

June Worship Schedule

Worship Theme of the Month: *Compassion*



SUNDAY JUNE 7, 10:30 AM

Online Sunday Service on [Zoom](#) Service Leader – Lisa Shumway

Compassion

During this service we will explore compassion. How do we define and practice compassion towards ourselves, those close to us, and the countless who are unknown to us personally or with whom we disagree?

SUNDAY JUNE 14, 10:30 AM

Online Sunday Service on [Zoom](#) Rev. Laurel Gray

Flower Communion

Incredibly, this is our last service of the church year. We'll be doing flower communion, as is the custom of so many UUs this time of year. While we continue to gather online, we'll celebrate this uniquely UU ritual. Don't forget to bring your flower!

SUNDAY JUNE 21, 9:30 AM

Online Summer Sunday Service on [Zoom](#)

Welcome Summer and Happy Father's Day!

Join us as we celebrate dads and the first day of summer. If you are so moved, bring a reflection or poem to share.

SUNDAY JUNE 28, 09:30 AM

Online Summer Sunday Service on [Zoom](#)

UUA General Assembly Worship Service

We will come together briefly before switching over to the live-streamed UUA General Assembly Worship Service which begins at 10:00 AM.

UUCSW's Sunday Services are currently being offered online using Zoom. Join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 am. Click zoom.us/j/293107677 or call 301-715-8592 and enter meeting ID 293107677. All are welcome!

From the Minister

Dear UUCSW,

I wonder if the last month has felt like blur for all of you – it certainly has for me. Somehow, amazingly, we find ourselves on the cusp of summer as this church year comes to a close. With all the risk of Covid-19, we don't yet know when we'll be meeting together in person. Thus far, the board has wisely decided that we won't be meeting in person before August 31st. What happens beyond that remains to be seen. What we do know is that a closed building does not mean a closed congregation. It does not mean we have stopped caring for each other – it means that we are doing things differently out of our love for each other and the world.

Who knew when I met you all last August that this is where we'd be come June. As first years of ministry go, I'm pretty sure this has been one for the books. And it's been an incredible joy and honor being your minister. We've revived old traditions like the birthday bash and done a whole host of new things including our whirlwind transition to the digital world. I want to thank you all for your enthusiasm and effort this year. You are the ones who make this congregation what it is.

As I noted last month, we are saying goodbye to Cassie on June 14th as she transitions to a new home in Pennsylvania and a new job. Cassie, thank you for all that you have done to support our children and families – you go with our blessing. Though we can't celebrate you in person, I hope you feel our gratitude.

I also want to acknowledge a leadership transition in our midst. After years, decades even, of serving as the Program Committee Chair, Kathie Metzger is getting a well-earned respite from all the planning. Sharon Barrett, who has served on various committees and been an active part of our music program, has agreed to become the new Program Committee Chair. Please join me in expressing your gratitude to Kathie for her immense service to this congregation, and in welcoming Sharon into her new role.

As we move towards the summer, I hope you can find ways to rest, to enjoy the warmth, and to connect with the people you love. I hope you create space to reflect and to find meaning as we continue to wade through quarantine. We will be having summer services on Zoom thanks to the Program Committee and all of you who step up to lead a service. We know the idea of doing a digital service can be daunting, but there will be people to help with the technology and planning.

Our podcast, "UUCSW Reflections," is available on our website and Apple podcasts, if you'd like to hear any of my sermons from the past year or listen to Amanda Hall and I chat about the month's worship themes. Amanda has done an incredible job putting this podcast together all year – please join me in celebrating her work by listening and sharing it with your family and friends.

I will be taking a much-needed break during July and then will spend August on study leave, preparing for the coming church year. Please know that I hold you all dearly and I'm looking forward to being back in the fall. I hope you all have enjoyed this church year as much as I have.

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.

Farewell from Cassie

Dear UUCSW,

First, I wanted to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Director of Religious Education for these past two years. During this time, I have been introduced to what an incredible faith Unitarian Universalism is and I will take these values and principles with me throughout my life. I have had the opportunity to meet, learn from, and work with some amazing people in your congregation, and you have taught me more about what a community looks like and how much I will miss yours. I have had the distinct honor to know and work with two great ministers who have taught me so much about leadership and teamwork. And finally, but most importantly, I have witnessed the growth of our children and youth for what is only a short time in their lives, but which will stick with me for much longer. To all of UUCSW, thank you for having me.

We've seen a lot of changes over these past two years. We've seen the change of hands between the DREs, the nostalgic good bye of one minister to the happy welcome of another, the renegotiating of a sustainable budget, the growth of new families, and the large and small joys and sorrows that fill our day to day lives. We've seen changes these past two years, but let me tell you what I see ahead of you. I see a congregation that will support one another through this pandemic with grace and compassion. I see a congregation that will welcome its new DRE and many more new faces in its years to come. I see a congregation that will invest in its members to create a space that is known for its community. I see these things because I have known all of you and I have faith in this community.

I may be physically leaving you, but like with our youth who are bridging, I can never completely leave you. I will take you with me on my journey in the memories of our experiences and the lessons you have taught me. I hope that you, too, will look back with fond memories of me.

Dig deep, love well, and be strong.

Cassie Lengel

UUCSW DRE; 2018-2020

Board Matters

We at the UUCSW are following the recommendations of Governor Baker and Dr. Fauci, Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who says, "... as painful as it is to follow guidelines of gradually phasing into a reopening "it's gonna backfire (if we open too soon). That's the problem." The UUA has endorsed these guidelines, has canceled or made all their events virtual until Sept 1, 2020, and recommends that congregations also continue to have no in-person gatherings.

The Board has accordingly voted not to have any in-person gathering until at least January 2021. We have experienced great success sharing our Sunday services via the Zoom link. We want to keep the congregation safe. We will continue holding our services and Community Hours on Zoom.

Jerry Breecher and Kim Hall lead a social justice Common Read discussion of the book "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo, held on Friday, April 24th. They shared that the conversation was energetic and positive. Kate Strong representing "Westborough Connects" reached out to Jerry and Kim, inviting the UUCSW to join town congregations in raising awareness about diversity.

We have two staff updates. Laurel has accepted the responsibilities of the Head of Staff. She will supervise the Director of Religious Education, the Office Administrator, and the Music Director. The board has seen how well Laurel has handled a variety of situations and is pleased she is stepping into the larger role.

The board voted to change Elisa Scully's title to Office Administrator which best describes the duties she admirably fulfills. We are fortunate to have her and appreciate the skills she brings to us. We are hoping to approve a raise for her at the Annual Meeting on June 14th.

The Annual Meeting will be held on June 14th immediately following the service at 11:30 AM. All members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to attend, however only UUCSW members count towards the meeting quorum and may vote during the meeting. To join us, use the meeting link zoom.us/j/84153524640 or call 301-715-8592 and enter meeting ID 84153524640.

We need you to attend the Annual Meeting to vote in our new officers and discuss and approve the budget. With so many variables to consider going forward, we will only be approving a budget for the first quarter of the fiscal year. A special meeting will be held in September to approve the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. See the "Money Matters" article in this issue for more about our financial outlook. We need your input and look forward to hearing from you on June 14th.

The board thanks Lisa Shumway for her efforts to secure the Small Business Administration loan through the Paycheck Protection Program which will help us keep our employees paid during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. It was a time-sensitive challenge and she handled it masterfully!

You will also read about the efforts the RE committee is working on to continue to provide opportunities for the children now and in the Fall.

The Building on Our Foundation 2020-2021 Annual Pledge Campaign has been completed. Through our collaborative generosity, UUCSW can work toward expanding our ministry, share our principles, and plan for the future. Thank you so much to the Campaign Committee members, Lisa Shumway, Bruce Hall, Laurel Gray, Elisa Scully, David King, and Juliana Spofford.

As always, please share any suggestions, questions, and concerns at any time. Be safe and stay healthy.

Judith Nicholson on behalf of the UUCSW Board of Trustees

Money Matters in Times of Uncertainty

This month's message about UUCSW's financial status remains consistent with last month - the latest forecast for the fiscal year-end shows we will finish the year in a positive position, despite loss of rental income. Thank you to those who contribute to our weekly share the plate collection, pay your pledges throughout the fiscal year, make purchases for UUCSW needs without submitting for reimbursement, participated in the online auction, and those who provided miscellaneous gifts throughout the year. You are critical to keeping our income on track.

We continue to look at ways to reduce our operating expenses while we are not using our building. For instance, the refrigerators have been emptied and unplugged, thanks to Pauline! In May, we received a \$22,000 Payroll Protection Program Loan to help us maintain payroll for our staff through the Spring and cover utilities. I anticipate that we will meet the requirements for loan forgiveness in June which will convert the loan to a grant. This money helps protect us against additional income losses in the future.

As June approaches, the focus is on the next fiscal year. As I write this, in mid-May, there is still uncertainty around when we will reopen for in-person services, and more importantly, when our renters, the nursery school and Indian dance, will restart their classes.

Given these unknowns, with the board's approval, rather than reviewing and approving a full fiscal year budget at the annual meeting on June 14th, we will only be looking at the first quarter of the fiscal year, July through September. Congregational approval of a first quarter budget will allow us to continue to pay our staff and bills through the summer. We will know more as September approaches and will present a budget for the remainder of the year at that time.

If you are interested in the finances of UUCSW and would like to be a part of the finance committee, we would love to have you, just send me an email.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Shumway at Treasurer@uucsw.org

UUA General Assembly June 24 - 28

You can register as a Virtual General Assembly participant. Events will be streamed to the virtual GA registrants starting on June 24-28, 2020.

All GA registrants will have access to the GA Virtual Participation Portal, which combines multiple modes of participant engagement that include chat, Q&A, and polling. Registrants are able to watch and ask questions in live sessions including workshops and business sessions (mini-assemblies, hearings, etc.). Voting Delegates are also able to propose amendments in the live business sessions, participate in debates, and vote in general sessions.

Virtual registration for General Assembly is \$150 per person. Registration for the General Assembly is the same process for delegates and non-delegates.

The following shows some of the planned events:

Welcoming Celebration

GA officially begins with a joyful, worshipful opening celebration with inspirational music and speakers. The opening celebration sets the tone for the days ahead. The Opening Celebration will include a procession of banners from hundreds of UU congregations and organizations.

Ware Lecture

The UUA President, in consultation with the General Assembly Planning Committee invites a distinguished guest each year to address the General Assembly as the Ware Lecture.

Featured Speaker Series

We are excited to announce the Featured Speakers for the 2020 General Assembly. The Featured Speaker Series is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Beacon Press.

To register go to this link: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/registrants>

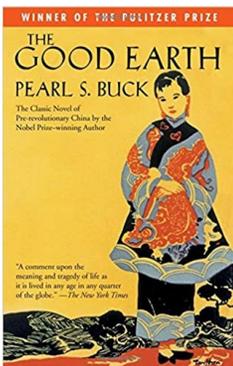
Pastoral Care

The Membership Engagement Team and Rev. Laurel are always here to support you. We know that caring looks different right now, as we keep physical distance. Rev. Laurel is now, like so many of you, working from home.

If you'd like to make an appointment for pastoral care, or have a joy or sorrow that you'd like included on a Sunday when you're away, you can email Laurel at: laurel.gray@uucsw.org. She can also be reached on her cell phone at 401-932-7855. Feel free to text or call if something is urgent or you just need to check in.

For the month of July, Laurel will be on vacation. August is her study leave to prepare for the coming church year. If there is a death or emergency, please reach her on her cell phone at 401-932-7855. She will not be responding to email during the month of July.

Book Group — June 12th



For **June**, we are reading *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck. Please join us.

The group is open to all. You are welcome to attend.

Because of the pandemic, Book Group will be [online](#).

If you are planning to attend for the first time, please email

Judith: Juditheacake@gmail.com.

June Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10:30 AM – Online Sunday Service	6:30 PM – UU Knits (online) 	🕒 7 PM – Community Hour		🕒 10:30 AM – Community Hour		
7	8	8	10	11	12	13
10:30 AM – Online Sunday Service	6:30 PM – UU Knits (online)	7 PM – Community Hour		🕒 10:30 AM – Community Hour	7:00 PM – Book Group (online) 	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30 AM – Online Sunday Service 11:30 AM – Annual Meeting	6:30 PM – UU Knits (online)	🕒 7 PM – Community Hour		🕒 10:30 AM – Community Hour		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 AM – Online Summer Sunday Service	6:30 PM – UU Knits (online)	🕒 7 PM – Community Hour		🕒 10:30 AM – Community Hour UUA General Assembly	UUA General Assembly	UUA General Assembly
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
9:30 AM – Online Summer Sunday Service UUA General Assembly	6:30 PM – UU Knits (online)	🕒 7 PM – Community Hour				

🕒 Rev. Laurel office hours

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF
WESTBOROUGH**

P.O. Box 544
64 W. Main Street
Westborough, MA 01581

**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 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 Vista@uucsw.org.

Please put "VISTA" in the subject line.

**September Vista articles due by
Noon, THURSDAY, August 20th.**

**For updates visit
uucsw.org**

