February Worship Schedule

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 10:30 AM
Members & Friends Sunday Service – Reverend Laurel Gray

Membership & Friends Sunday
In this membership service, we’ll be celebrating members and friends who have been part of UUCSW for decades, as well as those who have found us more recently. We’ll hear stories from congregants about what being part of UUCSW has meant to them. Anyone who is interested in signing the membership book is welcome to do so. Come celebrate being part of this community!

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 10:30 AM
Sunday Service – Reverend Laurel Gray

Celebrating Our Gifts
Continuing with last week’s spirit, in this service we’ll celebrate all the ways that we offer our gifts to UUCSW. You are the ones who make this congregation not only possible, but loving and vibrant and fun. We’ll celebrate the many gifts that you bring and the power of collective generosity

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16, 10:30 AM
Sunday Service – Reverend Natalie Malter

Choosing Courage
There is simply so much we cannot control in our beautiful and hurting world. How do we cultivate resilient communities in spite of all the uncertainty around us? What does it look like to make courage into a daily practice in our lives? Join Guest Minister, Rev. Natalie Malter, to reflect on choosing courage amidst the messiness.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 10:30 AM
Sunday Service – Jim Kirk

Strange Fruit
Time Magazine named it “Song of the Century” in 1999.
The Library of Congress honored it in 2002, adding it to the National Recording Registry.
The topic of Strange Fruit is still, sadly, all too relevant today.
An exploration into the history and people behind one of the most powerful songs ever written.
Dear UUCSW,

We’re kicking off the first week of February with a week of celebration! On February 2nd we’ll be recognizing members and friends, hearing stories about what this community has meant to our lives, and remembering the covenant we make to each other. Then on Saturday February 8th, we’re reviving the Birthday Bash, so come for this all-ages birthday party and help decorate a cake! The next morning we’ll continue the celebration by recognizing all the ways we offer our gifts and talents to build this vibrant UUCSW community together.

At the end of February, I’ll be attending an Our Whole Lives training so that I can support the work of our OWL teachers and spend more time with our young people. Providing OWL classes is a powerful part of our work and ministry as a congregation, because it can be so transformative for young people and create a solid foundation from which to build healthy relationships. Many thanks to everyone who has supported the OWL program over the years!

As we move into the spring, please mark your calendars: Sunday April 19th will be my official ordination service and you are the ones who do the ordaining! We’re doing this together with First Parish in Concord – the service will be held in Concord at 10am on Sunday morning – so we’re going to take a field trip that morning to celebrate and embrace our connection to the wider Unitarian Universalist community.

I hope you’re staying warm and finding little ways to celebrate amidst the cold of February.

Blessings,

Laurel

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.
Interfaith Meal Packing Event
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church here in Westborough hosts an Interfaith Meal Packing Event each February to support the food insecure. Thank you to all who helped us to fundraise for this event, and we will be participating from 2:30-4pm on February 1st!

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 get started with sessions in early February. 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. For more information please see Cassie Lengel.

Sunday Morning Programming for February:
February 2nd – This is a Multigenerational Service celebrating all our members of UUCSW!
February 9th - This is a sanctuary start for RE students with normal RE class.
February 16th - This is a Chapel Start and we will have a Group RE Class for all ages!
February 23rd – This is a sanctuary start for RE students with Group RE class for all ages!

Money Matters – February 2020

I am pleased to report that our positive financial trend continues. Our income and expenses are tracking better than budget. Income from pledges and rentals is coming in as planned. In addition, we recently received unbudgeted income in the form of a couple of generous gifts as well as the second $2500 installment from the Wake Now Our Vision Campaign. 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. Please continue to support our ongoing fundraisers, Shop with Scrip and Stop & Shop cards. As we progress into 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. Contribution statements for the 2019 tax year will be emailed to (or mailed home if we don’t have your email address) before Feb 1st. Statements will also be available for printing yourself on Feb 1st through Realm.

Lisa Shumway, treasurer@uucsw.org
The month of February is a month to celebrate our UUCSW members and friends! As we head into the new year, it is a great time to think about what it means to you to be engaged and part of this congregation, while at the same time enjoy upcoming happenings!

The board hopes you will attend the “Membership Sunday” service on Feb 2nd to celebrate all the good works of our current members and friends, as well as continuing to welcome new members and friends throughout the year!

Another way to celebrate this month is by joining the membership engagement team (MET) as they host their annual Intergenerational, winter event. This year the “Birthday Bash” is back! On Feb. 8th celebrate your birth month with cake! Have a fun time decorating with other UUs while finding out who was born on your month, and what you have in common! Look for more details from the MET- and sign up!

February 9th is the “Annual Pledge Campaign” kick-off! Many members and friends share their time and talents, during the course of a year, however, your financial pledge helps us plan the coming year’s budget for our awesome staff, providing the religious education program, managing the building & grounds work, as well as many other costs needed to keep UUCSW operational.

On a different note:

The board met on January 9th to follow up from the annual board retreat (held at the First Parish-UU church in Concord MA last October). A few members of our congregation (Kathie Metzger, Lisa Borchetta, Lisa Shumway) and Rev. Laurel (who were also all at the October retreat), joined us.

It was an in-depth, follow up, regarding our UUSCW future, and the key takeaways from the October discussion topics. As we enter a new decade; what can be implemented in the immediate future and what we vision we will need to succeed ten years from now, were the areas most focused on.

The board is reviewing the outcome from these retreat meetings, as well as vision discussions from past meetings. We will be reaching out to our congregation seeking input in the coming months from our members and friends to help with the important undertaking of planning for our future.

Warm Regards,

Janet Purney- Balabanis

Co-chair UUCSW Board of Trustees

Blood Drive February 29th

If you are ready, willing and able please join us at the Westborough Fire Department on Saturday, February 29th for our second blood drive with the Boston Children’s Hospital Bloodmobile in memory of Corinne. We’ll be there from 9 AM to 4 PM and would love to see you even if donating blood is not your thing. Cyndi our BCH Bloodmobile contact let me know that we did a great job with the first drive, she especially was impressed with the community's response and the connection demonstrated. I’m glad we were able to build on the previous drives and bring in some new donors as well.

uucsw.org
Membership News from the Pews

Greetings from John Metzger and Lisa Shumway, leaders of the membership engagement team. Our mission is to coordinate hospitality (greeting and coffee hour) each Sunday, help assimilate visitors and retain members and friends, and provide caring for those in need, in coordination with our minister.

Thank you to everyone who has helped support the mission by greeting or hosting coffee hour during the first half of the year. It is now time to fill up the slots for the remainder of the year. If each of us signs up for one Sunday of greeting and one Sunday of hosting, we will be covered. Please sign up on the board in the chapel or through signup genius. Sunday Hospitality Signup Genius link.

February is a special month for membership. We will be celebrating our members and friends on February 2nd. During this service we will be inviting our friends to become members by signing the membership book. If you are interested and/or have questions, please reach out to Rev. Laurel (laurel.gray@uucsw.org) or Lisa Shumway (membership@uucsw.org). On February 8th, we will be reviving the Birthday Bash, a fun, multi-generational social event to celebrate all of our birthdays.

You may have noticed some new faces around on Sundays as we have had quite a few visitors. Please help us assimilate newcomers by wearing your name tags and introducing yourselves to our new friends. One final request to help Rev. Laurel get to know us is to add a photo to your profile in Realm. It is pretty straightforward: go into your Realm account, click on your name to edit your profile and then click on the circle where your image should be to add a photo. Other options are to email your preferred photo to Membership@uucsw.org and we can add your photo for you, or see Lisa Shumway during coffee hour and she will take a photo for you.

If you are interested in joining this team, please reach out to John or Lisa or email us at membership@uucsw.org.

Book Group – February 14th

For FEBRUARY, we are reading Hild by Nicola Griffith 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.

UU’s at Lunch, Wednesday, February 12th

February weather is always unpredictable, so we will stay close to home once again. Let’s meet at Bertuccis Brick Oven Restaurant on Wednesday, February 12th 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 gather to chase away the mid-winter blues.

Please let Mary Tribe (marytribe5@gmail.com) know by Friday, February 7th whether or not you will be joining us, so she can make reservations.
Birthday Bash! – February 8th 5 pm

Join in on this fun for all ages tradition as we gather to celebrate everyone's birthday UUCSW style. We'll have a pizza dinner followed by teaming up with those who share our birthday months to design and decorate cakes. Themes chosen by each group on the spot. Please email Pauline Sciarappa at psciarappa@gmail.com if you are interested in attending and include the following details: 1. How many adults/teens/children will be attending? 2. Will you bring an unfrosted 8x8" or 9x9" cake? Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. People can also find a sign-up sheet in the chapel. Hope to see you there!

Committee on the Ministry

Beginning in November of 2019, our committee members; Ben Gold, Cecilia Owens, Charlie Wolfson, Lisa Borchetta and Lisa Shumway have met monthly with Reverend Laurel Gray to support her in her role as our minister. The purpose of the Committee on the Ministry is: to support the work of the minister through reflection and conversation, and to advise the leadership with confidentiality and compassion as cornerstones. As always, Reverend Laurel welcomes input and feedback from the congregation and is also available for concerns of a pastoral nature. The Board of Trustees are also available for any governance related issues.

Thank-you, UUCSW Committee on the Ministry

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.

If there is a death or emergency, she can be reached on her cell phone at 401-932-7855.
In September Muriel Kramer led a powerful Sunday service, in which she talked about her work with the Mass Bail Fund. Many of you wanted to support her work, so we have selected the Mass Bail Fund as our February Share the Plate organization. We know that in this country people of color are disproportionately incarcerated and often held for minor offences because they can’t post bail. This can have a profound impact on an individual’s life – losing a job, housing, or child custody – so posting bail is a targeted way to disrupt this system and help keep people’s lives in tact. You can find more information about their work here: https://www.massbailfund.org/

**UU Knits is adding additional Mondays**

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. Feel free to drop in when you can. We have decided to try meeting every week (instead of just two days per month). Join us in the Parlor on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm.

**Share the Plate**

In January, we began 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.

- February: 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.
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 link for people to help as needed for snow removal on Saturdays and/or Sundays: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E49AFAF2AAA8-snow
- Coordinators Tim Nourse and Marge Fisher have created the a Sign-Up Genius link for people to help as needed for snow removal for Mondays through Fridays: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F4BFAF23A3FE3-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
# February Calendar of Events

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 символов Rev. Laurel in the office
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.

February Vista articles due by Noon, Tuesday, February 18th.

For updates visit uucsw.org

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF WESTBOROUGH
Telephone: 508-366-2635
Email: office@uucsw.org Web Site: uucsw.org
Minister................................. The Reverend Laurel Gray
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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