



Volume 25 | Issue 8 April 2021 Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough

April Worship Schedule

Worship Theme of the Month: ***Becoming***



SUNDAY APRIL 4, 10:30 AM

Online Sunday Service on [Zoom](#) – led by Rev. Laurel

Easter Sunday

This year, Passover, Easter, and Ramadan fall in biblical sequence, one after another, which rarely happens. For so many people of so many traditions, this moment is one of reflection and remembering, a collective recentring. On this Easter Sunday, we'll remember the Christian story of Easter and reflect on what it means to turn to the past in order to move forward anew.

SUNDAY APRIL 11, 10:30 AM

Online Sunday Service on [Zoom](#) – led by Rev. Laurel

Stories of Making It Through

This Sunday we'll be revisiting the story of Exodus that is remembered during Passover, albeit a week after Passover has ended. The retelling of the story each year during the Seder meal is a reminder of the importance of telling stories of our resilience. After a year that has contained so much heartbreak, we'll reflect on the importance of remembering our capacity to make it through hard times.

SUNDAY APRIL 18, 10:30 AM

Online Sunday Service on [Zoom](#) – led by Jim Kirk

Trying to Be Ethical in a Complex World

You try to do the right thing, but it's getting harder and harder in our complex world. Corporations and conglomerates have usurped even the power of governments, and economics and profit have stifled the voice of civic institutions and We the People. What can we do to resist this juggernaut? Join us to examine the problem and possibly explore solutions.

SUNDAY APRIL 25, 10:30 AM

Online Sunday Service on [Zoom](#) – led by Helen Wolfson and Eric Thomas

It's Sunday Morning. Why Are You Here?

For this service, we welcome guest service leaders Helen Wolfson and Eric Thomas, fellow UUs from the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (ERUUF) in Durham, NC. Today, more Americans than ever identify as religiously unaffiliated. What is it about Unitarian Universalism that compels theists and non-theists alike to show up at a church-like place (church, fellowship, society, you name it) instead of staying home, relaxing, reading the paper, or engaging in any number of other competing possibilities?

From the Minister

Dear UUCSW,

We find ourselves in a strange moment, after a year of strange moments. There's so much hope and so much weariness, so much momentum and so much grief. Spring is indeed really here. And yet. And yet, as so many people get vaccinated there is also the frustration that so many can't get vaccinated yet. There's the eagerness for the pandemic to end, and the reality that it just hasn't yet.

Sitting in the space between is hard. In the Christian tradition, this time is called Holy Saturday. It's the time between Good Friday and Easter, the gap between winter's despair and spring's new life. Tending well to the in between is a spiritual practice that people have been learning for eons. It isn't easy. And it's also sacred.

March held too much, from the news that Rev. Cindy Frado was sick, to our envisioning our justice work together, starting our Coming of Age program and planning the spring auction, to the staggering news that Cindy had died far faster than anyone imagined. There's so much hope and so much weariness, so much momentum and so much grief.

Life is hard. It can take our breath away with joy as well as grief. And by some miracle of resilience, we can hold it all. And we do. The extraordinary blessing of congregational life is that we don't have to do that alone. We hold it all together.

Blessings,

Rev. Laurel

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

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

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, like so many of us, working from home. If you'd like to make an appointment for pastoral care, you can schedule time for a phone or zoom call here: calendly.com/revlaurelgray. She can also be reached by email at laurel.gray@uucsw.org or her cell phone at 401-932-7855. Feel free to text or call if something is urgent or you just need to check in.

Save the Date – “Good in the ‘Hood”

UUCSW is moving its annual spring fundraiser online. Save the date now, May 15th from 6-8 pm. We'll be hosting a Zoom auction, featuring some old favorites and exciting new items. Tickets to the auction will include a goody bag with some yummy treats and souvenirs you are definitely going to want. As a reminder, we're also working on a pandemic cookbook, so send your recipes to Erin Gold (KentuckyBlueRose@gmail.com) or submit using the [online form](#). More details will be coming soon; in the meantime if you have any questions please send them to your fundraising team: Amy MacDougall, Ben Gold, Erin Gold, Laurel Gray, Lisa Shumway, and Pauline Sciarappa.

Board Matters

March was the one year anniversary of virtual services due to COVID. Around a year ago I did a Sunday reflection where I said I understood the reasoning behind the UUA's statement that we should prepare for an entire year of socially distant worship. That it would be some time before some of us would be able to attend in person and we should attempt to thrive at this socially distant worship rather than splitting our attention. That few congregations have the energy to excel at both at the exact same time.

At this March's board meeting I used the following quote from the UU church of Delaware County's visioning work as a way to talk about what we've accomplished during this year:

"We learned much during that period of isolation and we took what we learned and what we experienced, and we built on it. And we kept on building until we created the Beloved Community we have today. I am reminded of the quote by the poet Emily Dickenson, 'Not knowing when the dawn will come, I open every door.'"

While this may have been a period of physical isolation, we have definitely not been isolated from each other. Together we have found our way through what this year brought us.

Before this year, a common theme of every visioning activity or task force was that our congregation was about the community more than the building. This year we had to adapt to live that very quickly – what people sometimes describe at my work as "changing the tires while driving the car." Thank you all for all the big and small things you all have done over the past year to help sustain our community.

In particular this month I would like to thank our Pod coordinators and those that support them in their work. Through the Pods I have gotten to know people better – both new and old members and friends. It is a wonderful example of how the whole community can work together to help each other. It also shows how Laurel and the membership engagement team rose to the occasion by focusing on the people and not the place. It was not attempting to be a substitute for conversations before or after Sunday service, but rather something different that helps the community in a similar but better way.

We as a congregation are also building on "what we learned and what we experienced" during this past year to plan our future. There is a group working on envisioning how we can work together on social and racial justice initiatives. The Religious Education task force is working on their plans for next year. And this month we are starting a group to plan for hybrid worship when some of us are able to return to the church building. We know that this will not be before next fall but it is time to start because we also know that we don't want to leave anyone behind when it is time.

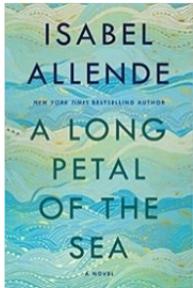
And this brings me to my other quote to open the March board meeting – said by Christopher Robin to Winnie the Pooh:

"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think. But the most important thing is, even if we're apart...I'll always be with you."

- David King on behalf of the UUCSW Board of Trustees

Board Meeting Dates:

- April 1, 2021
- May 6, 2021
- June 3, 2021



Book Group April 9th

For April, we are reading *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende. 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 at Judithteacake@gmail.com.

Online Game Night April 10th

The Membership Team is planning an Online Game Night for April 10th at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mark your calendar and join us on Zoom at zoom.us/j/82346789598



UU Mass Action Advocacy Day April 13th

Join UU Mass Action for its annual UU Advocacy Day! Let's put our faith into action as we fight for Immigrant Justice, Climate & Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, Indigenous Justice and Decarceration & Ending Solitary Confinement. There will be a community gathering from 11:00 am to noon to kick us off, and then participants will have virtual meetings with their Reps and Senators. Visit the [event page](#) for more information and [register here](#).

Help UUCSW Help People in Need

SMOC FOOD DRIVE FOR APRIL: Please consider participating in a congregational food drive to benefit the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) which provides meals for people in Worcester. They are especially in need of: 6-8 ounce juice boxes/pouches; fresh fruit especially apples and clementines; 16 oz. packages of bologna, pre-packaged; and boxes of chewy/soft granola bars. **There will be a collection for these items on Thursday, April 29th between 4:30 and 5:45 pm at the Ruggles Street door of UUCSW.** Please reach out to Libba Moore at libbamoore13@gmail.com ahead of time if there's a better time for you. Food will be delivered to SMOC on Friday April 30th.



CLOTHING ITEMS FOR SMOC: SMOC has identified the need for clothing, especially for men. Donated items can include: *new* socks and underwear, and *gently used* sweatshirts, sweatpants, T-shirts, and jeans. **Please bring your donations to UUCSW on Thursday, April 29th between 4:30 and 5:45 pm, the same day/time as the monthly food drive.** If this

timing does not work for you, please reach out to Nancy Siegal at Nsiegal185@msn.com or Pauline Sciarappa at psciarappa@gmail.com for other options. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Racial Justice Committee

Circle the date for Lunch & Learn: The Hidden Cost of Racism

In response to your expressed interest in learning more about the economic impacts of racism, we are offering a follow-up to our February Lunch & Learn. On **Sunday April 18, from Noon to 2:00**, outside facilitator, Mary Hettinger will again help us as we listen to an NPR interview with Heather McGhee, a Black female economist who recently published *The Sum of Us*. We'll then discuss what information was new to us, what we need to learn more about, and brainstorm ideas for personal action. Here's the link to the interview with McGhee if you want to listen to it ahead of time: npr.org/2021/02/17/968638759/sum-of-us-examines-the-hidden-cost-of-racism-for-everyone



Join the Lunch & Learn Zoom meeting online at

zoom.us/j/81971339544

To join by phone, call 1-301-715-8592

and enter meeting ID 819 7133 9544

Free! Bystander Intervention Trainings

The recent violence against people of Asian descent, prompted the Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAAJ) organization and Hollaback! (ihollaback.org) to partner in offering several, free, one-hour virtual, interactive trainings that teach Hollaback!'s 5D's of bystander intervention method. This method provides 5 different ways to safely respond when you see someone being harassed, regardless of the reason. I (Jane) thought the training was well-done and hope the over three thousand people in attendance thought so too! To learn more about upcoming trainings visit advancingjustice-aajc.org/anti-asian-hate.

Holidays, phone calls and more...

Looking to influence policy? Not sure where to start? Check out UU Mass Action's list of priority bills in the State legislature: docs.google.com/document/d/1X8DjcUIRPdUiygKvQ3-F_TexFyvL0IJVcWq_BS58aKk/edit. For example, you will find one that will change the second-Monday-in-October holiday to Indigenous People's Day; another promotes free phone calls for prisoners so they can stay connected to their families. Channel your passion for change by checking out this list; and for those issues that move you, contact your State Representatives to let them know how you want them to vote. Don't want to go it alone? Engage with UU Mass Action uumassaction.org.

Join us for our monthly meeting!

Our next meeting is **April 14, 4:00 – 5:30 pm**. All welcome! As a brainstorming activity, committee members will share the ways in which they think the importance of Black lives can be supported. Contact Jane Walsh with questions or to let her know you are interested but unable to attend at janenboro@aol.com or 508-393-9206 (leave a message). And here's the Zoom meeting link: zoom.us/j/84599163211.

April Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				6:30 pm – Board of Trustees Meeting		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 am – Sunday Service	6:30 pm – UU Knits	7:00 pm – Membership Team Meeting			7:00 pm – Book Group	7:00 pm – Online Game Night
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 am – Sunday Service 7:00 pm – Coming of Age	6:30 pm – UU Knits	UU Mass Action Advocacy Day				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 am – Sunday Service 12:00 pm – Lunch & Learn	6:30 pm – UU Knits	7:00 pm – Program Committee Meeting			May Vista Articles Due	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
10:30 am – Sunday Service 7:00 pm – Coming of Age	6:30 pm – UU Knits			4:30 pm – SMOC Food and Clothing Drive Collection @ UUCSW Ruggles Street Door		

**All services, meetings, and events are held remotely on Zoom unless otherwise indicated*

**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

Website: uucsw.org

Minister.....The Reverend Laurel Gray
Music Director.....Kala Farnham
Office Administrator.....Elisa Scully

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kim Hall, Co-Chair David King
Judith Nicholson, Co-Chair Scott Owens
 Stacy Spies

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Treasurer..... Lisa Shumway
Clerk Ashleigh Swain
Collector.....Susie Wells
Assistant Collector.....Kathe Scott
Historian..... Stacy Spies

VISTA SUBMISSIONS

Announcements, suggestions, or questions?
The *Vista* newsletter is published monthly and
submissions are welcome. Please email
submissions to: vista@uucsw.org

**May articles are due by
Friday, April 23rd. Thank you!**

**For updates, visit:
uucsw.org**