



Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough

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WEEKLY UPDATE

12/07/2017

UPCOMING UUCSW SERVICES

SUNDAY December 10th - 10:30 AM

CASA: Making a difference for children in Worcester County, Program Sunday Service



Every child deserves a safe and permanent home. Yet, on an average day, 1600 abused, exploited, and neglected children live in foster care in Worcester County because they cannot live safely at home. Join us Sunday for this important service with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Executive Director Robb Zargas. Hear about the hope that is being brought to children as CASA of Worcester County trains and supports community volunteers who advocate for the best interests of children in the court system. Did you know that at least two of our own UUCSW members are actively working with CASA? Join us for this important service of hope as Robb Zargas speaks about how CASA volunteers are making a difference in children's lives.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Religious education students will celebrate their annual holiday party this Sunday, December 10th! Students will begin the worship service in the Chapel this week. **Students in grades 7-12, please join Jen Tolman in the chapel this Sunday during RE class time to sort and deliver the Giving Tree gift donations!**



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



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE (continued)



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. This year, we will be donating the items we collect to Centro in Worcester. Centro is working to provide winter clothing to families who have recently relocated to Worcester after losing their homes in the Caribbean to hurricanes. They would greatly appreciate donations of warm clothes in all sizes. Thank you!

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 attend youth group meetings and help with planning and chaperoning their 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

POINSETTIAS FOR SALE



As is our tradition, we will decorate the Sanctuary with beautiful single red poinsettias wrapped in gold foil. The cost is \$12.50 per plant. Orders must be in by **Sunday, December 10th**.

Here is a link to sign up online: [Poinsettia Sign Up](#).

You can give your check (made payable to UUCSW w/ "poinsettia" in the memo) to Sharon Barrett or put it in the collection plate.

Please plan to take your poinsettia(s) home with you after the service on Christmas Eve!

THE GIVING TREE



Rev Bev and Jen Tolman want to thank everyone who has participated in the Giving Tree project this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please remember to **bring in your wrapped gifts this Sunday, December 10th by 10:30 AM** so that they can be delivered to St. Luke's.

If anyone is interested in joining the COA and youth group to deliver the gifts to St. Luke's, please see Jen Tolman Sunday morning for details. Also, anyone interested in volunteering at St. Luke's for elf duties during the day next week to help with gift delivery to families of Westborough, email jent11@yahoo.com or see Jen on Sunday.

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UUCSW HAPPENINGS (continued)

CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY DECEMBER 24th



With Christmas Eve on a Sunday this year, there will be **two services** that day – one at 10:30 AM and one at 5:30 PM Rev Bev is looking for adults, youth and children interested in providing music for the 10:30 AM service. The plans are still in process but this service is shaping up to be a family friendly service of stories, music and fun holiday spirit including the appearance of pickles and bird's nests.

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.

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.

This Sunday, 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!

PHOTOS FOR OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES

CHEESE!



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.

UUCSW HAPPENINGS (continued)

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!*

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.



SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION



"Hope will never be silent." – Harvey Milk

Click the link to make a difference: [Social Justice Action 12/10/17](#)

UUCSW HAPPENINGS (continued)

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)
12/10	Sylvia Sirignano & Vince Aquilino	Jennifer Tolman
12/17	Stacy Spies & Beth Singer	Wendy Oeser-Rhein
12/24 (10:30 AM)	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

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

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

Sunday December 10th, 10:00 AM – Youth Choir Rehearsal

Sunday December 10th, 11:45 AM – The New UU program

Sunday December 10th, 12:00 PM – Social Justice Meeting

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