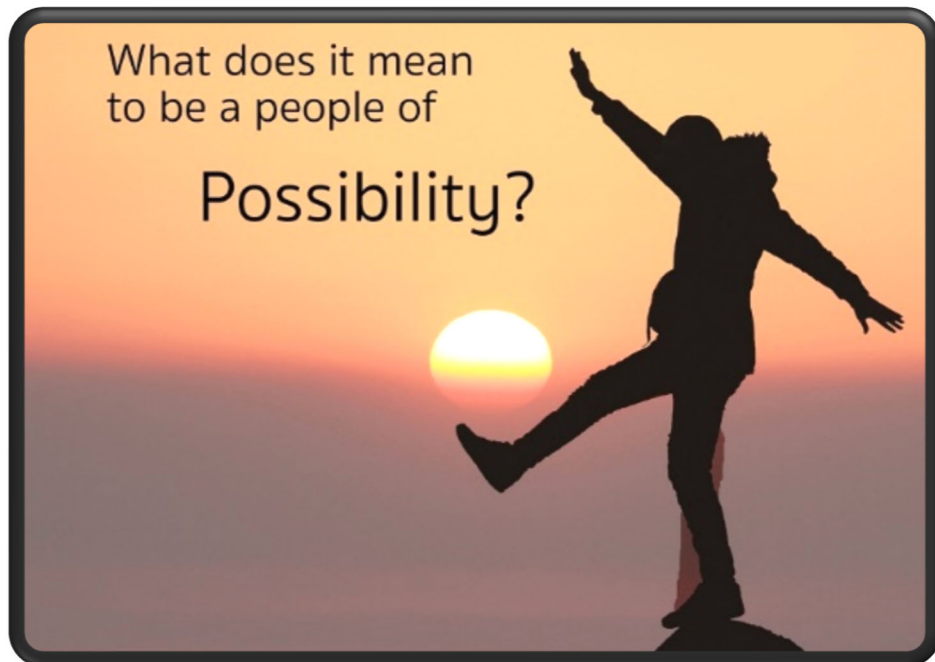




Volume 20 | Issue 5 January 2019 Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough

THIS MONTH'S WORSHIP THEME IS:

Possibility



January Worship Schedule

According to the creators of Soul Matters themed based ministry, possibility is arguably one of the topics most central to our faith. It has distinguished Unitarian Universalists from the start. Historically, when others saw depravity at the core of human identity, we saw potential. When many were preaching that the only hope was in an afterlife, we looked towards finding heaven on earth. Theologically, it's led to us being a people of "why not?" Why not give people another chance? Why not fight what seems a losing battle? Why not risk a little failure?

So if that characterizes our religion, what about us personally? How open are you to "Why not?" How is your faith in possibility doing in your life? We often talk ourselves out of trying, out of risking, not because we are pessimistic but rather to protect ourselves. If you convince yourself change is hopeless; you don't have to risk failure. All of which is to say that maybe being a people of possibility has more to do with being a people of vulnerability and courage. The work isn't just about believing in possibility, it is about being willing to endure a few wounds along the way.

So maybe the question this month isn't "Are you ready to lean into possibility?" but "Who's beside you and who are you bringing along?" "Who have you gathered to pick you up when the path gets bumpy?" No one makes it down the road of possibility alone. And perhaps that's the real secret: remembering that "Why not?" is something we all have to say together. (Soul Matters Small Group Ministry Packet)

SUNDAY JANUARY 6, 10:30 AM

Rev. Bev Waring preaching

SUNDAY JANUARY 13, 10:30 AM

Program Sunday

UUCSW Member and former Board member, Meredith O'Brien Weiss speaking with Program Committee Member Catherine Kling Nourse leading the other parts of the service.

The Teacher You Remember Most Fondly: If we were lucky, we had at least one teacher whose efforts to educate and mentor us extended beyond the classroom walls. Author Meredith O'Brien will discuss the powerful impact an unorthodox teacher can have on students. Her latest book, *Mr. Clark's Big Band*, focused on an extraordinary Southborough middle school music teacher who guided his students through their grief after the loss of one of their classmates.

SUNDAY JANUARY 20, 10:30 AM

Rev. Bev Waring preaching

SUNDAY JANUARY 27, 10:30 AM

Rev. Bev Waring preaching

This will be a special worship service as during the Time for All Ages, we will be dedicating Brett Kyes and Vivi and Owen Siegel.

Briefly with Bev

What does it mean to be a people of possibility? That is the question posed by the creators of this month's worship theme material.

In the third and fourth centuries it is said that people of faith would go to the desert and seek out monk-like hermits for guidance and wisdom. This tradition is referred to as "seeking a word." These wise men and women would offer people a word or a phrase to ponder for weeks, years and even a lifetime. The intention of this practice was to show people seeking wisdom that a simple word or phrase, when contemplated and reflected upon with earnest discipline has the power to create possibilities in us and in the world. The words and phrases are not meant to be instructions but rather invitations to think differently. This is about allowing things to unfold rather than to seek immediate solutions.

So, my invitation to you in this time of change and possibility at UUCSW is to accept the work of unfolding rather than fixing. Forget about making a list of resolutions to improve yourself. Instead try out this ancient practice of picking a word that will help keep you open to new possibilities throughout the year.

There is an almost unlimited list of words to choose from. Examples from people who have followed this spiritual discipline include listen, home, patience, presence, soar, overcome, treasure, nourish, expect, release, finish, delight, follow, lead. But how do you find yours? Some would say it is more of a matter of it finding you. For many, it will be easy. It may simply come up immediately. If not, take some time to make a list and then read it over until one pops out to you in neon lights. It often helps to ask yourself questions like: What do I need? What do I want? What do I need to focus on?

Another important aspect of this practice is finding a way to "hold" your word. Some people put their word on their computer's screen saver or cellphone's home screen. Others have written their word on a stone or even bought jewelry with the word on it. Others have made vision boards with words and images that represent their word. Whatever your method, this "holding on to your word" is key to making the exercise work effectively.

So, choose a word and enjoy the possibilities that this new year's practice unfolds for you!

Peace and Love,

Rev. Bev Waring

Children and Youth Religious Education Program

Battling Horcruxes!

This year our 5th/6th grade RE class is participating in the program Harry and the UU, which explores the injustices in the world today through the lens of JK Rowling's Harry Potter book series. ***January's Horcrux is Sickness. This month we will fight this injustice with a Soup-er Fundraiser! News about our collection/fundraiser will follow in the weekly update.***

RE Teachers:

This is just a friendly reminder to check your emails if you are one of our RE teachers for 2018-2019. We have asked that you sign up to teach at least 9 sessions, and we would love to have you look over what is left for the spring and consider blessing us with your talents. A reminder email has gone out as another reminder and with the link to our Signup Genius for RE teachers. Thank you in advance!

Youth Group:

To all of our wonderful high school youth, we welcome you back for our January Meeting! Please attend and help us to pick and choose what events and activities you would like to accomplish for this spring. A Google Doc has been created for your perusal in the meanwhile. So please join us on January 13th for pizza and fun!

Sunday Morning Programming for January:

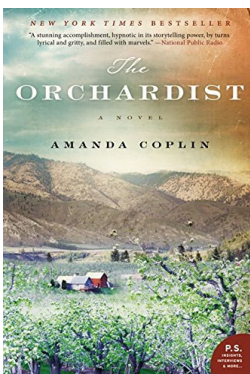
January 6 - We will begin in the Sanctuary and then move into our Group RE class.

January 13 - We will be having normal RE classes and the youth will begin in the Chapel.

January 20 - We will begin in the Sanctuary and then move into our Group RE class.

January 27 - We will begin in the Chapel for a special opening children's worship and then move into normal RE classes.

Book Group — January 11th



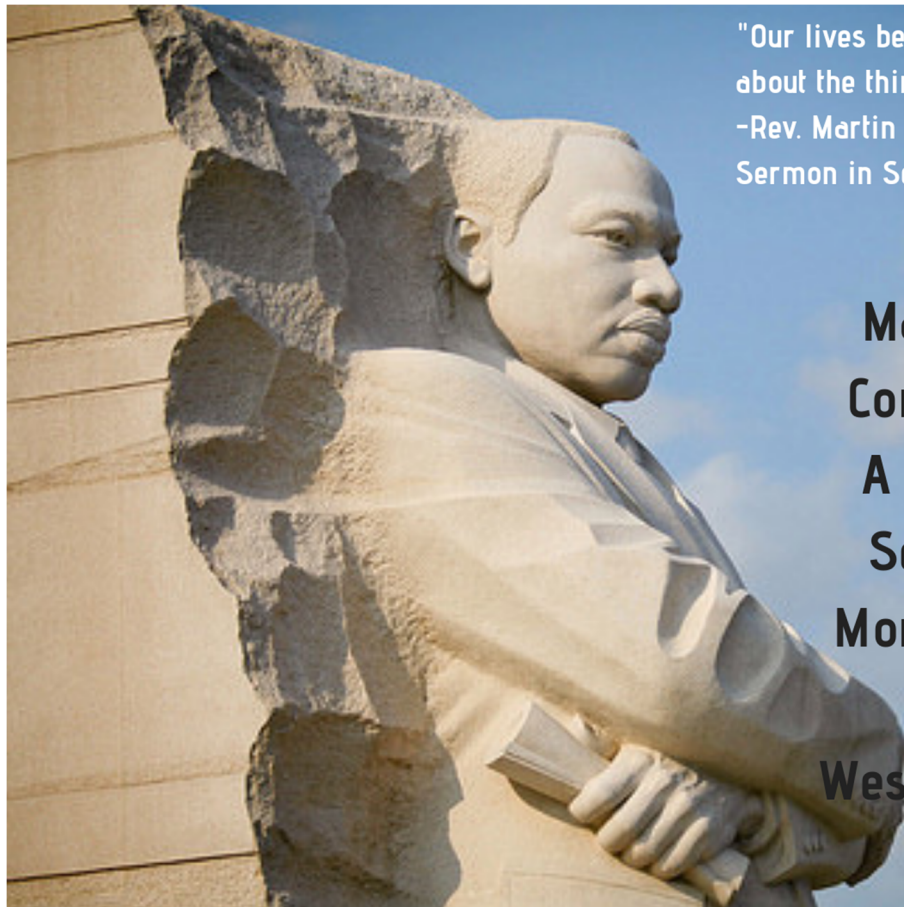
For **JANUARY**, we are reading *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin. Please join us. The group is open to all. We usually meet in members' homes and enjoy small groups of seven to ten people. We enjoy some light refreshments, lively discussion, and wonderful company. You are welcome to attend.

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

U's at Lunch, Wednesday, January 9th

Staying close to home for the winter months, we will start the new year with lunch at Arturos on Wednesday, January 9th. We will meet at 11:30 as usual, and we hope to see many of you there to get 2019 off to a good start.

If you plan to meet with us, please let Mary Tribe (508-329-1646 or email: marytribe5@gmail.com) know Saturday, January 5th, so she can make reservations. Happy New Year to all!



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter."
-Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Sermon in Selma, Alabama March 8, 1965

SAVE THE DATE
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Community Celebration
A Day of Inspiration,
Service & Connection
Monday, January 21, 2019
10 am - 12:30 pm
Westborough High School
Auditorium

Join the UUCSW Snow Removal Team!

When it comes to snow removal at the church, many hands make light work. We are forming a snow removal team to make clean-up after snow storms a breeze. If a storm is approaching, you will receive an email and whoever can make it will show up with shovels and a can-do attitude. If you can help out in this way, please sign up!

[SIGN ME UP FOR THE SNOW REMOVAL TEAM](#)

UUCSW Talent Show!!!!



Come join us on Saturday, January 5th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at UUCSW (Chapel) for a great time. Pizza, drinks and desserts will be served. All talents are welcome....singing, comedy, hula hooping, dancing, art projects and more! Performances are to be 2 to 5 minutes maximum. Please sign up in the Chapel at coffee hour or email Melissa Meehan at melcmeehan@gmail.com. This event is sponsored by the Membership Engagement Team.

Save the Date! UUCSW Birthday Bash will be on Saturday, March 3rd from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at UUCSW.

Snow Cancellation Information

If the weather is inclement and you're wondering if services are cancelled please check the following places:

ONLINE:

- Website: www.uucsw.org
- Facebook (Unitarian Universalist Westborough)
- WHDH storm center closings
- WBZ storm center closings

TV: WBZ, WHDH

RADIO: WBZ 1030 AM

PHONE: The church's outgoing message (508-366-2635) will be changed to reflect weather-related closing.

NOTE: As many of our congregants live in towns other than Westborough, please remember that we would close based on Westborough weather conditions only.

Please base your own decision on the conditions in your town, your safety is the most important factor to consider.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are in need of assistance due to weather, please contact Rev. Bev (508-481- 5397 (h) or 508-330- 1352(c)), and she will do her best to get someone to assist you.



January Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
10:30 AM – Sunday Service						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:30 AM – Sunday Service			11:30 AM – UU's at Lunch		7:00 PM – Book Group	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:30 AM – Program Sunday						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:30 AM – Sunday Service	10 AM to 12:30 PM MLK Day of Service	Noon – Vista Articles Due				
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
10:30 AM – Sunday Service						

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF
WESTBOROUGH**

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Westborough, MA 01581

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATIONAL
SOCIETY OF WESTBOROUGH**

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Email: uucswestboro@verizon.net Web Site: uucsw.org

Minister.....The Reverend Beverly Waring
Minister EmeritaThe Reverend Cindy Frado
Director of Religious Education.....Cassie Lengel
Music Director.....Kala Farnham
Office Assistant.....Elisa Scully

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Sharon Barrett.....sharonkeyesbarrett@gmail.com
Judith Nicholson.....judithteacake@gmail.com

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Treasurer.....Lisa Shumway
Collector.....Susie Wells
Clerk.....Robin Fleming
Moderator.....Andy Koenigsberg
Historian.....Judith Nicholson
Membership Engagement.....Melissa Meehan

**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 amk32@cornell.edu.

Please put "VISTA" in the subject line.

**February Vista articles due by
Noon, Tuesday, January 22nd .**

**For updates visit
uucsw.org**

