



Volume 22 | Issue 5 January 2020 Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough

## January Worship Schedule

### SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 10:30 AM

*Sunday Service – Reverend Laurel Gray*

#### **What We Cast Off and What We Carry**

This is our first service in the new year, so we'll reflect on those things we're letting go of, as well as the hopes we hold for the coming year. This is an all ages service with rituals and two short reflections instead of a full sermon. Come start the year with us!

### SUNDAY JANUARY 12, 10:30 AM

*Sunday Service – Jeanne Cahill*

#### **Tending to the future together**

Jeanne Cahill, member of First Parish UU Church of Northborough and Environmental Scientist, will explore how personal agency sparks the climate action movement, and consequently fuels hope for the future. As we show up, engage, and co-generate just solutions, we proportionately amplify possibility for life's continuance.

### SUNDAY JANUARY 19, 10:30 AM

*Sunday Service – Reverend Laurel Gray*

#### **People of a Covenant**

On this Martin Luther King weekend, we'll think about what it means to be a people of a covenant, not a creed, and what that means for how we do racial justice work.

### SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 10:30 AM

#### **"In the Beginning..." an exploration of Creation Myths**

*Sunday Service – Jim Kirk*

Humans have always wondered...  
Where are we in this vast expanse?  
What is our place, why are we here?  
Was it always like this?  
Where did it all come from?  
Listen, and I will tell you a story...

## *From the Minister*

Dear UUCSW,

Happy New Year! I hope you found some joy and quiet and gratitude this holiday season. It can be such a busy and exciting time, and a time filled with grief and tenderness. And there are so many ways of telling stories that remind us of hope and possibility, so many different traditions lighting candles on those longest nights and singing old, familiar songs. However you celebrated, I hope you felt the warmth and love of our UUCSW community.

We have lots of exciting things planned for this new year together – check out the letter from the Board for a full list of what’s happening this spring. Beginning in January we’re starting our Share the Plate program, which means we’ll be giving away half of our Sunday offering each month to an organization doing good work in the community that is in line with our UU principles and values. Look for more information in the Share the Plate section of this newsletter. This is a beautiful way of connecting with the wider community and putting our principles into action.

Then in February we’ll kick off the month with our annual membership service! If you’re new and would like to join, this is a moment when we can welcome you officially and celebrate your part in our community. Whether you’ve just found us recently, or you’ve been coming for decades, we’ll celebrate what it means to be a member of our UUCSW community. And on Saturday February 8th, we’re reviving the Birthday Bash, so mark your calendars!

After a lot of hard work on the part of many people, we have the minister’s sermons and the monthly reflection podcasts live! You can find them through our website or on iTunes at “UUCSW Reflections.” Each month the two sermons will be uploaded and then, at the end of the month, we do a short reflection podcast on the month’s themes. This is a way for you to ask questions or offer thoughts in response to the sermons, to allow for a richer conversation. If you have a question, please email it to [podcasts@uucsw.org](mailto:podcasts@uucsw.org) or drop it in the suggestion box at the front of the sanctuary. Take a listen and share with your friends!

I am so proud of all the ways that you support each other as a community, offering your time and talents, your resources and your enthusiasm. Thank you for all that you do here. What a joy it is to be your minister!

*Laurel*

[Laurel.Gray@uucsw.org](mailto:Laurel.Gray@uucsw.org)

\*Please note that my days off are typically Monday and Saturday.

I try to respond to emails within 48 hours, but that is not always possible. I appreciate your patience.

# *Children and Youth Religious Education Program*

## **Interfaith Meal Packing Event**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church here in Westborough hosts an Interfaith Meal Packing Event each February to support the food insecure. We have been involved with this in the past and our youth always have a fun and meaningful time there! If you would like to help be involved in making this happen again this year, please see Cassie Lengel so we can plan, fundraise, and attend this great event!

## **Youth Group Update**

Due to the difficulty of meeting with so few numbers and such busy schedules, we are going to look at a new model of Youth Group. For the remainder of this year we will schedule a few fun and service events that all our youth from 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome and invited to attend! We will start with an event in January so keep an eye on the Weekly Updates and your emails for more information!

## **Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program**

This is a reminder that we will be running the OWL program for youth in grades 7-9 this spring. This program helps to instill positive and healthy understandings of sex, gender, and relationships in our youth, and we are very excited to be getting started! We will have a parent's orientation this January and get started with sessions later this month. We are still looking for anyone else who would like to get trained to help lead these sessions. We already have 3 others who will be getting trained, so you won't be alone! Come join us for the fun! For more information please see David King, Amy Martellock, and/or Cassie Lengel.

## **Coming of Age Program**

In addition to some of the other opportunities for this age range, youth in eighth grade are welcome and invited to join us for our Coming of Age Program this spring! We will take some time to reflect on where we've been, listen to what our hearts tell us right now, and proclaim what we believe to the congregation at our ceremony in March. This is always such a meaningful time for the youth and their families. If you would like to help serve as a mentor for this program, we would love to have a few more voices to help diversify our conversations! For more information please see Cassie Lengel.

## **Sunday Morning Programming for January:**

January 5th – This is a Multigenerational Service!

January 12th - This is a sanctuary start for RE students with normal RE class.

January 19th - This is a Chapel Start and we will have a Group RE Class for all ages!

January 26th – This is a sanctuary start for RE students with normal RE class.

## Board Matters

Happy New Year from the Board!

On the Brink of a New Year *by Lois Van Leer*

*We light this chalice on the brink of a new year*

*Letting go of what has been*

*Open and hopeful for what may come*

*Renewed, restored, ready*

*To live Life fully anew*

*May we move forward with intention.*

Intention ... followed by action is what will move us toward meeting our objectives. Our financial, community, connection, and future goals.

### This is how our actions demonstrate our principles:

- We joined our fellow churches in a wonderful outreach to our community, the Giving Tree. We truly appreciate all your support to make Christmas special for everyone.
- The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) invited us to donate to the longest-standing fundraising and educational program for congregations, Guest at Your Table. This year's fund went toward helping advance women-led human rights initiatives around the world. Thank you for raising \$340 in donations toward this goal.
- You can bring in your old UUWorld Magazines to be shared with visitors. Please leave them on the table at the back of the church where the pamphlets are displayed (please remove or blacken your name and address from the magazines).

### Mark your calendars with these future activities (more information about these activities can be found in this Vista):

- Friends of Buddha, with Erin Gold and Carol Palmer, will start meeting every other Sunday.
- January 5th Share the Plate program begins: We will split the month's non-specified contributions in half donating to a non-profit organization that does work in the wider community that is aligned with our Unitarian Universalist principles and values. Please contribute in cash or check made out to UUCSW.
- February 2nd Service of Celebration of our Members and Friends
- February 8th Birthday Bash: Intergenerational birthday cake decorating (and eating) extravaganza.
- February 9th Annual Pledge Campaign Kick-off
- March 14th Auction: Amy MacDougall has offered to run a full "Speakeasy" themed auction which will be in place of the simpler dinner fundraisers we've run the last two years.
- April 19th Rev. Laurel Gray's Ordination: Sunday, April 19th at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony at the First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, Massachusetts 01742. Our doors will be closed in Westborough so everyone can attend in Concord.

- May 3rd Concert: We experienced such success at last year's concert we are holding another fundraising concert featuring our music director, Kala Farnham, an award-winning, multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter again this May. You can read more about her and hear her performing on her website: [kalafarnham.com](http://kalafarnham.com).

### Things the Board members are doing:

- Attended the Claiming Our Spiritual Leadership Workshop in Worcester
- Attended the Aging Enjoyably in a Connected Westborough presentation and had a table of information for the community
- Scheduled a Retreat Follow Up in January
- Planning for snow removal and snow closing notification
- Performing the minister's evaluation

### Actions we need:

We need your time. We annually ask you to pledge money to the UUCSW. We don't ask you to pledge your time ... we should! We need your gifts. Many of you are already very involved and we thank you for every hour you commit to growing our ministry.

We need people to do everything from shovel the snow, teach religious education classes, review and update the policies and procedures, review the employees' contracts, join committees (Building and Grounds, Canvass [Pledge Campaign], Membership Engagement Team (MET), Music, Nominating, Program, Social Justice, Tech, Ways, and Means and other ad hoc initiatives).

What interests you? If you can't commit to the monthly meetings of committee work are you able to donate as little as six hours toward a one-time project? Are there things that you would like to do and no one has asked you? Please let a board member know what your particular gift is. We LOVE gifts and you have **a lot** to give. Please consider how you can give to the Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society. What you give is your ministry.

Thank you,

*Judith Nicholson*

## *Money Matters – January 2020*

### Financial Update

I am pleased to report that we finished 2019 in good shape, financially. Our income and expenses are on track to budget. Income from pledges and rentals is coming in as planned and we have not had any big surprises on the expense side. Thank you to everyone who has supported UUCSW through their pledge payments and our fundraising efforts. This quarter we also received unbudgeted income in the form of a matching gift from the Wake Now Our Vision campaign run by the UUA. We received the first installment of \$2500 out of a total of \$10,000 that will be delivered over the next year. Thank you to Bruce Hall and John Metzger for their work on driving that campaign within our community. As we start the new year, our focus will be on our biggest fundraisers of the year, the auction on

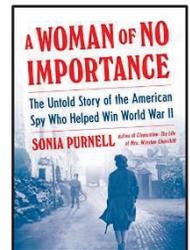
March 14th and the concert on May 3rd. Please start thinking about items/services you could donate to the auction and clear your calendars for both dates.

You may review your giving and pledge history at any time through your Realm account or by contacting Susie Wells, our collector, at [susie48winnip@gmail.com](mailto:susie48winnip@gmail.com). Contribution statements for the 2019 tax year will be available for printing on Feb 1st through Realm. If you need me to supply you with a printed copy, please contact me directly.

Lisa Shumway, [treasurer@uucsw.org](mailto:treasurer@uucsw.org)

## Book Group – January 10th

For **JANUARY**, we are reading *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell. 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](mailto:Judithteacake@gmail.com).

## Week Day Discussion Group

Earlier this year, we started a daytime Adult Religious Education program called "*Happiness as a Spiritual Practice*." We decided to change the name to "*Week Day Discussion Group*." It will be like a Covenant Group where we discuss different topics every week. All UUCSW members and friends are invited to participate. 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.

## Share the Plate

Beginning in January, the Board has decided to begin a pilot of a Share the Plate program. This is a way for UUCSW to reach outside its walls and support the important work of a variety of different non-profit organizations. We can do more together than we can on our own, and this is one way of living out our UU principles and creating connections. The Board has chosen the below organizations for the spring to get us started, and then you will be invited to nominate organizations for the next year. We're in the processing of creating the nomination form, so keep an eye out for that.

- January: South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC)
- February: Mass Bail Fund
- March: Genesis Club
- April: Casa
- May: UU Mass Action
- June: Pastoral Counseling Center \*

\*This year they will also receive half of the Christmas Eve offering, as they have previously received that whole offering and there are only two church Sundays in June. Going forward, the full Christmas Eve offering will go to the

Minister's Discretionary Fund, to offer support to families and individuals within our congregation who need a little extra financial support.

## *Rev. Laurel's Ordination*

Mark your calendars! Rev. Laurel's ordination will be on Sunday April 19th, 2020 at 10am. We're doing this jointly with First Parish in Concord, MA, so our building will be closed that Sunday and we'll take a field trip to Concord. This only happens once, and you, the congregation, are the ones who bestow the ordination, so we hope you'll be there! We'll organize carpooling and provide more details closer to the date.

## *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 typically 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](mailto:laurel.gray@uucsw.org).

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

## *New to UUCSW Class*

Are you new to UUCSW and/or Unitarian Universalism? Please join us for a two-session class designed to help answer questions about Unitarian Universalism, give you tools to navigate all that UUCSW has to offer, and foster connections with other newcomers as well as longtime members.

The class will cover topics such as:

- Roots and Values - Who are we and what do we believe?
- Nuts and Bolts - How does a UU congregation operate?
- Growing in Community - How can we engage in this community?

The sessions will be held on January 12th and 26th at the church from 12:00 to 1:30.

Please RSVP to Lisa Shumway at [membership@uucsw.org](mailto:membership@uucsw.org). Let us know if you will need childcare and if you have any dietary restrictions.

Thank you,

*Lisa Shumway, John Metzger and the UUCSW Membership Team*

## *Snow Removal Volunteers needed for 2020!*

Tis the season to be a good neighbor and keep our UUCSW congregation, renters and greater community safe during a storm!

We need volunteers to team up and help with the clearing of snow around our church building. We have a snowblower and shovels to support this task. (Lisa Shumway is willing to give lessons on how to use the snowblower to anyone not familiar with how to operate it, as well as where the key is kept for it.) Directions for areas that require clearing are posted on the chapel bulletin board, and at the Ruggles St entrance.

We have awesome team leads coordinating the sign ups to insure we are covered on weekdays (Mon-Fri) as well as weekends (Sat & Sun).

- Coordinators Melissa and Matt Meehan have created a [Sign-Up Genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E49AF2AAA8-snow) link for people to help as needed for snow removal on Saturdays and/or Sundays: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E49AF2AAA8-snow>
- Coordinators Tim Nourse and Marge Fisher have created the a [Sign-Up Genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F4BAFAF23A3FE3-weekday) link for people to help as needed for snow removal for Mondays through Fridays: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F4BAFAF23A3FE3-weekday>

Sign up with a friend or family member and make the task lighter! It would be great to have both sheets filled in for this winter season as soon as possible to insure we have any upcoming storms covered.

Thank you in advance for any time you can give to help in this important task!

*The UUCSW Board of Trustees*

## *WU's at Lunch, Wednesday, January 8th*



January can be a questionable month weatherwise, so we will stay in Westboro and meet at the ever dependable South Street Diner on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. It has been quite some time since meeting there, and I hope we will have a large turnout to welcome the new year/decade.

Please let Mary Tribe ([marytribe5@gmail.com](mailto:marytribe5@gmail.com)) know by Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> whether or not you will be joining us, so she can let the Diner know we are coming.

# January Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
10:30 AM – Winter Family Brunch				🕒 11:00 AM – Week Day Discussion Group 6:30 PM – Board Meeting		
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
10:30 AM – Sunday Service	6:30 PM – UU Knits 	🕒	11:30 AM – UU's at Lunch 	🕒	7:00 PM – Book Group	
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
10:30 AM – Sunday Service 12 Noon – New to UUCSW		🕒		🕒 11:00 AM – Week Day Discussion Group		
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
10:30 AM – Sunday Service	6:30 PM – UU Knits 	🕒 12 Noon – February Vista Articles due		🕒		
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>
10:30 AM – Sunday Service 12 Noon – New to UUCSW		🕒		🕒		

🕒 Rev. Laurel in the office

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
WESTBOROUGH**

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[Laurel.Gray@uucsw.org](mailto:Laurel.Gray@uucsw.org)

Minister Emerita .....The Reverend Cindy Frado

Director of Religious Education.....Cassie Lengel

Music Director.....Kala Farnham

Office Assistant.....Elisa Scully

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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](mailto:Vista@uucsw.org).**

Please put "VISTA" in the subject line.

**February Vista articles due by  
Noon, Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**For updates visit  
[uucsw.org](http://uucsw.org)**

