



Volume 22 | Issue 3 November 2019 Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough

November Worship Schedule

THIS MONTH'S WORSHIP THEME IS:

ATTENTION



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3, 10:30 AM

Sunday Service – Reverend Laurel Gray

All Souls

This Sunday we're bringing back the old UUCSW Samhain tradition of recognizing our loved ones who have departed from this world. This is an all-ages service that will be filled with ritual and song.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10, 10:30 AM

Sunday Service – Marge Fisher & Jerry Breecher

Challenges

Marge Fisher and Jerry Breecher will offer a dialogue on how each views challenge and its meaning in their lives. The broader topic includes challenges we seek, challenges we cannot avoid, challenges we simply fall into, and the lessons that we've taken from them. Marge firmly believes no experience is meaningless. Jerry believes we seek or avoid challenges based on our personality. We also hope to elicit views-from-the-pews on how a challenge--good, bad, or indifferent--has played a role in your life.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 10:30 AM

Sunday Service – Reverend Laurel Gray

On Grief and Gratitude

As the leaves fall, and we rest in the place between All Souls and Thanksgiving, we'll focus today on what it means to give space for change and grief, while maintaining a sense of gratitude.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24, 10:30 AM

Sunday Service – Preston H. Hood, III

"Yes" to Life, Truth and Love

Preston Hood, III is a Vietnam Vet and 50 years a Navy Seal. He will share his experience in the Viet Nam War, living with PTS (Post Traumatic Stress) and how he has learned to cope with these traumatic injuries. Preston has had near death experiences as a soldier and life altering experiences. Preston is an award-winning poet. He practiced yoga and meditation. He has a Hearing Service Dog "Gilmore" who assists him with sounds. Preston is a national speaker at commemorative events for Vets.



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From the Minister

Dear UUCSW,

In October, we talked about belonging, both what it means to belong to ourselves, to have the courage to stand alone and stay true to who we are, and what it means to belong to each other. In her book *Braving the Wilderness*, Brené Brown talks about the power and necessity of both collective grief and collective joy. Being with each other in the moments that can pull us under and raise us to the highest heights is both necessary and transformative.

On November 3rd we're going to be celebrating All Souls in our service. Lots of people and faiths have traditions around this time that celebrate and remember the dead: All Saints, Samhain, Day of the Dead, All Souls, and I'm sure many more. Before we enter into the collective, and sometimes overwhelming, sparkle of the holidays, we'll take some time this November to remember those who have left this world, to hold our grief and our gratitude hand in hand.

As we look towards the holidays and the new year, we're also working on some changes with our offering and charitable giving. Instead of doing a monthly collection for the Minister's Discretionary Fund (an account used to support congregants in need of financial assistance) we're going to do one collection for the fund on Christmas Eve. You are always welcome to contribute directly to the fund and to contact me if you have a need. We are also doing a giving tree this year and I have confidential request forms, if you would like to sign up to receive gifts for your family.

Starting in the new year, we are going to be piloting a "Share the Plate" model of giving. This means that every Sunday our offering will be split equally, with half coming to support the work of UUCSW and half going to an outside charitable organization. The board and I are working on creating a good system for this and choosing the organizations – there will be one per month – and we will keep you posted on further details.

It has been such a joy getting into the swing of things this year and coming to know all of you better. I wish you all a wonderful November and look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Blessings,

Sincerely,

Laurel

Laurel.Gray@uucsw.org

Board Matters

“While something in us clamors for stability, for sameness in the deeper regions of our being, we know we are made for change.”

(Richard S. Gilbert, “Thanks Be for These Meditations on Life and Death” p. 24)

The Board would very much like to thank the members of the Ministerial Transition Team for their hard work during Laurel’s transition! In addition to numerous get-to-know-you activities they did a lot of behind the scenes things such as reviewing policies, getting her paid, calendar planning, and setting up her office. Please thank Sharon Barrett, Ben Gold, Erin Gold, Ann Maloney, Lisa Martin, and Lisa Shumway for their work on the team the next time you see them!

The annual Board retreat was facilitated by Meg Hargreave, a non-profit consultant who is also a Unitarian Universalist in Concord. Laurel joined us along with some members of our community who have thought deeply about our congregation’s future as part of search committees and task forces.

Our goal was to work on our vision for the future, help plan what we do to live our congregational mission, and determine shorter term goals to get there. We looked at our church’s history and reviewed previous congregational visioning and search. It was a very energetic and productive retreat. We got a variety of useful goals - both short and longer term. Some we started the next day and others we will discuss in future Vistas. Feel free to chat with any Board member if you are curious or have questions.

I want to close by printing the Board’s covenant with each other:

“Listen deeply.

Be open to each other’s ideas.

Be transparent in our work.

Assume good intentions of one another.

Speak with respect for all our members.

In doing so, we will do our best work, cultivate our strengths and honor the congregation that we serve.”

Thanks,

David King

Money Matters – November 2019

Please contact Lisa Shumway at treasurer@uucsw.org with any questions about the content below or about UUCSW finances in general.

A note about online giving through Realm.

Last month we announced the new online giving functionality available in Realm. Please note that UUCSW pays a processing charge per transaction ranging from approximately 1% for ACH transactions to 3% for credit card transactions. You have the option, when making an online gift, to help offset these costs by checking the box at the bottom of the online form. Your giving receipt will show this contribution on a separate line.

UUCSW Ongoing Fundraisers

As you start your holiday shopping, please keep in mind these ongoing UUCSW fundraisers: *ShopWithScrip*, *Amazon Smile*, and *Stop & Shop cards*.

Get a head start on your holiday shopping with *ShopWithScrip* physical gift cards!!

When you purchase a gift card through *ShopWithScrip*, 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 order 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. Order forms are available in the Chapel. We will place orders weekly starting Monday November 4th, and continue through December 9th. Expect a one-week turnaround on all orders.

As you start planning for the holidays, please consider 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 or for your everyday shopping and dining needs.

Contact Lisa Shumway to get an order form via email.

Shopping through AmazonSmile is a effortless way to raise funds for the UUCSW.



- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support the UUCSW by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

This link takes you to the UUCSW AmazonSmile page so you can register to donate to UUCSW:

[UUCSW at AmazonSmile \(https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3030641\)](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3030641)

Please note that Amazon will recommend that if you are using Chrome, you should add the Amazon Shopping Assistant to Chrome. This is not a requirement for using AmazonSmile and our resident software security expert recommends against installing the shopping assistant.

Stop & Shop Cards

Each Sunday, Ken Young (or his designee) is available at coffee hour selling Stop and Shop Cards. Cards are available at a variety of dollar values. UUCSW earns 5% of the face value of the cards you purchase. If you are a regular shopper at Stop & Shop, this is an easy way to help us raise money over the course of the year. Payment by check or cash is accepted.



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

UM's at Lunch, Wednesday, November 13th



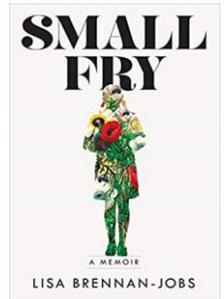
We will meet at Bertucci's Brick Oven Restaurant on Wednesday, November 13th at 11:30 am. It is located at 160 Turnpike Road (Rte. 9 Eastbound). All are welcome, and we hope to see many there as we always have a nice time.

If you'd like to join us please notify Mary Tribe (marytribe5@gmail.com) by Saturday, November 5th, so we can make our reservations.

Book Group – November 8th

For **NOVEMBER**, we are reading *Small Fry* by Lisa Brennan-Jobs. Please join us. The group is open to all. We usually meet in members' homes and enjoy small groups of seven to ten people. We enjoy some light refreshments, lively discussion, and wonderful company. You are welcome to attend.

If you are planning to attend for the first time, please email: Judithteacake@gmail.com.



Pastoral Care

The Membership Engagement Team and Rev. Laurel are always here to support you. We are working on setting up new ways of caring for each other as a community and welcome anyone who would like to participate. Membership Team meetings are at 7pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

Rev. Laurel is in the office on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

If you'd like to make an appointment for pastoral care, or have a joy or sorrow that you'd like included on Sunday when you're away, please email her at: laurel.gray@uucsw.org.

If there is a death or emergency, she can be reached on her cell phone at 401-932-7855.

Children and Youth Religious Education Program

Hello Friends and Families, both returning and new, for another RE Program year!

Sunday Morning Programming for November:

November 3rd - Join us for a Multigenerational All Souls Service.

November 10th - This is a sanctuary start for RE students.

November 17th - 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.

November 24th - RE students *will begin in the chapel* for a youth oriented opening service before going downstairs for our first Group RE of the year!

CALLING ALL TEACHERS!

First, thank you to all who graciously volunteered to teach one Sunday this year. We are so grateful for your time and talents and we have officially added a much needed third class to our program. If you have signed up to teach, please make sure you turn in your CORI forms and please use the signup genius to choose which date(s) you can commit to! If you have not yet signed up, we are always looking for more volunteers! Our youth really do benefit from meeting and spending time with the adults in the congregation of which they are a part. You have unique perspectives and experiences we want in our program! If you have any questions, concerns, or want to volunteer or hand in paperwork, please see the DRE Cassie Lengel.

Warm Sock Drive

For the month of November, we will be collecting warm socks to donate to a local homeless shelter. Please keep our brothers and sisters in mind during these shorter, colder days and let us help provide them a little extra warmth this season! All sizes and kinds of new socks are accepted, although men's are needed. Donations can be collected in the basket in the Chapel. Thank you!

Looking Ahead: Children's Choir and Pageant!

This December we will be bringing back our children's choir! If your children like to sing, invite them out on Sunday mornings during December at 9:50am to practice some holiday songs with our choir. We will also be practicing for our Family Friendly Christmas Pageant on December 15th during RE time. We will perform these songs and the pageant on December 22nd. For more information please see Cassie Lengel or Kala Farnham.

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 November 17th to discuss our vision for what we'd like to do this year. There will be pizza!!

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.



We need your help to create a welcoming environment at

UUCSW!

In order to create a welcoming environment on Sundays, which we all value, from the greeters at our doors to coffee and snacks after the service, we all need to chip in. Please volunteer to be a greeter and/or coffee hour host. There is a sign-up board in the chapel or you can use the sign-up genius link below. In order to fill all the spots, we ask that

each of you, to the best of your ability, signs up to greet twice and host coffee hour twice, over the course of the church year. If you are not sure what these tasks entail, please contact Lisa Shumway at Membership@UUCSW.org.

[Greeter and Coffee Hour sign-up](#)

The Rise of Hate in America: How did we get here? What Can We Do?

Sunday Nov. 10th, 7-9pm

Congregation B'nai Shalom, 117 E. Main St. Westborough

Our local synagogue is hosting a community forum on the rise of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-LGBTQ+ violence, and white supremacists in America and what we can do about it. They're bringing together expert researchers and academics, along with representation from the Boston office of the Anti-Defamation League. Congressman Jim McGovern will also be in attendance. The event is free and open to the public and I encourage you to attend. The congregation asks that you register here: <https://www.cbnaishalom.org/event/rise-of-hate>

Happiness as a Spiritual Practice

We have started a daytime Adult Religious Education program called "Happiness as a Spiritual Practice." All UUCSW members and friends are invited to participate. What does the research say about happiness and how to attain it? How can we use this information to enhance our lives and our connections? Meetings are held in the Chapel on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Please join us.

November Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
10:30 AM – Sunday Service						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:30 AM – Sunday Service	6:30 PM – UU Knits 	🕒		🕒 11:00 AM – Happiness as a Spiritual Practice	7:00 PM – Book Group	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:30 AM – Sunday Service 7:00 PM – The Rise of Hate in America		🕒	11:30 AM – UU's at Lunch	🕒		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:30 AM – Sunday Service 12 Noon – Youth Group	6:30 PM – UU Knits 	🕒 7:00 PM – Membership		🕒 11:00 AM – Happiness as a Spiritual Practice		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:30 AM – Sunday Service		🕒		🕒		

🕒 Rev. Laurel in the office

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF
WESTBOROUGH**

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**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATIONAL
SOCIETY OF WESTBOROUGH**

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Minister..... The Reverend Laurel Gray
Laurel.Gray@uucsw.org

Minister EmeritaThe Reverend Cindy Frado

Director of Religious Education.....Cassie Lengel

Music Director.....Kala Farnham

Office Assistant.....Elisa Scully

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Metzger Janet Purney-Balabanis
Kim Hall David King
Judith Nicholson

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Treasurer..... Lisa Shumway

Collector..... Susie Wells

Clerk.....Robin Fleming

Moderator..... Andy Koenigsberg

Historian..... Stacy Spies

Membership John Metzger, Lisa Shumway

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 Vista@uucsw.org.

Please put "VISTA" in the subject line.

**November Vista articles due by
Noon, Tuesday, November 19th.**

**For updates visit
uucsw.org**

