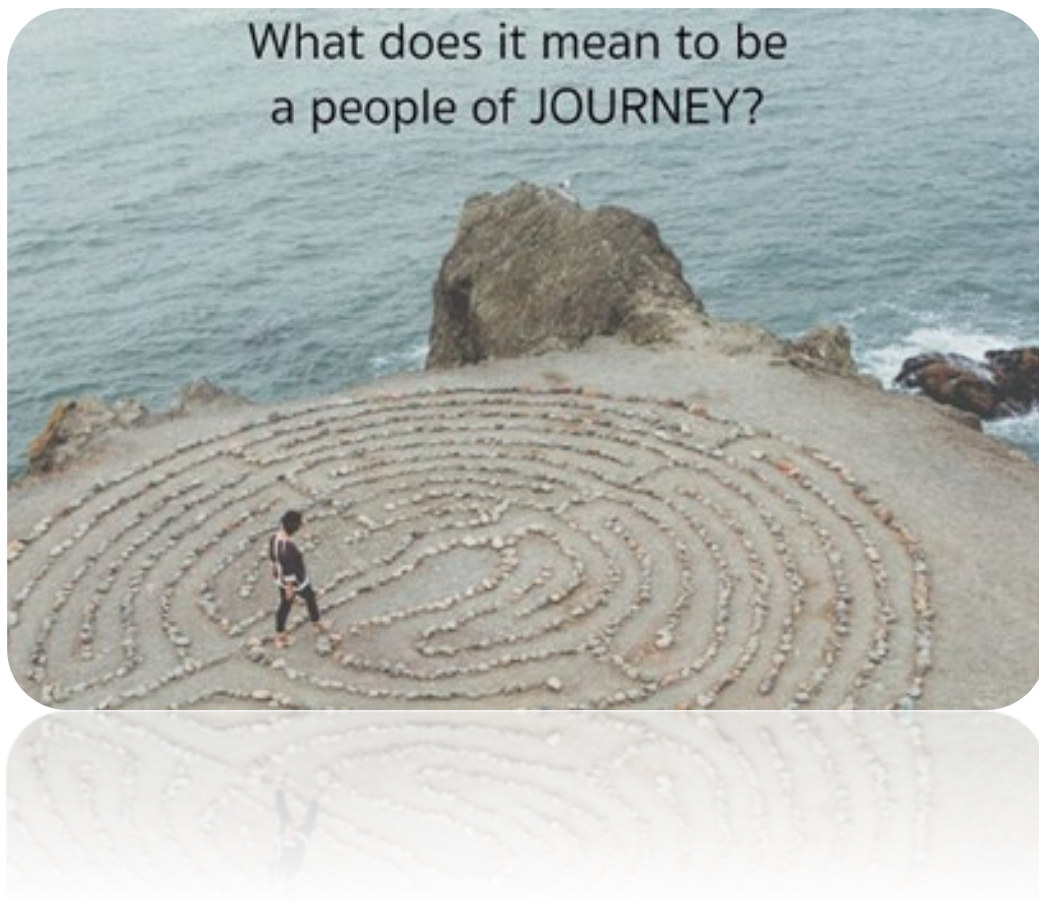




Volume 20 | Issue 7 March 2019 Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough

## THIS MONTH'S WORSHIP THEME IS:

### *Journey*



## March Worship Schedule

It seems fitting that this, Rev Bev's last month as your minister, the theme is journey. We Unitarian Universalists love to tell our journey stories. And we love to hear each other's journey stories.

In many other religious traditions, newcomers are asked to declare a commitment to one true path in order to find their home among the other believers. The Unitarian Universalist way is to invite each other to talk about how our way is unique to us, different from the path of others. Honoring and respecting those journeys and recognizing that they are ongoing is a cornerstone of our faith.

The creators of this month's Soul Matters resources say, "It's become popular in our society to talk about spiritual journeys as a process of living into your full or true self. And yet there's something deep within Unitarian Universalism that resists it. Historically, we've been the people that struggled not so much to find ourselves but to untangle ourselves from the religious identities we were given. Our spiritual journeys did not begin with a blank slate; they began with the hunger to wipe the slate clean and begin anew."

This seems true of congregational identities as well. We are proud of our history, of the journey that has brought us to this time and place. We delight in telling the "fun and happy" stories of our past but shy away from confronting or even revealing those other parts. Yet, like individuals, congregations are complex. We have this important awareness that spiritual journeys are not simply about finding our true self, but also about untangling from our old self. Albert Schweitzer wrote, "The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not." An important reminder for all of us.

All of Rev Bev's services this month will draw from the concept of Journey – watch the weekly update for specific titles and themes.

### SUNDAY MARCH 3, 10:30 AM

*Rev. Bev Waring preaching*

### SUNDAY MARCH 10, 10:30 AM

*Rev Bev Waring, Cassie Lengel, Director of Religious Education and UUCSW's Coming of Age Youth*

### Coming of Age Sunday

Join us for this annual service when we hear from our 8th grade youth as they present their credo statements. This service will start with the baby dedication ceremony of Brett Kyes. If you would like to join the Kyes family in dedicating your baby or child of any age, please contact Rev Bev.

### SUNDAY MARCH 17, 10:30 AM

*Rev. Bev Waring preaching*

As this is Rev. Bev's last service with us, we will have a special reception after the service to wish her well. Please plan to join us.

### SUNDAY MARCH 24, 10:30 AM

*Program Sunday Ann Maloney and Amy Martellock*

### Creating Our Future Together

Ann and Amy will lead an uplifting service that invites us to engage in creating a vision for the future of our congregation.

### SUNDAY MARCH 31, 10:30 AM

*Program Sunday*

## Briefly with Bev

Writing my last newsletter column for you is no easy task. When you co-ordained me with my home congregation in Sudbury in May of 2010, I could not imagine that I would one day be your called minister. And then when you called me to be your minister in May of 2015, I could not have predicted that my ministry with you would end so soon and so abruptly. But as the Joseph Campbell quote, I have often used as my email signature says, “You must give up the life you planned in order to have the life that is waiting for you.”

I do not know what is waiting for me next. Since my departure was announced to the congregation, many of you have asked me what is next, where am I going? The truth is, I do not know.

As Luanne Crosby sang in “Welcomed Home,” the song she wrote for my ordination, and sang again in Nov. 2015 at my installation at UUCSW:

*“And though it is this sacred calling whispers low to you alone,  
You’re in community’s embrace, as through the gates you’re welcomed home.”*

I do not know what is next, as I thought UUCSW would be my spiritual home, my ministry home for a long time.

As we have been meeting one on one and in small groups over the past several weeks other questions besides what is next for me have come up. I have been concerned about some of the narratives that have persisted and so I am going to take this opportunity to repeat my answers to some of those questions here for all of you.

Leaving was not my choice. Your board told me in November that they did not want me to come back after this church year as your minister. Some have heard I did not want to come back as a part time minister. That is not true; I was never offered that option. I was told this was a two-part decision by the board – part-time ministry and not me.

The departure date was my choice. Once your board made it clear they did not have confidence in my ministry and wanted, in their words, “fresh eyes,” it was obvious that my staying until June would not be effective or helpful to all of you. Given the options of “resigning” or forcing a vote of the congregation the path forward was clear. A vote, regardless of the outcome, would only further divide the congregation. And so, I chose to announce my departure date of March 17th. You need the time and space to figure out what part-time ministry with a new minister means to you. You need someone other than me to encourage and inspire your generosity in a pledge drive to fund your next minister, your staff and church year programming. You need to do this without my being present. This is your congregation and you need to chart its course.

Again, from Luanne’s song,

*“Some of us have walked beside you  
For a day, a week, a year  
But many miles have watched you slowly  
Pass alone through each frontier.”*

I have known many of you since I started my internship in Westborough in 2007. And you were there with and for me. I will deeply miss you. I am leaving a large part of my heart and love behind.

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. ***For the months of March and April our final Horcrux will be the Environmental Horcrux.***

## Coming of Age:

Our Coming of Age Ceremony this year will be held on March 10th at 10:30 in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

## Sunday Morning Programming for March:

**March 3** - We will be having normal RE classes and the youth will begin in the Sanctuary.

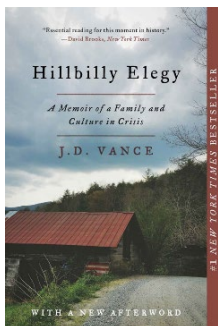
**March 10** - This is our Coming of Age Ceremony! Please come and support our youth as they transition into members of the broader congregation!

**March 17** - We will begin in the Sanctuary and then move into our Group RE class.

**March 24** - We will begin in the chapel for a special opening children's worship and then move into normal RE classes.

**March 31** - We will be having normal RE classes and the youth will begin in the Sanctuary.

## Book Group – March 11th



For **MARCH**, we are reading *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J. D. Vance. 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: [Juditheacake@gmail.com](mailto:Juditheacake@gmail.com).

## *U's at Lunch, Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>*



We'll stay close to home for one more winter month and meet at Bertucci's Brick Oven Restaurant on Wednesday, March 13th 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 always have a nice time.

If you plan to meet with us, please let Mary Tribe (508-329-1646 or email: [marytribe5@gmail.com](mailto:marytribe5@gmail.com)) know by Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, so she can make reservations.

## *2019 Dinners Fundraiser Update*

Thanks to all the donors and participants to date. We are within \$700 of our fundraising goal of \$8500. We have a few opportunities left and would love to fill all the dinners to make them most efficient for our hosts. Please look at the sign-up genius and participate in support of UUCSW and an entertaining evening.

Sign up Genius link:

[2019 Dinners and More Fundraiser](#)

Events with openings:

- Alice In Wonderland Tea Party, Hosts: Lisa Shumway and Amy MacDougall, March 10 (6 seats open)
- A Night in Ethiopia, Host: Nancy Hafkin, April 6 (4 seats open)
- Derby Party, Hosts: Ben and Erin Gold, May 4 (5 seats open)
- Non-Kosher Jewish Feast, Host: Phyllis Jaffe, May 19 (5 seats open)
- Chocolate Dinner, Hosts: Paula and Jim Kirk, June 1 (3 seats open)
- Pinot and Pareos, Hosts: Kim Hall and Justine Snyder, June 15 (3 seats open)
- Mystery Dinner, Hosts: Ben and Erin Gold, Scott and Lisa Shumway, November 2 (3 seats open)

## *2018 Giving Statements*

Your 2018 giving statement was emailed to you on January 18th through Realm. The email will be from the Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough. Within the email will be a link to "View your giving statement". Clicking on this link will download a PDF of your statement which you will be able to print. This functionality works best from a computer although it may work from a smartphone or tablet.

If you do not have email or did not receive your document, please contact Lisa Shumway, by phone at 508-243-9211, or by email at [LSS0907@gmail.com](mailto:LSS0907@gmail.com).

## Buddhist Group

The UUCSW Buddhist Group has begun. We discuss and practice meditation. We read and discuss Buddhist ideas. Meetings in March are Sunday, March 17 and 24, 1:30 PM in the Chapel. For questions, contact Erin Gold ([kentuckybluerose@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckybluerose@gmail.com)) or Carol Palmer ([cgpl1fe@yahoo.com](mailto:cgpl1fe@yahoo.com)).



## Friday Fun Night



Join fellow UUCSW friends each month for Friday fun night. Stop by the chapel on the last Friday of each month at 6:30 pm to meet up with friends and decompress after a busy week. Bring a game, food and/or beverage to share, and join us for the fun.

## UUC Knits

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. Join us in the parlor on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:30 pm.





## Coffee Hour Updates & Information

I want to thank everyone who has helped with coffee hour and flowers/arrangements for the altar so far this year! It has been great to have the coverage for “coffee and conversation” after our services. The addition of the arrangements has enhanced beauty to our sanctuary!



- If you haven't signed up to date to host and support the coffee set up and/or provide goodies, we still have many opportunities to do so between March and June to finish out the year! (It can be done all in one Sunday **or partnered with someone else.**)
  - ❖ PLEASE take some time to sign up for open dates either on “SignUp Genius” or on the board in the chapel.
  - ❖ Note: *If no one signs up for goodies on a particular Sunday; Only coffee and tea will be provided for that Sunday.*

This year the K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple & Streamlined) rule has been followed! We have some fabulous bakers, but not all feel that comfortable with this task, or have the time to prep for it.

- For “goodies”- A “**Rule of 2- 3” (MAX)** is what should be applied when hosting. *Lighter is better...!* The idea is something people can have with their coffee or tea- not lunch. Some suggestions-
  - A possible sweet – *store bought cookies are perfectly acceptable.*
  - One cut up veggie OR fruit – *dip optional*
  - One cut up cheese with crackers
- For “coffee/drinks”- (UUCSW provides the coffee and teas required to be set up).
  - a pint of ½ & ½
  - 1 qt milk (2% or whole)
  - One Non- sugar juice
- ❖ Arrangements to the altar will also be welcome too! ☺

Please contact me if you have any questions at [janetlpb@gmail.com](mailto:janetlpb@gmail.com) or 508-494-4250.

Thank you again for your help and support this year!

*Janet Purney-Balabanis*

## March Calendar of Events

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



**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
WESTBOROUGH**

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Minister Emerita .....The 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 [amk32@cornell.edu](mailto:amk32@cornell.edu).**

Please put "VISTA" in the subject line.

**February Vista articles due by  
Noon, Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.**

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

