

THANK YOU – NOTEBOOKS AND PRAYERS FOR OUR NICARAGUA TRAVELERS

This morning, twenty members of Union Church, along with Pastor Amy, are worshiping with our partner church Alpha-Omega in San Juan del Sur. Pastor Amy is preaching, and our children and adults are helping lead their Sunday School. We'll share the notebooks our children created as gifts, as well as 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! During the week, this group will help to repair a school, and create a usable space outside for the kids to eat lunch and play. We'll also spend meaningful time with our partners at the Mobil Library and Brugger Foundation, and visit the communities of our former work sites. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we travel and build relationships in Nicaragua! We look forward to sharing photos and experiences from the trip during worship on March 15th.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

PARENTS GROUP – RESCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

To accommodate the public school February vacation week and the Nicaragua service trip, we will meet a bit later in the month. All are invited to join us as we share the joys and challenges of parenting, and find moments of peace and support together.

TEACHER BREAKFAST – POSTPONED TO MARCH 1ST, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

We hope anyone who teaches in our Sunday Schools, or who is interested in our Children's Ministry will join our monthly teacher breakfast – postponed a week due to the Nicaragua trip – in Pastor Amy's office. This month we will talk about the season of Lent, intergenerational relationship-building; and the service the kids will lead on Palm Sunday.

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

Please save the date for upcoming Youth Group 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.

MISSION OUTREACH

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

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 through the link on the Website or to Pastor Stacy (stacy@ucw.org).

ADULT EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Wellspring/Women's Group – Wednesday, February 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Wellspring is our women's group at the Union Church in Waban. Each month we gather for a potluck meal as we share in conversation about that which is on our hearts. For more information please be in touch with Pastor Stacy.

Norwood Health Worship – Thursday, February 20th at 10:30 a.m.

Once a month, we join with the residents of Norwood Health Center for a spirited worship service. If you are interested in sharing in the service this Thursday, please be in touch with Pastor Stacy. Also if you are interested in learning more about this ministry please join us for a conversation on the stage after worship on **February 23rd at 11:30 a.m.**

Java Gents – Friday, February 21st at 7:00 a.m.

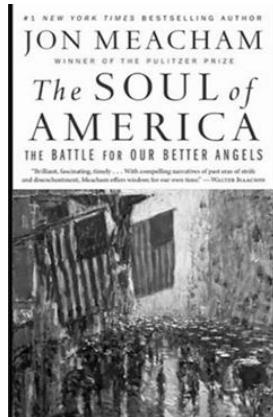
JAVA Gents is our informal monthly breakfast hour for the men of the UCW congregation (and community). The group aims to provide friendly fellowship and mutual support to the men. We meet the third Friday of each month in the church reception room at 7:00 a.m. We will have hot breakfast, snacks, juice, lots of hot coffee, etc. Along with good food and coffee, we share a lively and supportive discussion of timely topics as well as personal goings on in our lives. Newcomers and non-Union Church members are always welcome.

If you can spend the whole hour with us that is great, however if it's only for a few minutes we truly understand and would love to see you. Hopefully we get a good combination of regulars, part timers, and new guys. Hope many of you can make it this Friday.

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



TODAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOUR- ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thank you to Cindy Spertner 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.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun., Feb. 16	8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Worship
Mon., Feb. 17	7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Wed., Feb. 19	6:35 p.m. Wellspring
Thur., Feb. 20	7:30 a.m. Prayer Group 10:30 a.m. Norwood Health Worship
Fri., Feb. 21	7:00 a.m. Java Gents
Sun., Feb. 23	8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Norwood Healthcare Ministry 7:00 p.m. Book Group

**The Union
Church
in Waban:**
14 Collins Road,
Waban,
MA 02468

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.