



Vista

Volume 18 | Issue 1 **September 2016** Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough

Worship Schedule For September | Sunday 10:30 AM

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4

Rev. Bev Waring

Inspirational Reading Jam

Join Rev. Bev in the Chapel for a time of sharing your favorite reading, quote, or poem. Let's end the summer and prepare for the upcoming church year with a time of sharing what uplifts your spirits and helps you find hope in our sometimes troubled times. All readings and poems welcomed. Whether they are funny or profound, self-written or a well-known classics, we want to hear your choice. Nothing comes to mind? That is ok, come anyways and hear from fellow parishioners, you never know how someone's words may spark your own discovery. All ages welcome to attend and participate in this spontaneously created time of inspiration.

No RE program – inter-generational service

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11

Rev. Bev Waring preaching

Ingathering Service with Water Ritual

Join Rev. Bev, Jenna (Director of Religious Education) and Abby (Director of Music) for our multi-generational ingathering service including a water gathering ritual. You are invited to bring a small amount of water to mingle in a common bowl. This water, real or symbolic should represent a place or time that is meaningful to you. This ritual is intended as a reminder of the importance of water in our lives and how its scarcity or abundance can impact both us and our planet. This service will also include an uplifting story connected to the events of September 11, 2001.

Sanctuary Start for RE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18

Rev. Bev Waring preaching

Dare to Hope

Rev. Victoria Safford writes, "Our mission is to plant ourselves at the gates of hope." True hope is not wishful thinking but rather courageous affirmation. It involves risk but where better to dare to hope than within a Unitarian Universalist congregation? Come Sunday and explore these ideas and their practical meaning for UUCSW in these somewhat turbulent times.

Sanctuary Start for RE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25

Program Sunday

Why Race - Why Now?

Linda Cavaioli, Executive Director of the YWCA of Central Massachusetts will be our guest speaker. The mission of the YWCA is eliminating racism and empowering women. The YWCA seeks to go beyond changing hearts and minds to transforming communities, systems, and public policy through the programs and services that it offers. Each year, 76 percent of women and children served by the YWCAs nationally have incomes below the federal poverty level or less.

At our June Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to declare the Church Year 2016-2017 "A Year of Social Justice Action", focusing some of our services and programs on topics relevant to this theme. This service will hopefully be part of a series of three or four Program Sunday services this year.

Sanctuary Start for RE

Briefly with Bev

Another year is upon us! Welcome, welcome back! I hope your summer was restful, productive, fun, safe, and all that you hoped it would be.

A few months ago, I started a daily practice of reading a meditation from Open Mind: Women's Daily Inspiration for Becoming Mindful by Diane Mariechild. As I sat to write this column the reading for the day said,

*"You need companions to travel
To the Isle of the Immortals –
It is hard to climb
The azure cliffs alone.
If you take dead stillness for refinement,
The weak water brimming
Will lack a convenient boat."*

The author is asserting that we need spiritual companions whatever path we are following – even if it is not to the Isle of Immortals – the legendary abode of the Taoist adepts. At times, we humans fool ourselves and we can become lost in our individual delusions of the ego. Often it is our spiritual community that challenges and supports us when our egos trick us in this way.

One such illusion, according to the author, is "mistaking dead stillness for realization." In this stagnant stage we may appear peaceful but instead are in a state of denial. True stillness is a peaceful state that is also vibrant, receptive, and alive. In Taoist philosophy "weak waters" refers to not being able to hold any weight. So, if we are weighed down by blocked energy, by attachments, by fear, then we are not light enough to cross the water.

The author concludes that the next time your ego bumps up against another you should take a deep breath. Then, instead of immediately speaking or acting, you are asked to reflect on what inside you is causing this conflict.

This is a lesson that many of us need learn over and over again. It is common for our egos to bump into another's because we are tired, or worn down by current circumstances. Too often we accept the status quo, convincing ourselves this is the peace we seek.

So, as we journey into our second year together, I ask this of you. Challenge one another. Support one another. Examine your stillnesses and determine if they are part of a stagnant state of denial or a truly receptive, vibrant state of openness and growth. Together we can cross the water and travel to our version of the Isle of Immortals.

*In Faith,
Rev. Bev Waring*

Children and Youth Religious Education Program

Class Groupings and Curricula for 2016-2017

Preschool through Second Grade: "Spirit Play"

Using key elements from Montessori education, the Spirit Play program creates a spiritual community of children and presents the core stories of our Unitarian Universalist faith in ways that support multiple learning styles. In this program, children are encouraged to make meaning through wondering, art, and play.

Third and Fourth Grade: "Faithful Journeys"

What does it mean to live and act as a Unitarian Universalist? What kinds of life choices can our faith help us to make each day? This program, structured around the Unitarian Universalist Principles, guides participants on a journey to discover the many different ways we can act faithfully in our own lives.

Fifth and Sixth Grade: "Harry and UU"

This social action program, based on the Harry Potter series of books by J.K. Rowling, encourages participants to harness their powers of good (and employ some fun wizarding magic!) to fight real world Horcruxes such as poverty, illiteracy, and hunger, through social action projects.

Seventh and Eighth Grade: "Heeding the Call"

Heeding the Call is a social justice curriculum that explores oppressions that marginalize some members of our society, and encourages participants to develop into leaders in acting for social justice. Each themed workshop in this program includes stories, discussion, games, and role-play that provide participants with tools and knowledge they use to work together on a program-long social justice project.

Teaching Team Meeting

Teaching team members for grades PreK through eight will be meeting at 9 am on September 11th. At this meeting, schedules will be determined and CORI forms and Code of Ethics forms will be filled out. (Please bring your calendar and driver's license.) The curriculum and teaching guide will be handed out and tips and strategies will be discussed.

Religious Education Program Open House

The Religious Education Committee (REC) will be hosting the annual Open House for the RE Program on Sunday, September 18th beginning at 9:30 am. The DRE and members of the REC will be available to answer questions about the program and give tours of the classes. The Open House is a chance for anyone to learn more about the RE program here at UUCSW, including goals, structure, and curricula. If you know of anyone who is curious about our congregation or RE program, then this would be the perfect day for those families to join us.

UUCSW Nursery

We are happy to announce that we will be offering nursery care for children ages 0-3 years during worship services this year! If you have ideas, suggestions, or an interest in volunteering in the nursery, please email Jenna Kyes, Director of Religious Education, at jennawrean@gmail.com. Thank you!

Sunday Morning Programming for September:

September 11th - This is opening Sunday, and all ages will worship together in the sanctuary for a multigenerational service. Please be sure to register your child/youth and pick up your 2016- 2017 Program Handbook.

September 18th - This is a sanctuary start. Teacher Dedication and RE Open House.

- Preschool-Second Grade: Orientation. Parents and children will be introduced to the Spirit Play program and learn the Gandhi Peace Greeting and the Spirit Play chalice lighting song.
- Third and Fourth Grade: The Journey Begins (part 1). The children will be introduced to the Faithful Journeys program, create their class covenant, and begin thinking about their path for the year.
- Fifth and Sixth Grade: Opening Ceremony. The children will be introduced to the Harry and UU curriculum, work together to create their class rules and their magic wands, and learn about the seven Horcruxes they will be working to fight over the course of the year.
- Seventh and Eighth Grade: The Call for Awareness (part 1). The students will explore the concepts of awareness and justice, and they will be introduced to the Justicemakers Guide.

September 25th - This is a sanctuary start.

- Preschool-Second Grade: Flaming Chalice Basic Lesson. The children will learn about the flaming chalice, explore its meaning, and discuss the promises we make to each other in our Unitarian Universalist community.
- Third and Fourth Grade: The Journey Begins (part 2). The children will think about the seven principles and begin their story path with three stories of faithful action.
- Fifth and Sixth Grade: The Illiteracy Horcrux. The children will work together to plan and promote a book drive in order to fight the Illiteracy Horcrux.
- Seventh and Eighth Grade: The Call for Awareness (part 2). The students will continue to explore the concepts of awareness and justice, and discuss the results of their Faith in Action Activist Interviews.

Youth Group News September 2016

The meeting schedule for September: September 18th at noon- Pizza will be served

From the Board of Trustees

Welcome. Welcome to the 2016-2017 church year. We've very excited about this new season as we welcome our new director of Religious Education, Jenna Kyes and as our Social Justice Committee kicks off its Standing on the Side of Love campaign. Who are "we?" The members of the Board of Trustees: Sharon Barrett, co-chair; Meredith O'Brien, co-chair; Diana Beck; John Metzger and Lisa Shumway.

Council of Chairs. Every church year, the Board of Trustees runs an autumn meeting comprised of the committee chairs, committee members, and any parishioners who wish to participate. This is a chance to bounce ideas, questions, and issues off of one another. For this fall's gathering, we would love for folks to think about ways we can grow our congregation and spread the word about our good works. It is tentatively slated for Wednesday, October 26 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

Announcements. Do you have something you'd like the congregation to know about? Email our administrator, Tracy Loban, (uucswestboro@verizon.net) at noon on the Wednesday before the Sunday service so she can insert the information into our Order of Service. If you don't send your material to Tracy in time, you may jot down the details of your announcement on the blue sheet on the counter in the office (next to the elevator) and a board member will mention it during the announcements at the beginning of the service.

Twitter. We are relaunching our Twitter account, @UJWestborough. If you are on Twitter, please follow us. Also, if there's something someone is doing within the congregation that might be Twitter-worthy, send Meredith O'Brien an email, mereditheobrien@gmail.com.

Board Meetings. We generally meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the office adjacent to the Chapel, although there are exceptions. Meetings are open to anyone in the congregation. If you have something you wish to discuss with the board, contact Sharon or Meredith before the meeting. The meetings are tentatively slated for the following dates: Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1, April 5, May 3 and June 7.

Reach out. If you have concerns, comments or questions feel free to reach out to any one of the board members:

Sharon Barrett, sharonkeyesbarrett@gmail.com

Lisa Shumway, lss0907@gmail.com

Meredith O'Brien, mereditheobrien@gmail.com

John Metzger, jkmetzger2@gmail.com

Diana Beck, sandbeck4@verizon.net

Habitat for Humanity - October 15th

We are committed to sending a team to the Habitat for Humanity build in Auburn, MA on Saturday October 15, 2016. As the date comes closer, we will have more information regarding what tasks we will be working on.



Whether you originally expressed interest or not, your participation is welcomed. Please mark your calendars and let Ed Walsh at walshnboro@gmail.com or Rev. Bev RevBevw@gmail.com know if you are planning on joining us.

UUS AT LUNCH - Wednesday, September 14th

After taking a break in August, we will gather once again to enjoy lunch together. We will meet on Wednesday, September 14, at 11:30 at the Post Office Pub in North Grafton - hope to see many of you there!

Driving, follow Rte. 30 from the church due west until you arrive at the traffic light in North Grafton where Rte. 140 joins Rte. 30. Turn left onto Rte. 140 and one block farther, turn left again and find a place in the parking lot.

Please contact Mary Tribe (508) 329-1646, or e-mail: marytribe5@gmail.com by Saturday, September 10, to let us know whether or not you will be able to join us, so we can make our reservations. Thanks.

Hats Off!

The Program Committee would like to thank all of the people who came forward to lead a Summer Service. Six services were held starting with starting Sunday, June 19th and concluding on Sunday, July 31st.

Many thanks to:

- Andrea Burdick
- Jim Kirk
- Phyllis Barrett Samara
- Kathie Metzger
- Marvin Davis
- Phyllis Jaffe.



The services were quite well attended. Some of our fellow UUs from the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Northborough attended the services. It was enjoyable to meet and talk with them.

Personnel Working Group

Most of us think of our church as a place for spiritual growth and fellowship, but we are also an employer. Our Minister, Director of Religious Education, Music Director, and Office Administrator are all paid staff. As an employer, we have a responsibility to ensure compliance with all federal and state laws regarding payroll taxes, workers' compensation insurance, fair labor standards, safe working conditions, etc.

As part of the UUA's Principles of Fair Compensation, congregations are called to have written personnel policies and a "committee responsible for the administration of these guidelines and other personnel issues." Many UU churches have Personnel Committees whose responsibilities include developing a Personnel Handbook, supervising the hiring process, coordinating annual performance evaluations, and making recommendations to the Board regarding compensation and benefits.

The Board would like to move forward with bringing together individuals from our congregation who have an interest in being part of this important working group. If you would like to contribute in this way, please contact Sharon Barrett (sharonkeyesbarrett@gmail.com) or Meredith O'Brien (mereditheobrien@gmail.com).

Membership Committee

Greeter/Usher Board

The Membership Committee is meeting to work on the Greeter/ Usher tasks for the 2016-2017 church calendar year. We hope we will continue to get the support of our Members and Friends for this important assignment. The Membership Committee will be covering the month of September to give people time to check the board and swap with others if necessary.

Simple rules:

- Make sure you check with the person before swapping his/her name.
- When you take your sticky with your name; write your name in on the board so the Membership Committee person covering that month can see who is planned for that Sunday.

Membership Committee meetings

The monthly Membership Committee meetings will continue to be held in the church parlor at 7:15 pm. The meeting day is TBD at this time. Update will be in the weekly update e-mail.

Social Justice

PUT it on your calendar!

Sunday September 11 – noon, Social Justice Meeting. Downstairs meeting room.

With the vote to support SOTSOL, the congregation agreed to be involved in Social Justice issues this year. It's the job of the Social Justice Committee to facilitate that involvement. We will all bring our own agendas of course, but one goal we can have is to devise a series of small bite-sized tasks that members can accomplish. Please bring your thoughts on how we can make that happen. With questions, please contact Jerry at Jerry@Breecher.com.

Book Group Starts in October

No Book Group this month. It will start again in October.

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10:30 AM: Worship Service						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 AM: Worship Service						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 AM: Worship Service Noon – Social Justice			11:30 AM: UU's at Lunch			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 AM: Worship Service Noon – Youth Group						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:30 AM: Worship Service						

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF
WESTBOROUGH**

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**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATIONAL
SOCIETY OF WESTBOROUGH**

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Minister EmeritaThe Reverend Cindy Frado
DRE..... Jenna Kyes
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Music Director.....Abby Gower

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Assistant CollectorMary Tribe
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ModeratorMichelle Hirsch
HistorianStacy Spies
Vista Andy Koenigsberg

**THIRD SUNDAY DUE DATES
FOR VISTA NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Announcements, suggestions, or questions?

The VISTA is published monthly and submissions are welcome. Please email submissions to:

uucswestboro@verizon.net.

Please put "VISTA" in the subject line.

**October Vista articles due by
Sunday, September 18th.**

**For updates visit
uucsw.org**

