

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

THANK YOU – NOTEBOOKS AND COMMISSIONING FOR NICARAGUA!

We're so grateful for the good work and creativity of our kids and families preparing decorated notebooks for the children of our partner church in Nicaragua! Pastor Amy, Nancy Zollers and Frank Laski met this week on a video-call with Pastora Cleofa of the Alpha-Omega church in San Juan del Sur, and they are excited to welcome our travelers next Sunday, Feb. 16th. They have asked Pastor Amy to preach, and for our children and adults to help lead their Sunday School. We'll share the notebooks, crafts, songs, and food for reception. As part of Sunday School, we hope the children of Alpha-Omega may write letters back to our children too! Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we travel and build relationships in Nicaragua!

TODAY: EXPLORING OUR FAITH – Visit to the Islamic Center in Wayland

The Islamic Center in Wayland generously opens their doors to visitors, and we will gather with them for a time of learning and worship this afternoon. Exploring our Faith students and other high-schoolers are especially encouraged to attend, and mentors are always welcome! We'll gather after UCW worship for a brief lunch (optional), and then leave UCW at 11:45 a.m. to arrive at the Islamic Center before 12:30 p.m. We will be back at UCW by 2:30 p.m., at which time, Exploring Our Faith students will gather for an hour or so, ending before 4:00 p.m.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS – More Events Coming Up!

Please save the date for upcoming Middle School and High-School get-togethers:

- **Feb. 28th, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.: Cookie Baking and Delivery** – Middle and High Schoolers will have dinner together, and then bake and deliver cookies to members of our congregation who could use a little extra sweetness!
- **March 1st: High School Youth Group @ Boda Borg!** – We have a reservation at Boda Borg from 2:00-4:00 p.m., and then will come back to the church for pizza and Exploring Our Faith
- **March 8th: Common Cathedral** – All ages are invited to help prepare food in Sunday School, and then to serve lunch and worship with our friends experiencing homelessness on Boston Common.
- **March 27th-28th: Middle School Overnight!** We'll gather for an awesome night of fun, games, food, connection and worship.

TODAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOUR- ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thank you to Judy Nagle for laying our table and hosting our fellowship time this morning. If you would like to host a future, after-church Fellowship Hour, please sign up through the Sign-Up Genius webpage. The link can be found on the UCW website at ucw.org and in the Friday e-blast.

TODAY: ZONED OUT- WHO GETS TO LIVE IN SUBURBAN BOSTON

Ever thought about why you live where you do? Or considered what unseen forces might have led you there? After Service today, join Kathleen Hobson, Nancy Zollers, Frank Laski, and Luke van Reijendam, four of our Advocates for Racial Justice, for a discussion about the origins of the Boston suburbs, the roots of our chronic housing shortage, and what it will take for us to achieve a more equitable and inclusive community. **Everyone and all ages are welcome**, no preparation necessary—but these three easy-to-digest pieces create a helpful frame for the conversation we envision*:

- The Character of the Neighborhood—Rev. Howard Haywood, Newton TAB (op-ed), 1/21/15, during the Austin Street fight.
- “Special: Richard Rothstein, The Color of Law Mission YIMBY event”—Rothstein here gives a particularly clear and vivid version of the argument in his book (*The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*). You can skip to 5:10, where his lecture begins. (Infill podcast, approx. 45 min.)
- “You have a better chance of achieving ‘the American dream’ in Canada than in America”—Ezra Klein interviews Raj Chetty, Aug. 2019 (both in written and podcast form, vox.com)

**Visit the Union Church website homepage at ucw.org to follow these links.*

CRADLES TO CRAYONS COLLECTION THROUGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

Please bring in *new or gently-used* donations for Cradles to Crayons! Donation bins are located in the chapel and will be available through Sunday, February 16th. Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive – at home, at school, and at play.

Most Needed Items: • Everyday shoes/sneakers • Boys clothing • Sweaters/sweatshirts

Other Accepted Items:

- Clothing and coats (youth sizes 0–20 and adult sizes small & medium)
- Baby equipment, especially strollers and car seats within five years old
- New and like-new toys (Gently-used toys must have all pieces. We do not accept stuffed animals, ride-on toys, or plastic play structures. No large toys, please)
- Shoes, boots, sneakers, and sandals (infant/child sizes 0–13 and adult sizes 1–10)
- New socks and underwear
- Pajamas (can be new or gently used)
- Books, especially baby board books
- Brand new arts and crafts/school supplies
- Baby supplies and bedding (up to size twin)
- Diapers, all sizes
- New hygiene supplies for ages 0 to 12
- New batteries

Thank you!

March 1st – Public Voice Speakers from City Mission

We are privileged to host two speakers from City Mission's Public Voice program on March 1st, after fellowship. Public Voice provides trained storytellers/speakers whose lived experience gives insight, understanding and perspective to the issues underlying homelessness. City Mission's Public Voice Project customizes storytelling training and presentations to help participants find and share the stories which break down barriers and build understanding within oneself as well as across groups, cultures and communities.

March 8th – Common Cathedral After Worship

Please consider sharing in worship with the outdoor church of Common Cathedral on Boston Common on Sunday afternoon. Our children will be preparing food in Sunday School and then all ages are invited to travel down to the Common to serve lunch and share worship with our friends who are experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness.

March 8th – 7:00 p.m. Potluck with Speaker, Josephine Bolling McCall, author of: *The Penalty for Success - My Father was Lynched in Lowndes County, Alabama.*

The speaker will tell the story of how her father's success as a businessman in Alabama led to his lynching and how that impacts his descendants and the community even today. This speaker will provide updates on the Legacy Museum and the Memorial in Montgomery both of which honor her father as one of many victims. This sensitive information will make a strong impact on students as they strive for improved social justice and diversity. Josephine McCall will also challenge participants to rethink the reality of life for blacks and whites in the mid-20th century rural South by considering joining a literacy campaign. Research shows that children who have learned to read by the third grade have a much better chance of completing high school. Alabama has a new law that children will be retained if they do not successfully complete the third grade. The speaker hopes her presentation will set the stage for dialogue on creative ideas for participants to help improve literacy in Lowndes County, Alabama. If you are interested, please rsvp to Pastor Stacy (stacy@ucw.org).



ADULT EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Book Group – Sunday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in Stacy's Study.

Our February read is the Pulitzer Prize winning "The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels" by New York Times bestselling author, Jon Meacham. "While the American story has not always—or even often—been heroic, we have been sustained by a belief in progress even in the gloomiest of times. In this inspiring book, Meacham reassures us, "The good news is that we have come through such darkness before"—as, time and again, Lincoln's better angels have found a way to prevail." – Amazon Review

NEWCOMERS – WE WELCOME YOU!

Nametags – Knowing each other by name is important to us. It is a way to say to each other that you and I matter and it is an invitation into friendship and community. If you are new to us and do not yet have a name tag, please use the welcome card in the pew pocket to let us know that you would like one to be waiting for you the next time you come into this place.

Friday e-Blast – Every Friday an electronic newsletter/update is sent to the community. features much information about upcoming events as well as reflections on what has been. If you would like to subscribe to this vital information channel within the church, again please fill out the welcome card and indicate such.

Membership – Could the Union Church be a spiritual home for you and your family? Would you like to learn more about the Union Church in Waban, its history, its present-day programs and offering, and its vision for the future? If so, please reach out to Pastor Stacy (stacy@ucw.org or 617-759-9016).

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun., Feb. 9	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study	The Union Church in Waban: 14 Collins Road, Waban, MA 02468
	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal	
	10:00 a.m.	Worship	
	11:30 a.m.	“Zoned Out” – Educational Forum on Housing	
	12:30 p.m.	EOF Visit to Wayland Islamic Center	
	5:30 p.m.	Nicaragua Traveler’s Meeting	
Tue., Feb. 11	7:15 p.m.	1K Church	
Thur., Feb. 13	7:30 a.m.	Prayer Group	
	9:00 a.m.	Yoga with Andrew	
	6:00 p.m.	Mission Leadership	
Sun., Feb. 16	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study	
	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal	
	10:00 a.m.	Worship	

For a complete listing, and details of upcoming events, please visit our website, www.ucw.org

COPY DEADLINE: Material for inclusion in the Friday e-blast newsletter or the Sunday Announcements should be e-mailed to the office at ucw@ucw.org, by **9:00 a.m. on the previous Wednesday morning.**