



Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough

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WEEKLY UPDATE

11/30/2017

UPCOMING UUCSW SERVICES

SUNDAY December 3rd - 10:30 AM

HOPE IN LIGHT AND DARK, Rev. Bev Waring, Officiating

This time of year the message appears clear and simple. We display lights, kindle fires, do everything we can to combat the darkness of the season. These lights are symbols of hope, of returning light and life after the dark, coldness of winter. Yet, this dualism seems fraught with tension. It perpetuates the simple definitions of good and bad – light equals good or righteous, dark equals bad or evil. Come Sunday and explore how hope is found in both the dark and the light.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Religious education classes will meet this Sunday, December 3rd. Students will begin the worship service in the **Sanctuary** this week, and they will leave for their classes following the time for all ages.

The **Youth Choir** will rehearse this **Sunday, December 3rd, at 10AM** in the Sanctuary. All children and youth are welcome to participate!



The **Youth Group** will meet this **Sunday, December 3rd, at noon** in the 5th and 6th grade classroom. All high school students are welcome to attend!



The Religious Education students will be holding a **Winter Clothing Drive** throughout the month of December. They will be collecting gently used winter coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and snow boots in boxes around the church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE (continued)



The **Giving Tree** is up in the chapel! Please consider taking a tag and donating a holiday gift to a local child in need. Many thanks to all who have already taken tags! Please remember to **bring in your gifts on Sunday, December 10th** so that they can be delivered to St. Luke's.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



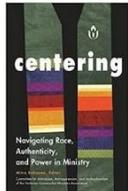
We are in need of an advisor for the **Youth Group!** Our high school students meet from 12-1 PM on one or two Sundays a month at UUCSW. The role of an advisor is to assist the group in running their meetings and planning service projects and events. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Jenna Kyes at uucsw.dre@gmail.com.
-Thank you!

We are still in need of teaching volunteers for our **Religious Education classes!** If you have any interest in joining a teaching team this year, then please email Jenna Kyes, Director of Religious Education, at uucsw.dre@gmail.com. -Thank you!

UUCSW HAPPENINGS

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST OF TWO COMMON READ OPPORTUNITIES

UUCSW is joining with area Unitarian Universalist Congregations to read, ponder and discuss the two books designated as UUA Common Read books for 2017-2018.



Book 1: Centering: Navigating Race Authenticity and Power in Ministry

When: Saturday December 2, 2017, 10-11:30 AM

Where: Hopedale Unitarian Parish, 65 Hopedale Street, Hopedale MA

Engage with area UUs around the issues and solutions contained within these two books. This two part series is one of many initiatives being planned by a newly formed group of members and staff of local Unitarian Universalist Congregations that we are currently calling *Unitarian Universalists from the Boroughs and the Blackstone Valley*.

SAVE THE DATE: LIGHT! An Evening of Interfaith Celebration and Meeting



Join Rev Bev and others at this event hosted by

Congregation B'nai Shalom at 117 E. Main Street, Westborough

Saturday December 16th from 7 PM to 9:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:15 interfaith musical celebration

8:15 PM – 9:30 small group interfaith circles of conversations.

** If you would like to attend this event but driving at night is a problem for you please let Rev Bev know ABD if you are planning to attend and are able to drive a fellow congregant let Rev Bev know that as well.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

“Hope will never be silent.” – *Harvey Milk*

Click the link to make a difference: [Social Justice Action 12/06/17](#)

UUCSW HAPPENINGS (continued)

FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE CONGREGATION

Financial Update

As we approach the midpoint of our fiscal year, it is time to share how we are doing financially. **After the service on this Sunday, December 3rd, at noon** in the chapel, I will present our current status of collections and expenses versus the budget. We will also have your giving statements available for Calendar 2017 year to date. Please note that this information (your 2017/2018 pledge and giving history) are also available in Realm under the "Giving" tab. Now is the perfect time to pay your pledge, before the tax year closes. If have not pledged, or would like to increase your pledge, please see me, John Metzger or Sharon Barrett.

THERE IS STILL TIME...

to make a special tax-deductible donation to the UUCSW



We know that you have many options when it comes to your end-of-the-year giving. Why not choose the UUCSW for an extra gift?

We are hoping to collect both small and large end-of-year gifts to help us meet the needs of the congregation and continue to operate as an active, loving, and dynamic community for all our members.

To continue this effort requires the participation of our members and friends, both as volunteers and as donors. So whether or not you have already made pledge or other donations this year, please consider a special end-of-year gift to help the UUCSW to continue to thrive.

You can bring your end-of-year donation to any Sunday service or mail it to Collector, UUCSW, P. O. Box 544, Westborough, MA 01581.

All donations are tax-deductible and you'll receive a receipt for all your 2017 donations in time for your 2017 tax filing.

SHOP WITH SCRIP

Easy holiday shopping while benefiting our church



When you purchase a Scrip gift card, a percentage of the face value of the card goes to UUCSW. These small but significant rebates really add up - we are hoping to raise \$1000 through the holidays with this program.

If you've set up a Scrip account, you can continue to place your orders online as usual. If you don't have an account, we have created a paper order form you can use to purchase physical gift cards by check through the holiday season. We will place orders weekly through December 10th. Expect a one-week turnaround on all orders.

As you start planning for the holidays, please think of this program. We expect many of the tags on the Annual Giving Tree to be requests for gift cards. Scrip cards make great gifts for teachers, sports coaches, teens, parents, grandparents, and just about everyone else you can think of! You can also buy gift cards to shop for those gifts that require a more personal touch. Questions? Email uucswscrip@gmail.com or contact Sharon Barrett (508-241-9353) or Lisa Shumway (508-243-9211) -*Thank you!*

UUCSW HAPPENINGS (continued)

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS!



As you explore the Unitarian Universalist (UU) faith and our congregation, we invite you to attend "*The New UU*" program. This wonderful "Tapestry of Faith" program is an opportunity to learn more about who we are and what we believe. This is a great way to connect with other newcomers as well as long-time members.

December 10th will be the last 45 minute workshop.

The workshop begins after the service at 11:45 AM. Grab a coffee and snack and join us in the parlor. There is no charge. Childcare will be provided as needed. Questions? Call Sharon Barrett at (508) 241-9353 or email sharonkeyesbarrett@gmail.com RSVPs are appreciated, but drop-ins are welcome!

DISCRETIONARY FUND INFORMATION



In a recent conversation with one of you some questions came up about the Minister's Discretionary Fund. I thought I would repeat my answers here in case others of you have questions.

1 – My policy is the funds and gift cards are used for members and friends and people with a close connection to UUCSW. My first year I did send gift cards to two people without those connections after confirming they had received help the past couple of years. Not wanting to immediately stop assisting them, I did so after informing them that in the future I needed to use our limited funds to help those connected to our congregation.

2 – In addition to Stop & Shop gift cards, assistance is sometimes financial. Whenever possible checks are written to a company or business – these funds have been used for items such as a T-Pass to allow access to job interviews, electric bill to keep power on, dentist for extra-ordinary but necessary dental work, short term unexpected childcare, short-term emergency housing/rental.

3 – Although due to privacy and confidentiality issues I cannot disclose more information, I can assure you that the recipients of this assistance are very grateful that the Minister's Discretionary Fund exists and thank you very much for your generosity.

STOP & SHOP GIFT CARDS

REMINDER: Pick up your Stop & Shop gift cards from Ken Young before or after services. **For every dollar purchased, the church receives 5%.** Whether you personally shop at Stop & Shop or like to contribute gift cards to the monthly offering to benefit the Minister's Discretionary fund.



UUs at LUNCH - Wednesday, December 13th

We will be meeting at Arturo's Westborough on December 13, at 11:30 AM for our holiday luncheon gathering. The food there is excellent, and the company will be good as always. Please let Mary Tribe marytribe5@gmail.com know by Friday, December 8th, so she can make reservations. This time of year, reservations need to be made earlier than usual. All are welcome, and we hope to see you there! It will be a good time.



UUCSW HAPPENINGS (continued)

PHOTOS FOR OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES



You may notice over the next few weeks someone taking photos during worship/coffee hour/other events. Research has shown that websites and other social media is much more interesting and appealing and effective when there are more pictures and fewer words. So, we are in the process of updating our social media. **An important part of who we are is the multi-generational aspect of our congregation so we would like to include our children in these pictures. There will be no names listed on the webpage or our facebook page attached to these photos.** I know all parents have been given an opportunity to sign a form declaring they do not want photos of their children taken and I have also been told that no such forms have been returned to the Religious Education program. If you do not remember seeing such a form or would like to change your input on this matter – please let Rev. Bev or Jenna know asap.

SNOW CANCELLATION INFORMATION

If the weather is inclement and you're wondering if services are cancelled please check the following places:

ONLINE: Website: www.uucsw.org , Facebook (Unitarian Universalist Westborough); WHDH storm center closings, WBZ storm center closings,

TV: WBZ, WHDH

RADIO: WBZ 1030 AM

PHONE: The church's outgoing message (508-366-2635) will be changed to reflect weather-related closing.



NOTE: As many of our congregants live in towns other than Westborough, please remember that we would close based on Westborough weather conditions only.

Please base your own decision on the conditions in your town, your safety is the most important factor to consider.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are in need of assistance due to weather, please contact Rev. Bev 508-481-5397 (h) or 508-330-1352(c), and she will do her best to get someone to assist you.



GREETERS/ USHERS

If you cannot support your date and no one can switch with you, please contact Paula Kirk at paulazkirk@mac.com. Please let Paula or a MET member know if you would like to greet on Christmas Eve.

greeters

DATE	Front Door (Head Greeters)	Side Door (Ruggles Street)
12/3	Bill & Joan Ames	Nancy Siegal
12/10	Sylvia Sirignano & Vince Aquilino	Jennifer Tolman
12/17	Stacy Spies & Beth Singer	Wendy Oeser-Rhein
12/24 (10:30am)	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
12/24 (Christmas Eve)	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed

Names in red have not acknowledged the Sunday assigned to date.

REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

NORTHBOROUGH CONTRA DANCE – Saturday, December 16th



This is the chance for a church-wide social event! And it is free! This is a great opportunity to do something as a FAMILY. **Talk it up with your friends at church.** The Northboro Contra Dance group has offered free admission to all Westboro and Northboro UU friends and members to attend their next dance, Saturday December 16th at 8 PM.

They host a regular 3rd Saturday monthly dance in the Northboro UU Parish Hall (40 Church Street). All dances are taught. Beginners and kids are welcome. You can get more info about the group here --> <https://northborocontra.com> For information about forming a group from our church, contact [Gary Phillips](mailto:GaryAPhillips@verizon.net) --> GaryAPhillips@verizon.net

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Saturday December 2nd, 10:00 AM – UUA Common Read

Sunday December 3rd, 10:00 AM – Youth Choir rehearsal

Sunday December 3rd, 12:00 PM – Youth Group

Tuesday December 5th, 6:30 PM – UU Knit Night

Wednesday December 6th, 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

Thursday December 7th, 6:30 PM – MET Meeting

Friday December 8th, 7:00 PM – Book Group

Wednesday December 13th, 7:00 PM – UUs at Lunch

Saturday December 16th, 7:00 PM – LIGHT! An Evening of Interfaith Celebration & Meeting

Saturday December 16th, 8:00 PM – Northborough Contra Dance

Tuesday December 19th, 6:30 PM – UU Knit Night

Tuesday December 19th, 7:00 PM – Program Committee meeting

Sunday December 24th, 10:30 AM – Worship Service

Sunday December 24th, 5:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service