-Rose and Alison Reid

\*Please note: **the Saturday group is currently closed**, but we hope to open it up again to a few additional participants next month.

Tuesday, March 18th from 7:00-8:30 PM.

Facilitated by Sarah Langmead and Lauren Grasso

### ***Important Notes:***

The Tuesday evening meetings will now meet the 3RD Tuesday of the month

The Tuesday evening meeting will now take place on ZOOM; the link will be provided in the UCS calendar.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Sarah or Lauren

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

### **AIM Higher**

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

The weekend of January 10-12 was an opportunity for everyone to learn more about our congregation and our ability to accomplish the ambitious project of restoring our historic meetinghouse. The Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Rosebury's assessment—Yes we can!

Rev. Lydia prepared for the weekend by absorbing information from all our committees about our finances, membership, governance, religious education programs, stewardship and much more, including the results of the survey of our membership, which many of you completed. The weekend offered her the opportunity to meet with the Board and individual committee members, as well as two general meetings which any member of our congregation could attend.

During the Sunday service, Rev. Lydia's topic was "Generosity Outshines Fear," when she assured us of our strength as a sharing community, with a trust in each other to accomplish our goals. She said that a capital campaign can enable us to "build for the future we will become." She emphasized the power of working together and the traditions that support our historic building.

The service was followed by lunch and a summation of Rev. Lydia's conclusions. We are a congregation of 161 members, with 75 pledging households. She encouraged the stewardship's annual campaign to have in-person meetings and encourage more households to move up in the UUA's giving categories. Certainly, during the capital campaign, every household will be visited. She also noted some challenges, especially including our deficit budgets, which require the congregation to appropriate funds from our investments.

But the overall assessment was resoundingly positive, and the message was that we can certainly accomplish our restoration goals. In the coming months, we will hold a committee retreat to focus our efforts, and we will select an architectural firm to assess the building's needs. We will begin planning the renovations that will honor our historic building and ensure the meetinghouse can meet the needs of generations to come.

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

## From the Minister



Dear Ones,

It's that time again - Stewardship Season! Every year in March, the Unitarian Church of Sharon embarks on a grand adventure together, once again committing our hard-earned money towards supporting another year of congregational life. Our annual operating budget is almost entirely funded by us, the members and friends of this community. And so our Stewardship Committee sends out letters and emails to everyone, asking for your pledge. People get up to the pulpit to talk about why they give generously to UCS. And each year I try to create a meaningful worship experience out of the topic, including by delivering the message that I fondly call, "The Sermon on the Amount," which joke I refuse to ever stop making, even though it is way beyond stale at this point.

For those who are new to the process, or who perhaps lost track of the details, here's how it works. Each spring, we start asking everyone how much we can pledge for the following year. (Our "years" run from July 1 to June 30 around here.) We have to pass a budget by a vote of our members at our Annual Meeting in June. In order for our Finance Committee to be able to put together a budget for the members to vote on at that meeting, we need to know roughly how much income we can expect. Hence - we get cracking on the pledge drive around now. The vast majority of our expenses go towards staff salaries. And - as I already said - the vast majority of our income comes from pledge contributions. So basically, this place runs on people, which is to say, it runs on connections, relationships, and love. I'm honored to be a part of this holy equation.

I also wanted to talk about the upcoming closure of the state-supported shelter where our immigrant neighbors have been staying in town. The final date is fast approaching (4/30), but I am hearing about people being required to leave sooner than that, too. Several volunteers from our congregation have been working hard to help these folks find housing. We have had UCS members step up to co-sign leases. And more people have started to come forward to offer what they can. If you think you might be able to be a cosigner or if you have space to take a family in - perhaps you have a unit to rent or even temporary space in your home while the permanent housing search continues - please be in touch with me. And thank you.

Yours in faith,  
Rev. Jolie



## From the President



The ongoing and evolving crisis of our federal government is weighing on my mind, as I'm sure it is for many in our congregation. I thought of it somewhat differently after hearing a podcast that focused on how we can feel overwhelmed and paralyzed when facing big problems. The podcast centered on climate change, but the problem has broader implications.

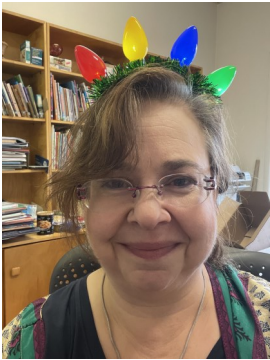
One topic that was brought up was the problem of hopelessness. The person being interviewed was a professor of environmental science. She had asked her students to imagine the world, ten years from now, if all they hoped for came true. But the students weren't able to do it. All of their visions of the future were dystopic. I have noticed the prevalence of dystopian fiction over the past couple decades, though of course it has existed far longer than that. However, it used to be that utopian visions were also fairly prevalent as well. Star Trek comes to mind. Also certain works by Ursula K. LeGuin. Maybe utopian visions are not what we need, but I feel like some idea of what a brighter future might look like is necessary. We need to be working for something and not just against our downward spiral.

The vision of the Beloved Community is one that religious leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., have held up. It's one of mutual care. Joyful interdependence and unity even with all our differences. The podcast discussion concluded that seeing oneself as part of a collective effort was key to overcoming burnout and guilt for not doing enough. I see it as also building the future we want. That is, our community is not just the means, it's the end as well. And for what we're facing now, our community must extend well beyond our church's walls. My hope is that all people who share our values, particularly in pluralism, justice and generosity, can come together in this moment. If we do then we will be taking steps toward a brighter future.

P.S. On the subject of maintaining our church community, we are planning on a Silent Auction. That looks to be a really fun event that we hope will raise some significant funds for the church. Keep a lookout for announcements about how you can get involved.

Jon Slavin

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT



Dear friends,

I know in some ways it feels like a long time ago, now, but in truth, we're still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from the obvious – that COVID infections continue to rise in the winter months, and that this time COVID has brought its friends to the party – we're starting to see ways that faith development has been impacted.

After we were physically apart for nearly two years, our kids, for whom 2 years is a significant percentage of their time on earth, got out of practice being together in space. My experience in the time since is that a lot of the trauma-informed practice of religious education has been giving kids space to re-learn those skills. I personally spent a lot of time reviewing covenants, negotiating behavior between kids, loving out loud *a lot, just reminding our kids that they are cherished and valued for who they are.*

That was enormously important, honestly, and I'm glad we did it. Schools don't have the luxury of taking time away from curriculum to just rebuild people skills, but we do. Being people together might be our highest calling as Unitarian Universalists. The curricula we're using at UCS are easily adaptable to teach those people skills. Crossing Paths is all about how we interact with and appreciate folks with other faith traditions. And even if our World Blessings class never talked about other cultures and other faith traditions – which it does – cooking and sharing meals together is one of the most basic ways we coexist as human beings. Even if all that happened was the food part, it's still faith development.

Now though, we've begun to realize we have the capacity for more. So although the curriculum will stay the same, we're going to be adding a Unitarian Universalist lens to all the curriculum materials. Right now we're in the process of looking at our cooking projects, in particular, in terms of the new UU Values as set forth in Article II. This was a request from our RE Committee, and one I believe is important to our children's and youth's development as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings. Generosity, Interdependence, Pluralism, Transformation, Justice, and Equity, centered in Love, are all values we can apply to any part of our spiritual life, and for right now, we'll be using them as the thread that links the family service, the worship service, and religious education offerings. As we explore these Values, I hope that not only our children, but everyone who enters our doors, will begin to deeply connect to UU spiritual practices that help us navigate a difficult world in a way that feels authentic and loving to us.

In March, the World Blessings K-5 class will be diving deep into Generosity, Transformation, Justice, and Interdependence in four family services, and in their cooking classes. They have already begun a poster art project to help bring the six Values – and LOVE – to life in their RE space.

The Crossing Paths class will be exploring Buddhism and then Hinduism in March and April.

In faith,

Lauren Strauss

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

774-286-9573 (call or text)

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

### Junior Youth Group

Fun was had by all at our recent Cedar Hill Retreat for middle school in February! Everyone pitched in with cooking and cleaning, we had a small group ministry worship, played outside, and visited the beach (despite the cold!).



### Senior Youth Group

Games & Tacos Night with Framingham Youth!

Meeting at First Parish Framingham March 9th @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

We will meet at UCS at 3pm to head over! Everyone bring your favorite games and taco toppings!

Parents: please fill out this permission form in Breeze [here](#)



### **Meeting at UCS March 23rd @ 5:00pm - 6:30pm**

Youth Group meetings at the Unitarian Church of Sharon are for high school students in grades 9-12. The meetings offer opportunities for deeper connection with one another and a time for relieving stress and having fun. We strive for a youth-led program with meetings, activities, and outings planned by youth and supported by staff and volunteers.



We will typically meet two Sundays per month 5:00 -6:30pm, pizza dinner provided - donations accepted. If you have dietary needs please contact Caroline Dixon at [yc@uusharon.org](mailto:yc@uusharon.org)

### City Reach Clothing Drive

A group of high school age youth at UCS will be heading to City Reach in just a few weeks! As part of this wonderful service project, we are asking for you all to go through your closets for any donation items you are able to give.



Please keep in mind that this clothing is going to unhoused people in Boston. Keep the season in mind as well as imagining what you would need... What would you wear camping or hiking? What are you willing to carry for weeks at a time? A comfortable, rugged shirt is more important than a delicate blouse. Large sizes (XL, XXL, and XXXL and bigger!) are in high demand, as they can be layered. In addition, new white socks, underwear, and any new (or gently used) bras are greatly appreciated. Also any extra sleeping bags, blankets, small wheeled suitcases, or backpacks are always greatly appreciated.

A donation box can be found in the vestry.

If you have questions please contact Caroline Dixon at [yc@uusharon.org](mailto:yc@uusharon.org)

## 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.

*email page for occasional offers of fabulous baked goods and other cooked delights from the kitchen of our own Elaine Price, who runs a “first-come, first-get” opportunity to taste something tasty in exchange for your donation to the ongoing Food Pantry project. Thank you Elaine for this recurring scrumptious offer!*



### Brown Envelope Collections

The January Brown Envelope collections raised \$2,646 to support the **6 local food pantries** in our surrounding commu-

nities of Foxboro, Walpole, Norwood, Canton, Stoughton/Sharon and the First Congregational Church of Sharon’s local pantry. Combined with recent ongoing donations (over \$77,000 since the onset of Covid) of \$1,354, the combined Food Pantry donations in January came to \$4000.

The February Brown Envelope donations will support **Right to the City** ([righttothecity.org](http://righttothecity.org)), a multi-issue alliance of grassroots organizations representing working-class communities and communities of color across the country. Their collective work is focused on fighting the displacement crisis.



A recent scone-arific treat!

*Bonus Round: keep an eye on the UCS social*



### Father Bill's & MainSpring

NOBODY SHOULD BE HOMELESS

March Brown Envelope donations will support the programs of **Father Bill's & MainSpring**, whose mission is to end and prevent homelessness in Southern Massachusetts with programs that provide emergency and permanent housing and help people obtain skills, jobs, housing, and services. They help people who are struggling with homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness, achieve self-sufficiency.



Our new collaboration with **UU Mass Action** has begun!

Thanks to your generous Brown E contributions last November and

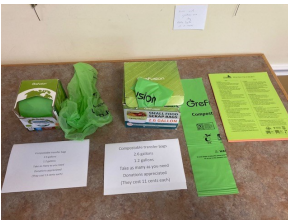
December, and with the blessing of the Board of Trustees, the SJC has initiated our status as a **Congregational Partner with UU Mass Action** ([uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)). In the coming weeks and months look for new opportunities to engage in the collective work of UUs from across the state in the areas of Indigenous Justice, Climate & Environmental Justice, Immigrant Justice, Housing Justice and Decarceration & ending Solitary Confinement. Visit [uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org) to learn more, and sign up for their newsletter to get all the latest news and action items.

Continued on next page)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

First up is **Advocacy Day on Beacon Hill**, Tuesday, 8 April 10am-4:30pm (all online). At this annual event, we come together as UUs from across the state to build power for our movements. Participants will meet with legislators about our key areas of legislative concern. This will be a critical moment to show up together as UUs, grounded in our faith, to let our legislators know which bills - out of the thousands that are filed - we care the most about. In these times of onslaught of Executive Orders and cruel policies on the national level, let us call on our state leaders to take bold action to protect our communities.

### WE COMPOST” - Black Earth Compost Program is here!



Our new congregation wide composting program has begun, and we can all commence to contribute our household compostable waste to a shared Black Earth collection bin in the church parking lot. Once trained in the does and don'ts of composting, you will get the combination to the lock on the bin, and the magic begins. And of course, much of our waste stream at church will now find its way into the bin as well, resulting in a healthier, greener world for us all to enjoy.

Transfer bags that decompose are available at the Fair Trade table at Coffee Hour – free, or make a donation to help us purchase them in bulk.

Questions? Comments/suggestions? Feel free to contact any SJC member or project point person Kathy Farrell (781-201-0799 or [kfarrell-dfail@comcast.net](mailto:kfarrell-dfail@comcast.net)). Pitching in together (literally!), we can make this a great success!

### Supplies are needed to help rehouse local immigrant families

The effort to find permanent housing for the immigrant families relocating in our area is working on settling individual families as housing is being found, and there is a need to help set up new homes with the basics. A wide range of items can be donated in the Vestry at UCS, and we will see that they are transferred to the team matching housing with families. Limited furniture and help on moving days are also needed – please visit [this page](#) to learn about the current list of items being accepted. Please note, the dates of this collection have changed somewhat so that we can clear stuff out of the Vestry for other uses in the middle of March.

We will be accepting items on March 2, March 23, March 30, and April 6. Stay tuned for future dates and check the website for the most up-to-date details.

Thank you for your support.

29<sup>th</sup> Annual **Mother's Day Walk for Peace** 2025 – save the date – 11 May 2025

Once again UCS members will be walking in Boston to support the **Louise D. Brown Peace Institute's** largest fundraising event to grown and sustain their services, advocacy and training. Visit their site [mothersdaywalk4peace.org](http://mothersdaywalk4peace.org) to learn more and register in advance.