June Worship Schedule

SUNDAY JUNE 2, 10:30 AM
Program Sunday – Lisa Shumway
Curiosity and the Beginner's Mind

What does it mean to be a people of Curiosity? This Sunday’s service leader, Lisa Shumway, will explore this question and what it means for us as individuals and as a community. In addition, we will delve into the concept of Shoshin, a word from Zen Buddhism meaning “Beginner’s Mind”. As Zen teacher Suzuki Roshi famously said “In the beginner’s mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert’s, there are few.” Should we strive to be beginners or experts?

SUNDAY JUNE 9, 10:30 AM
Program Sunday – Kathie Metzger
Ahead of the Times

Nearly 100 years ago, August 18, 1920, women in this country got the right to vote. At this service, we will talk about a few of the women who worked so hard to earn this right for women in the US. We will also learn a bit about how the UUCSW was ahead of the rest of the country.

SUNDAY JUNE 16, 9:30 AM
Summer Service – Jim Kirk
The Physics of Economics

Economic growth is reaching the point where fundamental aspects of physics will begin to limit our options, to our extreme detriment. Where are we heading and can we find an alternative route?

SUNDAY JUNE 23, 9:30 AM
Summer Service - TBD

SUNDAY JUNE 30, 9:30 AM
Summer Service - TBD
Trustee Tidings

A busy and satisfying month.

As many of you will have heard by the time you read this, the Board has hired the Rev. Laurel Gray as our three-quarter time minister for the next two years. Laurel will start in early August and there is more information elsewhere in this Vista. Our most hearty thanks go to the Search Committee of Lisa Borchetta, Juliana Spofford and Bruce Hall and to Janet Purney-Balabanis, the Board liaison to the Search Committee for all the hard work in preparing reams of information for candidates to review and for their careful interviewing of candidates.

We also finished up the Canvass this month and are pleased to report that the congregation stepped up and met the goal. We are putting finishing touches on the budget proposal for 2019/2020 and expect to have a balanced budget to consider for the first time in several years. Lisa Shumway has done fabulous work on both the Canvass and the budget and deserves a huge round of applause and thank you’s from everyone.

The Annual Meeting is on Sunday, June 9th and we will start at 11:45 AM right after the service. Please plan to attend, discuss, ask questions and vote!

The first Sunday of the month meal-packing event initiated by Ed Walsh and Jerry Breecher has been a run-away success since it started in September 2018. We have had hard working lines of volunteers every time, involving dozens and dozens of children and adults over the year. With the output of the event on June 2nd, we will have produced 1,000 meals in our first season! These meals go to a shelter in Worcester to be given to folks who would otherwise have nothing to eat during the day.

A busy and satisfying month indeed!

Your Board of Trustees for 2018-2019

Sharon Barrett, Judith Nicholson, Lisa Shumway, Janet Purney-Balabanis, John Metzger
Our Search is Over… as We Welcome Reverend Laurel Gray!

Since our last update, the search committee had been busily reviewing candidate applications and conducting first-round interviews with ministers who had expressed an interest in our position. Among the candidates with whom we spoke, one in-particular stood out: Reverend Laurel Gray. A lifelong UU and native New Englander, Laurel did her undergraduate work in the field of sociology at Middlebury College and attended Star King School for Ministry and Yale Divinity School where she got her Master’s in Divinity. She is currently completing her internship at First Parish in Concord, MA - where she is a highly regarded member of the Ministerial Team. Just one of the facets of her work there included co-leading an innovative, contemporary, evening service with the Associate Music Director which was very well received by the First Parish congregants.

As a committee, we were impressed by Laurel’s presence, enthusiasm, intelligence and openness. Her candor and character conveyed a warmth, energy and curiosity that combined with a compelling interest in all aspects of congregational life (worship, pastoral care, social action and religious education) and made her standout among the applicant pool. Reverend Gray also expressed enthusiasm in helping the UUCSW with some mission, vision and values work and also in becoming a more integrated and visible member of our larger, local community. For all of these reasons and more, the committee enthusiastically recommended Laurel to the board, who upon meeting with her, felt equally excited about her candidacy and extended an offer to become our new contract minister. Happily, for all… Reverend Gray accepted our offer.

In Laurel’s own words: “I’d like the congregation to know that I am very much looking forward to the next two years. I’m excited to get to know you all and to be with you in worship and community I look forward to being with you on the journey of self-discovery as we work towards creating a new mission and vision together. I’m inspired by your warmth and enthusiasm and desire to look towards the future together.”

The Ministerial Search Committee wants to thank-you all for your assistance and support in this process, and we look forward to welcoming Reverend Laurel Gray into our society along with you.

The UUCSW Ministerial Search Committee:
Juliana Spofford, Bruce Hall and Lisa Borchetta
Summer Services Start Sunday, June 16th at 9:30am

The sign-up board for Summer Services 2019 is up on the door to the Chapel! With your help, we hope to have services throughout the summer. For those new to the Church, summer services are informal, start at 9:30am in the Chapel where we have coffee and there is air conditioning.

Your topic does not need to be a "sermon". In the past, speakers have talked about a book they found important or enjoyable, kicked off a discussion on a topic of interest or concern, offered a musical presentation, or read a few favorite poems that they found meaningful. We also need people to help with simple refreshments. Funds are available for this. Some of our youth have already signed up to offer childcare, but there are still dates when 12 and older youth could help and make a little money.

Questions and suggestions are welcome. Please email Kathie Metzger at kmetzger200@gmail.com with questions or suggestions or speak with any of the following members of the Program Committee: Phyllis Barrett, Jerry Breecher, Jim Kirk or Catherine Nourse.

The Program Committee thinks that it is important for our doors to be open every Sunday and we hope that you agree. For those new to the Church, most summer services are lay-led, last about one hour, and are held in the Chapel where we generally have coffee and air conditioning.

The content does not actually need to be a "sermon". In the past, speakers have talked about a book they especially liked, led a discussion on a topic of interest or concern, offered a musical presentation, read several favorite poems and have spoken of why they were meaningful to them. We also need people to help with a simple offering of coffee and a light snack. Funds are available for this.

Last but not least, we would like to offer child care so please let your 12 and older children know about this money-making opportunity.

Questions welcome on any aspect of this. Please email Kathie Metzger at kmetzger200@gmail.com with questions or speak with any of the following members of the Program Committee: Phyllis Barrett, Jerry Breecher, Jim Kirk, or Catherine Nourse.

How it's Done at UUCSW!

When you are new to an organization that has been around for a while it can be challenging to understand how things are done and why. So, we are thinking that it might makes sense to have an informal meeting to break down barriers and share some of these "secrets" with members and friends, old and new. We actually have a Policy and Procedure Manual!

Please keep an eye out for the September Vista when we will announce a date. Refreshments will be served.
Children and Youth Religious Education Program

Thinking about being a RE Teacher?
Have you given any thought to becoming a RE teacher? Do you have kids who grown and are no longer part of RE, but you still want to teach? Have you never taught but want to see what it’s all about? Maybe you’re not quite ready for a full commitment yet and just want to give it a try? Well now’s the perfect time! For the rest of the RE year we will be holding Group RE taught primarily by our DRE Cassie Lengel. If you would like to see what goes on in RE and help out for a day to see if it’s for you please let me know! I would love the help and I bet you’d love our kids! Who knows! You may even want to teach in the fall!

Thank You!
I just wanted to take an extra minute to personally thank everyone who worked so hard to make RE a success again this year! What with having a new DRE and the change in pastors it has been a busy year, but thanks to the dedication of our teachers and parents, our RE Committee, the board and our REC liaison, and all those others who helped out, we have made it a good experience for our children and youth! I would like to thank you all and I know I will look forward to next year!

Sunday Morning Programming for June:
June 2 - We will be together for a Group RE, and we will begin in the Sanctuary.

June 9 - We will be together for a Group RE, and we will begin in the Sanctuary. This will be our last RE Sunday of the year before we move into our summer service schedule.

The RE program will restart in the fall. Have a Great Summer!

UU’s at Lunch. Wednesday, June 12th

Wednesday, June 12, we will be enjoying one of our favorite occasions when we have our annual gathering at Longfellow’s beautiful Wayside Inn when the roses are in bloom. We will meet at the Inn at 11:30. The Wayside Inn is off Route 20 between Marlboro and Sudbury. Turn right at the lights to go left just after the Wayside General Store on the eastern edge of Marlboro. Follow that road and the Inn will be on the left.

This outing is always a very special yearly treat, so if you’d like to join us please notify Mary Tribe (marytribe5@gmail.com) by Thursday, June 6, so we can make our reservations. I hope many of you can join us as we will be taking our summer break in July and August and won’t be meeting again until September.
UU 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.

UUCSW Friends of Buddha

We are nearing the end of the church year and will only have one meeting in June. So, join us for the first time or come back again June 2nd, 1:30 PM in the church parlor. For questions or to RSVP, contact Erin Gold at KentuckyBlueRose@gmail.com.

Also, please let me know if you’d like to be on a contact list for occasional attendance to the Boundless Way Zen Temple (worcesterzen.org) this summer. They have evening Practice Period services several times a week. If you haven’t been before and have questions, talk to or email Erin Gold. For questions contact Erin Gold (kentuckybluerose@gmail.com) or Carol Palmer (cgpl1fe@yahoo.com).

Book Group – June 14th

For June, we are reading Dear America by Jose Antonio Vargas. 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.

Money Matters – June 2019

Canvass Update:

Our fiscal 2018/2019 picture continues strong! Our income is running ahead of budget, thanks to many of you fulfilling your pledge commitments, a number of special gifts, and increased property usage income. In addition, our expenses have remained within budget. I anticipate that we will close out the fiscal year having eliminated the deficit that was built into our budget. Any additional income beyond our expenses will go to building our reserve funds, to protect us in the case of unexpected expenditures. Let’s finish the year strong by hitting 100% of pledged income! If you don’t know where you stand on your pledge, please check your "giving” info in Realm or contact the collector, Susie Wells, at susie48winnip@gmail.com.

With the canvass completed (54 pledges totaling $101,673) and a new minister hired, budgeting for 2019-2020 is well underway. The current outlook is that we will be able to reach a balanced budget primarily due to strong income commitments, moving to a new ministry model, and cost control on remaining expenses. We will not be holding budget preview meetings this year as the proposed budget will not include a deficit. If you have specific questions regarding the budget, in advance of the annual meeting report, please reach out to me.

Thank you – Lisa Shumway (LSS0907@gmail.com), Treasurer
Pastoral Counseling Available

During the time that we are without a minister, the Pastoral Counseling Center, located at 7 Church Street in a building behind the Congregational Church, is available to our congregants.

Pastoral Counseling is available for all persons and draws on the rich traditions of both psychology and, if desired, spirituality, working from an interfaith perspective, respecting everyone’s journey as they face difficult life experiences. The center is supported in part by many of the Westborough places of worship, including ours, so that it can serve everyone, regardless of whether health insurance is available, although health insurance will be used when possible. A counselor at The Pastoral Counseling Center is able to help whether you just want a one-time meeting, or are interested in longer term help.

As a member of the Pastoral Counseling Center Board of Directors, representing our congregation, I have had the opportunity to get to know Mary Taber, the center director. Mary is a warm, caring person who is easy to talk with and will help connect you with a center therapist who is most likely to be helpful to you.

To learn more about the center please explore their website: http://pccofma.org/ or feel free to talk with me.

Sylvia Sirignano

A Common Read

Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities

Last year we participated in A Common Read, with the UUA, a unique experience to us, an opportunity to participate in a church-wide read, A Common Read. We are going to do our own Common Read as suggested by Ann Maloney and Amy Martellock in their March 24th sermon, Creating Our Future Together, that invited us to engage in creating a vision for the future of our congregation.

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book at the same time. A Common Read can build community in our congregation and provide us an opportunity to work toward common goals. You can order the paperback book or Kindle version of Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities on Amazon using this link.

https://www.amazon.com/Upcycle-Your-Congregation-Transforming-Communities/dp/1558968156 (Kim Hall also has several to lend. Please contact her at kkereshall@gmail.com if you would like to borrow a book.)
Kim Hall has already read it and shares the following information: I just read “Upcycle Your Congregation” cover to cover! (it is short... and very engaging). Upcycling is similar to, but a bit higher level than, “recycling.” It is a book of essays by UUs that can guide us to re-imagine, redesign and re-purpose our congregation from the great parts of what we already have into something even more beautiful.

I look forward to this Common Read as a forum to use this practical “user’s guide” for what the authors suggests as a “SPIRITUAL AUDIT” to:

1) fulfill the need for a life-giving, transformative community, which is more relevant than ever.
2) define the difference between “church” and CHURCH
3) formulate a mission statement that considers, for ourselves and others, not who we are but what are our common causes

The authors affirm that what we say, how we say it, and what we offer are ways to open the doors.

In this way, we can create and sustain a UU experience together that is valuable for all.

I look forward to a fruitful discussion and know that “this could be the start of something big.”

In the Introduction by the editor, Sarah Lammert: Enhancing the quality of congregational life doesn't always require huge outlays of time and treasure. There are many ways we can 'upcycle' the things we already do in our churches, with resources we already have. These nine engaging essays from Unitarian Universalist leaders in the field show creative ways to transform the main ingredients of our congregations into something relevant, innovative, and new.

'These authors are people like you real-life congregational and religious leaders who have found a way to make new wine from old wineskins, attracting new growth and vitality where things had gotten a little dim and dusty. In one case, it was as simple as flipping worship and coffee hour inviting people to attend coffee hour as the main event on Sunday. In another example, new vitality came when the leaders became laser-focused on a mission and started telling a new story about themselves that made them the heroes of their own story rather than bystanders helpless to effect change.

You don't have to start from scratch to bring vitality to your congregation. You don't have to take it all on at once. There are simple, yet profound ways you can use the riches you already have around you to create fun, relevance, vitality, and beauty in your religious community.'

Please plan to join us on Friday, June 7th at 7:00 pm at the church to start this important discussion on our mission, vision, and values. Please go to Realm and RSVP. Thank you.
At this seminar, you will learn about how Westborough processes its refuse and how you can be a better recycler.

For all our Dog Owners

Do you visit local nature trails and bring along your dog? Anyone who walks with a dog on trails in Westborough and/or Northborough and who is at least 18 years old is invited to complete a brief, online, research survey about their experiences. Visit this link for more information and to decide if you want to participate: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/trail-visitor-study](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/trail-visitor-study). The survey is open through June.

The lead researcher is Northborough resident and graduate student, Jane Walsh. Questions? Email Jane at jw1982@mynsu.nova.edu
## June Calendar of Events

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THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF WESTBOROUGH
P.O. Box 544
64 W. Main Street
Westborough, MA 01581

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.

September Vista articles due by Noon, Thursday, August 22nd.

For updates visit uucsw.org