



Volume 22 | Issue 1 September 2019 Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough

September Worship Schedule

THIS MONTH'S WORSHIP THEME IS:
EXPECTATIONS



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 10:30 AM

Sunday Service – Reverend Laurel Gray

Water Communion

This is our ingathering service for the year, which will be followed by a potluck lunch. Come and celebrate our being back together in community after the summer! Please bring water for the service.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 10:30 AM

Sunday Service – Kathie Metzger

Summer Freedom in the 1950's

Summers for an 8 or 9-year-old girl were very different from today. There were chores and some expectations, but also the freedom to explore, get into a bit of mischief, and learn some about life and people for oneself. Kathie Metzger, now in her 70's has been thinking back to the summers she spent in rural New York State near the Pennsylvania border, and wants to talk about their importance to her.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 10:30 AM

Sunday Service – Reverend Laurel Gray

New Beginnings

We often think of the beginning as the first step in a process of transition, but perhaps it's the last. Today we'll reflect on the stages we go through as we move towards a new beginning. I'll share about my call to ministry as a process of transition.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 10:30 AM

Sunday Service – Muriel Kramer

Criminal injustice – Cash Bail and Incarceration

Muriel is an advocate for change in criminal justice policy and understands cash bail to be unjust -- a system that is both unnecessary and overly burdensome on people of color and all who are poor. Until cash bail is eliminated, she will work to keep as many people as possible from serving pretrial jail sentences.

From the Minister

Dear UUCSW,

I'm so glad to meet you! It's been a joy getting to know you individually and as a congregation these last few weeks, and I look forward to spending more time with all of you. The transitions team has been hard at work planning lots of welcome events, so make sure to look for those invitations and come join in the festivity.

I've been working on our worship calendar for the year with the Program Committee, who have done an incredible amount of work. We already have most of the year planned and I'm excited about all that we have in store. We will be starting off the church year with Water Communion on Sunday September 8th, so please bring water – from your favorite swimming hole, a recent trip, or your trusty garden hose. This is a ritual that celebrates the sacredness of coming together as a community, bringing all our different experiences with us.

The building team has also been hard at work with all kinds of painting and repairs. My first big task was setting up my office to create a welcoming space for you to come meet with me. It looks great and I'm grateful to everyone who helped in the process.

We have a few exciting technology upgrades as well including a fresh new website, professional @uucsw.org email addresses for staff, and a new UUCSW Google Suite account to streamline document and calendar sharing functions for lay leaders and staff. My hope is to make it easier for everyone to collaborate and communicate. That way, we can put our energy towards relationships, community, and sorting out our hope for the future together.

Thank you to everyone who has lent a hand in so many different ways these last few weeks and months! I am so delighted to finally be with you and I look forward to this new church year!

Sincerely,

Laurel

Laurel.Gray@uucsw.org

Welcome Reverend Laurel Gray!



Come and meet Laurel...

Several events have been planned for UUCSW members and friends to meet our new minister, Rev. Laurel Gray. We want as many of you as possible to attend these events. Please let us know if you need assistance with transportation - send an email to Elisa (our office assistant) at office@uucsw.org and she'll connect you with a driver.

Ingathering Sunday and Potluck - Sunday, Sept. 8th at 10:30 AM

Rev. Laurel Gray preaching. Join us for the first official Sunday service of the church year. If you can, bring water from a special place you've visited this summer for the water communion. We will have a welcome back potluck after the service. Please bring a dish to share!

Open House Events - Friday, Sept. 6th and Friday, Sept. 20th, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

You're invited to join John and Kathie Metzger at an open house at their home to welcome UUCSW's new minister, Rev. Laurel Gray. The Metzger's are hosting two open houses, one on Sept. 6th and another on Sept. 20th. Drop in to meet Laurel at one of these two events and enjoy a glass of wine and some appetizers.

Please decide which date works better for you and RSVP below. We look forward to seeing you!

[RSVP to Open House on September 6th](#)

[RSVP to Open House on September 20th](#)

Ice Cream Social Saturday, Sept 28th, 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Everyone's invited to a fun Ice Cream Social hosted by Ed and Jane Walsh at their home in Northborough. Rev. Laurel Gray will be on hand and she's hoping this event will be well attended by kids of all ages!

[RSVP to Ice Cream Social](#)

Money Matters – September 2019

Financial Update from the Treasurer: Welcome back to a new church year. I want to share with all of you how we finished out the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Thanks to all of you who fulfilled or exceeded your pledge commitments, several special gifts, and increased property usage income, we finished the year with income significantly greater than budget. In addition, our expenses remained well within budget. As a result, we closed the fiscal year with a surplus of \$27,873 for the year.

This surplus goes to building our reserve funds, to protect us in the case of unexpected expenditures.

Moving into the new year, I am happy to announce that beginning in October, you will be able to make your contributions through Realm. More information about that will be coming in the October Vista. In the meantime, don't forget our ongoing fundraisers: ShopwithScrip (gift cards), Amazon Smile and Stop & Shop cards. If you have questions about how to participate in any of these, please reach out to me.

If you have any questions or ideas about the UUCSW finances, please contact me.

Thank you – Lisa Shumway (LSS0907@gmail.com), Treasurer

UUC Knits

Do you enjoy any type of needle or yarn craft? Then bring your WIP (Work in Progress) to sit and gab with other crafters while you make some progress! We provide a zero-pressure setting, and we have a great time. We welcome all skill levels. Join us in the parlor on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:30 pm.



UUC's at Lunch, Wednesday, September 11th



We will gather once again to welcome in the new church year on Wednesday, September 11th at 11:30 at the Olde Post Office Pub in North Grafton. It will be nice to meet again and share our summertime experiences, and I hope many of you will join us. All are welcome!

To reach the restaurant, take Route 30 to 140, turn left on 140 and left again on Ray Street. Please let me know by Sunday, September 8th whether or not you will be joining us.

If you'd like to join us please notify Mary Tribe (marytribe5@gmail.com) by Thursday, September 8, so we can make our reservations.

Friday Fun Night is back, starting September 27th

Join fellow UUCSW friends each month for Friday fun night. Stop by the chapel on the last Friday of each month at 6:30 pm to meet up with friends and decompress after a busy week. Bring a game, food and/or beverage to share, and join us for the family-friendly fun.

Children and Youth Religious Education Program

Hello Friends and Families, both returning and new, for another RE Program year! This first VISTA is to let you know of some of the great opportunities coming up and the changes we've made for this year.

Calling all Teachers!

There is still time for you to volunteer your time and talents as a teacher for this year's RE program! It is a tremendously rewarding experience and you will end up learning from the kids as much as you are teaching! Please consider helping out, regardless of if you have a child in the program – the children can always hear from their parents, but you've got unique perspectives and experiences that they could benefit from! We can even work with you if you can only do a part of the year or if you would like to shadow a class before committing. Come give it a try!

Religious Education Program Open House

The Religious Education Committee (REC) and the DRE will be hosting the annual Open House for the RE Program at 11:30am on Sunday, September 8th during the fellowship time after the Ingathering service. Come on by to pick up one of our 2019-2020 RE Program Pamphlets, register/update your child(ren) for classes, sign a photography release form, learn about our curricula, and ask us any questions about the RE Program, the new DRE, or our UU facility. If you are unable to stop by during this time, feel free to email me or pick up/update your information on subsequent weeks when picking up your children from class!

Do check out your emails for our welcome letter explaining more about the changes for this year regarding registration, photography, discipline, snack fund, etc.!

Teaching Team Meeting

Teaching team members for grades Pre-K through 8 will be meeting at 9:00am on Sunday, September 8th. At this meeting, we will determine our teaching schedules and fill out CORI forms and Code of Ethics forms. (Please bring your calendar and driver's license.) If you would like to be a teacher for this year, please feel free to email me, use the Signup Genius, or attend this meeting! We are always looking for new teachers to volunteer their unique talents and knowledge for our youth!

Sunday Morning Programming for September:

September 8th – RE teachers please join us for our Teaching Team meeting at 9am. This is Ingathering Sunday, and all ages will worship together in the sanctuary for a multigenerational service. You are welcome to join us at our Open House at 11:30am to register your child/youth and pick up your 2019- 2020 Program Pamphlet.

September 15th - This is a sanctuary start for RE students. Welcome to our first day of classes!!!

September 22nd - This is a sanctuary start for RE students. High School Youth are welcome to join us for an informal visioning Youth Group Meeting at 12pm.

September 29th – RE students will begin in the chapel for a youth oriented opening service before beginning their RE classes.

Youth Group Meeting

Welcome to all our High School Youth who would like to join us for another year of Youth Group! We will meet at 12pm on September 22nd to discuss our vision for what we'd like to do this year. There will be pizza!!

Class Groupings and Curricula for 2019-2020

Preschool, Kindergarten, First And Second Grade: "Wonderful Welcome"

By Aisha Hauser and Susan Lawrence

The Wonderful Welcome curriculum engages and challenges leaders and children alike to explore how and why we are willing to welcome others into our lives. We welcome not only strangers, but family, our peers, our neighbors and even entities that are not people such as our animal friends and nature itself.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade: "Toolbox of Faith"

By Katie Covey

Toolbox of Faith participants to reflect on the qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith, such as integrity, courage, and love, as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith. Each of the 16 sessions uses a tool as a metaphor for an important quality of our faith such as reflection (symbolized by a mirror), flexibility (duct tape), and justice (a flashlight). Reflecting on the qualities (tools) of our faith, children and leaders gain insight into what makes our faith important in their lives, and how they can grow in our faith.

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade: "Heeding the Call: Qualities of a Justice Maker"

By Jodi Tharan and Nicole Bowmer

Heeding the Call is a social justice curriculum that not only explores linked oppressions in our society, but also encourages participants towards personal growth in values that counteract the marginalization of others. Workshops on empathy, courage, abundance, joy, and other qualities ask participants to recognize how these standards can be tools for justice. Additionally, the program includes more concrete tools, such as suggestions on how to be a good ally and tips on the language of conflict resolution. True stories of courage, sacrifice and collaboration, role-plays, games, and a program-long justice project will feed youth's rising realization that as people of faith we are all called to love justice—not just with our words, but also with our deeds.

Trustee Tidings

Our congregation had an opportunity to meet our new minister, Laurel Gray, on Sunday August 11th. In an informal worship service, we were asked to reflect on what it means to be a religious community and share what the Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough (UUCSW) means to us, and share we did. Laurel was able to meet many of the congregants and hear our reasons of what makes us connect with UUCSW.

Welcome, welcome, welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough Laurel!

This is the reading she shared with the congregation:

“Ministry is All That We Do Together” by Rev. Gordon McKeeman

Ministry is all that we do – together.

Ministry is that quality of being in community that affirms human dignity –beckons forth hidden possibilities, invites us into deeper, more constant, reverent relationships, and carries forward our heritage of hope and liberation.

Ministry is what we do together as we celebrate triumphs of our human spirit -- miracles of birth and life...wonders of devotion and sacrifice.

Ministry is what we do together – with one another – in terror and torment – in grief, in misery and pain, enabling us in the presence of death to say yes to life.

We who minister speak and live the best we know with full knowledge that it is never quite enough

And yet are reassured by lostness found, fragments reunited, wounds healed and joy shared.

Ministry is what we all do – together.

Laurel will participate in all aspects of daily church life and operations; lead and oversee all worship, preach twice monthly, lead holiday services and lifecycle rituals; provide pastoral care and community support; work with the congregational Board and committees; provide support and guidance to church staff; create and update systems for streamlined functioning; work closely with religious education programming, music programming, and church administration.

If you were unable to attend the worship service three additional events are planned in September, all are welcome. Please plan to attend one of the following: there will be an open house at the Metzger’s home on Friday September 6th and Friday September 20th at 2 Hundreds Road, Westborough, MA 01581-2402. On Saturday the 28th of September, Ed and Jane Walsh will host an ice cream social at their home at 26 Assabet Hill Circle, Northborough, MA 01532-1893 for the whole family. Look for more information in this Vista.

On Sunday, September the 8th, the first official service of the church year, will have three parts a water ceremony, a pot-luck brunch, and a church photo will be taken in front of the church. Please bring water, something to share at the potluck and your smile.

You may notice how nice the church looks. Tanya Trainor has been working with painters to coordinate the sprucing up of the interior. Thank you so very much, Tanya, it looks beautiful! Tanya had some help from Vince Aquilino. He answered the call for help to strip the wall paper off the walls of the minister’s office. If you have ever stripped wall

paper you know this was no easy task and Vince rose to the request and did a beautiful job, thank you very much, Vince!

A Transition Team has been formed to help guide Laurel through the initial challenges every new job presents. Thank you, team members, for helping to make Laurel's introduction a little bit easier. When the team disbands a Committee on the Ministry will be established to supply continued support to Laurel going forward.

The board is working with Laurel to coordinate the church calendar. What we take as an annual event and a typical occurrence is all new to Laurel. We are pleased to share that she thinks we are a "fun congregation" our Game Nights, auction dinners (including Ethiopian, Mystery, and tequila tasting), the Book Group, and Knitting Nights and that is just the tip of the iceberg, wait until we tell her about the Birthday Bash and the UU's at Lunch, and the talent show!

We are interested in continuing to define our Mission, Values and Vision going forward. To recap some of the actions we have taken toward this goal I will remind you of some of our efforts. The board invited several congregants to form a Task Force to present findings and recommendations to help the UUCSW move toward a more valuable UU experience. Amy Martellock and Ann Maloney presented a sermon, *Creating Our Future Together* and the book "Upcycle Your Congregation", *Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities* was discussed as a church-wide read toward starting the process of defining our mission, vision, and values.

Several questions have come from our experiences: How do we create a UU experience that is valuable for all? How do we feed our "souls"? What can we connect to with compassion? With what mission or activity can the community identify our church? How can we engage our congregation? These questions, and many others will be asked. Laurel will assist us as we work toward connecting with and living our UU principles in the greater community, developing our Mission and Vision, and ways to become a more financially stable society with a sustainable model for growth. We were able to start sharing with Laurel what it means to be a religious community and shared what UUCSW means to us on August 11th. We can look forward to working toward a deeper connection with community through our shared vision.

Please plan to join a "meet and greet" activity and join us on Sunday, September 8th to officially welcome Laurel and reconnect with the people who make UUCSW a special place.

September Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	6:30 PM – UU Knits 				6:30 to 8:00 PM Meet & Greet Rev. Gray Open House @ the Metzger's (See page 3)	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 AM – RE Teacher Mtg. 10:30 AM – Sunday Service 11:30 AM – RE Open House			11:30 AM – UU's at Lunch			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30 AM – Sunday Service	6:30 PM – UU Knits 				6:30 to 8:00 PM Meet & Greet Rev. Gray Open House @ the Metzger's (See page 3)	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30 AM – Sunday Service Noon - Youth Group					6:30 PM – Friday Fun Night 	2:30 to 4:30 PM Ice Cream Social (See page 3)
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
10:30 AM – Sunday Service						

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF
WESTBOROUGH**

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Minister EmeritaThe Reverend Cindy Frado
Director of Religious Education.....Cassie Lengel
Music Director.....Kala Farnham
Office Assistant.....Elisa Scully

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DUE DATES

FOR VISTA NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Announcements, suggestions, or questions?

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

Andy Koenigsberg at amk32@cornell.edu.

Please put "VISTA" in the subject line.

**October Vista articles due by
Noon, Sunday, September 22nd.**

**For updates visit
uucsw.org**

