

NICARAGUA BAKE SALE TODAY!

Today is our bake-sale to raise funds for needed school and other supplies for the partners in San Juan del Sur that we'll visit during our service trip in February! Stop by our table outside the Reception Room, or come visit our kids at Starbucks in Waban Center! Sunday School for 7th graders and up is at Starbucks today.



CHURCH MATTERS – SAVE THE DATES

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, Jan. 26th immediately following worship, and a preparatory session **TODAY**.

The Church Council invites all members of the Union Church community to meet on January 26 for three important items:

1. A briefing from our Communications Committee on a Statement of Purpose, an outward-reaching description of who we are that can be used on our web site and in publicity.
2. A vote on adding four words to our Church Covenant (our promise to each other within the church) to update our language with respect to being open to all:

“We, the members of the Union Church in Waban, true to our founding principle of being an inclusive church, covenant together to nourish and to sustain in our common life and practice a fully welcoming and affirming church for all persons. Welcoming all persons who seek to join with us in a commitment to love God and our neighbors, affirming the inclusive love of Jesus, we are open to all, without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, ***gender identity and expression***, nationality, ability or economic circumstance. We invite all to full participation in our worship, membership, leadership and life of this church”.

3. A creative and interactive conversation about our visions for the church so that we may set our priorities for our spring stewardship campaign and budget-setting process the coming year. This session will set the context for the spending plan we will vote to adopt in June. To prepare for this important meeting, members of the community are invited to engage in conversation and reflection on the importance of being open to all regardless of “gender identity and expression”. We will gather on the stage immediately following worship today.

NEW MEMBERS – WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE CHURCH?

We rejoice and welcome all who gather and share in our life together as church. And there may be some of us who are feeling called to deepen our relationship with the community by becoming members of UCW. Membership offers the congregant and congregation an opportunity to pledge ourselves one to another in an intentional walk of faith. Membership also enables one to vote in congregational matters like the vote we will take on updating the language. We will be receiving new members into our life together during worship on Sunday, January 26th. If you are interested in membership, please reach out to Pastor Stacy.

MISSION OUTREACH

THANK YOU! Our Christmas Collection raised \$1726 to support the work of Bridge Over Troubled Waters which provides effective services to runaway, homeless and high-risk youth.

THANK YOU! Our congregation was exceptionally generous this year with the largest number of MITTEN TREE gifts ever. Joanna, the activities assistant and our longtime friend at Norwood Healthcare, was overwhelmed when she saw the abundance of gifts piling into the health center! For Norwood we filled 50 baskets, and a similar amount for Watertown Health Center. For Project Care and Concern, we distributed gifts to over 50 individuals! Check out the photos in this week's e-blast or on the ucw.org homepage.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS: This year your Mission Outreach Leadership Team is organizing its work (and coordinating with the other areas of UCW life) around seasonal themes.

The theme over the winter months will be – Homelessness and Housing

February 2nd – common art show at the Union Church

Valentine's Day will be upon us before you know it! Come find a gift for that special someone after church service on Sunday, Feb. 2nd, when we will host artists from *common art*. *common art* is a program of *common cathedral* which provides space, materials and caring support staff to support unhoused and low-income individuals as they develop their artistic abilities. People who live in shelters, rooming houses, on unclaimed couches and benches, and on Boston's streets, gather every Wednesday at Emmanuel Church on Newbury Street to draw, paint, sculpt, make crafts, and to share with other artists in like circumstances. For many *common art* members, art is a way of life. For others, it's a new discovery. But for all, art is passion, expressing and affirming life itself, a defiant or gentle "yes" in the face of stigma amid the constant struggle of poverty and homelessness.

Feb. 9th, 11:30 a.m. — Zoned Out: Who gets to live in suburban Boston

Ever thought about why you live where you do? If you can articulate deliberate reasons, have you ever considered what unseen forces might have led you there? Please join Kathleen Hobson, Nancy Zollers and Frank Laski, three of our Advocates for Racial Justice, in a history-infused discussion about the origins of the Boston suburbs, the roots of our chronic housing shortage, and how we might achieve a more just and inclusive community. Suggestions for pre-discussion reading*: "The Case for Reparations" (Atlantic, 2014), by Te-Nehisi Coates; The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America (2017), by Richard Rothstein; "How Segregation Caused Your Traffic Jam" (NY Times, 2019). You could also listen to Rothstein's interview on NPR's Fresh Air.

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

March 1st – Public Voices Speakers from City Mission

We are privileged to host two speakers from City Mission's Public Voices 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 – Potluck and speaker, Josephine Bolling McCall is the 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.

For more information about these offerings, please see the Friday e-blast. Or please feel free to reach out to Carol Bascom-Slack, Jaap van Reijendam or Julie Heffernan.

ADVOCATES FOR RACIAL JUSTICE (ARJ) - A new group at The Union Church

The June travelers to Montgomery, Alabama have formed a new group to promote the work of racial justice in our community and nation. We are calling the group ***Advocates for Racial Justice***. To read the groups mission statement please go Mission Outreach tab at our website www.ucw.org. The next meeting ARJ is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd at 4:30 p.m. in Pastor Stacy's Study.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

CITYREACH THIS WEEKEND – THANK YOU!

Nearly 20 high-schoolers and adults participated in this weekend's overnight with Ecclesia Ministries this weekend in downtown Boston. We learned from and built relationships with members of the Ecclesia congregation who are experiencing homelessness, saw the city through their eyes, and served with them on Saturday distributing needed food, clothing, blankets and more. We're so grateful for the support of this UCW congregation, and especially for the generous donations so many of you made on short notice!

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM -- COMING UP! Meeting Jan. 26th at 6:00 p.m.

The Youth Ministry Team is made up of caring adults and teens who are interested in shaping a planning our ministries with middle and high schoolers. We're finalizing our Youth Ministry calendar for the winter and spring, and will gather as a team on Sunday, Jan. 26th at the Abbiati-Collins home. We'd love to have you join us! Contact Pastor Amy (amy@ucw.org).

QPR SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING – Jan. 16th, 10:00 -12:00 p.m.

The Newton Interfaith Religious Educators are hosting a training at Temple Shalom this coming Thursday for staff and members of our faith community who work or are concerned about our teens. If you would like to join this free training, please contact Pastor Amy.

TODAY’S FELLOWSHIP HOUR- ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thank you to Kathy Malone 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.

ADULT EDUCATION, SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

BOOK GROUP: January 28th, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Our next book is “Evicted” by Matthew Desmond.

“In *Evicted*,” Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.” (*Amazon review*)

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY has resumed. We meet at 8:00 a.m. in Pastor Stacy’s study. We are reading through the minor prophets of the Old Testament. All are welcome!

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun., Jan. 12	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal	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
	10:00 a.m.	Worship	
	10:00 a.m.	Nicaragua Youth Bake Sale	
	11:30 p.m.	Info. Session: Updating Our Covenant	
	12:30 p.m.	Selma/Montgomery Pilgrimage Conversation	
Mon., Jan. 13	6:00 p.m.	CC Greening Mission and CE	
Wed., Jan. 15	6:30 p.m.	Wellspring	
Thur., Jan. 16	7:30 a.m.	Prayer Group	
	9:00 a.m.	Yoga with Andrew	
	10:30 a.m.	Norwood Health Worship	
Sun., Jan. 19	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study	
	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal	
	10:00 a.m.	Worship	
	7:30 p.m.	Parent’s Gathering	

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.